



Department of Health Commissioner Levine gets his flu shot. Flu vaccinations are particularly important this year, as the combination of COVID-19 and the flu could strain the healthcare system and lead to as-yet-unknown health complications.

**Incident Name:**  
**COVID-19 Response**

**Reporting Period:**  
**10/12/2020 08:00 AM - 10/16/2020 04:00 PM**

**Situation Report Number:**  
**91**

**EOC Activation Level:**  
**Partial Activation**



# Vermont State Emergency Operations Center

## Situation Report

Phil Scott, Governor

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### *Background / Current Situation*

From October 12 through October 16, 2020 the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was partially activated from 0800 to 1600 each day, using a completely virtual structure. The SEOC will be partially activated every weekday until further notice.

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#### **Key Updates:**

- On Thursday, Governor Scott [extended Executive Order 01-20 and the State of Emergency](#) for another month, until November 15th.
  - This past week, the Agency of Education compiled the results of its first monthly survey of Vermont schools' learning models. Of the schools surveyed, 18% are teaching remotely, 20% are teaching in person, and 62% use a hybrid of remote and in-person instruction. A larger proportion of elementary (27%) and middle (22) schools than high schools (8%) are teaching in person.
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#### **Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1200 on 10/16/20:**

Total positive test results for COVID-19	1,915
Total tests for COVID-19	176,605
Deaths	58
Total people recovered	1,687
Travelers being monitored	670
Contacts being monitored	61
People who have completed monitoring	9,531
Hospitalized patients with COVID-19	0
Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19	1

These numbers are reported once daily covering a 24-period from midnight to midnight.

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#### **10/9-10/15 Call Statistics from 211:**

- 211 received 132 calls related to COVID-19 on Friday through Thursday. The vast majority of calls were from the general public (122 calls).
- The most common call topics were testing (46 calls), basic needs (45 calls), and travel (29 calls) (call topics are not mutually exclusive, i.e., calls can touch on multiple topics).

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## FEMA

- A Major Disaster Declaration has been approved for Vermont: FEMA-4532-DR-VT
- FEMA is tracking the following Resource Request Forms (RRFs) in progress:
  - 1 active RRF for 19 pallets of donated hand sanitizer
- FEMA Region 1 is in receipt of Vermont's request to extend non-congregate sheltering and emergency feeding operations.

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## Public Information

- The Joint Information Center and state agencies are amplifying Department of Health Halloween/trick-or-treating advice:
  - Keep a safe 6-foot distance between your family and other people who don't live in your household. Bring a flashlight so you're visible in the dark. You can get creative if you're giving out candy. Some ideas are to have bags ready to grab on your front steps, or slide the treats down a candy slide.
  - Make sure you and your family are wearing a face mask or covering when you go out. Find a fun way to make it part of your costume. But don't wear a costume mask over your face mask, which could make it harder to breathe.
  - Keep your group small, and consider skipping crowded indoor parties. If you're trick-or-treating and one street or neighborhood seems too busy, skip to the next one.
- Media questions have focused on those involving:
  - COVID-19 cases in schools
  - COVID-19 cases associated with a central Vermont hockey rink
  - Travel restrictions and compliance
  - Vermont's travel map

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## Recovery Unit

### Agency of Commerce and Community Development:

- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has released a simpler loan forgiveness application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$50,000 or less. This action streamlines the PPP forgiveness process for small businesses. The SBA Vermont District Office will [host a webinar on PPP and these new changes](#) on Tuesday, October 20th at 11:30am. Email [susan.mazza@sba.gov](mailto:susan.mazza@sba.gov) for more information.
- The Cross State Travel Map and data modeling presentation was updated Tuesday. While Vermont remains the state with the lowest disease prevalence over the last seven days, the

steady growth of the virus in the northeast continues to impact the Cross State Travel Map. The eligible number of travelers who can come to Vermont without quarantine fell from 2.9 million to 1.9 million.

- ACCD encourages all businesses to look into free technical assistance options now available through the [Small Business Recovery Technical Assistance Program](#). Business support remains available in a variety of areas being provided by the state's 12 regional development corporations, Champlain College, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Northern Community Investment Corporation, and the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund.

### Recovery Unit:

- October 15 was the deadline for Local Government Expense Reimbursement (LGER) applications. To date, LGER applications have totaled \$8.7 million. There are \$1.6 million in municipal FEMA applications which may need to be covered mostly by LGER as well.
- FEMA applicants have been notified that October 31 is the State of Vermont deadline for FEMA Public Assistance applications covering expenses incurred through September 14.

