

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
July 31, 2020

Guidance for Re-Opening of Schools

Vermont is targeting the opening of schools on September 8th. Attached is a link to the document from the Agency of Education for re-starting schools.

<https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-vdh-guidance-strong-healthy-start-school-health-rev-20200617.pdf>

Home Study in a COVID-19 Environment

There is a process to go through to provide home study if in the current pandemic, you are reluctant to send your child to school, even if this year's schooling is an at-home, at-school hybrid. You can find all the information you need at the following link:

<https://education.vermont.gov/vermont-schools/school-operations/home-study>

August 1st is Tomorrow!

Not exactly stunning news, but tomorrow is when the Governor's more stringent requirement for face/mouth coverings goes into effect. You must wear a mask when entering a place where the public can go, and outside if you can't maintain social distancing.

The state is providing several hundred thousand masks to be sent to Town EMDs to distribute to support the Governor's orders. Our tentative plan in Middlebury is to make the cloth face masks available on request- they'll be stored at the Police Department since the department is open and accessible all the time. We also plan to provide them to retail outlets, starting with downtown businesses, to offer potential customers if they arrive without a mask. The exact number that will arrive here is unknown, but assuredly, that will be a finite number and once gone, we have no indication of re-supply.

Testing Update

All scheduled Middlebury COVID testing dates are full. No dates have been posted after August 13. There is, however, drive-through testing at the Walgreens in Essex Junction. This test is not done through the state.

What's Happening

The south and west are still experiencing rapid COVID-19 growth, though in the past week it seems to have stabilized somewhat. Vermont, after 43 days of no reported COVID deaths, experienced a death of an elderly person reported yesterday. There appears to be a worsening of the COVID situation in Connecticut, with only 1 of 9 counties now classified as "green" on the map, where overnight stay or travel origination does not require quarantine. Middlesex County is the only one (Middletown is the major city). With much of Massachusetts experiencing growth of COVID, (including Cape Cod) new travel restrictions go into effect on August 1, with violators subject to fines. Below is a link to the new Mass travel regulations: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>

In case you lost the link, here is the link to the northeast map. You'll note for Mid-Atlantic States and much of the rest of New England, including coastal Maine, the "red" and "orange" areas are growing. <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>

Vermont's growth is lowest in the nation at .45%, well below the 5% 'guardrail'. We're still good, folks, not perfect, but good. Our new mask requirement doesn't have fines for violations. Do we really need that? We certainly don't want that. Let's be the national leader in this and other things and stay safe and healthy.