

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
June 18, 2020

Enough Already!

Like that pink mechanical bunny beating the drum in the battery commercial, COVID-19 keeps going and going and going.... new cases now in Addison County, and we see the numbers in Bristol and Vergennes have grown while Middlebury remains in the 1-5 category. The aggregate numbers will continue to grow as unsettling as it is. Six new cases state-wide overnight and one new death.

However, the rate of infection spread is still very low and that's encouraging. The numbers indicate about 160 + or – known active cases in the state right now. And putting the numbers in perspective, about 618,000 Vermonters are not known to have had the infection. Good, but it isn't gone yet.

Turn Up The Heat, eh?

It's been but 5 weeks since the last snowfall, when you longed for summer. It's here. And yes, it's going to be hot and gooey in the next few days, and if you're exercising or doing strenuous work (which could be as little as walking for some folks), wearing the face cover can make breathing difficult.

We don't want people collapsing due to oxygen deprivation, for sure. If you're outdoors without your face covering, just try to keep the social distance; cover up when coughing or sneezing, and in spite of your operatic voice, don't get close to people when you're belting out an aria from Verdi's *La Traviata* – all those atomized aspirations can hang in fetid, unmoving air for anyone in proximity to take in. Most retail establishments have air conditioning, so take in the humidity laden air outdoors but you should mask up when venturing into retail where that 6' social distance may be hard to maintain.

Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine tells us that an "aerosol generating" activity should be stymied by wearing nose and mouth covering, whether you're a dentist or just like to exclaim loudly. With respect to our comments, here we have Mr. Luciano Pavarotti demonstrating an "aerosol generating" activity where you can see the risk of spreading COVID_19 when not masked up:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pu7zWrlMV_g

Food Bank

The Food Bank is planning on transitioning from the points of distribution as they've done the past several months to providing food for local food shelves for local distribution. The current distribution program is still running at various planned locations and we don't yet have a cut-over date.

COVID-19 Information

The weekly conference call / zoom meetings with the State Emergency Operations Center, the Attorney General, and other organizations have all been moved to every other week. The daily bulletins from the State EOC and VDH, which at one point were issued 7 days a week, are now being issued 3 times a week. As the information flow slows down as things stabilize, we will likewise start issuing these local advisories on an as-needed basis. We are still connected here, and monitor the COVID-19 situation daily, but frankly, there is less critical information to pass along. As we obtain information we will continue to

distribute it through these bulletins. Statistical information is posted at healthvermont.gov after 11 a.m. Monday- Friday; The Agency of Commerce and Community Development <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19> provides all the sector guidance for opening; and Vermont Emergency Management vem.vermont.gov has a COVID-19 page with a number of links as well. Finally, the Department of Financial Regulation <https://dfr.vermont.gov/> has all of Commissioner Michael Pieciak's charts and visuals that are used to explain the rationale for Governor Scott's decisions on "spigot opening". And the Gov will be continuing his 3-times- a- week pressers televised on the local channels starting at 11 a.m. "Irish Time" as they say, which means, oh, maybe 11:08 or 11:12, or 11:05, but around then anyway. Don't set your watch by it!

So the information abounds, and as we get anything substantive that affects us, we'll still push out a bulletin sans the bureaucratic language.