

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
August 4, 2020

Storm Update

Tropical Storm Isaias – A pandemic, an economic downturn, what the heck, why not throw in a tropical storm. Rain and wind are arriving. Conditions call for a flash-flood watch. The Middlebury Police will periodically monitor the Middlebury River corridor overnight. If you live along the river or on one of the small streams cascading off the mountain and see them jumping their banks, call the police 388-3191 so that we can get the proper response going such as DPW and the FD and can coordinate with the State Emergency Operations Center if needed.

COVID Getting Overwhelming?

Nothing like uncertainty to fuel anxiety, which fuels more uncertainty. Unlike other dangers- a gas leak smells like rotten eggs, a storm brings dangerous weather – you don't know if you're exposed to COVID or in a contaminated environment. You can't see, feel, or smell it. It's an impersonal world- no open hugs or handshakes, almost zombie like with people that sort of look familiar, but maybe not under those half-masks. You're not alone out there, and there are resources to help you get through. COVID Support VT offers self-help tips, resources, and a way to connect to existing mental health and community services. Here is a link to COVID resources:

<https://covidsupportvt.org/>

Speaking of Anxiety- And What About School??

Oh yeah, THAT. And of course kids need back packs, but United Way of Addison County comes to the rescue! Do your kids need school supplies this fall?

Drop by one of four locations in Addison County next week to pick up backpacks filled with supplies for the school year — for free.

Each year United Way of Addison County stuffs some 400 backpacks with pens, pencils, notebooks, binders and other supplies and distributes them to families in need. [They call it Stuff the Bus.](#)

This year the backpacks also include some pandemic necessities: hand sanitizer donated by Vermont Soap, and child-size masks sewed by volunteers at the Hannaford Career Center Makery. The bags also include Bee's Wrap for packing up lunches and snacks.

This is a zero-barrier program. In other words, you don't have to qualify for free or reduced lunches or any other assistance program in order to get a backpack. You just show up, pick out a backpack and take it home. All the bags look different, too, so that kids won't be stigmatized for having "the free backpack."

Bristol Community Food Shelf (St. Ambrose Catholic Church)
11 School Street, Bristol

CVOEO (Addison Community Action)
54 Creek Road (Ste. A), Middlebury

HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects)
282 Boardman Street, Middlebury

Vergennes Community Food Shelf (Congregational Church of Vergennes)
30 South Water Street, Vergennes

Can't get there? Email Linnea Oosterman linnea@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org and she'll help connect you with the backpacks you need for the kids.

Around the Region

Two new cases in Addison County so far this week, bringing the aggregate total since March to 73. Middlebury remains in the 5 and under category for total reported infections since March. Current active cases in Vermont are believed to be in the 150-170 range. While there is continued case growth to underscore its continued presence in the state, the infection rate of growth in Vermont remains low.

Canada remains closed to all but essential travel. Even the Toronto Blue Jays had to find a ballpark in the states to play in (who determined that baseball isn't an essential job?)

New Jersey announced the state is retightening the restriction on indoor gatherings after New Jersey's statewide rate of transmission nearly doubled over the last month to nearly 1.48. Indoor gatherings are now limited to 25 percent of a room's capacity with a maximum of 25 persons, down from 100. Face coverings will be required for all students at all times while inside a school building, regardless of social distancing.

Florida, the state reported at least 4,716 new cases of COVID-19 among Floridians and 73 additional resident deaths on Monday. Florida also reported 7,969 COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state.

Connecticut has seen a notable increase in coronavirus rates among people aged 10 to 19.

Missouri ; 2,084 new COVID-19 cases were reported Thursday, the largest daily increase of cases in the state since the pandemic began