

Incident Name: COVID-19 Response

Reporting Period:

05/15/2020 08:00 AM - 05/15/2020 04:00 PM

Situation Report Number:

57

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 May 15, 2020 the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was fully activated from 0800 to 1600, using a completely virtual structure. The SEOC will be fully activated during the week and partially activated through the weekend until further notice.

Key Updates:

- Today, Governor Scott issued Addendum 14 to Executive Order 01-20. This Addendum extends the State of Emergency for Vermont and all previous addenda through midnight on June 15, 2020. The Addendum loosens restrictions on where Vermonters can travel, to include for in-state stays at available lodging, campground and marina facilities. The Addendum also amends Addenda 6 and 7 to allow the limited resumption of lodging operations to include hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, inns, short term rentals, such as those made available through VRBO, Homeaway, AirBnbs and other services, parks for recreational vehicles and campgorunds, all public and private camping facilities including those managed by the Vermont Department of Parks and Recreation, and marinas. On-line reservations may resume as of 5/15 for stays beginning on May 22nd. These facilities can open May 22 for Vermont residents only, or those who have met the 14-day quarantine requirement, and will be subject to strict health and safety standards and guidance from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Lodging may be provided for the following purposes:
 - Housing vulnerable populations (emergency shelter for homeless individuals) as arranged through the state;
 - Providing accommodations for health care workers, other workers deemed necessary to support public health, public safety or critical infrastructure and workers entering the state for authorized work;
 - · Use of lodging properties as quarantine facilities as arranged by the state; and
 - Lodging for Vermont residents and others who certify self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days prior to lodging overnight in Vermont.
- Addendum 14 allows the legislative body of each municipality to enact more strict local requirements regarding mask use than what is set forth in Addendum 14.
- State data and modeling indicates spread of COVID-19 continues to slow and Vermont now has

one of the lowest 3-day and 7-day growth rates in the country.

- The combined FEMA Food Box / CEFAP food box distribution sites began today at the Edward F. Knapp State Airport in Berlin, VT. A total of 800 boxes of cheese/butter, 2,000 boxes of chicken, 1,000 boxes of produce, and 2,000 gallons of milk were distributed. The National Guard expects to distribute approximately 4,000 boxes of non-perishable food by the end of today. The next meal distribution site will be held on Tuesday, May 19th, 10am-2pm at Bromley Mountain, 3984 VT Route 11, Peru, VT.
 - The full list of dates and locations can be found at vem.vermont.gov/pods

Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1100 on 5/15/20:

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Total positive test results for COVID- 19	933				
Total tests for COVID-19	23,205				
Deaths	53				
Total people recovered	796				
People being monitored	25				
People who have completed monitoring	855				
Hospitalized patients with COVID-19	3				
Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19	14				
These numbers are reported once daily covering a 24-period from midnight to midnight.					

5/14 Call Statistics from 211:

- 211 received 72 calls related to COVID-19, the vast majority (68 calls) from the general public.
- The most common call topics were testing (26 calls), the Stay Home, Stay Safe order (25 calls), and travel (15 calls) (topics are not mutually exclusive, i.e., calls can touch on multiple topics).

Public Information

- The Joint Information Center (JIC) amplified new guidance on the "Be Smart, Stay Safe" economic restart of Vermont: <u>https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order</u>
- The JIC shared information from the Vermont Foodbank regarding today's food distribution site running out of food.

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:
 - Testing materials, including nasal swabs and test tubes

- HEPA filters
- PPE including gloves, coveralls, aprons, boot covers, and N95 masks
- Boxed meals
- Powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs)
- Title 32 Mission Assignment Extension
- Outside of the RRF process, FEMA is procuring a donation of bulk sanitizer on behalf of Vermont and securing cloth face coverings.

Medical Logistics Branch

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Update as of Close of Day 5/14/2020:

Daily Workflow Status				
Orders Received	38			
Orders Filled	28			
Percentage Filled	74%			
Total Unfilled Orders	10			
Behavioral Health	1			
EMS	1			
Hospital	0			
Long-Term Care	1			
Outpatient Care	0			
Public Safety	1			
Residential Home	0			
Other	6			

Please Note: These numbers change by the minute and many of these orders may have been filled during the generation of this report. This is just a snapshot in time.

