

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
August 14, 2020

**Emergency Order**

The Governor has extended the emergency order to September 15. All provisions are in place. In addition, the order allows towns to limit and restrict hours of alcohol sales, the hours of opening for bars and restaurants, and to set restrictions on the size of gatherings in the best interest of community health and wellness. This is a powerful tool that can be used if social gatherings off campus become a problem.

**They're Ba-a-a-ck**

College students are arriving. A number are living off campus. While college internal rules are robust and can be very effective, they cannot be enforced if the administration is not aware of potential violations. Until a formal process is in place, the police are asking you to call and report noise disturbances and gatherings where the governor's orders on the mask requirement, social distancing, and gathering size are not being complied with. The police will respond for COVID compliance purposes. If involving students, notification will also be made to the college. Both the town and college share the community's concern over students arriving from "red" and "orange" areas and we are working with the college to ensure that safety rules put in place are enforced to mitigate the risk to the community.

**Testing**

VDH let us know that testing will continue in some form or fashion. But understand, the test gives you your status – infected or not – in that single point of time at which the test was administered. The test result you get is only good up to the date and time the test was administered. It has no relevance to later that day, the next day, or the next week. By the time you get the result, its history. You can't say for certainty that you're COVID free. What you CAN say is that at the time you were tested, you were COVID free.

**Travel**

Cape Cod has gone green. No, I don't mean they've all gone to electric vehicles in Barnstable County- the COVID rate has dropped so that coming to Vermont from the Cape you aren't required to quarantine. Same with most of Maine- only Cumberland County ( i.e. Portland area) requires quarantine if you visit. Eastern MA and the Springfield/ Holyoke areas are still a problem. Connecticut has improved with no "red" counties and 3 "green" counties- Litchfield (Berkshires), Middlesex (Old Saybrook, CT River towns) , and Tolland (UCONN).

**Some Good News and Some Not-So-Good News**

Another 55,910 coronavirus cases were recorded in the United States on Wednesday. Fifty-five thousand of anything is a lot, regardless of the perspective. That's equal to a capacity crowd at Yankee Stadium.

As we get farther removed from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July beach and party weekend, we're seeing numbers in other states starting to decline somewhat. Hopefully the trend will continue. Other than that, maybe we're just running out of people who haven't been infected yet! In the meantime, stricter measures are being put into place in other states in response to the summertime increases. The State of CT has already issued \$1,000 fines to at least 2 people who violated quarantine regulations, and as we reported in the last bulletin, MA is putting together special enforcement teams to do the same thing. Let's not go there, folks. The earth is not flat, astronauts really did walk on the moon, Elvis is not waiting tables someplace, and masks, social distancing, and good hygiene do help retard community transmission of this awful disease. We'll see what comes out of Sturgis in 2 weeks.

The DMV region, which includes Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, reported low single-day increases Wednesday. The District of Columbia reported 63 new cases, Maryland reported 541, and Virginia reported 662 new cases.

Kentucky announced 1,163 new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, a single-day record, pushing the state's case total to 36,945. Wednesday's new cases include positives that weren't previously reported because of a data processing error, which is partly to blame for the unprecedentedly high daily increase.

In **New Hampshire**, anyone attending a gathering of more than 100 people will be required to wear a face covering. The state announced at least 21 new cases of COVID-19 during a briefing. Thus far, approximately 6,861 New Hampshire residents have tested positive. The state reported no new deaths.

In **Georgia**, a school district has quarantined more than 800 students because of possible exposure to COVID-19 since it resumed in-person teaching last week. A district spokes-woman says the district anticipated the possibility of positive tests among students and staff, and put a system in place to quickly contact trace and mandate quarantines. Other Atlanta-area school districts scrapped in-person learning amid a spike in cases of COVID-19 in Georgia. This raises some cautionary flags with our own schools opening. Just keep in mind, none of the 7 towns in the ACSD had had more than 5 cases of COVID in the aggregate, so we're not in as COVID-thick an environment as Georgia is. Still, it doesn't take much for an outbreak and all due precautions should be exercised.

**Texas** surpassed 500,000 cases on Tuesday. The state reported 8,913 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, bringing the total number of infections to 500,620 since the pandemic began. Tuesday's new cases are higher than last week's average.

### **International News**

Peru announced new lockdown measures on Thursday after the country has seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases during the month of July.

Spain reported a sharp rise in new corona-virus infections on Thursday as 2,935 cases were diagnosed in the past 24 hours, up from 1,690 reported the previous day. Spain also reported 70 deaths over the past seven days, with the cumulative death toll reaching 28,605