

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
April 30, 2020

Pandemic Redux?...Or Here We Go Again

What do you remember about 1968? The Tet Offensive? Lolic and McLain and pray for rain? The “Heidi” game and the Jets winning the AFL crown on the way to an AFL/NFL championship game victory (it’s called the Super Bowl today)? Nixon v. Humphrey? MLK and RFK?

How about the so-called “Hong Kong” flu, H3N2? A worldwide pandemic that took 100,000 American lives (1 out of every 2,000). Most deaths were of patients over 65. It killed over 1,000,000 people world-wide- at least those whose death was directly attributable to the virus, probably a lot more. And no one really knows what went on in Soviet bloc countries or China. That was in the day before cable news or 24 hour news when other tragedies captured the headlines and so the frenzy was absent. Mom said “Cover your nose and mouth and wash your hands, eat all your vegetables and now go play outside”. Funny, my teachers said the same thing. Sage advice then, and it worked. Neither me nor my 7 siblings got sick and dad went to work on the railroad every day.

We have masks now and good stuff to wash our hands with. Fresh produce will be available soon at the farmer’s market and it’s there every day at the Co-op and local stores. Its fishing season and turkey season opens on Friday, good free-range healthy foods and the pursuit gets you outside in the fresh air! Now the CDC and VDH bombard you with ways to remain healthy. So perhaps we’re ahead of the game this time.

Stay safe, use your head, and be well.

Current Activity

Like the unwanted guest who refuses to leave, reports of new positives returned this morning. 4 new cases reported in the state, 2 in Chittenden County , 1 in Rutland County, 1 in Washington County. For clarity, these are new positive tests that are reported to VDH and indexed this morning.

As we said before, these are not new infections that erupted yesterday or today – these infections could go back as far as 3 weeks. With the lag time between the infection being transmitted, to the time it took for symptoms to develop, to when the symptoms rose to the level of a physician’s testing recommendation, to the test time, to the lag between test and results, a period of time has passed. So we’re looking back over our shoulder. Taking proper precautions is the way to look forward so we keep the bug behind us and out of our hair.

Addison County reports no new infections; it has been nearly 2 weeks since the last report. Addison County deaths remain at 2. Middlebury stands as a town with fewer than 6 reported infections.

So we see to date a total of 866 positive tests statewide after 16,484 tests and completed monitorings.

We'll slightly amend that phrase the old sergeant on "Hill Street Blues" would say to his charges before sending them out on patrol : "Let's *STILL* be careful out there".

Important Governor's Statement on Friday, May 1

The next Governor's thrice-weekly press conference is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on May 1. We expect more news on "opening the spigot". The conference is broadcast live on area television stations. Catch it if you can. We'll include any relevant points in the Friday, May 1 bulletin.

VDH Testing Plan

According to VDH today, they are moving to more aggressive testing. Fewer people are now being recommended for testing due to fewer people with the flu-like symptoms. Less than 5% of those tested/monitored are being confirmed with the infection. The new testing plan is rolling out in 3 waves.

#1 – Early May, those under long-term care, health care workers, and encouragement to physicians to send people for testing even with mild symptoms.

#2 – the next phase- out-patient testing, more health care workers and 1st responders.

#3 – In-patient testing, child care providers, and in so far as possible, summer residents.

VDH anticipates increased positive numbers with more aggressive testing and the seasonal migration into Vermont of summer people.

For Turkey Hunters

Due to Covid-19, there is no in-person check-in for your birds. This from Fish and Wildlife:

Vermont's regular spring turkey hunting season is May 1-31, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is reminding hunters that they must report their turkeys on the department's web site. Do not bring them to a check-in station. Go to the website for instructions. www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Summer Camps and Summer Child Care Guidance

By May 8th VDH will be rolling out guidance for summer camps, summer child care and day camps.

They will also be releasing guidance on swimming holes and for businesses operating take-out windows and Creamie stands.

With the advent of fishing season, birds a-nest building, buds on the trees and VDH talking about creamie stands, we know that summer can't be too far off. Let's all work to make it a healthy one!