

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
May 19, 2020

The Rain, The Parks, and Other Things

While not quite raining on your parade, this update from the State parks will let you see that things will be different this year. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation announced that while there is a plan to open and operate state parks this summer, the VT State Parks will not be able to offer camping at least through June 25, 2020 and will be canceling all reservations prior to that date. Refunds will be issued automatically in the form of a gift certificate. Residents and non-residents coming to Vermont will need to quarantine at home for 14 days prior to visiting a Vermont State Park. There will be no cabin or cottage rentals, and the pool at Button Bay State Park will not open this year.

Pop-Up Covid-19 Testing for Wednesday is Full

The testing on Wednesday the 20th is full. 360 tests are scheduled in Middlebury. The only other scheduled pop-up testing site that is not yet full is in Newport.

Latest Trends

In the past 7 days, 3,341 people were either tested or completed monitoring for COVID-19. In that group, 17 new cases were discovered in Vermont, none in Addison County. 1 person succumbed to complications from the illness. In this past week 33 people have reportedly recovered. It appears, from the numbers, that there are presently about 70 COVID-19 cases in the state. Wide-area testing continues. Another 360 people will be tested at the Middlebury site tomorrow.

Occasionally we infuse our bulletins with some light heartedness, an effort to take the edge off the current unpleasantness and put things into perspective. But we are never flippant. This IS serious and dangerous, as the loved ones of the 54 people who died will attest. The same goes for those with loved ones who remain hospitalized. The numbers are good, but not perfect. It still requires maximum effort to nail it down. The numbers reflect what was going on 2-3 weeks ago, but so far it looks like things have stabilized, though the whole situation remains fragile.

Hospital Capacity

One of the direst concerns of a pandemic is the level of hospital capacity to care for the seriously ill. Things are in good shape right now with plenty of capacity. So if you require urgent emergency care, get to the E.R. Hospitals are safe. With that, the following is the daily report on capacity in Vermont:

- Number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized: 3 positive, 21 persons under investigation
- Number of COVID-19 patients discharged from hospital: 0
- Total hospital beds available: 645
- Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available: 55
- Medical/Surgical beds available: 318
- Isolation beds available: 131

As you can see, hospital capacity is in good shape, but the resources are finite, a sudden surge could change everything.

Compliance Surveys

We are putting together a proposal to include the Town Health Officer to assist in Governor's Orders compliance checks. With things opening up we are looking to educate and ensure that we don't lose focus on beating this thing. With the onset of beautiful weather coupled with encouraging data, it's easy to believe it's over- it's not. With more people venturing out, with people coming in from out of state, the potential for a reverse of fortunes is out there.