

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
February 4, 2021

Reminder from VDH

The Health Department is reminding people that you must have an appointment to be vaccinated. Clinics are NOT open to walk-ins, and people should not show up at clinics looking for “extra doses.” Vaccine to be used is carefully managed, so please do not call the Health Department and ask to be put on a list to be told of extras – there is no such list.

New Infections Dropped In New England- Except for Vermont

Here is the weekly roundup. Vermont is normally an outlier in these stats due to low infections. This time, however, Vermont is the only state in the New England/ New York region with an increase in infections from the previous week, modest though it was.

CT: 11,623 (-1,884); MA: 20,761 (-7,106); ME: 2,063 (-1,384); NH: 3,212 (-1,692); NY: 76,465 (-14,902); RI: 3,795 (-3,516); VT: 912 (+4).

Vermont seems to be stuck on new infections in the low-hundreds every day.

Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Go Into The Water...

As we distance ourselves from the effects of holiday gatherings, we are on precipice of further traditional congregate gatherings- The Super Bowl this Sunday; next weekend is the President’s Day long holiday weekend, and a month from now is St. Patrick’s Day, though regulations will keep pub gatherings and similar events to a minimum and most events are cancelled. The COVID “shark” is still out there and he’s hungry. Please use precautions – you know what they are by now.

Vaccination Update

More than 55,800 people have now been vaccinated in Vermont as of Tuesday, including 21,100 who have received both doses. Only 565,000 to go! But every day that number gets smaller, and there are still people out there who will not elect to receive the vaccination. The State’s goal is 85% immunized to achieve herd immunity.

Coming to a Community Near You!

It’s like playing Whack-a-Mole with the virus. The more it’s attacked the more it mutates and pops up somewhere else. A new coronavirus variant identified in South Africa has been found in the United States for the first time, with two cases diagnosed in South Carolina. The two cases don’t appear to be connected, nor do the people have a history of recent travel. Which means, of course, there is the possibility of community –wide transmission. It’s out there!

Viruses are constantly mutating, with corona-virus variants circulating around the globe, but scientists are primarily concerned with the emergence of three of them, other variants first reported in the United Kingdom and Brazil were previously confirmed in the United States.

Researchers believe these three variants may spread more easily and predicted it was only a matter of time before they appeared in the United States

Addison County

Cases in Addison County continue to come, though the rate has slowed slightly. There were 71 new cases in A/C in the past 14 days. That's a lot but it pales in comparison to Bennington and Rutland Counties with 307 and 270. The disease remains viable and well spread.