

Our Cup Has Not Yet Runneth Over

Well, folks we're still a bit shy of the 80% vaccinated standard for closing the emergency order. As of this morning we're 17,250 arms short of the 80% goal. Most of these are in the 12-17 and 18-29 age groups. The state is making a maximum effort to get these shot available with walk-in clinics, barnstorming events, and state park events.

Here in Middlebury the Middlebury Family Health office at 2nd floor, 1330 Exchange St is offering walk-in vaccinations of Moderna. You can also go onto the healthvermont.gov web site to find a list off all the sites where vaccines are available.

In any event, the Governor pledges to close the emergency order on July 4th at the latest, and the day we confirm we've attained the 80% of people eligible for the vax at the soonest.

There have been 219 new COVID cases in Vermont in the past week, down 130 from the prior week and down 85% since April. Cases are also falling significantly all through the northeast region.

No COVID deaths reported in VT in the Past Week

With 98% of those at risk in the age 65+ group starting vaccination (90% have completed the vax), deaths due to COVID are spiraling down. That's great news.

VAX Supply

The supply remains robust with Pfizer and Moderna still coming in as expected, though J&J won't be shipping any this week. Moderna is applying for emergency use authorization for use on the 12-17 age group, this would give a huge boost to getting that group vaccinated.

Masks? No Masks?

The CDC guidance has created some confusion. A business or other entity can still require masks for entry. They may also post a sign saying something like "No VAX - You Need A Mask"; they can also ask if you've been vaccinated and ask to see your card. With this, we don't expect employees to be the "mask police". These are decisions individual businesses can make. Just keep in mind that the contagion risk is now lower than ever before due to the high vaccination rates, especially in Addison County. So we're in a bit of a transition period. As we move to the end of the pandemic emergency, there is no need to create conflict. Perhaps some sensitivity to the concerns of others will help keep the peace. It doesn't hurt to wear a mask in the close company of others if you haven't been vaccinated. In a few short weeks none of this will matter.

COVID Is Here To Stay

COVID isn't going anywhere, and we will still have a significant portion of the population who could be infected - the children under 12 and those who do not elect to receive the vax. The best we can do is

control it and suppress it. Let's render it vagabond and let it wither on the vine with no home in which to settle and grow!