

Incident Name:

COVID-19 Response

Reporting Period:

03/22/2020 08:00 AM - 03/22/2020 04:00 PM

Situation Report Number:

10

EOC Activation Level:

Full Activation



Vermont State Emergency Operations Center

Situation Report

Phil Scott, Governor

Erica Bornemann, Director (800) 347-0488 45 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671

Background / Current Situation

On March 22, 2020 the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was fully activated from 0800 to 1600, using a hybrid EOC structure (physical/virtual) with limited in-person staffing at Public Safety Headquarters and State partner representatives working remotely. The SEOC will be fully activated daily until further notice.

Key Updates from 3/22/20:

- Stay at home orders have gone out in the states of New Jersey, Illinois and California.
- All non-essential businesses have been ordered to close in the states of Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania.
- The U.S. Department of State issued a global health advisory on 3/19/20, advising U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel. The U.S./Canadian and U.S./Mexico borders are closed to nonessential travel.
- American Red Cross is experiencing a national blood supply shortage.

Additional community mitigation measures announced 3/21:

- Gov. Scott has prohibited in-person operations at close-contact businesses, meaning those
 unable to comply with guidelines for social distancing, specifically: gymnasiums, fitness centers
 and similar exercise facilities, hair salons and barbers, nail salons, spas and tattoo parlors to
 close all in-person operations no later than 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23.
- Gov. Scott has further reduced the allowable size of non-essential mass gatherings, now limited to no more than 10 people at the same time in a single space.

Ongoing community mitigation measures:

- Gov. Scott has prohibited the on-premises consumption of food or drink at any bar, restaurant, or establishment. Such businesses can still offer food for take-out or delivery. This prohibition has a tentative end date of 4/6/20.
- Gov. Scott ordered long term care facilities and hospitals to develop policies to limit visitation to reduce facility-based transmission.

- Gov. Scott issued an order allowing beer, wine, and cider purchases with food (for takeout and delivery).
- Gov. Scott issued an order prohibiting in-person transactions at the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- Gov. Scott issued an order for hospitals to postpone elective surgeries.

Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1300 on 3/22/20:

Total positive test results for COVID-19	52
Total tests for COVID-19	1,158
Deaths	2
People being monitored	307
People who have completed monitoring	310

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

Public Information

- Shared information about available public WiFi hotspots across the State.
- Media inquiry WCAX asking for information about temporary hospital triage sites being built.
 More follow up tomorrow.
- Finalized media inquiry system to be distributed this evening. All media inquiries will be routed through the Joint Information Center (JIC) at: cv19meida@vermont.gov
- Amplified SBA disaster declaration with social media posts and a post on Front Porch Forum statewide.

External Resources Unit

Federal:

 FEMA has a mission assignment for US Army Corps personnel to assess medical surge facilities. This team should be available early next week.

EMAC requests submitted today:

- 10 Microbiologists needed for VT Department of Health/ Health Operations Center.
- 10 Epidemiologists needed for VT Department of Health/Health Operations Center.
- 1 Medical Infection Control Specialist to answer calls for VT Department of Health/Health Operations Center.

FEMA

Vermont:

 FEMA Stafford Act declaration FEMA-3437-EM-VT was issued March 13, 2020 for the State of Vermont. Eligibility includes Public Assistance Category B: Emergency Protective Measures and Direct Federal Assistance.

- FEMA is actively filling the request for US Forest Service ICS personnel to the HOC.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers Planning and Response Team has been Mission Assigned by FEMA to support Medical Facility assessments and will support medical surge facility site assessments this week.
- FEMA Region 1 is determining what Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) resources are being pushed nationally.

Nationally: The National Response Coordination Center in Washington DC is fully activated and adjudicating all federal requests for resources and capabilities from across the Country.

Regionally: The FEMA Region 1 Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) will activate to a level 2.

Resource and Capabilities Unit

The Resources and Capabilities Unit's agencies are coordinating resource and information requirements. Priorities include:

- Identifying supplies inbound from FEMA.
- Coordinating setup of Medical Surge sites in Burlington, Barre, and St. Albans.
- Coordinating transfer of rehabilitation patients into a hotel in Burlington.
- Identifying and contracting for non-congregate isolation centers for the homeless.
- Identifying future resource gaps and potential sources.
- Refining request and distribution processes for key supplies and expanding it to allow key private partners to order using state contracts.