Important Explanations: Orders may be unfilled 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:

• The SNS Warehouse received an additional 2 pallets and 2 boxes of Haines cloth face coverings

yesterday afternoon.

- The branch is working with Dan Batsie of the Department of Health to develop a high-level PPE distribution policy for the State.
- The branch compiled, and is in the process of vetting, a list of vendors willing to supply PPE to Vermont facilities. Once approved to disburse, the branch will begin providing PPE to facilities through various channels.
- The branch is reviewing and following a similar process for a vendor list with State's OPC Unsolicited Proposals list. The branch will look to use this in lieu of purchases if/where appropriate.
- A request was submitted to the State for additional non-military staffing in the Medical Logistics Branch, to replace military members coming off orders in June.

Logistics Branch

Resource Requests:

 There was a request for portable restrooms and hand wash stations for the Berlin Food Distribution Site.

• Department of Human Resources (DHR):

- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) medical volunteer activity:
 - 63 volunteers, 10 of whom are deployed as screeners at Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital.
 - The Southern Vermont Medical Center asked for volunteers to be Specimen Collection Assistants and Test Schedulers, but has yet to provide final details
 - 764 accepted volunteers, 377 since 3/1
- Temporary Employee Activity:
 - Applications received 396
 - Offers Made 6
 - Hired 6
 - Direct Hires 17

• SerVermont:

 28 AmeriCorps, 25 MRC volunteers, and 1 spontaneous volunteer are deployed at 211, filling 15-18 shifts a day to support surge operations.

• Agency of Transportation (AOT):

- AOT is providing 100 traffic cones for tomorrow's Colchester Test Site.
- AOT is providing 100 traffic cones for tomorrow's Hartford Test Site.
- AOT provided food distribution support today at Edward F Knapp State Airport in Berlin.
- AOT is picking up face shields from Generator in Burlington and J.K Adams in Dorset to be delivered to the SNS Warehouse today.
- AOT is picking up 20,000+ face shields from Porta-Brace in Bennington to be delivered to the SNS Warehouse on Monday.

Health & Medical Branch

Health & Medical Branch

Daily summary of hospital bed availability

- Number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized: 5 positive, 9 persons under investigation
- Number of COVID-19 patients discharged from hospital: 1

Hospital resource needs

- **Personnel** none known at this time, but may require additional personnel for the Offenseminded Testing Strategy.
- **Equipment** none known at this time, but may require additional equipment for the Offenseminded Testing Strategy.
- **Supplies** none known at this time, but may require additional supplies for the Offense-minded Testing Strategy.
- The SEOC is securing specific resources for nine all-day, by-appointment-only, pop-up testing operations in Colchester on 5/16, Rutland on 5/18, Barre on 5/19, Middlebury and St. Albans on 5/20, Newport on 5/21, Springfield and Morrisville on 5/22 and St. Johnsbury on 5/23. These supplement one previously planned for White River Junction on 5/16.
- Available appointments at pop-up testing clinics are filling up quickly.

Alternate Care Facility Status Report

• No pending resource needs are known at this time for the one COVID-19 positive and three non-COVID-19 positive patients at the Essex Alternate Care Site..

Activation of Crisis Standards of Care

- Personnel measures none known at this time.
- Equipment / PPE measures planning to avoid shortages of nitrile gloves, surgical gloves, isolation gowns, surgical gowns, and goggles.
- A letter reinforcing N-95 supply shortage mitigation strategies (including fit testing to respirators in supply and possible use of N-95 respirator alternatives) is still under development for dissemination in the coming days.

Human Services Branch

Gaps in Agency of Human Services (AHS) essential services due to absenteeism: none at this time

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

- Statewide Licensed Capacity: 2,978
- Current Operating Capacity: 2,699
- Census as of 5/14: 2,208 (491 available)
- Resource Needs: None
- Current Outbreaks: No known outbreaks at this time

Status of Isolation and Recovery Sites:

- The Harbor Place isolation and recovery site has a 50-bed capacity, with 7 residents as of 5/14.
- General Assistance Motel Summary, including Econo Lodge in Montpelier as of 5/14: 1,514 rooms; 1,744 adults; 299 children.

