

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
April 16, 2020

Got Blood?

If you are healthy and have some to spare the Red Cross wants you! Red Cross is holding blood drives this month, and here is the schedule for Middlebury:

April 18 9am- 2 pm 133 Valley View Drive (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)

April 22 11 am- 4 pm 58 Hepburn Rd (Middlebury College -off of College St)

April 30, 11am- 4 pm 109 Catamount Park (Off of Exchange St)

It doesn't hurt, you might get some orange juice and a cracker, get to relax a bit, and leave a pint of blood lighter- but you'll make more- it's a renewable resource!

Stay Home, Stay Safe

Vermont Department of Health (VDH) has released a 1-minute You Tube video on staying home and staying safe. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnP57zXDEZ8&feature=youtu.be>

Pandemic Outlook in Vermont – From VDH

Vermont may be seeing a trend toward cases beginning to plateau, according to Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD. He emphasized, however, that as we look to the future, we will still need to act to prevent spread of the virus and to protect Vermonters from getting infected.

As we consider, in the Governor's words, loosening the spigot, and easing restrictions, it may not mean an end to social distancing or limitations on large gatherings. Vermonters should not expect a quick end to the need for facial coverings or reducing our focus on respiratory hygiene. This is a long game, and individual efforts to prevent the spread of germs are essential, as is our continued testing and contact tracing efforts to contain outbreaks.

Is Yard Cleanup and Maintenance OK?

The intent of the Governor's Order is to stop the community-wide transmission of the virus through social distancing. One of the things it is NOT intended to do is to tangentially create other health problems. The Attorney General is more interested in focusing on non-essential work that violates the orders and leaves some of that interpretation to local government and law enforcement.

In Middlebury, yard debris is accumulating from winter. Ground plants are starting to grow. We promote home composting and gardening. Accumulated debris as it dries can present a fire hazard. And dead or dying trees can cause damage when blown down in a spring storm.

Considering all this along with a proliferation of ticks it is our opinion that yard cleanup and waste removal is essential to prevent the further spread of ticks, chiggers, and related pests which can likewise spread disease. It can also help control rodents and other vermin which can in turn create health problems. If this means having a local contractor help clean and remove waste as well as dangerous

trees, then so be it. Besides that, we see little difference between two workers raking a yard and two people jogging along a trail.

We only ask those workers to respect social distancing, and if riding together in a truck, keep the windows open a bit and make sure you clean the truck. Wear masks when riding together. As the person hiring a work crew, you may certainly ask them to wear masks as a condition for working. Your safety is important, too. When one of my sons went off to combat, I gave him some simple advice- *“move fast, move deliberately, keep your head down, and don’t do anything stupid”*. Taking unnecessary risks falls into the latter category. After two tours he’s home safe and sound. Sage advice for most occupations.

We just want people to be safe and healthy so they can keep on working.

Statistics

Things are starting to look encouraging. There have been a total of 768 CV-19 cases in Vermont. This is a cumulative total since early March when the first case was identified. But consider how many more tests are being administered now, and how many more people have completed monitoring. It seems now that the positive tests are down to about 6% of those tested. This is a significant drop from the over 12% just a few weeks ago. One must consider with this that early on, only people with the most serious illness were tested, and that has broadened considerably. In the final analysis though, the numbers today are a bit more encouraging than if those percentages increased.