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## Health & Medical Branch

## *Health & Medical Branch*

**Daily summary of hospital bed availability** - Overall, the number of COVID-19 patients is low and stable, while more ICU and medical/surgical beds are being used for non-COVID-19 patients as other in-patient care increases across the hospital and healthcare system.

- Number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized:
  - ◊ Monday - 0 positive, 0 persons under investigation
  - ◊ Wednesday - 0 positive, 6 persons under investigation
  - ◊ Friday - 0 positive, 6 persons under investigation
- Total hospital beds available:
  - ◊ Monday - 506 with capacity of 1,256
  - ◊ Wednesday - 492 with capacity of 1,256
  - ◊ Friday - 409 with capacity of 1,255
- Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available:
  - ◊ Monday - 39
  - ◊ Wednesday - 45
  - ◊ Friday - 36
- Medical/surgical beds available:
  - ◊ Monday - 183
  - ◊ Wednesday - 166
  - ◊ Friday - 152

**COVID-19 Metrics from Department of Financial Regulation:** National trends show increasing cases, positivity rates, and hospitalizations in all regions of the country with the greatest in the upper mid-west. The general trends in Vermont are that, despite more use of ICU beds for non-COVID-19 patients, the rates for the percentage of emergency department visits with COVID-19 symptoms, viral growth and reproduction, and the test positivity rate remain low and stable. Modeling for this week is found at: [https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc\\_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-101320-revised.pdf](https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-101320-revised.pdf).

- **Syndromic Surveillance:** The percentage of emergency department visits with COVID-19-like illness remains under 4%, currently well below warning flag level.

- **Viral Growth and Reproductive Rates:** The sustained viral growth rate remains under 10%, a continued low growth rate.
- **Percentage of New Positive Tests:** New positives remain under 5% of daily results, a continued low test positivity rate.
- **Hospital & Critical Care Beds:** Generally over the past week, the percentage of total beds available remained above the 30% guardrail, and yet the beds are being used for non-COVID patients.
  - Historical data from the Vermont Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition and VDH show that one week from the date elective procedures were postponed (March 19, 2020), the number of ICU beds increased from 18 to 42 and the number of total medical/surgical beds increased from 261 to 591.

## Resource needs

- **Personnel** - none known at this time, but the branch will continue to monitor the situation as influenza vaccination efforts are beginning at the same time of many COVID-19 testing and vaccination planning activities.
- **Equipment** - none known at this time.
- **Supplies** - none clearly known at this time, but a Health Alert Network (HAN) message on 10/1 indicated that supplies for influenza testing and COVID-19 testing are shared from the supply chain, especially sample collection swabs, so the branch will keep an eye on this.

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*Human Services Branch*

## Status of Long-Term Care Facilities (Nursing Homes Only):

- Statewide Licensed Capacity: 2,978
- Current Operating Capacity: 2,699
- Census as of 10/14: 2,240 (459 available)
- Resource Needs: None
- Current Outbreaks: No known outbreaks at this time

## Status of Isolation and Recovery Sites:

- The Ho Hum Motel isolation and recovery site has 7 adult residents as of 10/16.
- General Assistance Motel Summary, including Holiday Inn in South Burlington as of 10/16: 1,347 rooms; 1,585 adults; 327 children.

## Agency of Education (AOE):

- AOE released guidance on [Loss of Licensed Educator Waiver for Prequalified Private PreK Programs](#) as well as [updated guidance on elections and use of school facilities](#) for public meetings, blood drives, and standardized tests.
- AOE conducted rapid-response continuity of operations activities (with SEOC Human Services Branch and Mass Feeding Group) to support a Supervisory Union that lost food service capability due to an active infection in a school kitchen.
- AOE received USDA extension of flexibility to serve free meals to all children through the entire 2020-21 school year, and issued several [guidance updates](#) related to this announcement.
- AOE distributed an enrollment survey to independent schools to support resource distribution missions.



- AOE is planning a distribution of cloth face coverings for students and teachers, with an estimated distribution date at the end of the month.

## *Logistics Branch*

### **Resource Requests:**

- The SEOC Manager submitted a Resource Request Form (RRF) to FEMA for 19 pallets of hand sanitizer.
- Vermont Department of Health (VDH) requested that the Vermont National Guard (VTNG) continue to support asymptomatic COVID-19 testing throughout the end of October. The SEOC Manager and VTNG approved this request.

