



Executive Summary

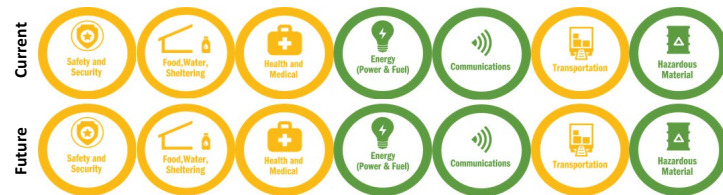
COVID-19 Response

February 19, 2021 (1600 EDT)

SEOC Activation Status: Partial
HOC Activation Status: Full
SEOC Activation Date/Time:
March 11, 2020 (0730 EDT)

Gubernatorial State of Emergency: Declared 3/13/20
Federal Emergency Declaration: Issued 3/13/20
Major Disaster Declaration: Issued 4/8/20

Community Lifeline Status



Key
 Red - most unstable or completely inadequate level of service
 Yellow - functional but inadequate for stability of a consistent level of service
 Green - stable

Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Safety and Security	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SEOC Safety and Security Branch wrapped up its work on matching first responders with excess COVID-19 vaccines at points of distribution.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Office of EMS and the Division of Fire Safety are in conversation about possible updates to fire/EMS non-emergency activity guidance, but are not yet ready to implement changes.
Food, Water, Sheltering	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency of Education conducted 620 COVID-19 tests on Thursday as part of its surveillance testing of school teachers and staff (a reduced number due to weather delays). There have been no positives in the results received so far. Past weeks' results are available on the Agency of Education website. On Wednesday, the Agency of Education released guidance allowing the resumption of school music programs, with stipulations on spacing, group size, ventilation, and rehearsal length.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency of Human Services (AHS) Secretary Smith announced today that the Governor has instructed AHS to work with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Vermont Foodbank to address challenges experienced with the Farmers-to-Families Food Box program during the month of February, and ensure that food boxes are distributed equitably to Vermonters throughout the month of March. Next week, dates and locations for distribution will be posted, with distributions beginning on March 1st. Agency of Education Secretary (AOE) French said today that he does not expect new federal guidance on reopening schools to greatly impact Vermont, as it is more aimed at jurisdictions that have yet to resume in-person instruction. Regardless, AOE plans on reviewing its guidance this month and will look at federal recommendations closely.
Transportation	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transportation in Vermont is curtailed by public health restrictions.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the update to Vermont's travel quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated travelers, traffic to and from Vermont may increase once the change goes into effect on February 23. The State will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outlook to inform further potential revisions to the travel quarantine requirements.

Incident Summary

A novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) was first detected in China at the end of 2019. It has now spread to almost every country, with the largest number of cases in the United States. The disease the virus causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19").

Key Information

Current case status in Vermont, last updated by the Department of Health at 1200 on 2/19/21:

- Positive test results: 14,251
- Total people tested: 322,613
- Total tests conducted: 1,003,258
- Deaths: 193
- Total people recovered: 11,378
- Hospitalized patients with COVID-19: 37
- Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19: 2
- 7-day average test positivity rate: 1.8%

Key Updates:

- On Tuesday, COVID-19 vaccination registration expanded to include Vermonters aged 70 and above.
 - Eligible Vermonters should register online at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine. Those without internet or who speak a language other than English can alternatively call 855-722-7878.
- Today, Governor Scott [announced that effective February 23](#), individuals will not be required to quarantine after travel if it has been 14 days since receiving their final COVID-19 vaccine dose. This change also applies to fully vaccinated visitors to Vermont.
- Starting February 26, long-term care facility visitation and communal activity restrictions will be loosened, dependent on the vaccination status of the individuals involved and the regional prevalence of COVID-19. Specifics on the policy will be released early next week.
- Governor Scott said today that the State is carefully and methodically working through the ramifications of recent [CDC guidance for vaccinated individuals](#), which has the potential to change a number of Vermont COVID-19 policies. Scott said that next week there will be updates to multifamily gathering restrictions.
- On Monday, Governor Scott [extended the executive order](#) and accompanying state of emergency for another month. Scott mentioned in a preceding press conference that he's optimistic that the executive order will not have to be extended too many more times.

Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Health and Medical	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of new COVID-19 cases is trending down nationally, regionally, and in Vermont. COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are also declining in Vermont. Bennington, Rutland, and Franklin Counties have higher COVID-19 infection rates than the rest of the state. The Department of Health opened permanent on-demand COVID-19 testing sites across the state. There are also pop-up testing sites as warranted. Testing registration is on the Department of Health website. As of 2/19 in Vermont, 83,016 people received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 42,003 of those received their second dose. The COVID-19 vaccine data dashboard has breakdowns by county, sex, race, ethnicity, and age. The State opened a special health insurance enrollment period from February 16 through May 14 for those without insurance. Sign-ups are through the Vermont Health Connect call center (855-899-9600). EMS agencies and home health agencies are partnering to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations to homebound individuals. 720 doses are allocated for this effort over the coming week in all counties of Vermont. EMS and home health agencies are identifying eligible individuals with the assistance of hospitals, primary care providers, and area agencies on aging.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency of Human Services Secretary Smith said on Tuesday that the State plans on creating a phone number for homebound Vermonters to call to ensure they receive COVID-19 vaccination.
Other Lifelines	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no significant energy, communication, or hazardous materials issues.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant energy, communication, or hazardous materials issues are anticipated.