Vermont Department of Health

- Hospitals:
 - 17/17 Hospitals active in response
 - Drive up testing locations set up: UVMMC at Champlain Valley Expo in Essex; Outside of NVRH.
 - Multiple hospitals are anticipating staffing shortages in the coming weeks.
 - Elective surgeries/procedures have been postponed per the Governor's Order.
 - Bed Availability statewide:
 - 39 ICU
 - 225 Med Surge
 - 45 Isolation
 - 463 Total Beds
 - Of these beds, 120 are negative pressure
- Resources update: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply about the same as yesterday, though reports late.
- Long Term Care Facilities-many reporting needing PPE but all are operational.
 - As of 3/22, 2,476 of 2,952 licensed beds are filled.
 - One facility with multiple positive COVID cases and one COVID death.
 - Working to help Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington which reports 26% staffing (RN/LPN/RNA) shortage.
- Any activation and status of the Strategic National Stockpile:
 - SEOC working on National Guard Support at SNS Warehouse to start Monday 3/23/2020

- SEOC working with HOC to develop PPE distribution plan.
- SEOC working with HOC to develop medical & health staffing plan.
- Deployed special state assets: N/A
- COVID-19 Testing:
 - Reorganizing this weekend
 - UVMMC/VDH Lab staffing plan being developed
 - Test prioritization scheme
 - Health Care workers a top priority
 - Long-term Care Facilities top priority
 - Hospitalized patients
 - Other symptomatic individuals
 - Collection kits also becoming short in supply
 - Potential resource needs PPE, Medical Surge Locations, staffing (we are currently handling these)
 - VDH Call Center:
 - Current effort working
 - Long term planning ongoing with HOC and SEOC
 - Need help with: Lab, Epi, HOC Surge Support

Agency of Human Services

Goddard College in Plainfield, VT identified as a site to support COVID-19 positive patient recovery needs:

- Site visit conducted 3/22/2020 by SEOC Agency of Human Services (AHS) Branch Director, Deputy Commissioners of Department for Children and Families (DCF), Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Building and General Services (BGS) Director of Property Management, college staff and local first responders.
- It was agreed by all that this site will support the COVID-19 recovery needs for each department.
- · Lease has been started.
- Capacity is up to 162 beds and 98 rooms, with availability to expand with use of recreational facilities.
- Facility has additional space for residential staff to be housed.
- Logistics such as feeding and security need to be researched; cannot be provided by college.

Green Mountain College in Poultney, VT- AHS is exploring this facility as an additional recovery center. Details will be forthcoming once the assessment is complete.

Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center: 4 juveniles currently housed at Woodside will be transitioned to Northwestern Counseling and Support Services on Monday, 3/23/20. This will allow Woodside to be utilized as a recovery center for COVID 19 patients at the VT Psychiatric Care and regional hospitals. The capacity is 30 beds, but could be expanded to more by opening up the gymnasium.

Agency of Education

As of March 18, 2020 all schools are dismissed per the Governor's directive.

Today's Messaging:

- Status update email to superintendents/IS Heads including Vermont Department of Health Guidance to Essential Personnel Child Care, additional Nutrition guidance to Essential Personnel Child Care, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) FAQs
- Working on draft statement re: US Department of Education Assessment Waivers

Active Missions:

- US Department of Education offering waivers of assessment requirements under Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), announced 03/20.
 Agency of Education has applied and been approved.
- Continuity of Education: Additional special education guidance distributed 3/21 1200
- Financial Guidance under draft
- Continuity of Education Guidance remote learning under draft
- Agency of Digital Services is working with Agency of Education on Essential Personnel Childcare Information Sharing IT Solution. Solution is built and we will discuss with Agency of Human Services Monday 03/23/20.

Vermont 211

Vermont 211 received 15 calls related to COVID-19 on March 21. As of 1:45pm, we had received 15 calls already today.

We are also seeing an uptick in searches at our website for food pantries. 121 searches during the week of March 16, compared to 113 during the all of February.

Public Service Department

All electric, natural gas, and telecommunications utilities continue to provide service, and only essential service calls at customer premises are being performed (with proper social distancing and other suggested preventative protocols).

 As of 1530, Consolidated Communications announced a statewide service outage that they are working to address.

Natural Resources

Seventh Generation has made a donation of health and sanitation products. This offer with contact information was forwarded to BGS SEOC Partner.

