

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
April 28, 2020

Today's Stats

No new cases in Addison County in over a week. There have been less than 6 CV-19 positives in Middlebury since testing started.

862 positives in Vermont since testing started, with over 16,000 people wither tested or who have completed monitoring.

Refuse to be a Gracious Host

Every virus needs a host. It thrives in the warm, moist, squishy environment of human body fluids. Outside the body and away from the host, it withers and dies. The virus has no arms or legs, has no motive power and can't even call Uber for a ride. It relies on a human to bring it "home" and get it into those gooey areas where the host can enable it to go forth and multiply. Like any other endeavor, it seeks to survive and grow and expand its reach. So don't be a gracious host and don't be a human petri dish. Turn it away at every chance. Don't let the fervor sown by spring erode the patience that has so far slowed this growth. Today's stats reflect what was going on 2-3 weeks ago. A full 4-6 weeks of decline are a good indicator that the pest is on the way out. Slam the door shut and don't provide an opportunity for the vagabond's return. We are too close to building recovery. Mask up, wash hands, and keep your distance.

Don't "ZOOM" into Trouble- Zoom is Vulnerable

More scary stuff. This notice is taken from the latest Homeland Security briefing paper. Many of us use Zoom for conferencing. As with anything that enters cyberspace, there is always the risk of a bad guy or predator honing in. Just beware:

Malicious cyber actors likely view Zoom users as targets of opportunity to exploit a broad range of public and private sector entities including critical infrastructure. We base this judgment on the extensive publicity surrounding Zoom's confidentiality issues and sudden popularity with users in a broad range of sectors adapting to the pandemic stay-at-home orders. This judgment is underpinned by the assumption that the unidentified cyber actors gained unsolicited access to ongoing Zoom conference sessions with ease, and that malicious actors can duplicate those efforts and use their accesses to facilitate additional malicious activities.

Several Zoom vulnerabilities have been publicized, including a vulnerability in the Zoom desktop conferencing application that allows an attacker to hijack various components of Zoom sessions, for which Zoom has provided a patch; vulnerabilities in Zoom Client for Meetings that enable root access, as well as unprompted camera and microphone access; Zoom installing a hidden web server designed to circumvent pop-ups that removes password prompts; and using default settings to generate codes to join a meeting, easily leading to "zoombombing,"

Foreign and domestic actors likely will identify new or use existing vulnerabilities in Zoom to compromise user devices and accounts for further exploitation of corporate networks. This judgment includes critical infrastructure entities using Zoom. We base this judgment on recent public exposure of Zoom's numerous vulnerabilities. While vendors regularly publish patches for vulnerabilities, reports indicate there are instances in which users and organizations delay updates. The patching process is undermined by these actors who often capitalize on delays and develop exploits based on the vulnerability and available patches. We also base this judgment on reported Chinese access to Zoom servers. China's access to Zoom servers makes Beijing uniquely positioned to target US public and private sector users of the platform; however, we assume China's unique position does not prevent other nation states from using Zoom vulnerabilities to achieve their objectives.

Town by Town Stats are Available on-line

New on healthvermont.gov/covid19 is a map showing the infection numbers by town.(click on the map of Vermont). The data reflects lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 among Vermont residents, by town of residence. All case data is preliminary and is updated as new information comes in.

The map does not represent people with active infections, and no town is "safe" from COVID19. We know the virus is in our communities and we should continue to follow stay home orders and health guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19 – no matter what town we live in.

Town Bulletins

As things begin to wind down, and life starts to resume, the need for daily bulletins and updates will start to wane. Data, statistics, and the like are readily available on Healthvermont.gov as well as vem.gov and other sites. Anytime there is a change and critical information relevant to the local area rises, we'll push out another bulletin.

The next bulletin is planned for Thursday, April 30.