

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
May 4, 2020

### **A Fragile Peace**

A term normally used to describe the condition between two hostile, warring nations that have concluded an armistice is aptly applied to the Covid-19 experience in Vermont. The pace has slowed for sure, but still there were 29 new cases and two deaths over the weekend. As we mentioned last week, the increase is due to more frequent and robust testing. As the spigot gets turned a little more, we'll see what the numbers look like in 2-3 weeks. That will be the tale to tell. In the meantime, we need to stay masked up, we don't know who has the disease.

The cumulative total is up to 902 with 52 deaths. For you math buffs out there, figure for each positive test there was a two-week incubation period and a 2-3 week recovery period. The first known and tested infection in Vermont probably occurred in late February. So the current roster for all the known, active infections at this time is what, maybe 200? Sounds good, but like the monster hiding in the dark under your bed we just don't know what's out there.

### **A Positive Test in Addison County was Not Really in the County- Or the State**

At the Governor's press conference today, Mike Smith from Agency of Human Services reported that a homeless man in Addison County has tested positive. As Paul Harvey used to say ... *"This is the rest of the story..."* On April 25 a homeless person who left Massachusetts on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> found his way to Middlebury. After 2 days he was taken to Harbor Place in South Burlington for quarantine, where he then tested positive. So while he was in Vermont and Addison County for only 2 days, this may be added to the Addison County total. Contact tracing is underway.

### **Masks- Not Quite A-Plenty, But Getting Better**

Middlebury College begun distributing the masks received from the family of a Chinese student today. Four-thousand in all. First responders, including county police agencies, MEMS, medical services, social service agencies, CSAC, were all the beneficiaries. After two months immersed in CV-19, supplies have been rapidly diminishing. Thanks to the college for this shot in the arm.

### **Activity vis-à-vis Governor's Orders**

When we're informed of potential business violations of the Governor's orders, we apply guidance from the Attorney General. Sometimes the orders aren't relevant to the specific type of business being transacted. We apply the guidance as we see fit within the intent and scope of the orders.

The Governor's orders are not meant to stymie industry or business. On the contrary, they are intended to make sure the workforce is safe and healthy so that work may proceed. The hope is that all will recognize the on-going danger of this disease. It will continue to be dangerous due simply to the fact that there is no inherent immunity, unless you die of course, but if you catch it and survive it doesn't guarantee immunity. Until there is a vaccine, we are all exposed, every day, all day, and everywhere. Protect yourself and others. That's the only effective "vaccine" – and to boot, it's cheap and you don't need an appointment or prescription. Mask up, wash up, two yards between. Say it rhythmically and you can almost jump rope to it. Even Napoleon is masked up as he cavorts through Europe on his rearing stallion (see the chalk drawing on the sidewalk at the Post Office!).