

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
March 27, 2020
4:00 p.m.

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Vermont has increased COVID-19 testing, with Mayo Clinic now doing CV-19 testing along with the VT Dept of Health (VDH). With this, physicians are encouraged to recommend those with mild or moderate symptoms to get tested.

VDH estimates that we will see the outbreak in Vermont peak in 2-4 weeks then begin to level off and diminish. It is clearly evident that “Communitywide Transmission” is the basis for the widespread outbreak. It is important to continue the stay-at-home practice as well as maintaining social distance. Stay-at-home is not a lockdown or quarantine. The intent is to reduce community wide transmission. Get out in the sunshine, take a walk, do yard work, exercise – but maintain hygiene such as washing hands often and maintaining social distance. On the TAM and other trails, avoid close contact – follow the six-foot rule.

Maintaining stay-at-home and social distancing will help the hospital maintain capacity to treat those at higher risk and those that become very ill.

Sources of Information

We’ve posted these often, but in a world of sensationalist cable programs there are sites to visit that have the straight information without the hype. Ron Hallman at Porter Hospital publishes a daily bulletin with updates and helpful information. Porter also maintains an informative site on the virus, the link is here: <https://www.portermedical.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information-updates/>

The Vermont Department of Health site at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/> provides daily updates. They also maintain a link to access bulletins and health information in nine different languages.

Commercial Activities After the Governor’s Orders

We’ve seen some commercial activities, such as construction activities, continuing since the Governor’s stay-at-home order and business closure order. The order closes “in-person” businesses such as barbers, restaurants and the like. Construction on private property, not funded by the state, is not an “in-person” business. As well, the stay-at-home order has no enforcement mechanism while it is intended to reduce community-wide transmission. There is no authority to order such activity to stop. The Governor hopes for voluntary compliance. We hope that workers consider social distancing, in so far as possible, and that any individual activity is confined to the worksite, which is closed to the public.

Update on Middlebury Natural Food Co-Op

The Co-op reports that seniors and vulnerable people can shop everyday from 9-10. Curbside pickup for those who cannot be in the store starts Monday, March 30. Orders can be taken Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for next day pickup.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Porter Hospital

In a briefing today, VDH reports they have received a large amount of PPE from FEMA from the National Stockpile. They report that all hospitals are now well stocked. Aside from that, Porter Hospital has announced that they will accept hand-sewn masks that will go into their strategic reserves. From the Porter newsletter:

Now Accepting Hand Sewn Mask Donations

We have been so grateful for our community's outpouring of support to Porter Medical Center in response to the Center for Disease Control's guidance that fabric masks are a crisis response option when other supplies have been exhausted. While we currently have enough supplies on hand to care for our community right now, in order to build a strategic reserve we are now accepting donations of hand sewn masks.

Donated masks can be dropped off at our Round Robin Upscale Resale Thrift Shop in the Marble Works plaza Monday – Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (you may leave them at the front door).

Please adhere to the guidelines and information posted on our Hand Sewn Mask Donations page on the Porter website. <https://www.portermedical.org/hand-sewn-mask-donations/>

Please direct any questions about donations to Amy Barr, Development Director
abarr@portermedical.org x4762

Police Department Update

The Police station remains open and accessible. Officers are on duty and on the road 24 hours a day and while focusing on deterrent activities, remain available to respond to calls for service. Staffing has increase slightly with the re-assignment of the School resource Officer to patrol duties and the return to work of one of the injured officers. In a few weeks the department will be supplemented further with the return of a recruit officer following basic training at the police academy.

Most other town services, while offices are closed, are available if needed.