

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
July 24, 2020

Mask Requirement Added to Governor's Orders

Today, Governor Scott added a **mask requirement** to the executive order, to go into effect on August 1st. The order requires masks to be worn in indoor and outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not possible.

Exempt from the requirement are those under 2 years old, or with medical/developmental conditions that would interfere with mask wearing. Documentation of such conditions will not be required. Those eating or exercising strenuously away from others are also exempt. Businesses and non-profits must notify their employees and clients of the change. Businesses are allowed to refuse service to those not wearing a mask.

So what does this mean? At this time there is no enforcement component to this requirement. Words mean something, and following the Governor's lingo for the past 4 months, "requirement" seems more like a very strong suggestion as opposed to a "mandate" which normally carries a fine of some sort. The Governor insisted he still wants to rely on education to gain compliance in lieu of enforcement by the police. The "requirement" allows businesses to exclude from service anyone not wearing a mask. But he also says he does not want conflicts to erupt. The Governor cautions those who encounter someone in a store without a mask not to ask why they are not wearing a mask, as it may violate HIPA, the medical privacy act.

Of course, if the COVID numbers show a significant upward trend, the Governor has authority to put in place mandates with enforcement, so let's not go there

Maskapaluzza

There is so much hoopla surrounding nose and mouth coverings. This as many local stores are mandating masks as a condition for entry and service while many jurisdictions are making mask-wearing mandatory under the law. Last week we gave you Bill Nye the Science Guy's take on mask wearing. Gill Allen, MD, a pulmonologist and critical care physician at the University of Vermont Medical Center and professor at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine weighs in this week. Dr. Allen dispels some myths and answers popular questions about the efficacy of face masks.

https://www.uvmhealth.org/Pages/Coronavirus/Staying-Healthy/Mask-Myths.aspx?utm_source=Marketo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=COVID-19&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTldKaFpqZzNaV0psWm1FMCIsluQiOiI1bVVOSVwvdnl4WXRqWms0aTF0RGczWFZqWCtidmhBcGhjVlJuSnB5aWhSRzUwekk1aFNKcnY1dGxGZ285WitqQUJzSFVSanhUeik1Zkl1eVEzRIVEYytkMkhselwvam1GN1J5MkpXazhHQmxcl0pcl2pZQk5vb2EyQklaaUgrSXRjc0sifQ%3D%3D

From the Dairy Case- Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets

AAFM is now accepting applications for the COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program for dairy producers and processors who have experienced income loss, additional expenses, and market

disruption as a result of the pandemic. \$25 million is available for businesses through the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Details about the application process, eligibility, and upcoming educational webinars on the program are here: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/covid-19-information/vermontcovid-19-agriculture-assistance-program/dairy-assistance-vermont-covid>

AAFM is hosting webinars this week to help dairy farmers, producers, and industry support businesses navigate the application process for the COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program. \$25 million is available for businesses through the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund. For more information on the program and a schedule of upcoming webinars is available here: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/covid-19-information/vermont-covid-19-agriculture-assistance-program/dairy-assistance-vermont-covid>

COVID is Eastbound

COVID numbers for VT are creeping upward at a slightly increased rate. As Dr Levine says, “low is not none” as far as COVID activity. Addison County logged yet another positive case since yesterday. The best we can do in the face of this infection is to stay healthy, stay productive, and keep our economy moving along. Can’t do it with a lot of sick people. Stay safe on the weekend, protect yourself and others and keep your loved ones on the green side of the grass.