

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
May 11, 2020

The Best Is Yet To Come

With things looking brighter on the health side and life starting to resume, we'll let Frank Sinatra entertain you with an appropriate song of the times as you peruse the rest of this bulletin. You've all worked hard to get us here, so enjoy. Take it away Frank:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzlmeenBYDE>

And Now For the News

We start the week with no new infections and no reported deaths statewide. A few infections reported over the weekend, but the aggregate numbers remain low. Since Friday 44 people have been listed as recovered against 9 new infections statewide. With the aggregate testing and completed monitoring reaching just under 22,000 this is continued good news. For those not undertaking the protective actions, we'll add some subliminal messaging.

Maskmaskmasksocialdistancewashhandsmasksocialdistancegroupsoftenorless.

Porter Express Care (PEC) Access Opens

A message from Dr. Amanda Young at Porter:

As part of our overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Porter ExpressCare has remained available to care for patients with urgent medical needs operating during their regularly scheduled hours. However, early in the pandemic, ExpressCare had to change two important access details in order to minimize exposure risk for patients and staff.

First, we had to change **how** patients arrived to the clinic. Thus, Porter initiated a single point of entry through the ER entrance. Second, we had to change our policy on **who** we could safely care for with respect to seeing patients with urgent needs who also had respiratory symptoms and/or a fever. As the pandemic evolved, so did the modifications to our healthcare environment to reflect current understanding of how COVID 19 is transmitted and how to resume the Porter ExpressCare "normal" function in a careful and thoughtful way. The following changes, effective May 11, are in alignment with UVM Health Network recommended policies and procedures for re-engaging with our patients:
Specific to ExpressCare at Porter Medical Center:

1. The ExpressCare entrance will remain locked. However, patients arriving at Porter ExpressCare can be allowed in by staff after a phone screening and registration has been completed. Exterior signage will assist patients understand and use this new process.
2. We also have put into place another new process to minimize risk to patients and staff which involves the patient waiting in their vehicle for an exam room.
3. Masks over the nose and mouth for patients and their support person is a necessary requirement to be seen at ExpressCare. We can provide masks for those that do not have them.

4. Patients with respiratory complaints like cough and shortness of breath will be encouraged to call their primary care providers to determine the most appropriate place for care.
5. For patients with respiratory complaints, ExpressCare will have designated exam areas that will evaluate these issues and refer patients to the ER as necessary.
6. Of course, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be utilized in accordance with CDC and Vermont State guidelines.

As a reminder, ExpressCare evaluates acute medical conditions for patients over 2 years of age. These include:

- Simple cuts
- Minor burns
- Sports injuries
- Urinary Complaints
- Foreign body removal (skin, eye)
- Ear Wax impaction
- Tick bites
- Skin Rash
- Abscesses
- Ingrown toe nails
- Dental Pain

As always, the Emergency Department continues to be the most appropriate location for evaluation of the following conditions:

- All patients under 2 years of age with any medical complaint.
- Congestion, sore throat, cough, fever, (We recommend that you call your Primary Care Provider to discuss these symptoms and get further advice on where it makes sense for you to be seen)
- Abdominal pain
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Fever
- Altered mental status
- Malaise
- Stroke-like symptoms
- Headache

As we transition and continue to develop new strategies for making our services more accessible to our community, we will continue to reach out with updates and new information as appropriate. Thank you.

New Today

Numbers allowed in retail space should not exceed 25% of capacity. If you're in Hannaford, that's a lot more than the Food Co-op. These are recommendations for which the Governor hopes for voluntary cooperation.

Child care protocols are still being developed by the Agency of Human Services and are expected to be completed by mid-week.

The Emergency order will remain in place for the time being, but expect some relaxation of the stay at home order coming soon.

Dentist's offices may open soon if they are able to comply with the PPE requirements.

Personal Care-barbers, massage therapists, chiropractors, etc – still not opened, hopefully coming soon.

Enforceable vs. Wishful Intent

Issues like wearing masks are not mandated . Any store, restaurant, other facility can make as a requirement for entry the wearing of masks. Likewise, you may choose NOT to patronize a business where masks are not required. But right now, the Governor hopes there will be voluntary compliance with mask wearing and rues the use of enforcement to mandate this, as well he wants to avoid conflicts which may arise between prospective patrons –masked and unmasked. When encountering those not masked, keep you social distancing. We like how the situation is improving and hope reckless or cavalier approach will wane as well.

Many unpleasant things over the years have passed- Spanish Flu, polio, world wars and disco – Corona Virus as well will dissipate if we stay the course.