

Daily Update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

April 28, 2020

New information is in red

Find this update on healthvermont.gov/covid19 by clicking the “See the Latest Update” button.

Please visit the Vermont Department of Health’s updated COVID-19 web pages – including the new data dashboard: healthvermont.gov/covid19.

The path to restart Vermont

Governor Phil Scott last week announced [some additional openings](#) to restart Vermont’s economy, but stressed the need for continued – and even expanded – vigilance to slow the spread of the virus. The [Stay Home, Stay Safe order](#) is still critical, and each of us must remain committed to doing our part.

It is more important than ever to continue physical distancing and to make wearing cloth face coverings a habit whenever we leave home. [Learn more about why and how we need to wear masks.](#)

In the meantime, please do maintain your social connectivity, which is important for everyone’s physical and emotional health!

WIC program is still open and ready to serve Vermonters

The Vermont Department of Health [WIC Program](#), and other public programs, remain open to serve Vermonters. Vermont WIC provides healthy foods, nutrition education, and breastfeeding support to pregnant and postpartum Vermonters and infants and children up to their 5th birthday. Good nutrition and WIC foods help to support a strong immune system.

Vermont WIC is open and invites new and returning families to join. Since March 16, over 600 new participants joined WIC for the first time. If you are pregnant, postpartum, or are the caregiver for an infant or child under 5, [apply today](#). Medical providers, with patient permission, can [refer patients to WIC here](#).

We’ve made a few changes to keep our families and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- All appointments are being done by phone. WIC staff are primarily working remotely.
- WIC has expanded its approved foods list to make it easier to find WIC foods in the grocery store. These changes include larger bread loaf sizes, more varieties of eggs, and shredded cheese.
- WIC is beginning to offer breastfeeding classes online.

If your family financial circumstances have changed due to a job loss or reduced hours, you could be eligible for WIC. [Apply today](#). For more information on food access, visit hungerfreevt.org/coronavirus.

New on healthvermont.gov

A new map of Vermonters who have tested positive for COVID-19 by town can now be found at healthvermont.gov/covid19 (*click on the map of Vermont*). The data reflects lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among Vermont residents, by town of residence. All case data is preliminary and is updated as new information comes in.

Residents of a long-term care facility or inmates at a correctional facility are counted in the town where the facility is located when they were tested.

The map does not represent people with active infections, and no town is “safe” from COVID-19. We know the virus is in our communities and we should continue to follow stay home orders and health guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19 – no matter what town we live in.

COVID-19 Dashboard provides expanded race, ethnicity and mortality data

Data about COVID-19 deaths are now included in the dashboard at healthvermont.gov/covid19 (*click on the map of Vermont*). Data about race and ethnicity of COVID-19 cases are also included in the dashboard. We can use this data to help to prevent the spread of illness, improve care for patients, and present a more complete picture of how COVID-19 may be affecting everyone in Vermont.

New pages have been added and updated:

- [About Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) - highlighting prevention, symptoms and testing
- [Communities and Workplaces](#) - resources for food, volunteers, food & lodging businesses and more

Meal Distribution to Vermonters

DATES HAVE BEEN UPDATED for the Vermont Foodbank and Vermont National Guard’s food distribution to those in need. [Read the press release.](#)

From 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. each day:

- Wednesday, April 29 - Hartness State Airport (Weathersfield/Springfield)
- Thursday, April 30 - William H Morse State Airport (Bennington)
- Friday, May 1 - Northeast Kingdom International Airport (Coventry/Newport)

Accessing Emergency Care

Vermont hospitals are safe. If you are having symptoms of a serious medical condition, such as heart attack or stroke, it is important to get medical care right away. Call 9-1-1, go to the emergency room, or call your doctor if your symptoms are not life threatening.

Use Cleaning Products Safely

The Centers for Disease Control [has reported](#) that calls to U.S. poison centers about cleaner and disinfectant exposures have increased by 20%. Please make sure you are using cleaning products and disinfectants safely.

The EPA has issued [guidance about disinfectant product use](#). Always follow the product's directions. Do not ingest disinfectant products, and never apply them to yourself or others.

See the CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfection for Households](#) guidance.

You can also chat with the [Northern New England Poison Control Center](#) on their website, call 1-800-222-1222 or text POISON to 85511.

Expedited Temporary Licenses for Health Professionals

[Health professionals can quickly become temporarily licensed](#) to provide care during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Volunteering

Please sign up to support the state's COVID-19 response: <https://vermont.gov/volunteer>. Have medical supplies to donate? Visit the [COVID-19 Donations site](#).

Case Information

Current COVID-19 Activity in Vermont

As of 11:00 a.m. on April 28, 2020

Total cases*	862
Currently hospitalized	12
Hospitalized under investigation	17
Deaths+	47
Total tests	15,215
People being monitored	16
People completed monitoring	831

*Includes testing conducted at the Health Department Laboratory, commercial labs and other public health labs.

+Death occurring in persons known to have COVID-19. Death certificate may be pending.

Hospitalization data is provided by the Vermont Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition and is based on hospitals updating this information as they are able.

Find more information on new data dashboard at healthvermont.gov/covid19 by clicking on the map of Vermont.

Guidance for Vermonters

Who to contact:

- **If you are sick:**
 - If you are having a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 or go to the hospital.
 - If you are having symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath), call your health care provider.
- **Most information is online:** Visit our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#). You can also use our [Ask A Question tool](#). Type in your question and the web bot searches our information for you! **New questions include:**
 - **What is contact tracing?**
 - **Is the state reopened?**
 - **What do employers need to do to reopen their business?**
- **If you still have health-related COVID-19 questions: Call the Health Department at 802-863-7240.**
 - Calls are answered 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. Outside those hours, leave a message and your call will be returned.
- **For non-health related questions, dial 2-1-1.** If you have trouble reaching 2-1-1, dial 1-866-652-4636.

Testing

The Department of Health continues to test Vermonters with COVID-19 symptoms to help increase contact tracing efforts and prevent the virus from spreading. Vermonters can be tested at hospital locations statewide and health centers in Island Pond, South Hero and Wells River. Additional sites will be opened as the needs are determined.

IMPORTANT: Everyone must have a referral from their provider in order to be tested.

- CALL your health care provider to be evaluated so the provider can determine if you need a test.
- DO NOT go to a testing site without an order from your provider.
- Patients who are NOT experiencing symptoms will not be tested.

Health care providers are encouraged to order a test for patients with symptoms, and can visit healthvermont.gov/covid19-providers for more information.

Enjoy the Outdoors Safely

Going outdoors for air and exercise is encouraged when you take the proper precautions. Please stay close to home, practice social distancing, choose low-risk activities, and respect all signs for closed areas.

Ticks are starting to come back - Use insect repellent, avoid wooded and brushy areas, and always do a tick check when you get home. Be Tick Smart: healthvermont.gov/BeTickSmart.

For more outdoors info visit: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/outdoor-recreation-and-covid-19>

If you are or someone you know is in crisis

Feeling anxious, confused, overwhelmed or powerless is common during an infectious disease outbreak. If you or someone you know needs emotional support, help is available 24/7:

- Call your [local mental health crisis line](#)
- Call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at 1-800-273-8255
- Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the [Crisis Text Line](#).
- For more information visit healthvermont.gov/suicide.

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