

Alcohol Curbside Pick-up and Delivery During COVID-19: What Lamoille Valley Towns Need to Know and Consider (Resource 1 of 3)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



- Current allowable rules for curbside pickup and delivery of alcohol by 1st class establishments/restaurants and bars are a temporary measure during COVID-19 and will expire with Governor Scott's executive order [EO 01-20 - Directive 4](#). Delivery of alcohol from stores is now allowed by permit.
 - Vermont's [current law](#) bans non-retail pickup and delivery of alcohol to discourage people from driving under the influence, reduce access of alcohol products for youth, and to ensure that restaurants do not overserve patrons.
 - Currently the implementation of the Governor's Executive Order allows for inconsistent implementation and enforcement. DLC investigators have been conducting inspections to confirm current measures are being followed (no indoor dining/drinking and social distance following). As compliance checks resumed, six out of eight retailers providing curbside pickup failed those checks, increasing concerns about underage sales from this interim solution to COVID-19.
-
- We know the number of youth using substances increases as access and availability increase. Through these new rules, access and availability of alcohol for our youth is increased and perception of harm of alcohol for youth is decreased.
 - When community laws and norms support use, youth use goes up and age of initiating use decreases.
 - Youth who use before the age of 15 are 6 times more likely to develop substance use dependency in their life, than those who initiate use after the age of 21. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse*)
 - 20% of Lamoille youth drink before 13 compared to 14% of Vermont youth state wide. (YRBS data)
 - Multiple servings are now being given to patrons leading to potential overuse i.e. 4 drinks in one mason jar.
 - Youth are often being involved in their parent's use when the takeout containers are handed to them to hold on the ride home. It is illegal for youth to be in possession even if they have no intent to use.



IMPACT ON YOUTH

YOUR TOWN HAS A SAY



- **Towns have the ability to create rules and policies to support prevention and should be empowered to make them.**
- Curbside and delivery of alcohol and its potential implications are temporary now, but we could see a push for permanence in the future.
- Your community can respond to the current situation as well as be prepared to bring in any new changes thoughtfully.
- We create an environment that protects our young people.

- Have the conversations upfront. Acknowledge the current changes and the impact. Acknowledge potential future changes related to alcohol, tobacco and pending marijuana commercialization legislation.
- Ask: What kinds of messages are youth getting about substances in our communities that normalize substance use? What are the implications for alcohol, as well as other substances such as tobacco or marijuana?
- Do a community scan, collect information and data on your town. Healthy Lamoille Valley can help you!
- Adopt interim zoning and/or ordinances such as substance-free public and open spaces or limiting the number of servings that can be in one to-go container.
- Adopt protocols and checklists for annual alcohol licensing and renewals and keep select boards involved in the process.
- Create a community vision that includes prevention of youth substance use. Adopt policies, by-laws and ordinances that demonstrate the town's values on substance prevention for youth. Incorporate substance prevention into town plans.
- Share information through signage, community enforcement, and additional strategies.
- Consider how to deal with an increase of requests for outside consumption licenses in your town, requests for flexibility for restaurant seating, for changing open container rules, and for drive-through or food truck alcohol licenses (neither of these are licensed in VT at this time).

WHAT CAN TOWNS CONSIDER AT THIS TIME?



REMEMBER!

- ✓ Seek out the local data you need to inform your decisions, especially about potential harm to youth.
- ✓ Check what neighboring towns and other town municipalities in the State are doing. It matters!
- ✓ Make stronger restrictions first and then reduce if needed.
- ✓ Slow down on taking any new measures that might increase substance norming, access and availability.