Continuing:

- Developing environmental issues fuel dealers have requested the Department of Conservation (DEC) consider relaxing/waiving inspection requirements for "new customer" above ground fuel tanks (ASTs).
- Any water supply or sewer issues Concerns about amount of sewage wastewater treatment plants will/can accept. Concern that with more people at home more requests for pump-outs will

- occur. Also, due to flushing of wipes and other materials used in lieu of toilet paper, there has been an increase in emergency clean-outs requested.
- DEC Solid Waste program is working with landfills and solid waste districts to identify needs and messaging around waste/recycling/electronics/organics disposal and drop-off.

Military Support

- Report on non-state (EMAC, IEMAC, federal) resource status:
 - No pending EMAC requests anticipated for Military Support.
 - Defense Coordinating Officer has informed the Adjutant General of Task Force North info gathering should they send Title-10 troops to Vermont for Border Patrol operations augmentation. Troops are templated to arrive through Burlington International Airport. Watching this closely for any support requirements.
- Deployed special state assets:
 - Two State Active Duty officers on support to Medical Surge Working Group.
 - One VTNG Medical Officer in support of Medical Surge Working Group on active duty orders.
 - Five Air National Guard members on State Active Duty (SAD) for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) warehouse support mission starting 0800 hours on March 23.
 - Adjutant General ordered the activation of National Guard Response Force #VT3 (25 soldiers) for support to the set-up of Medical surge locations at Gutterson Field House and Barre Auditorium on March 23 and Collins-Pearly Complex in St. Albans on March 24.
- Pending missions: Receipt and distribution support to Vermont Department of Health (VDH) for arrival of Federal Coronavirus Task Force-directed resupply to Vermont.
- Potential resource needs: None at this time.

Forests, Parks, & Recreation

- Wildland Fires None.
- State Fire Supervisor was asked about a potential burn ban for the state, which is not being issued at this time. Forest Parks and Recreation (FPR) provided information to all fire wardens. There may be further action related to this topic.
- Deployed special state assets: None
- Pending missions: None
- Status of park visitation: information is currently being gathered.

Division of Fire Safety

Active Projects:

- Guidance and questions on fire department operations: sending out round 2 of the county based Fire Dept. survey similar to last Thursdays Survey of Fire Departments with a deadline to respond by Monday at noon.
- Division of Fire Safety continues to update information links and fire service-related guidance on the Division web page.
- Reviewed Tickets: mass care the use of any building being used for surge capacity, it is

- imperative to notify DFS so we can notify the fire service county contact to advise them of the buildings new intended purpose so they can look at safety systems, adjust their pre-plans, operating procedures and improve their situational awareness.
- Deployed DFS Assets: Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Tent to Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH)
- Areas of Concern: as a reminder, tent structures are typically not designed to carry heavy snow loads; however, some are designed to shed snow automatically at 6".

Department of Labor

FIT TEST FOR N-95 RESPIRATORS- OSHA has approved temporary guidance regarding fit testing for N-95 filtering face piece respirators for health care providers. The guidance is aimed at minimizing destruction of respirators for the purpose of fit testing these units with healthcare providers. For more information on this temporary guidance please see: https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-03-14/temporary-enforcement-guidance-healthcare-respiratory-protection-annual-fit or osha.gov then click the COVID-19 information page.

As of Friday March 20, Commissioner Harrington authorized closure of all 12 Department of Labor regional offices to public traffic. The department will continue to provide service to the public but will do so virtually through email, phone and web. More information on how to engage Vermont Department of Labor services is available at https://labor.vermont.gov/.

Buildings & General Services

- Ventilator purchases: one order for ventilators has been completed and another one has been approved. The Office of Purchasing & Contracting (OPC) is assume responsibility for finalizing these agreements and for future orders.
- Buildings and General Services (BGS) Property Management is coordinating efforts with Agency
 of Human Services (AHS) Service Providers to identify properties (and contract spaces as
 needed) around the State for potential hospital surge of patients and both active and potential
 shelter and isolation needs for the homeless. Available properties for isolation/med surge/other
 needs are being tracked via spreadsheet and made available from BGS upon request.
- BGS is capturing and tracking donation and product/service solicitation information as it arrives.
 Tracking spreadsheet is uploaded each day to DLAN at the end of the operational period.

American Red Cross

American Red Cross (ARC) is operating a public relations campaign to get more people to give blood. There is a national shortage of blood because many companies and colleges are either not open or deciding not to operate blood drives. The ARC has included addition precautions in light of the COVID-19 to ensure that donors as wells as ARC staff are safe. The Burlington Donor Center is open seven days a weeks and there are blood drives schedules and efforts continue to schedule more.

