

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
August 26, 2020

The focus of Today's bulletin is on the impact of the re-opening of Middlebury College on the community.

Midd College Campus is Closed, Including Parts of the TAM

As a part of the College's re-opening plan, incoming students are required to remain on campus. Concurrently, the campus is closed to visitors. The following is an excerpt from their posting, and the entire document can be found at:

<https://www.middlebury.edu/office/midd2021/announcements/campus-closed-visitors-quarantine-reminder-students-and-families>

During Phases 1 and 2 of our [three-phase approach](#), *campus will be closed to the general public and visitors*, except for essential-service providers authorized by the College. This includes people taking recreational walks through campus and self-guided tours. It's our hope that as we move into Phase 3, we may be able to allow limited numbers of prospective students to visit campus with protective protocols in place. More information will be provided as our planning evolves.

The following sections of the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) that cross through College property *will be closed to the public* and reserved for student use only:

- The Red Kelly Trail
- The Class of 1997 Trail
- The section of the TAM that runs from College Street through the solar panel array north to Weybridge Street
- The Knoll

In addition, all other campus grounds and buildings—including the athletics fields, outdoor track, athletics facilities, art museum, library, and all other campus areas—are likewise closed. Please see the [campus boundary map](#). The Ralph Myhre Golf Course will be open to the public *but closed to Middlebury students* during Phase 1. This will enable us to continue a valued service to the community while ensuring that students and community members stay physically distanced during campus quarantine.

Compliance Assurance

The Town, the police, and the College are working jointly to ensure the re-opening does not contribute to an outbreak of COVID in Middlebury. From intra-campus compliance patrols, to joint immediate intervention of off-campus non-compliant social activities, to accepting the health pledge that students are bound to, we are working to mitigate repeats of what we've seen in other college communities. Midd students are being held to a higher standard with respect to community concerns.

In Their Own Words

During the spring and into summer as students returned to their previous off-campus private housing, many were met by police who explained the provisions of the Governor's Orders for quarantine and compliance. Many of the students came prepared to quarantine, had already researched these orders and offered no pushback. Through the summer there were no issues. Follow this link to see what the students have to say about how students can stay healthy and help the community stay healthy this fall. <https://www.middlebury.edu/office/midd2021/announcements/your-health-our-health>

Intra-Campus Testing

Here's a link to a video which shows you what the testing looks like at the college.

<https://www.middlebury.edu/office/midd2021/announcements/video>

The Value of Self- Protection

There is no one that doesn't have a concern about what the sudden influx of people from points afar means to community safety amidst a pandemic. But consider this- Since the start the police have been fully engaged with people; the lobby of the police station has been open to the public throughout. During this time the police have done a number of Narcan rescues, performed CPR, assisted MREMS at medical calls, have taken incapacitated people into protective custody, in a 3 a.m. encounter engaged a drug-induced burglar at a store who threatened them with a knife who they successfully disarmed and took into custody without anyone getting hurt. They have engaged registered sex offenders on mandatory compliance checks and at the behest of CSAC were first responders to mental health events; intervened in fights, domestics, made arrests and issued citations- in short, business as usual. Along with our colleagues in EMS and the hospital, we remained fully engaged, and must remain healthy and fully engaged.

Throughout we employed engineering controls and the use of tactics, PPE, and hygiene to mitigate risk. To date none of our officers have become infected. The point is, nothing is foolproof, yet most people won't experience the risk of exposure that public safety and medical staffs do routinely.

Stay safe, keep yourself protected, understand how this virus is spread, take appropriate countermeasures and we'll all get through this together.