

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
May 28, 2020

Unemployment Benefit Extension

Out of work? Need help? The Department of Labor has notified us of the following: Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) launched - This new program provides an additional 13 weeks of benefits to individuals who have exhausted their regular state unemployment insurance claim. Individuals will also receive Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), an additional \$600 to their weekly benefits through the week ending July 25, 2020. Complete details are here: <https://labor.vermont.gov/PEUC>

Vermont Grocers Status Report

The report indicates increasing stability in some areas as supply starts to catch up with demand. Looks like dairy, produce and fruits are unlimited, so listen to your mother and eat your veggies. This report released on May 27 is based on a survey of May 21.:

Bread – The supply is good.

Flour – Flour and yeast have limited supply. The demand continues to remain high.

Sugar – The supply is improving.

Milk – The supply is good with no issues.

Eggs – Costs continue to stabilize, though other parts of the supply chain (e.g., packaging) are still working to catch up.

Cheese – The supply is good with no issues.

Paper & Bath Tissue – Demand seems to be lessening, but bath tissue is projected to be limited until September or October. Paper towel supply will improve sooner.

Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Isopropyl Alcohol – More supply is becoming available, though still slightly limited. Products are still selling quickly.

Meat – Costs are still increasing on a national level and supply will continue to be limited. There will be protein available, just not the variety that shoppers are used to.

Produce, Deli, Bakery – The supply is good.

Pasta/Canned Veggies/Box Prepared Products – Varieties are still limited but are slowly improving.

Farmers Take Note – Aid is Available

If you've not received this through other sources, aid is available through the following grant. The deadline to file is Sunday, so like the little cartoon guy on the insurance commercials says "Save time and do it on line": Funding is available for agriculture and forestry businesses to maintain operations while increasing capacity to rebuild and/or recover during an unprecedented time of need. Available funds total \$180,000 and eligible grants will be awarded within the range of \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Applications are due May 31. Download the application here:

https://workinglands.vermont.gov/sites/workinglands/files/documents/WLEF%20FY20%20COVID-19%20Response%20Business%20Development%20Grants_.pdf

Tomorrow, Tomorrow

The Governor's 'presser' on Friday the 29th is expected to include more "spigot" opening, possibly a date for gyms and health clubs to open. We'll include information in the Friday afternoon bulletin, but if you have time to watch it yourself, it is covered by the local television broadcasters (WCAX, etc). They usually start a few minutes after 11 a.m. They normally run about 20-25 minutes followed by a Q&A with the media. We are still under a declared state of emergency, with 15 addendums to date on the Governor's orders and another coming tomorrow. In the "Can't tell the players without a scorecard" department it can be hard to keep up. New ground for everyone. Hopefully these bulletins help.

Openings

TJ Maxx reports they are preparing to open. They are finalizing plans on a corporate level to comply with all provisions of the Governor's orders.

Hair salons and barber shops may reopen May 29, 2020 with limited operations. Mandatory health and safety requirements apply.

Religious facilities and places of worship may also reopen at 25% capacity. Mandatory health and safety requirements apply.

Dental operations, inpatient, and outpatient procedures may open as well following strict health and safety procedures. See the Department of Health website for details:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Phase-One-Openings-Outpatient-Procedures.pdf>

ACCD worked with VTrans to provide guidance on the use of public rights of way for restaurants and retail businesses. The guidance is here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/content/interim-guidelines-use-public-highways-outdoor-eating-retail-and-public-gatheringspaces>

Out-of-Staters Seeking Lodging in Vermont

Person(s) seeking lodging in Vermont who are coming in from out-of-state, must either quarantine for 14 days prior to lodging or file the compliance certificate with the lodging entity. You can find the certificate here:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/Be%20Smart%2C%20Stay%20Safe%20-%20Certificate%20of%20Compliance.pdf>

Confusing? You bet! Even the Attorney General is working to sort this out. One authority reports the person must quarantine elsewhere beside where they are lodging (which begs the question how do you quarantine for 2 weeks WITHOUT lodging?); another says they can be tested for COVID-19 after 7 days, and if negative they can lodge (however, test results may take another 3-5 days). The problem, of course is when someone is coming in for a 2-day stay. The temporary solution is to have the person complete the compliance certificate and attest to the truth of it, under pains of penalty and perjury. The landlord must retain this certificate for 30 days.

Unclear, complicated stuff. But it's all we've got to work with at this time.

If you're domiciled in Vermont and are returning home to Vermont from out-of-state, it's easy, quarantine at home for 14 days, or go to a pop-up test site after 7 days and get tested. If the results are negative, you're good to go. We see this with Midd College students who have tenancy in Middlebury who are returning to their rental to finish out their lease.

Sorry to make your head spin, but imagine trying to enforce this? When in doubt return to the basics- reduce the opportunity for community-wide disease transmission and do what it takes to accomplish this.