- As of 1500 Friday 3/20, all Vermont Rest Area Facilities will be closed (the parking lots will remain open).
- Deployed special state assets: 52 message boards running COVID-19/Vermont Department of Health (VDH) with other boards displaying Rest Area Closed messages.
- Partial Activation of the Transportation Incident Command Center (TICC).
- Leading coordination plan for long term Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) delivery operations with Vermont National Guard and Vermont State Police in support of Health Operation Center Logistics.
- Per a request from the Vermont Retailers & Grocers Association. Department of Motor Vehicles has waived the requirement for five axle trucks to need a special permit to operate at 92,000 lbs without a special permit on State Highways.

Agency of Digital Services

- There was a brief outage on Sunday 3/22 of Vermont.Gov and Statehouse.Vermont.Gov. The outage was reported to Vermont Information Consortium (VIC) the state's egovernment partner. The sites were back up at approximately 10:00 a.m.
- Agency of Digital Services (ADS) created 2 email addresses for Public Information Officer (PIO) to aide with media inquires.
- Created several shared mailboxes for SEOC.

Agency of Commerce & Community Development

The Agency of Commerce continues to receive requests from manufacturers to be considered essential in the event of further restrictions. All requests have been submitted to the SEOC planning division as of 2 pm 3/22.

Vermont Retail and Grocers' Association seeks clarification concerning restaurant kitchen workers and whether they must comply with non-essential gatherings of 10 or more guidance (are they included in exclusion for food preparation).

No reported changes to Vermont Retail and Grocers' Association (VRGA) Supply Chain Update from 3/21/20.

- Bread: Worsening situation, suppliers moved to 24/7 production which increased output by 50%, but demand is +200%.
- Milk: Supply is okay, trucking/logistics is barrier causing out of stocks at stores.
- Eggs: Supply tightening and cost jumping. Okay for now, but could worsen.
- Cheese: will take 1-2 weeks to catch up to pre-COVID levels.
- Paper & Bath Tissue: Continue to get product in quantities much greater than what was sold in prior years. Paper Towels starting to improve.
- Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Isopropyl Alcohol: No recovery in sight that will meet demand. There will be significantly increased demand going forward.
- Meat: Continued struggles to secure core proteins; Chicken, Pork and Ground Beef. Chicken outlook continues to not look good. Beef outlook is improving.

RESOLVED: VRGA trucking weight limit increase request: Official recommendation from Agency of Transportation (AOT) would be to allow a 5 axle tractor trailer to operate with a gross weight of 92,000 lbs on State Highways if it is providing direct relief to the COVID-19 effort to include loads or mixed loads with destinations of retail establishments, or warehouses that resupply retail establishments.

Essential/non-essential Businesses: 3/22: Businesses continue to contact ACCD petitioning to be determined essential. All emails are being sent to SEOC (Planning). Planning is adding to SEOC Essential Request Spreadsheet.

Finance & Administration

Ventilators have been ordered and BGS is working on another order for additional units. Waiting on confirmation of delivery date. Strategic Nations Stockpile (SNS) is waiting on a distribution plan for the units.

Weather

Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KCXX)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Clear	90% Definitely Snow	Clear	50% Chance of Snow	60% Likely Rain Showers
35 F / 1 C 17 F / -8 C	37 F / 2 C 29 F / -1 C	44 F / 6 C 27 F / -2 C	43 F / 6 C 31 F / 0 C	48 F / 8 C 32 F / 0 C

Precipitation will overspread from southwest to northeast in VT by mid to late afternoon. Precipitation will initially fall as rain in the valleys with snow and rain/snow mixed at elevations of 1000-1500 feet or higher. Monday night, it should be snowing in all locations before exiting before dawn on Tuesday morning.

Highest snowfall totals will be across the southern portions of the northern Adirondacks (2-5 inches) and southern VT (4-8+ inches) in the higher terrain.

Impacts: Snow covered and slick roads Monday evening and night, especially for roads with elevations above 1000 feet. Isolated power outages possible in extreme southern VT where 6-10+ inches of snowfall in the higher elevations is forecast.