### **Department of Human Resources (DHR):**

- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) medical volunteer activity:
  - 170 volunteers total, 43 currently activated

### **Vermont National Guard (VTNG):**

- VTNG is supporting pop-up testing sites.
- VTNG, in conjunction with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) continues to assemble, warehouse and manage the logistics of the sampling kits.
- VTNG is supporting the MCM Warehouse operations and delivery of personal protective equipment (PPE).

### **Agency of Transportation (AOT):**

- AOT is coordinating and providing transportation services for the MCM Warehouse to pickup and deliver items 2 days a week.
- AOT is providing facilities for Department of Human Resources flu clinics through October.
- AOT is initiating plans to support the Agency of Education (AOE) cloth face covering distribution for the end of October.

### **Building and General Services (BGS):**

- BGS is working on Department of Corrections logistical needs for potential outbreak response.
- BGS is working on securing storage space for 3,000 gallons of hand sanitizer for the MCM Warehouse request.

## *Medical Logistics Branch*

### **Workflow status for the week of 10/11 to 10/15**

	Total	Filled	Unfilled	Percent Filled
10/11/2020	7	2	5	29%
10/12/2020	13	11	2	85%
10/13/2020	4	3	1	75%
10/14/2020	13	10	3	77%

10/15/2020 9 7 2 78%

Weeks Total 46 33 13 69%

- Orders Received: 46
- Orders Filled: 33
- Percentage Filled: 69%
- Total Unfilled Orders: 13
  - Behavioral Health: 1
  - Long-Term Care: 3
  - Outpatient Care: 2
  - Other: 7

The Unfilled Orders in the heading of "Other" are in-process orders being pulled and processed for shipment in support of the Public Mask Distribution initiative.

Otherwise, orders may be unfilled for due to a variety of reasons such as but not limited to the following:



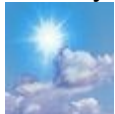


- Lower priority facility types
- Order requires follow up
- May be in the process of being filled at the time the report was completed
- May have been filled by the time the report was completed
- Requested items we do not have in stock so the order remains unfilled

**Other Updates:**

- It has been a fairly quiet week within the Medical Logistics Branch / Medical Counter Measures (MCM) Warehouse. Less PPE needed to be distributed than usual. Branch staff restocked returned items from the school opening initiative.
- The Medical Logistics Branch is in the planning phases for PPE needs for winter and spring vaccination clinics. The branch is determining what will be needed and how it will effect current supplies and future orders to maintain the baseline stock PPE supplies.
- The Medical Logistics Branch is still reviewing staff needs for the near future and is restructuring to fill open positions and cover the transition of Vermont Air National Guard staffing in December.
- The Medical Logistics Branch continues to work with various state agencies on the State's vaccination plan.

*Weather*

**Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KTYX)**

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
				
100%	40%		20%	20%
Definitely Rain	Chance of Rain	Clear	Slight Chance of Rain Showers	Slight Chance of Rain Showers
53 F / 11 C	51 F / 10 C	57 F / 13 C	55 F / 12 C	59 F / 15 C
39 F / 3 C	33 F / 0 C	42 F / 5 C	44 F / 6 C	44 F / 6 C

Saturday will see temperatures in the 50s, with showers possible in the morning. Temperatures will

warm to the 60s on Sunday with drying conditions. Temperatures will remain the high 50s to low 60s early next week along with renewed chances for rain later in the week.





