

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
May 12, 2020

The Path to Restart Vermont

Governor Phil Scott announced a gradual reopening of the retail sector starting on May 18. Stores will be required to stay under 25% of their maximum legal capacity and follow health and safety guidelines developed by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Stores must meet the same guidelines developed for other businesses and nonprofits so far, including:

- All employees must wear a face covering (customers are encouraged to wear them as well).
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet between people.
- Conduct health and safety training.

Gov. Scott emphasized if we continue taking a cautious approach – informed by data and with the help of Vermonters – we'll be stronger and healthier when we get to the finish line.

Child Care

Child care centers can reopen June 1 and summer day camps will be able to open this summer, provided they can follow safety guidelines expected to be issued this week. Child care centers can open starting May 18 for the purpose of preparing for the June 1 re-opening. Education officials have also provided guidance on end-of-the-year gatherings. Large gatherings will not be permitted through the end of the school year, and events should be virtual. MUHS Principal Bill Lawson reports plans are underway for graduation ceremonies within the Governor's orders. That's good news!

Outdoor Recreation

It's been okay to leave home for outdoor recreation and fitness activities with low or no direct physical contact. But now you may resume limited social interactions and gatherings of 10 or fewer, preferably in outdoor settings that allow for greater physical distancing protocols. Organized sports and gatherings, however, are still banned.

So venture forth and be disorganized, be free-range! Discard the fetters that bind you! You'll resemble the ancient Celts out there roaming the parks, trails and wilderness with your unkempt, wild, uncoiffed hair, but that's okay, we're all in the same boat. And who knows, like the beehive, bouffant, or flat top with fenders, it may be a whole new haute couture style! Soon the personal care businesses will reopen and you can return to the pin striped, groomed, button down world. In the meantime, enjoy! ... but still wear your mask in the presence of others.

Can the Kids Play With Others?

Members of one household may gather – and allow children to play – with members of other trusted households, provided health and safety precautions are followed as much as possible. Let your parental instincts be your guide. Sunshine, fresh air, playing together and exercise are good for the growing mind, body, and soul (p-s-s-t- and gets the kids out of the house!)

Town Government Status

This is a periodic check-in on town services. Critical operations are being performed without a break. There are no absences due to COVID-19 illnesses. We are in touch with and confer at least weekly with the State Emergency Operations Center, the Vermont Department of Health, the Attorney General, the Agency of Human Services, the Department of Public Safety, Porter Hospital, and Middlebury College. Water, sewer, and infrastructure are being maintained and are serviceable, police are on duty and on the road 24 X 7 as is MREMS, and the Fire Department is at the ready. We monitor the thrice-weekly Governor's conference.

Today's Stats

And what would the bulletin be without the daily "box scores"? 1 new case statewide since yesterday (Windham County), 2 registered recoveries. Going back to math, we are showing a total of 87 known cases of CV-19 in the state right now with 5 people hospitalized. Forget the big aggregate numbers, this is what's happening now. March and April are gone, they don't matter. This kind of activity is what is guiding the Governor and his team in developing re-opening plans for the state. Going backward is good sometimes—getting out of your driveway, finding the bear in your garbage can and you go back in the house – not such a good strategy for CV-19 numbers. We want to go forward and re-open Vermont.