

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
June 12, 2020

Emergency Order

The Governor did not specifically address the extension of the current emergency order at his briefing today, but during a media follow up he strongly indicated he plans on extending the order for another month. The current order is due to expire Monday, June 15. Expect the Gov to make a formal announcement then.

Oh Canada! Oh No! You Still Can't Go

Canada has had its border with the U.S. closed during this pandemic for all but essential travel. The prohibition was supposed to expire June 21. However, Canada has indicated the border will remain closed for a longer period, as yet to be determined.

Schools- Open for ...Summer?

Major elements of the Governor's emergency directives on schools are no longer required of school districts. The Agency of Education has released a document that explains the implications for districts going forward. A school district may resume school activities and use of school facilities, on the condition that those activities must comply with guidance from the Department of Health and the Agency for Commerce and Community Development. The full document can be found at this link: <https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-covid19-guidance-end-of-certain-emergency-directives.pdf>

Rapid Response to Assist Farmer's Markets

Unlike that annoying commercial where the pitchman and his large bird use a faux police car complete with blue light and siren to sell insurance, this type of rapid response is quite welcome. Farmers Markets are an important part of community life, and help is available to keep them viable.

Rural Vermont launched a rapid response mini-grant to support farmers markets in need of financial assistance to transition to COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Funds will support the purchase of supplies such as hand washing stations, masks, gloves, sanitizer, signs, caution tape, stakes, additional staff, and other needs to support safe shopping. Grants are capped at \$500 per market and are available on a first come, first served basis. Additional information is here:

<https://www.ruralvermont.org/farmersmarket>

Support for the Ag Sector

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program is providing quick-response consultations to farm, food, and forest products businesses through its network of expert business advisors, in addition to its regular long term advising services, as well as stress management, mental health, and mediation services. Entrepreneurs seeking help will need to complete a streamlined intake form and are matched with an expert business advisor for an initial 30 – 60 minute consultation. The intake form is

here: <https://www.vhcb.org/our-programs/vermont-farm-forest-viability-program/covid-responserecovery-support-for-working>