

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
May 18, 2020

New Today, from Porter Hospital

New Porter Protocol for Testing Asymptomatic Patients

As we continue to expand in-person services and Governor Scott loosens some restrictions, Porter- in coordination with other UVM Health Network hospitals will test all patients for COVID 19 as part of the hospital admission process. Here is a summary of the new protocols:

Porter will continue to test anyone who has symptoms. Everything that follows applies to those who do not have symptoms.

Who will be tested?

- Patients being admitted to the Medical Surgical unit
- Patients in labor being admitted to the Birthing Center
- Patients who will be discharged to long-term care, psychiatric facilities, and other congregate living situations
- Patients requiring surgery (both emergent and scheduled)

What about other areas?

- We are not planning to test prior to ambulatory clinic visits, infusion center appointments, laboratory testing, radiology appointments.

How fast will the results return?

- It depends on the situation but the goal is <24 hours. Some will be much faster than that.
- We are working to have in-house rapid testing but will not have enough capacity to test all admissions in that way. We are not unique and everyone wishes that we could use a rapid test 100% of the time. We aren't there yet.

Why are we doing this?

- As we increase the volume of services and as our community starts to expand their activities, we want to make sure we get early warning about potential local outbreaks. While the testing is not perfect, especially in those who don't have symptoms- we also know that some people are able to shed and spread the virus without symptoms.

What if someone declines testing?

- People may choose to decline this testing and that decision should not impact the care they receive. Remember- these are asymptomatic patients. We don't change our use of PPE or room choices. We do not alter the way in which we provide care.

When does this start?

- Monday May 18th

Good News About Personal Care Services

Well, maybe not, if you were intending to relive your days in a 1980's "Hair Band" by default – or perhaps this lyric from the musical "Hair" really describes you of late:

"Let it fly in the breeze and get caught in the trees
Give a home to the fleas in my hair
A home for fleas, (yeah) a hive to the buzzin' bees, (yeah) a nest for birds
There ain't no words for the beauty, the splendor, the wonder of my
Hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair
Perhaps you may see some of your fellow Vermonters in this clip:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFy-yzi02FE>

In any event the Governor is hoping to announce the merciful opening of barbers, hair stylists and other personal care services, with conditions of course, by June 1st.

And while he's at it, he may include outdoor dining and things like that! (just get your hair trimmed so the fleas don't fall in the soup).

Venture Forth and Camp

Just bring your own fishing rod and other essentials- when the state parks open May 22, the usual rental opportunities will not be available, and canteens will also be closed unless there isn't one proximate to the park. The new addendum to the order allows the limited resumption of campgrounds, marinas and lodging facilities, including hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, inns, short term rentals, parks for recreational vehicles and campgrounds, including those managed by the Vermont Department of Parks and Recreation. These facilities can open May 22 for Vermont residents only, or for those who have met the 14-day quarantine requirement, and will be subject to strict health and safety standards and guidance from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. See the new ACCD guidance. <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order>

Reports of Non-Compliance

We are getting more and more reports, directly and through the Department of Public Safety's on-line reporting, of businesses not complying strictly with the addendums of the Governor's Orders. We receive them all and assess them. We view this more as a health issue than a law enforcement issue as there is no enforcement authority attached to the Governor's Orders. We follow the guidelines established by the Attorney General. We will follow up on all reports with the intent of encouraging compliance, the "carrot" approach as opposed to the "stick" approach as described by Governor Scott. The "stick" of course being civil prosecution by the Attorney General as has occurred with a business in Rutland. "The time has come", said the walrus "to speak of many things", one of which is it is too soon to quit all the precautions. Two weeks after Texas relaxed things 700 new cases appeared in one day in Austin. Need we say more? Be smart.