Stay At Home Orders

3/22/2020 2:32 PM

Statewide Stay At Home Orders

No
Yes

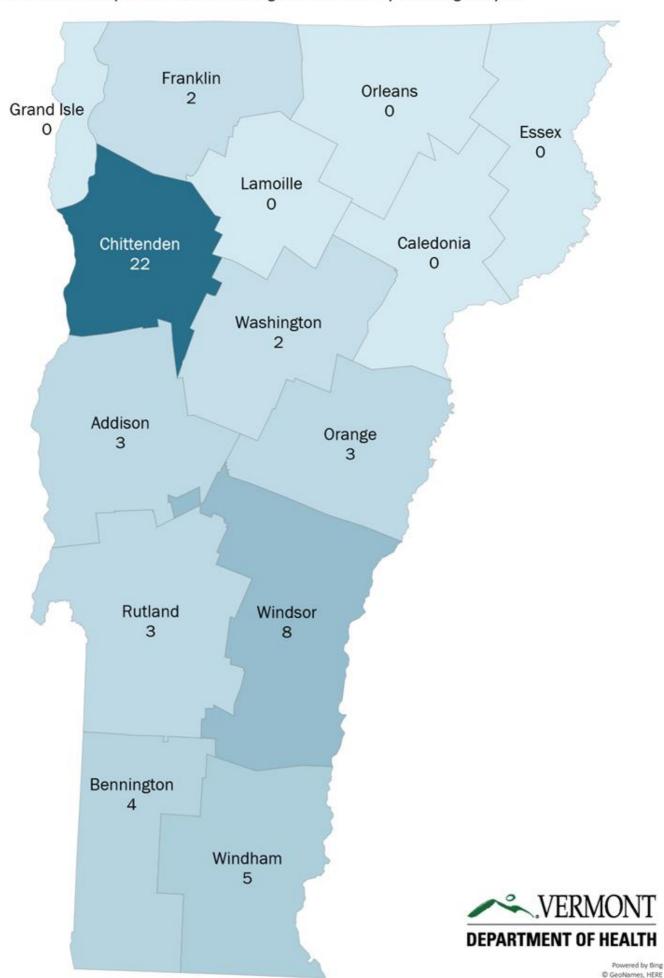


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Vermont Case Count

*People who tested positive for COVID-19 in Vermont while visiting or seeking care are included in the Vermont county where they were identified.

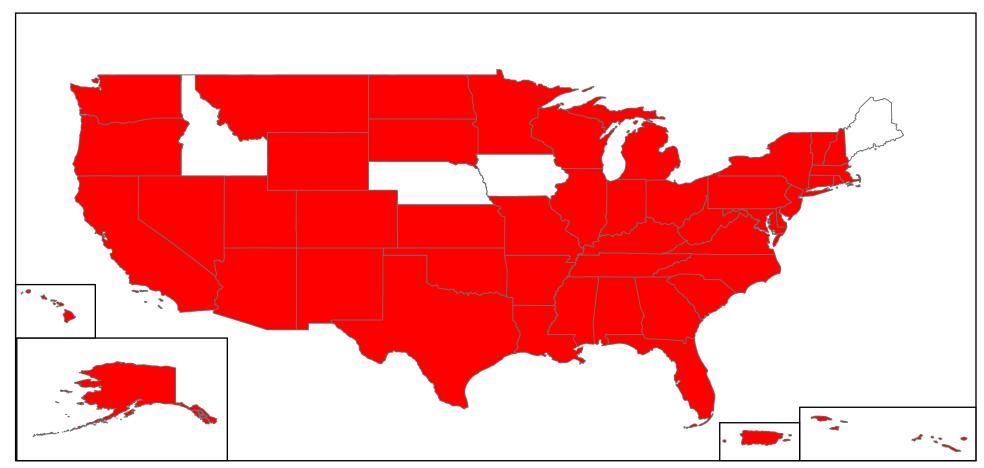
**Some cases may be still under investigation and county not assigned yet.