Statewide Mass Feeding Plan:

- The combined FEMA Food Box / CEFAP food box distribution sites began today at the Edward F. Knapp State Airport in Berlin, VT.
- The next meal distribution site will be held on Tuesday, May 19th, 10am-2pm at Bromley Mountain, 3984 VT Route 11, Peru, VT.

Additional Updates:

- The Child Development Division is sending out the Department of Children and Families's Restart program guidance and application today to childcare providers.
- 1,231 Essential Persons have completed the online collection form to request referrals for 1,966 children. 365 Essential Persons requested help for 574 school-aged children, 443 Essential Persons requested help for 623 children under 6, and 164 Essential Persons requested help for 377 children in both age groups. The remaining 259 Essential Persons representing 392 children did not indicate a need for child care.
- The Agency of Education is working on summer food service planning and a plan to expand school food service to reach under-served communities.

Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force

AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ACCD):

- Business Impact Form (This information was collected from 4/22-5/15):
 - Number of businesses completing the survey: 204
 - Estimated Monthly Revenue Loss: \$9,200,674
 - Open / Closed Status:
 - Fully Open: 18
 - Partially Open: 73
 - Closed: 110
 - Employment Numbers:
 - Before Disaster: 1602
 - After Disaster: 619
 - % Reduction: 61%
 - Previous totals from the beginning up until 4/22:
 - Number of Businesses Surveyed: 2069
 - Estimated Monthly Revenue Loss: \$323,279,712.00 (\$372,825,743 including previous impact form data)
 - Open / Closed Status:
 - Fully Open: 286 (14%)
 - Partially Open: 827 (40%)
 - Closed: 971 (47%)
 - Employment Numbers:
 - Before Disaster: 26,844
 - After Disaster: 14,795
 - % reduction: 44%

AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS (AAFM)

- AAFM Business Impact Survey Results as of May 14, 2020
 - Economic Impact: \$21,937,900 (median loss of \$17,000 per business)
 - Estimated Monthly Revenue Loss: N/A

- Number of Businesses Surveyed: 205
- Open/Closed Status:
 - Fully Open: 80 (39%)
 - Partially Open: 92 (45%)
 - Closed: 33 (16%)
- Employment Losses:
 - Reported loss of employees: 70 (34%)
 - No change: 123 (60%)
- As Ag Business Impact data remains statistically unchanged and very few responses were received over the past 2 weeks, AAFM will discontinue this survey and reporting as of this week.
- AAFM is currently working on another survey with UVM that will assess changes and needs of the industry during this transition to recovery period.
- COVID-19 Support to Direct Markets:
 - NOFA-VT, in collaboration with the AAFM and Vital Communities, created a one-page resource for customers about what to expect at farmers markets this season. This will be included in statewide outreach, along with signage and marketing assistance provided to Vermont farmers markets.
 - The High Meadows Fund, has offered to purchase masks and sanitizer fluid to supplement the needs of farmers markets as they open and create environments that are safe and healthy for vendors, customers and volunteers and comply with the state's guidance and rules.
 - Rural Vermont, in collaboration with the High Meadows Fund, NOFA-VT, and AAFM, launched a rapid response "mini grant" fund to support farmers markets in need of financial assistance to transition to COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Market representatives can apply directly at: <u>https://www.ruralvermont.org/farmers-market</u>
- Meat costs are increasing at retail on a national level. AAFM is receiving reports that retailer costs have doubled over the past four weeks and will continue to increase. Increased costs have and will continue to result in increased prices to consumers. This is not a pricegouging issue, it is a supply chain challenge. This is due to a limited workforce in processing plants, which has created a bottleneck in getting meat processed and to distributors/retailers. Lots of uncertainty remains.
- E-commerce Business Assistance:
 - The first portion of a three-part E-Commerce webinar series took place this week. The webinar, presented by Bud Reed of Lean Edge Marketing, had 61 participants. The webinar was recorded and will live on the VT Specialty Food Association website.
 - AAFM finalized details for a Community Food Access RFA that will support producers' efforts to adapt their operations in response to COVID-19 for projects that focus on ways to improve existing and accelerate emerging market models that serve multiple farmers and increase food access in Vermont communities.
- USDA announced it will be making direct payments to farmers and ranchers under CFAP. The USDA is not accepting applications yet, but farmers and ranchers will be able to apply through their local Farm Service Agency office. Direct payment assistance available nationally include the following:
 - \$9.6 billion for the livestock industry
 - \$5.1 billion for cattle
 - \$2.9 billion for dairy
 - \$1.6 billion for hogs
 - \$3.9 billion for row crop producers
 - \$2.1 billion for specialty crops producers
 - \$500 million for other crops

