

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
September 23, 2020

Update on Governor's Orders

Just in time for leaf peeping tourists, hoteliers can now lodge to 100% of capacity. Like many of you, I'm often left wondering why, if tourists like looking at colorful leaves so much, they don't take some home with them. I'll leave a pile by the road next month or like apple orchards, they can come rake their own!

Bars and restaurants can seat patrons at the counter and bar with a proviso -- they must be seated 6' apart and Lexan or acrylic type barriers must be installed between the server and the patron. If you wonder where you can get these, they are commercially available and our own Desabrais glass can provide and install them. One other proviso -- the allowance for bar/counter service does not increase the allowable capacity. That is still capped at 50% of Fire Marshall authorized capacity.

Schools are allowed to move to Phase 3 of opening -- that is, they may use the gym and cafeteria, may mix student groups, and some interscholastic sports can start. Phase 3 is not a mandate, just a cap. Individual schools/ school systems can retain more restrictive opening policies.

Specifics of these orders can be found at:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>

DLC Enforcement

If you have a liquor license, just be forewarned, DLC agents may be making unannounced drop-in visits to ensure compliance with the Governor's orders. Violations could impact your license so make sure you understand the rules. If you have questions, you can always call me at the PD at 388-3191 or get familiar with the rules at the ACCD site linked above.

Travel Guidance

The Cross State Travel Map, formerly updated every Friday, is now updated on Tuesdays to help facilitate weekend travel or vacation plans. We've posted the link often, but we'll do it again here:
<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>

Planning ahead can be challenging. Some counties are green one week, red the next. With the 1-2 week delay in the onset of infections, a slight delay in reporting, the documentation supporting the travel map can be up to 2-3 weeks behind. The best advice is plan your trip to a county that has been green for several weeks, that's an indication of a pretty stable environment, rather than one that changes week to week.

Colorful Hazy Sunsets and an Orange Moon

The sky taking on fall colors? Something to do with COVID? None of the above. The Department of Environmental Conservation reports this is due to atmospheric particulates from the fires in California. No health danger at this time, and it's being monitored, enjoy the evening show.

If you're old enough you'll remember your mom telling you not to eat the snow because of atmospheric nuclear bomb testing in the South Pacific causing radioactive stuff to come down with the snow, or pollutants in the air from points west sterilizing our northern lakes with acid rain. Same type of thing. What starts far away, like COVID, always rides the tide here.

Case Growth Remains Low

Over two weeks post Labor Day and two weeks since schools opened and no spike in cases! Still very low growth. A few cases a day statewide, and Addison remains fairly stable with an aggregate total of 83 since March. That's because of the collective work of you all -- residents, businesses, college students. Cool weather is cropping up so the mask won't be so bad. And by the way, we still have plenty here at the PD to give out so if you find yourself in need, stop by.

Good Here, Not So Good Across the Big Puddle

Use this as a wake-up call. Northern Ireland, for one, is experiencing a big spike in COVID. Apparently non-compliance with orders is a big issue. In an area of South Belfast called "Holyland" several thousand college students are housed from a couple of universities. Large scale social gatherings, non-compliance with mask mandates has led the government to deploy the police to begin citing student violators -- dozens have been cited to date, and the government is considering "closing the spigot", to apply a Vermont term. Both the English, Irish, and Stormont governments are considering an "all islands" approach and reversing all their "spigot openings" and tightening down restrictions. Op-eds in the local media there have been very critical in the most blunt terms against students and others who will not comply and who are driving the spike in cases. Great for economic recovery eh? We can't let that happen here.

Storms

The usual fall storms are swirling about the lower parallels, but at this time are not expected to create significant problems here at the 44th parallel. We'll be following NOAA for any issues. A good time to pay attention to the weather.