

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
June 17, 2020

**No News Cases**

VDH reports a big “goose egg” since yesterday as far as no new cases of COVID-19 are concerned. As the great Mel Allen used to say... “How about that!”

**Hospital Visitations- With Conditions**

There’s a lot here, and it’s effective today, June 17. If you have a loved one as an in-patient, you may want to clip this out and put it on your fridge. Due to the volume of conditions and exceptions, nothing further will be in today’s bulletin.

**COVID-19 Policy Change: REVISED Hospital Visitor/Welcoming Policy Directives Effective Immediately**

Family members and loved ones play a key role in supporting and comforting those who are sick and ill, however, as the state seeks to prevent the spread of COVID-19, AHS is making temporary changes to Visitor/Welcoming policies to protect the health of both employees and patients. To protect the health of both the workforce and patients, AHS is providing the following requirements for all hospitals throughout Vermont:

**For All Visitors Entering a Hospital, Hospitals shall:**

- Restrict entrances into all medical buildings and clinics. Everyone who enters any facility will be asked the purpose of their visit to the medical center.
- Implement entry control points in their hospitals to enable the screening of all individuals entering their facilities.
- Develop and implement a written process to screen all visitors intending to enter facility.
  - Screen all visitors for COVID-related symptoms prior to visitors entering the facility. Visitors who are symptomatic shall be prevented from entry.
  - Require all visitors to be masked and maintain a face and nose covering for the entirety of the visit. Visitors are permitted to wear a mask of their own but shall be provided a mask by the hospital if one is needed.
- Implement a process for tracking the visitors associated with each patient and implement access control for visitation to the patient.
- Develop guidelines for the conduct of visitors including:
  - Direction to remain in the patient’s room for the duration of the visit; and,
  - Limiting traffic in hallways and avoid congregating in waiting rooms, cafeterias and lobbies before, after or between visits.
- Prohibit visitors from visiting patients suspected of having COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19. Every effort should be made to support patient and family interaction by deploying the use of technology.
- Restrict all hospital volunteer programs from sending volunteers into any facility until further notice.
- Endeavor to support patient and family interaction by deploying the use of telecommunications technology
- Require visitors to pharmacies who present with any symptoms to wear a mask and be directed to proceed directly to the pharmacy.

- Require approved visitors to clean their hands upon entry/exit from the building, entry/exit from the unit or clinic and entry/exit from patient rooms.
- Restrict employees from visiting patients either on or off-duty unless they are an approved exception

#### **For Patients in Inpatient/Acute Care and Emergency Department and Express/Urgent Care:**

- One visitor at a time is permitted except:
- Two parents or one parent and one visitor for pediatric patients.
- One additional and consistent support person may be permitted in circumstances such as for a patient who requires assistance to access care or assistance in providing detailed medical history.

#### **End of Life Care**

Visitation for patients in end of life care will be managed by their care team. One support person will be welcomed when a patient transitions to comfort measures. No more than two family members at one time may be permitted in the patient room at the end of life.

- For dual occupancy rooms, visitor presence will be dependent on the space available and the needs and preference of both patients.

#### **For Patients in Outpatient Clinics:**

- No visitors are permitted except:
  - Visitors/family members are permitted to accompany patients to outpatient visits if the patient requires support and assistance to access their appointment. Support people providing this level of assistance by accompanying a patient will be screened upon check-in at the clinic.
  - One additional and consistent support person may be permitted in circumstances such as for a patient who requires assistance to access care or assistance in providing detailed medical history.
- Visitors or support people who have respiratory symptoms will not be permitted to enter the facility and should follow-up with their own healthcare providers.
- Two parents, or one parent and visitor may, accompany pediatric patients.
- For patients who would benefit from other forms of support during a visit (such as a family member to listen, participate in the discussion, etc.), every effort should be made to support patient and family interaction by deploying the use of technology.

#### **Long Term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes**

It's been a long, lonely poke for the vulnerable housed in long term care facilities. Visitation is open now with conditions:

- Two visitors per resident per day, an outdoor visit only
- Residents can visit with each other outside
- No group dining or activities yet
- All safety protocols are in place
- Structured guidance is being developed and hopefully will be posted by the weekend.

#### **Adult Day Care- Like Project Independence**

Senior Centers can open for drop-in visits, but facilities like Project Independence and adult day care must remain closed.

## **SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS**

If the Vermont Department of Health determines that a COVID-19 outbreak has occurred and providers cannot safely care for Vermonters in a way that

(1) limits the exposure of patients and staff to COVID-19;

(2) preserves PPE and ventilators; and

(3) preserves inpatient hospital capacity, it will notify and require all providers in the region to return to the standards set out in Addendum 3 to Executive Order 01-20 issued on March 20, 2020. Depending on the severity of the outbreak, the Vermont Department of Health may require all Vermont providers to adhere to issued guidance.

### **Phase 1**

The above represents the first phase of opening up visitations. If all things go well and there are no new clusters or outbreaks attributed to this first phase then things will loosen up some more.