

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency management Bulletin  
December 21, 2020

**Vaccine Message from UVM Health Care**

**We don't know when the vaccine will be available more broadly for the general public, partially depending on vaccination supply and distribution.** We are committed to sharing the most up-to-date information with you at the soonest point possible so that you understand more about who will be eligible to receive the vaccine, when and where. Please watch for communications like this one in your email and go to the **vaccination information pages** on our website where we post timely updates.

[https://www.uvmhealth.org/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine?utm\\_source=Marketo&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=covid&mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiWldWa1lXVTVaamc1TkRVeSIsInQiOiJWek5nNDcwSEsxd040YzF2OEc0aE12YWFKREd4bnYyc3RmNDJDa2MxZ1QxdTBpY2pLQjNqRXhIR0gwR2ZpTHVnVnY3SFJhd3lZVDfKYUJ0b3NtQWZUbE9YbnVUZndHTXBHMmJQU0wyZ2tuMUo3dnV5ODF1Nk5rQWlsS29zeEhoeCj9](https://www.uvmhealth.org/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine?utm_source=Marketo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=covid&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWldWa1lXVTVaamc1TkRVeSIsInQiOiJWek5nNDcwSEsxd040YzF2OEc0aE12YWFKREd4bnYyc3RmNDJDa2MxZ1QxdTBpY2pLQjNqRXhIR0gwR2ZpTHVnVnY3SFJhd3lZVDfKYUJ0b3NtQWZUbE9YbnVUZndHTXBHMmJQU0wyZ2tuMUo3dnV5ODF1Nk5rQWlsS29zeEhoeCj9)

As the pandemic continues to surge with rising numbers of COVID-19 infections here and around the country, it is so very important – especially during this holiday season – to stay vigilant and continue to do the things that help to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- **Wear a mask** when you leave your house and when you are around others you don't live with.
- **Keep your distance** from others, with a general guideline of staying 6 feet apart.
- **Clean your hands often** by washing with soap or using hand sanitizer.
- **Observe Vermont guidelines** around travel and quarantine.

**And please remember:**

- Vaccination is the best weapon we have to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The most important thing you can do right now** is to continue to be vigilant and practice behaviors that we know can stop the spread. Encourage your family and friends to do this, too.
- **There is no need for you to call your health care provider about getting the vaccine.** We are not making appointments or creating waiting lists for vaccination of the general public.
- COVID-19 vaccines are rigorously tested before they are released for public use. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are considered highly effective in reducing the rate of COVID-19 disease. While these vaccines are being developed at an accelerated pace, the fast-track process focuses on safety and effectiveness through vaccination trials involving thousands of participants.
- We are vaccinating front-line caregivers first to keep them safe, healthy and available to provide care for those who need it.
- **Stay informed** – watch for our emails, go to our **vaccination information pages**, follow your local UVMHN hospital on social media or check the web pages provided by Healthvermont.gov

**Post-Vaccine Information –This Excerpt from Today's NY Times**

Vaccines don't offer perfect protection; there is no information on whether vaccinated people can spread the virus; and coronavirus is likely to continue its rapid spread until a large majority of the population is vaccinated or has survived a natural infection.

Vaccinated people should still wear masks and avoid large groups and indoor gatherings when possible.

Scientists are waiting to learn if vaccinated people can spread the virus to others. (Early data on transmission seems promising, but vaccines are very unlikely to curb contagiousness entirely.)

Also, while early evidence suggests that the first vaccines in the U.S. reduce people's risk of developing Covid-19 by around 95 percent, that still means a small fraction could get sick — and as long as the virus is as widespread as it is now, even that small share could be a big number.

“Five percent of a really high number is still a high number, and what you want is 5 percent of a relatively medium or low number,” said Dr. Ashish Jha, a physician and the dean of the School of Public Health at Brown.

### **Weekend Lookback**

Four more deaths over the weekend and another 291 new infections reported Saturday-Monday with 93 today. New infections in Addison County dropped to 23 in the past 2 weeks, about half of what it was in the prior two-week period. There still remains about 2,200 known active COVID infections statewide. Our County seems to be the lonely little petunia in the onion patch of COVID right now, thanks to all who are doing their part to keep the county healthy.