

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
April 3, 2020

PPE Supplies

At the weekly conference with Vermont Emergency Management and Vermont Department of Health (VDH) we were provided an update on personal protective equipment supplies. None are forthcoming for police services. Health Care organizations have received a supply through the federal government from the national stockpile, but these supplies are finite and the national stockpile is near depletion. So keep making and donating those homemade masks to ensure our health care workers on the “front line” get protection. EMS services are in the next tier to receive supplies from FEMA.

Today's statistics

As expected, the numbers keep going up, but conversely, so do the numbers of people who tested negative for the virus.

Through 1 p.m. today, there have been 389 confirmed cases of COVID with 5,228 tested, and a large number who have completed monitoring. The death toll through today stands at 17.

VDH reports that community wide transmission is still the major factor in the spread of the infection, with an estimated 20-25% spread by people who are asymptomatic- those with no known symptoms.

Convenience Stores

These stores are great places to run in and get small quantities of things as well as get gas. They are also incubators of the infection. Queueing up to buy lottery tickets, handling gas pump handles and door handles, and close proximity in the store can facilitate transmission. Get what you need, get in, get out, clean your hands when you leave lest you contaminate your car and your home.

A thought for the weekend

An ‘updated’ edit of Thomas Paine’s “Crisis” from December 23, 1776, which is still relevant today:

These are the times that try everyone's souls. The summer soldier and sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from service to their community; but they that stand by it now, deserve the love and thanks of all. [consider the selfless sense of duty in following the Governor's orders for the health of the broader community; consider our health care workers on the 'front line']. Covid-19 is not easily conquered, yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a price on its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as our community health should not be highly valued and rated..."

With that in mind stay focused on beating this thing, stay focused on staying healthy and keeping our community healthy. In the not too distant future we should all revel in the sacrifices we are making, pat each other on the back, shake hands and say “ WE DID IT!”.

The weekend looks promising, sunshine and moderating temperatures. Unless there are breaking issues we need to report, our next bulletin will be Monday, the 6th.