

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
July 21, 2020

Vermont Stays Healthy

While many states in the south and west are turning into COVID-19 dumpster fires, Vermont stays apart from the crowd. Vermont now has the lowest COVID-19 case count in the country, while the growth rate is the lowest in the country. Your conscientious effort is paying off. The more we follow those simple guidelines, the better off we'll be. There have been no COVID deaths in Vermont in 5 weeks. Compare that to 3200 deaths nationwide in the past few days bringing the national total to 140,157 (as of July 18).

Current Status

One more COVID-19 positive case was recorded for Addison County. That brings the aggregate total since March to 71. Currently we estimate between 160 and 180 active cases of COVID in Vermont at this time. In Windham and Bennington County, the false positives from antigen testing numbered 65 cases. However, PCR tests revealed only 4 positives (2 pairs of people) out of 52 of those cases, an additional 7 of those cases are not considered COVID cases. Almost 90,000 people statewide have either tested negative or have completed monitoring.

Testing

The next available testing in Middlebury is August 14. All testing dates prior to that are full. These things fill up fast, so if you want to get tested, get on-line and register:

<https://humanresources.vermont.gov/popups>

Mandatory Masks?

At today's presser, the Governor said he wants to avoid creating mandatory (complete with a penalty) wearing of nose and mouth covering. The numbers are good without pulling this tool out of the tool box. As one reporter put it, in true Yankee fashion "I'll do what you ask of me, but I won't do what you tell me to do". Just remember, soon schools will be opening, the college will be opening, and in the interim, summer visitors from all over have been descending on us from who knows where. Vermonters are going away and returning, hopefully without little COVID bugs hitching a ride. All you have to do is look at the numbers of out-of-state registration plates cruising about.

As the slogan T-shirts and bumper stickers say "Keep Vermont Weird" ... in the sense that as the rest of the country gets overwhelmed with COVID and the infection growth creeps ever eastward, we remain different, on our little isthmus between Quebec and Massachusetts.