

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
April 9, 2021

Vermonters age 30 and older can make a vaccine appointment starting Monday

Beginning at 8:15 a.m. Monday, April 12, Vermonters age 30 and older will be able to make an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Going online to healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine is the fastest way to make an appointment, and there are enough slots at sites throughout Vermont for everyone who is eligible.

Click on the “Make an appointment” button to use the Health Department registration system. If you prefer to make your COVID-19 vaccine appointment through a participating pharmacy, you can find links on the same page to Kinney Drugs, CVS and Walgreens.

Anyone who is unable to make their appointment online, or who needs to speak with someone in a language other than English can call 855-722-7878.

Vaccination sites are available around the state, and people can choose a nearby location when making their appointment.

Vermont’s new travel guidance requires testing, but no quarantine

Discussing the state’s new travel guidance, now in effect, Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, noted at Friday’s press conference that the CDC recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated – especially now, when there are still high levels of virus spreading. But he urged anyone who does travel to or from Vermont to understand Vermont’s new policy.

“If you’re a visitor to Vermont, you’ll need to get tested three days before you come here. If the test is negative, you may come visit the state, armed with documentation of your negative result,” Dr. Levine said. Vermonter residents coming back to the state need to get tested in Vermont within three days of their return. Travelers’ return date counts as day zero.

While a quarantine period is no longer required for travel, Dr. Levine emphasized: “you should still be following the basic public health guidance.”

“That means if you have any symptoms, stay home and away from other people until you receive a negative test result,” he said. “Even if the test you got within the 3-day travel window was negative, if you start to not feel well, stay home and get another test. And of course, if and when you are out of state, abide by our universal guidance to stay safe and protected.”

“As the governor said Tuesday, we believe the testing strategy will be easy to follow with so much testing available to Vermonters, so we’ll see more compliance and catch cases a little earlier,” Dr. Levine said.

The new travel guidance is now available at healthvermont.gov/covid-19/travel-quarantine.

Dr. Levine also reminded students and families who may have school vacation coming up to review the new travel guidance and avoid large gatherings.

“Following the same basic prevention guidance is critical to a safe return to school afterward,” he said. “Help protect your family, your school and your community while virus spread is still high.”

If you’re not eligible yet, your turn is coming soon! Vermonters age 16 and older will be able to make an appointment on April 19.

Federal Funeral Assistance Available

Beginning April 13th, those who have lost loved ones due to COVID can apply for assistance that will help with or reimburse for funeral expenses incurred.

As of April 9th, 230 Vermonters have died of COVID-related complications. The loss of these individuals has no doubt been devastating to family and friends. For many, this loss has been accompanied by the additional hardship of paying for a funeral for their loved ones.

There is now help for those families from the federal Funeral Assistance Program. Under this program, those who have paid funeral expenses for a loved one whose death was attributed to COVID-19 can qualify for up to a \$9,000 reimbursement for those costs.

If you lost more than one family member to COVID, you are eligible for multiple \$9,000 grants, up to a maximum of \$35,500. These deaths need not have happened in Vermont or to Vermonters, those who paid funeral expenses for anyone whose death was attributed to a COVID-19 infection anywhere in the United States after January 20, 2020 are eligible to apply.

Funeral Assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and internment or cremation, such as:

- Costs for a burial plot or cremation niche;
- Casket or urn;
- Officiant services;
- Use of funeral home equipment or staff;
- Transfer of remains;

- Expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances.

To apply for a grant, or for more information you must call the Federal Emergency Management Agency hotline at 844-684-6333. As of now, there is no on-line registration for this.

Kathleen Ramsay, Understudy to Tom Hanley, Emergency Management Director