

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
March 29, 2020
4:00 p.m.

Federal Stimulus Assistance

About 2 billion dollars in various aid will be coming to Vermont shortly. The funds will be managed and distributed through the state. The package includes wage assistance to employers, disaster relief, unemployment, child care, and a number of other aid-related projects. As soon as we learn of a mechanism to apply for these funds or have the funds distributed, we will post them. Specific details should be forthcoming soon.

Numbers

It is easy to get caught up in the numbers of Coronavirus cases. In Vermont, as of Saturday afternoon, 211 people have tested positive and there have been 12 deaths. That's a lot, surely, too many in fact. At the same time, over 2,000 tested people have been determined not to have the virus and another 425 have completed monitoring. Most of the deaths came from a long-term care facility in Burlington, where the patients had other morbidities as well as having a Do Not Resuscitate order in place. Up until this week only those with significant symptoms recommended for testing by a physician, health care workers, and in-patients have been tested.

Addison County has the third-highest amount of positive cases in Vermont with 15. Putting this in perspective, there are over 32,000 people living in Addison County and about 626,000 people living in Vermont plus an untold number of visitors who have recently arrived.

The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) expects the number of positive cases to increase substantially over the next 2-4 weeks. VDH has expanded the parameters for testing, encouraging physicians to now recommend those with moderate or mild symptoms to be tested. There is also an expanded testing capability. With a number of variables, it is difficult to know if the virus is indeed spreading or are the numbers due to increased testing. Still mired in flu season, and with allergy season upon us, there is no way to know who has a flu, a digestive ailment, a common cold, or experiencing an adverse reaction to an allergy.

We continue to recommend if you have symptoms of an illness, stay home, self-quarantine, and don't assume anything. If concerned call your physician. Community-wide transmission is still the biggest cause of the infection spread. If we reduce that we reduce the transmission of the virus.

Taking an informal survey of the town Saturday and obtaining reports from our police officers, a lot of people were outside - walking, exercising, running, doing yard work. Excellent! We still have concerns about crowded conditions in grocery stores. Remember, clean those shopping cart handles or use a barrier and avoid close contact with others. Let's try to make sure that in 2 weeks from now we still have over 625,000 Vermonters and over 32,000 Addison County residents free of COVID-19!