

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
May 29, 2020

Interpreting The Pop-Up Testing Letter

So you've gone to a pop-up testing site, and a week later you get a letter in the mail from the Vermont Department of Health. The letter may say something like *"This letter is to inform you of your **negative** coronavirus test result. The SARS-CoV-2 virus ...was **not detected** in the specimen collected at"*

You are elated - "I don't have COVID-19!". Good news, but hold your horses. It may be more accurate to say "I *didn't* have COVID-19".

If you were infected with the virus anytime within 0-7 days + or -before the test, you would most likely test negative. While specimen collection is done by professionals, it is not infallible and there is a chance, as slight as it is, for false negatives. The letter tells you the virus was *not detected*, it doesn't tell you that you don't have the virus. So a couple of points – before you discard your mask and go visit your grandfather with COPD or kiss a child with asthma, you may not be out of the woods yet. Secondly, if you feel you've been exposed to this disease wait about 7 days post-exposure prior to getting tested. So the test will let you know your status up to about a week prior to the specimen being collected. Fourteen days post-exposure with no symptoms + a negative test are a pretty good indication that you didn't (note the past tense) get infected.

In the meantime, asymptomatic people who have the disease aren't inscribed with a scarlet "C" on their foreheads so you really don't know who is a carrier and who is not. See also: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19> . Assume nothing and protect yourself and others. . Wear a mask, wash hands and maintain distancing!

Look Good and Wake Those Atrophied Muscles Up!

Effective June 1: Gymnasiums, fitness centers and similar exercise facilities, massage therapists, nail salons, spas, tattoo parlors, indoor recreation facilities (such as skating rinks and field houses), businesses that require home visits, such as cleaning services and similar operations, and businesses that require limited close personal contact may resume in-person operations subject to the mandatory health and safety requirements listed at this link (Sector 8.1 of ACCD Guidelines) <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order>

Spring Sports

Shake out the bat bag and oil up the gloves and do whatever you do with LaCrosse sticks – you can get together for practice but no organized games yet, hopefully coming soon before it's too

late in the season. So get some work in the tunnel, some on-field BP, work an infield-outfield, have an intra-team controlled scrimmage, have fun!

Summer Camps – Overnight

Overnight summer camps and limited residential summer college programming shall operate in accordance with Health Guidance for Childcare Programs, Summer Programs and Afterschool Programs issued by the Vermont Department of Health on May 13, 2020. Recognizing the unique ability of residential programs to control and monitor the activity of their participants, the following supplemental guidance shall be in effect June 7th:

- Overnight summer camp programs may operate at 75 percent their bed capacity.

Go to <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order> for further details. Section 8.2 under the guidelines.

Indoor Arts, Culture and Entertainment (Effective 6/1)

- Libraries, galleries, museums, theaters and other indoor arts, culture and entertainment organizations are limited to 25% (twenty-five percent) of approved fire safety occupancy; or 1 customer per 200 square feet; or 10 total customers and staff combined, whichever is greater. Operators must post their temporary occupancy limit, and which method was used to determine it, prominently on all entrances. Posting templates are available at accd.vermont.gov.
- Cashless/touch-less transactions are strongly preferred.
- Curbside pickup remains the preferred method of operation. When possible, organizations should take steps to schedule or stage customer visits, such as waiting in cars or outside, to ensure lower contact operations.
- Organizations should close or remove high touch entertainment features, including arcades and playground

How Did It All Start

A New Hampshire resident who had gone skiing in Italy brought CV-19 to New England. For a sense of how it spread, go to the Department of Financial Regulation to the “heat map” which graphically shows the start and spread of CV-19 in the northeast.

<https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling>

Scroll down to “New COVID-19 Infections” and follow the spread week by week.

Local Data

There are no new known cases of CV-19 in Addison County at this time. The aggregate number of 62 hasn't changed in weeks. The county, once in second place behind Chittenden County, is now in 5th place with Rutland and Windsor close behind. It's a good sign that A/C is staying healthy. Don't give up the ship!