

Maskless wedding photo at Vermont inn worries officials

By Rutland Herald

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WOODSTOCK, Vt. (AP) — Officials in the Vermont town of Woodstock say they were concerned by a photo from a wedding at the Woodstock Inn and Resort that showed people not wearing masks or social distancing.

The Valley News [reports](#) the photo of about 40 people wearing dresses and suits sitting shoulder to shoulder in white folding chairs outside during the Saturday event circulated on social media.

Woodstock Village Trustees Chairman Jeffrey Kahn wrote the safety of residents, business employees and visitors is of utmost importance.

“The safety of our residents, business employees and visitors is of utmost importance to us,” Kahn wrote in a social media post. “We must not become complacent about adhering to the Village mask ordinance. Wear your mask...be well.”

In a statement, the inn said they tried to comply with all guidelines.

“We understand the concerns and will make every effort to reassure the community with added layers of protection moving forward,” the statement said.

There is currently a statewide mask requirement and up to 150 people are allowed for outdoor weddings if 6 feet of physical distancing is possible between parties.

Mask Frustration

Republican Gov. Phil Scott says he’s concerned that President Donald Trump doesn’t do more to promote the wearing of masks as a way to slow the spread of the virus.

Tuesday was declared Vermont Mask Day, and Scott thanked a group that is working to distribute more than 30,000 masks statewide and encouraging Vermonters to wear masks.

“I am concerned about this political division due to the mask policy and how dangerous it is. Wearing a mask is altruistic and something I believe is necessary to prevent spread,” Scott said during his Tuesday news conference.

“Until there is a vaccine that is safe to distribute, it’s really the only thing we have to fight this,” he said.

Vermont continues to have one of the lowest rates of COVID-19 transmission in the country.