Statewide School Closures

3/22/2020 2:32 PM

States Statewide School Closure No Yes





Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Safety and Security	Current Situation	 Division of Fire Safety (DFS) sent guidance on fire department operations, as well as guidance to Fire wardens through Forest, Parks, and Recreation (FPR). All State and County court buildings are closed to the public with restricted access in emergent cases. The US State Department on Thursday warned American citizens not to travel abroad due to coronavirus pandemic, issuing its highest level travel alert. The U.S./Canadian and U.S./Mexico borders are closed to non-essential travel.
Food, Water, Sheltering	Current Situation	 Per a request from the Vermont Retailers & Grocers Association. Department of Motor Vehicles has waived the requirement for five axle trucks to need a special permit to operate at 92,000 lbs without a special permit on State Highways. Vermont Retail and Grocers' Association (VRGA) has reported increased supply chain issues yesterday for the following categories: bread; eggs; wipes, hand sanitizer, isopropyl alcohol; chicken. SerVermont is in contact with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) to fulfill the need for volunteers at shelters in support of AHS efforts.
Food, \	Future	 Continued planning for continuity of operations for public water supplies and municipal wastewater treatment facilities, to include staffing considerations. Schools will need funding to provide snacks to children in child care; schools can provide breakfast and lunch under existing programs, but not snacks.
Other Lifelines	Current Situation	 Agency of Digital Services is working with Agency of Education on Essential Personnel Childcare Information Sharing IT Solution. Solution is built and we will discuss with Agency of Human Services Monday 03/23/20. Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation are reporting increased state park visitation. Park management staff are visiting selected parks this weekend to document visitation. Signs will be posted altering to lack of staffing, sanitation, and social distancing. A Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration was granted statewide. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development has spread word to the business community. This was shared broadly by the Joint Information Center. The Agency of Transportation closed all Rest Area Facilities in the state. Unemployment Insurance has published a website for claim filing online for affected employees. Updated N-95 respirator fit testing guidance released by OSHA.

Executive Summary

COVID-19 Response March 22, 2020 (1600 EST)

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

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

Current Situation

Health and Medical

A novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) was first detected in China

at the end of 2019. It has now spread to more than 100 locations internationally, including the United States. The disease the virus causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19").

Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1300 on 3/22/20:

Positive test results: 52

Total tests conducted: 1.158

Deaths: 2

Summary

Key Information

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People who have completed monitoring: 310

Key Updates:

- · Stay at home orders have gone out in the states of New Jersey, Illinois and California.
- · All non-essential businesses have been ordered to close in the states of Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Updated Executive Order Measures:

- Gov. Scott has prohibited in-person operations at closecontact businesses, meaning those unable to comply with guidelines for social distancing, specifically: gymnasiums, fitness centers and similar exercise facilities, hair salons and barbers, nail salons, spas and tattoo parlors to close all in-person operations no later than 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23.
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Ongoing Executive Order Measures:

- Gov. Phil Scott has prohibited the on-premises consumption of food or drink at any bar, restaurant, or establishment. Such businesses can still offer food and alcohol for take-out or delivery. This prohibition has a tentative end date of 4/6/20.
- Gov. Phil Scott ordered long term care facilities and hospitals to develop policies to limit visitation to reduce facility-based transmission.
- · Gov. Phil Scott issued an order for hospitals to postpone elective surgeries.

Gubernatorial State of Emergency: Yes, announced 3/13/20 Local State of Emergency: Burlington, Colchester, Johnson Federal Disaster Declaration: Issued 3/13/20 Local EOCs Activated (self reported): Burlington, Waitsfield, Johnson, Hartford, Chittenden (town), Strafford, Peacham

Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

 In the face of limited supplies, testing is being prioritized to
hospitalized patients, those in long-term care facilities, and
healthcare workers.
Elective surgeries and procedures are postponed, per the

- governor's order.
- Drive up testing locations set up: UVMMC at Champlain Valley Expo in Essex: Outside of NVRH.
- · The Strategic National Stockpile PPE warehouse is assisted with transportation of PPE by the Agency of Transportation and with staffing (starting Monday) by the National Guard.
- US Forest Service individual augmentees due Monday to support Health Operation Center (HOC) staff.
- A human services branch is being developed and will integrate into the SEOC tomorrow. Objectives are to identify human services issues surrounding homelessness, DCF youth, mental health, and staff shortages agency-wide.
- · American Red Cross is experiencing a national blood supply shortage. The ARC has included addition precautions in light of the COVID-19 to ensure that donors as wells as ARC staff are safe.
- National Guard is supporting three upcoming American Red Cross Blood drives at our armories.

· One order for ventilators has been completed and another one has been approved. The Office of Purchasing & Contracting (OPC) is assume responsibility for finalizing these agreements and for future orders.

- FEMA has a mission assignment for US Army Corps personnel to assess medical surge facilities. This team may be available early next week.
- EMAC requests have gone out for 10 microbiologists and 10 epidemiologists, as well as 1 medical infection control specialist VT Department of Health/ Health Operations
- · Adjutant General ordered the activation of National Guard Response Force #VT3 (25 soldiers) for support to the setup of Medical surge locations at Gutterson Field House and Barre Auditorium on March 23 and Collins-Pearly Complex in St. Albans on March 24.
- There are resources shortages amongst first responders as protective measures increase.
- Multiple hospitals are anticipating staff shortages in the next coming weeks – school closures are the most recent stressor.