

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
August 7, 2020

Hand Sanitizer Update- Brands to Avoid

For hand sanitizer to be safe and effective it needs a strength of at least 60% alcohol (ethanol). Hand sanitizers using active ingredients other than alcohol (ethanol), isopropyl alcohol, or benzalkonium chloride are not legally marketed, and FDA recommends that consumers avoid their use. The FDA has identified a number of brands, primarily manufactured in Mexico, that are methanol (wood alcohol) based which are not safe to use. Many are under recall. Some of the brand names are “Blumen” , “Hello Kitty” , “Assured” , “Lumiskin”. Here is a link to the list, it’s quite extensive.

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use#products>

Be safe before you buy!

Available Pop-Up Testing Sites

The test sites in Middlebury are all full. However, if you don’t mind a bit of a drive, the testing site at the Champlain School at 800 Pine St in Burlington has a number of available openings on August 12, 13, and 18th. Sign up at: <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/burlington>

No appointment drive-through testing is available at Walgreens in Essex Junction . Walgreens is conducting a pilot project to offer testing there. Testing is available for anyone 18 years old and older. Drive-up testing is offered 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Their staff takes a lunch break from 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) No appointment needed.

From VT Dept of Health- Children and Masks

Face coverings should be worn in settings where children and adults cannot keep a distance of 6 feet between themselves and others. This includes childcare settings, summer camps and schools.

The Health Department has a two-page fact sheet that gives people the information they need about the use of masks to help protect children.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-childfacecovering.pdf>

Keeping a 6-foot distance can be hard for kids used to running around and playing with each other. In settings where distancing is a challenge, children ages 2 and older should wear a mask. Make sure the mask size is the right fit and teach kids how to safely put on and remove the mask, as well as instruct them on proper hand washing to stop the spread of germs.

Children under the age of 2 should not wear a mask, because it may present a choking hazard, and the youngsters may not be able to communicate that they are having trouble breathing. The unique needs of each child are also a factor. Children who have medical (such as asthma) or developmental reasons for not wearing a face covering, should not be required to do so.

Our Region and “Cautionary Fatigue”

Vermont’s COVID growth remains very low. But low doesn’t mean it’s gone. Don’t suffer “cautionary fatigue” – persevere, if you will, to keep case growth low. It’s this effort that keeps Vermont safer than surrounding areas. Coastal Maine has once again gone “green” as active cases have declined. The Berkshires of CT and Mass. have gone “green”. The rest of Mass. and Rhode Island, however, are still problematic with troubling case growth. Nationally, case growth has slowed, but is still a problem. In the U.S. in the past week, an American has died about every 80 seconds from COVID. A constant reminder to keep yourselves safe. <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>

Returning college students and summer visitors from “red” areas are only a health threat if you let your guard down and suffer ambivalence to precautions. The pandemic is a long way from ending.

What’s Happening Elsewhere

Arizona, COVID-19 cases have hit over 182,000, with deaths approaching nearly 4,000, according to the latest report Thurs-day. Arizona Department of Corrections announced late Tuesday evening that 517 inmates at a Tucson prison have tested positive for COVID-19

Florida reported 7,650 new COVID-19 cases and 120 more resident deaths associated with COVID-19 on Thursday.

Rhode Island is turning the spigot back, rolling back reopening a last-call for bars, restrictions on out-of-State travelers and limits on social gatherings.

Hawaii, Alaska, Montana are experiencing significant growth beyond national trends.

COVID and Dogs

As multiple canines have tested positive, more research is required to further understand the transmission pathway. A report was issued to alert federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial canine handlers and other officials of the potential spread of SARS-CoV-2 from humans to canines and to advocate for additional research to better understand the transmission pathway. No one is suggesting yet that your dog wear a mask, just understand at this time that your pet is not immune to the disease- either catching it or passing it to others- and further research is underway. Not a bad time to use the 6 foot social distancing rule for your dogs as well and be careful where they put their noses.