

**Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
March 30, 2020**

Travel and Lodging Restrictions

Governor Phil Scott today ordered additional restrictions on travelers arriving in Vermont and announced additional guidance for the lodging industry to enhance compliance with his Stay Home, Stay Safe order.

The measures under the Stay Home, Stay Safe order, effective March 25, were implemented in consultation with the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health to minimize all unnecessary activities outside the home to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect the public.

Governor Scott is taking additional action to encourage compliance with newly released CDC guidance around interstate travel from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, which advised residents of those states to refrain from non-essential domestic travel for 14 days.

The Governor's order also provides additional guidance to lodging providers to ensure compliance with the Stay Home, Stay Safe order, which suspended lodging operations.

The order makes clear that lodging facilities -- which includes hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, inns, short-term rentals (e.g. VRBO, Homeaway, Airbnb, etc.), and all public and private camping facilities and RV parks -- are to be closed except for stated exemptions when supporting the state's COVID-19 response. Additionally, the Governor has suspended online lodging reservations.

Under this order, the Vermont State Police and local law enforcement will monitor lodging providers for compliance and work with the Attorney General's Office on additional compliance measures if needed.

A Comment and Thought on the Importance of Social Distancing

The following was posted on a relative's social media site in Ireland, and it is just as important here as any place else:

"Fast forward to two weeks from today.

You wake up with a deep cough, a fever, and full body aches. You go to the doctor and you're diagnosed with coronavirus. For the last two weeks, you were unaware that you were infected. For the last two weeks, you've continued on with life as normal -- coffee shop, spin class, restaurants, bars -- refusing to even entertain the idea of "social distancing" because "I don't feel sick."

You spend a few days on the couch feeling pretty crummy and then you're well again. Because you're young and healthy and invincible.

Your 72-year-old grandfather who you visited last week, the one who wears oxygen and has a long history of COPD and heart failure? Not so lucky. It's not about you."

Stem the rising tide -- stay sociable, just don't stay close.

**Tom Hanley
Middlebury Police Chief &
Local Emergency Management Director**