

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
April 23, 2020

**The Local Emergency Management Process**

The following is a brief look at how the Town government, the Hospital, and Middlebury College are working in a unified emergency management organization to deal with and later recover from the Covid- 19 crisis.

Imagine if you will the rings of Saturn - a core, an inner ring, and an outer ring. With Corvid-19 being first and foremost a medical and health event, Porter Medical and UVM Health Care are at the core. They are, in the parlance of emergency management, the lead agency; a local incident command under the broader statewide emergency operations center. Implementing their own procedures under guidance from their own best practices, the VT Department of Health, and the CDC.

The “inner ring” would be Middlebury College. They work in coordination and in a support role for Porter Medical and the community at-large and serve as the coordination link between the Town and Hospital.

The “outer ring” is the Town government. While remote from the provisions of providing health care, local emergency management works to ensure all critical town services maintain continuity of operations- police and fire service, and infrastructure such as waste water and water systems and highway maintenance. The Town also coordinates with the State to encourage cooperation with the Governor’s orders and to provide residents with status updates and helpful information.

**Emergency Management Requires Coordination**

None of these three entities work in a vacuum. In a weekly conference, Town Administrators, College Administration, Porter Administration and medical professionals confer, provide status updates as well as share information. The College Administration, while managing the affairs of their institution, fully considers the impact of their actions on the broader health of the town and hospital. Being the largest employer in Addison County and holding in-residence over a quarter of the town’s population, all of which propel the town’s economic engine, they do not underestimate their impact and every decision fully considers its effect on the broader community. In keeping with the practices of unified command within an emergency operations environment, this association serves to coordinate the operations of all three entities.

The Emergency Management Directors of the Town, College, and Hospital meet at least weekly to get more “into the weeds” on putting broader objectives into action. In addition, Town Emergency Management participates in a weekly conference call with the Vermont Attorney General clarifying legal issues with the Governor’s orders as well as a weekly conference call with the VT Department of Health and Vermont Emergency Management through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The college is meanwhile providing logistical support to the hospital. All three directors are recipients of the daily SEOC bulletins and VDH updates. The police receive daily bulletins from the Vermont Information Center on a variety of intelligence issues related to COVID-19 frauds and scams.

In an adjunct to the joint Emergency Operations Center, the Public Information Officers for the three entities operate in a Joint Information Center environment, coordinating public outreach and information so that publication is done with a unified consistent voice.

The three entities are employing all the knowledge and experience gained through training, participation in joint exercises, and actual events. And so it goes .....

### **Today's Stats**

Vermont has 825 positive cases, cumulative, an increase of 3 since yesterday. 14,673 people have either been tested or have completed monitoring. If you go to the VDH website, link below, you'll see that the graph resembles a profile of Mad River Glen ski area, and we're at the top, beyond the steep slope.

Good work everybody!

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/current-activity-vermont>