

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
August 18, 2020

Opening of Schools

The Agency of Human Service, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Addison Central School district are promulgating plans and policies for the upcoming opening of schools. Tied in with this is the opening of child care and early education facilities. There is more coming, but this is what they've posted to date. On a related issue, the latest COVID data indicates the prevalence of COVID in the 7-town ACSD remains low, with all towns in the aggregate with 5 or fewer cases per town.

<https://education.vermont.gov/covid19#shs>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wKvsOOhxqOt2jJq8Ozs49QfkbZ98HDMf/view>

Testing

The next testing date in Middlebury at the District health office is August 25. As of earlier today, registration hadn't yet opened.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-covid-19>

Travel Map Bingo

In Friday's bulletin we reported that Cumberland County, ME (Portland area) was still an 'orange' county. Correction- Cumberland is fine and green this week, it's Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties that are in the quarantine required areas. These weekly changes and updates make a point – county ratings - red, orange, and green, are based on reported active infections in the week leading up to the Friday posting and rating. If you've followed the Cross State Travel Map weekly, you'll see that it resembles a kaleidoscope, especially if you overlay the map week to week.

For example, on July 25, Tolland County, CT was 'green'. On August 1 it was 'red'. The next week 'orange, and this past Friday back to 'green'. Cape Cod was similar. So active infections, known and unknown, may present an enhanced risk when the county is 'green', as they wouldn't go into the calculation until a week or two later. The best thing to do when planning a trip is to follow the Cross State Travel map for a few weeks prior to the trip. If your destination rating is bouncing around like colors on a traffic light, beware. If it's been consistently green, you may be a little better off. Just a thought.

Addison County Numbers Creep Upward

Two new cases were reported on Addison County residents since Friday. Like that pesky in-law who visited and is in no hurry to leave, COVID is still hanging out.

Phone Apps, Closed Borders, and Other Activity

As case rates of COVID-19 infection increase across most of the country, travel exposure is becoming more prevalent, leading to increased risk of virus transmission, especially as students are returning to college/university campuses.

The United States, Canada, and Mexico agreed to extend limits on non-essential travel at their shared borders through September 21 in an ongoing effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. The ban, which does not cover trade or travel by air, was first imposed in March and has been extended several times amid a resurgence of coronavirus cases this summer in the United States.

At least 289 students and staff from the Cherokee County School District, near Atlanta, GA, were quarantined after multiple students and teachers tested positive for the coronavirus during the first week of school. Woodstock High School has been temporarily closed for in-person learning, reopening is tentatively scheduled for 31 Aug.

ND, WY, and AL are joining VA in launching contact tracing applications for smart phones. Virginia last week became the first U.S. state to urge residents to download such an app using technology developed by smartphone software companies Apple Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google.