

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
March 19, 2021

It's Almost Over...

Put the bubbly on ice, folks, the end of the pandemic in Vermont is in sight. The Governor has announced the registration schedule for EVERYONE 16 and older. The date indicates when registration opens for the particular age band:

Now – Age 65+ and those with special health needs

March 25 - Age 60+

March 29 – Age 50+

April 5 – Age 40+

April 12 – Age 30+

April 19 – Age 16+

The goal-EVERYONE in Vermont who desires a vaccine should be able to get it and achieve full vaccination by July 1, 2021.

IMPORTANT: Don't wait for your age band. Get a registration number now. To get this log in to [Healthvermont.gov/my vaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/my-vaccine). This will help expedite your registration when your age band opens up.

This of course, is all dependent on the supply continuing as planned from the Federal Government. On registration, you may get your appointment 2-3 weeks after you register. For Pfizer you'll have 21 days until your second shot, Moderna, 28 days. J&J is a single dose.

You are considered immunized 2 weeks after your final shot.

If all goes well, "normal" things like a full high school graduation will be able to resume.

Today's Update

We're still in the pandemic, and still subject to the emergency order. With now two COVID variants in the state, the UK variant and the California variant, it's still contagious and active.

To date 166,100 Vermonters have started their vaccinations, with 88,800 having received their final dose. 18,000+ educators and child care providers have either received their first dose or are registered to receive theirs. 70 migrant workers in Addison County have been vaccinated.

Today is the first anniversary of the first two COVID deaths in Vermont. Churches have been asked to ring their bells 14 times at 7 p.m. this evening to memorialize the 217 deaths since then in all 14 counties.

Clubs and Bars Are Back in Business (with restrictions, of course)

Clubs and bars, like the Legion Post, VFW, etc can re-open March 24. They must follow guidelines on capacity and distancing applicable to restaurants.

From VDH: Additional COVID-19 Variant Detected in Vermont

The Vermont Department of Health has confirmed that genomic sequencing of COVID-19 specimens has now identified two of the variants of concern circulating in the U.S.

In addition to results earlier this month of the B.1.1.7 variant that originated in the U.K., recent lab results now show the B.1.429 strain, first identified in California, is also in Vermont. The B.1.1.7 variant has now been found in eight specimens, and the B.1.429 variant was detected in three specimens. The labs report the detections were found in samples from Chittenden and Franklin Counties, with one sample's county of origin pending.

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants and strains are to be expected. Many emerge and disappear, but others can persist and even become the predominant strain.

The Health Department has sent 98 select samples to the Massachusetts Public Health Laboratory, Molecular Diagnostics and Virology program for genetic sequencing. The department has also sent 60 samples to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The specimens are taken from people who had already tested positive for COVID-19.

Health officials said while it is not surprising that the variants continue to be detected, it reinforces concerns of increased cases, illness and outbreaks.

Winding Down

Today's EMD bulletin is the 200th since we started informational outreach on March 13, 2020. The bulletin will continue as long as information continues to flow from the Governor's office on spigot opening and guidance as well as statistics of interest as we go into the final 4 months of this contagion. Keep in mind, a number of people have elected NOT to receive vaccinations, the virus and its variants are still active, and we've just got to stay safe until this thing wanes.