

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
August 3, 2020

**Expanded Retail Occupancy Limits**

Good news! Retail establishments can now bring their occupancy up to 50% of approved Fire Marshal capacity. An even better reason to mask up as things become twice as crowded.

**If You've Had COVID, It May be Gone, So What Do You Do?**

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID-19-HAN-PersistentorRecurrentSARS-CoV-2PCRAssays-2.pdf>

This latest VDH health bulletin provides important information on what to do following a diagnosis of COVID-19 infection. There's a lot of information here, so we've enclosed the link to this bulletin. The read is simple and straight forward. You may still test positive up to 90 days after symptoms abate. VDH is recommending you follow a symptom-based diagnosis when considering when to end your isolation. Important stuff.

**Mystery Seeds**

This has nothing to do with COVID-19, but helpful none the less if you get unwanted seeds in the mail. People in at least thirty states, including Vermont, have reported receiving unsolicited packages containing seeds that appear to have originated from China. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFAM) has reportedly received hundreds of complaints from Vermonters. The US Department of Agriculture is investigating and evidence suggests that this is a brushing scam, an exploit to bolster product ratings and increase visibility by creating fake orders. There is no indication that any act of bioterrorism is suspected. Many of the seeds have tested positive for various common types of plants.

Vermonters who have received the seeds are asked NOT to open or plant them, and to contact VAAFAM at (802) 828-5050 or fill out a complaint form online at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/form/environmental-complaint-form>. Do not plant them. Save them. On reporting VAAFAM will let you know how to dispose of them.

To read the full bulletin, go to: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agency-agriculture-food-markets-news/reports-unsolicited-packages-seeds-vermont>

**Need a Job? ... Or Know Someone Who Does?**

The Vermont Department of Labor has announced a series of Virtual Job Fair events. The series will highlight local employers and will include a Q&A about local career opportunities. Learn more and register for the upcoming events here: <https://labor.vermont.gov/Jobs>. Job fair schedule:  
August 6th at 11:00am: Burlington, St. Albans, and others in northwestern Vermont  
August 13th at 11:00am: Brattleboro, Springfield, and others in southeastern Vermont  
August 20th at 11:00am: Montpelier, Morrisville, White River Junction, and others in central Vermont

**License and Registration Extensions Still in Effect**

During the course of the Governors Emergency Orders, all Vermont driver's licenses and vehicle registrations have an automatic 90-day extension beyond their expiration date. So if your license expired on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, it is still good until November 3, 2020. For new drivers, there is an on-line test and a 3<sup>rd</sup> party driving test. The state now has 53 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified testing agents to schedule driving tests for new drivers. Go to [dmv.vermont.gov](http://dmv.vermont.gov) for information.

### **Tropical Storm (soon to become a hurricane?)Isaias**

The effects of this coastal storm should hit Vermont Tuesday during the day into Wednesday. There is currently a flash flood watch out for our area. We expect to get upwards of 2-4 inches of rain. While there is sufficient basin capacity to contain a lot of water, sufficiently heavy rain can quickly fill streams before they can drain and send torrents down the Middlebury River. The situation is under a "watch" at this time, meaning conditions exist which could create flash floods, though it has not been upgraded to a 'warning' ... yet. Follow local news and VTALERT. Should this be upgraded to a warning, the Middlebury Police will be detailed to monitor river conditions overnight.