## Executive Summary

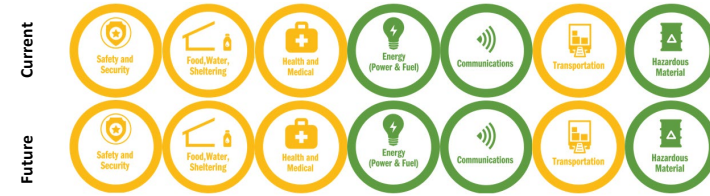
### COVID-19 Response

October 16, 2020 (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



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"> <li>The Medical Logistics Branch is in the planning phases for PPE needs for winter and spring vaccination clinics. The Branch is determining what will be needed and how it will effect current supplies and future orders to maintain the baseline stock PPE supplies.</li> </ul>
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Medical Logistics Branch continues to work with various state agencies on the State's COVID-19 vaccination plan.</li> </ul>
Food, Water, Sheltering	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Monday, <a href="#">new guidance for long-term care facilities</a> went into effect, in response to new regulations from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This new guidance calls for differing levels of visitation and COVID-19 testing based on the test positivity rate of the county where the facility is located.</li> <li>The Agency of Commerce and Community Development raised the indoor occupancy limit for venues over 17,100 square feet to 150 people, as long as <a href="#">additional guidance</a> is followed.</li> <li>On Thursday, the Agency of Agriculture, Food &amp; Markets released <a href="#">guidance</a> on indoor farmers markets. The guidance allows for indoor markets to take place but requires adherence to ACCD's Work Safe Guidance and other best practices such as prohibiting the consumption of prepared food at vendor stands or while moving around the market and establishing a separately marked dining area for the consumption of prepared food and drink.</li> </ul>
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Tuesday, the Agency of Education received US Department of Agriculture (USDA) extension of flexibility to serve free meals to all children through the entire 2020-21 school year. AOE released a <a href="#">memo</a> with additional details about the extension.</li> <li>The Joint Information Center and state agencies are amplifying VDH Halloween/trick-or-treating advice which advises people to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>keep a 6-foot distance between others not in your household,</li> <li>wear a mask or face covering when you go out, and</li> <li>keep your group small and avoid indoor parties.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Transportation	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interstate travel to and from counties in nearby states with 400 or fewer active COVID-19 cases per million is permitted without quarantine requirements. ACCD will update the <a href="#">cross-state travel map</a> each week with which counties are permitted for travel to and from without quarantine. Currently, 1.9 million people are eligible for travel into Vermont without quarantine, down from 2.9 million people last week.</li> </ul>
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public transportation is not running under normal operations, and it is unclear when this would return to standard conditions.</li> </ul>

Incident Summary
<p>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").</p>
Key Information
<p><b>Current case status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1200 on 10/16/20:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive test results: 1,915</li> <li>Total tests conducted: 176,605</li> <li>Deaths: 58</li> <li>Total people recovered: 1,687</li> <li>Hospitalized patients with COVID-19: 0</li> <li>Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19: 1</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Thursday, Governor Scott <a href="#">extended Executive Order 01-20 and the State of Emergency</a> for another month, until November 15th.</li> <li>This past week, the Agency of Education compiled the results of its first monthly survey of Vermont schools' learning models. Of the schools surveyed, 18% are teaching remotely, 20% are teaching in person, and 62% use a hybrid of remote and in-person instruction. A larger proportion of elementary (27%) and middle (22) schools than high schools (8%) are teaching in person.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local State of Emergency:</b> Burlington, Colchester, Johnson, Rutland, Vernon</p> <p><b>Local EOCs Activated:</b> Burlington, Chittenden, Charlestown, Hartford, Johnson, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peacham, Peru, Rutland City, Sharon, St. Johnsbury, Stratford, Thetford, Tunbridge, Vernon, Waitsfield, Weston.</p>

### Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Health and Medical	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 infections are on the rise, both nationally and regionally. New cases increased week-over-week by 3.09% in the region (New England, New York, and Quebec).</li> <li>The new case count in Vermont is creeping up, but the state continues to have the lowest 7-day per capita infection rate and one of the lowest 7-day test positivity rate in the country.</li> <li>There are pop-up testing sites for asymptomatic members of the public every Monday through Thursday throughout the state. <a href="#">Available appointments</a> fill quickly.</li> <li>The Department of Health is investigating an <a href="#">outbreak of COVID-19</a> among Montpelier recreational hockey players and their close contacts. There are currently 18 infections associated with the outbreak, but there is not evidence of wider community transmission. A <a href="#">pop-up testing clinic</a> will be held this Saturday (10/17) at the Barre Auditorium. Testing is recommended for people with direct links to the teams, the Vermont Memorial Civic Center and their close contacts, but not the wider Montpelier community.</li> <li>On Friday, State Epidemiologist Patsy Kelso said that two COVID-19 cases associated with Union Elementary School in Montpelier constitutes the first known instance of COVID-19 transmission within a Vermont school (previously reported cases all originated outside of school).</li> <li>There is one Medical Surge Site in Chittenden County in standby mode.</li> </ul>
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While flu vaccination rates are higher than they were last year, there is still long ways to go to meet the Department of Health's goal of vaccinating 325,000 Vermonters to the virus, in an effort to prevent a "twin-demic" of COVID-19 and the flu. So far, those under 18 years old and from 50-75 years old are getting vaccinated at a higher rate than last year, while those 20-35 years old are getting vaccinated at a lower rate.</li> </ul>
Other Lifelines	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Public Utility Commission <a href="#">lifted a statewide moratorium on utility disconnections</a> yesterday. The commission encourages utility customers with COVID-19-related past-due utility balances to apply for the <a href="#">Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program</a>.</li> </ul>
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite the lifted moratorium, Green Mountain Power and Vermont Gas Systems announced that they do not intend to disconnect any customers during this winter.</li> </ul>