

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
March 25, 2020 2:00 p.m.

The Governor Has Issued a “Stay-At-Home” Order

The text of the order follows:

“To preserve the public health and safety, to ensure the healthcare delivery system is capable of serving all, and to help protect those at the highest risk and vulnerability, Vermonters are directed to stay at home or in their place of residence, leaving only for essential reasons such as: personal safety; groceries or medicine; curbside pick-up of goods, meals or beverages; medical care; exercise; care of others; and work, as set forth further below. Vermonters shall significantly restrict normal activities outside the home or place of residence, consistent with CDC guidance, to help stop the spread of the virus. As previously directed, all workers shall work remotely when possible...”

What Does the Order Mean?

The order goes into effect on Wednesday, March 25, at 5:00 p.m. Title 20 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, Sections 8, 9, and 11 enables the Governor to issue orders in response to an emergency. The orders, essentially, carry the force of law. In this case, the Governor has not ordered law enforcement to enforce the order.

At this time, Middlebury Police Officers will not be detaining people who are out. The Governor hopes for voluntary compliance in the best interest of all. The order ***does not*** require you to stay indoors. This ***is not*** a quarantine order. Fresh air and sunshine are vital to your health. Avoid unnecessary travel beyond the home as well as social interaction in close proximity to others. It is critical that we all work to stop the transmission of this virus.

Disease Transmission

In addition to direct inhalation or contact with contaminants, the virus can be transmitted in unintended ways. We are learning that the virus is more robust than previously thought. On certain surfaces it can last for more than a few hours. Surfaces such as door handles, gas pump nozzles, ATM touch screens, and the like. We recommend carrying paper towels with you to serve as a barrier to cover commonly used and touched appliances, such as door handles at a convenience store. Discard the towel after use. This is probably not practical at an ATM, but in any event disinfect and wash your hands as soon as possible, especially before you eat. If you touch a contaminated surface you may then spread that contamination to other surfaces.

From the CDC site: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>

- Practice good hygiene
- Stop handshaking – use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Clean hands at the door, and schedule regular hand washing reminders by email
- Promote tap and pay to limit handling of cash
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

Understand the COVID-19 virus and understand how it is spread. Knowledge is the best way to stop the transmission. Keep a barrier between yourself and harm. For more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>