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL):

- Unemployment Insurance Claims Overview, May 3 May 9 (updated every Thursday)
 - Continued Claims: 57,040 (down from 60,535)
 - New Claims: 2,913 (down from 3,875)
 - Estimated Total Claims: 59,953 (down from 64,410)
 - Payments: over \$19 million paid last week (compared to \$20 million the previous week)
 - Trust Fund Balance: \$455 million (down from \$479 million the previous week)

Infrastructure & Emergency Services Branch

Infrastructure - During the day, there were various minor power outages. Utility crews worked to repair the outages, and are preparing for additional outages due to inclement weather this afternoon.

Emergency Services- There was a structure fire in Greensboro requiring many mutual aid departments.

No other reported major active incidents or issues.

Department /Agencies Reports

Vermont State Police (VSP)/Wilderness Search and Rescue -

- VSP is working with local police departments, the Department of Buildings and General Services, and a sheriff's department on traffic control and security at food distribution sites.
- The food distribution site at Berlin airport reported a traffic back-up before opening.

Public Service Department (PSD) -

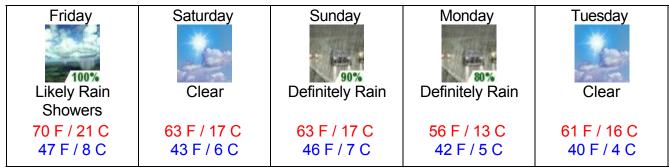
- Utility crews are working on minor outages.
- Verizon is reporting seven cellular towers out of service in Sheldon, Richford, Enosburg, Alburgh, Swanton, South Burlington. The outage is due to fiber cut with their backhaul provider (likely the outage reported by Consolidated earlier) that was caused by a motor vehicle accident. The fiber cut is being repaired now and is expected to be back in service later tonight.

Judiciary -

• The Vermont Supreme Court extended the judicial emergency through September 1, 2020.

Weather

Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Addison (Eastern Addison) (KTYX)



Potential Severe Thunderstorms through Friday evening

Tonight - Showers and possibly a thunderstorm in northern VT, Scattered showers and thunderstorms in southern VT before 8pm, then a chance of showers. Thunderstorms in southern VT may contain damaging winds, torrential rain and lightning. Low around 49. Northwest wind 5 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible but locally in excess of 1 inch in thunderstorms.

The National Weather Service has issued a **TORNADO WATCH** until **10 PM** for the following locations:

In VERMONT: Rutland, Windsor, Bennington, and Windham Counties

Primary Threats:

- Damaging winds in excess of 60 mph
- Potentially LARGE hail (>1 inch in diameter)
- Isolated tornado possible
- Frequent Cloud to Ground Lightning and Torrential Rains

Saturday - A 20 percent chance of showers before 9am. Partly sunny, with a high near 64. Northwest wind 7 to 9 mph.

Saturday Night - Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. Calm wind.

Sunday - Mostly cloudy, with a high near 68. Calm wind becoming northwest around 6 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night - A chance of showers between 9pm and 1am, then rain likely after 1am. Cloudy, with a low around 47. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Monday - Rain. High near 59. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Total Rainfall Sunday night through Monday may range from 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch along the VT/Canadian border to approaching 2 inches along the VT/MA border. Possible flood threat in the south.



Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Safety and Security	Current Situation	 VSP is working with local police departments, the Department of Buildings and General Services, and a sheriff's department on traffic control and security at food distribution sites. The Vermont Supreme Court has extended the judicial emergency through September 1st. All jury trials in criminal cases are suspended until September 1st and in all civil cases until January 1st, 2021. 			
Safety	Future C	 As states begin to lift their restrictions, travel could become more prevalent and lead to an increased risk of virus transmission. 			
Food, Water, Sheltering	Current Situation	 The combined FEMA Food Box / CEFAP food box distribution sites began today at the Edward F. Knapp State Airport in Berlin, VT. A total of 800 boxes of cheese/butter, 2,000 boxes of chicken, 1,000 boxes of produce, and 2,000 gallons of milk were distributed. The National Guard expects to distribute approximately 4,000 boxes of non-perishable food by the end of today. The next meal distribution site will be held on Tuesday, May 19th, 10am-2pm at Bromley Mountain, 3984 VT Route 11, Peru, VT. All lodging properties must remain closed per existing orders (including relevant exemptions) and should cancel reservations booked between May 15, 2020 and May 22, 2020. The Child Development Division is sending out the Department of Children and Families' Restart program guidance and application today to childcare providers. The Agency of Education is working on summer food service planning and a plan to expand school food service to reach under-served communities. 			
Food	Future	 The USDA announced it will be making direct payments to farmers and ranchers under CFAP. The USDA is not accepting applications yet, but farmers and ranchers will be able to apply through their local Farm Service Agency office. VAAFM is continuing to track the increasing cost of meal at retail at a national level. VAAFM is receiving reports that retailer costs have doubled over the past four weeks and will continue to increase. This is not a price-gouging issue, but is due to a supply chain challenge with a limited workforce in processing plants, which has created a bottleneck in getting meat processed and to distributors/retailers. 	Key Information		
Transportation	Current Situation	 AOT is staffing border crossings for the State's monitoring of traffic mobility to determine how effective mitigation measures are for reducing travel and also to give healthcare leaders a sense of future healthcare capacity needs. All vehicles (Vermont and out-of-state) are being counted; license plate numbers are not being recorded. For more info: <u>https://vtrans.vermont.gov/vtransparency</u> 			
Transp	Future	 Public transportation is not running under normal operations, and it is unclear when this would return to standard conditions. As industries begin to open up the current social distancing protocols may prove to be challenging on bus routes. 			

Executive Summary COVID-19 Response May 15, 2020 (1600 EDT)

SEOC Activation Status: Full 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

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

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").			 State data and <u>modeling</u> indicates spread of COVID-19 continues to slow and Vermont now has one of the lowest 3-day and 7-day growth rates in the country. One Alternate Care Site is currently operating in Chittenden County with three other sites on standby. The Chittenden County site has 	
Current case status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1100 on 5/15/20: • Positive test results: 933 • Total tests conducted: 23,205 • Deaths: 53 • Total people recovered: 796 • Hospitalized patients with COVID-19: 3 • Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19: 14 Key Updates: • Today, Governor Scott issued Addendum 14 to Executive Order 01-20, Be Smart, Stay Safe. This Amendment extends the State of Emergency for Vermont and all previous addenda	Health and Medical	Health and Medical	Current Situation	 one COVID-19 positive patient, and three non-COVID-19 patients. On Saturday, there will be pop-up testing sites for asymptomatic members of the public in Colchester and Hartford. Registration for both sites is full. More such testing sites for the Offense-minded Testing Strategy are planned through May 23rd. <u>Available appointments</u> at pop-up testing clinics are filling quickly. The Medical Logistics Branch and the SNS Warehouse are coordinating PPE and equipment support for the pop-up testing sites scheduled for the month of May. The Medical Logistics Branch and the Vermont Department of Health are working on developing a high-level PPE distribution policy for the State.
through midnight on June 15, 2020. The Addendum loosens restrictions on where Vermonters can travel, to include for in- state stays at available lodging, campground and marina facilities. The Addendum also allows the limited resumption of lodging operations, parks for recreational vehicles and campgrounds, and marinas. On-line reservations may resume		Future	 Additional guidance will be forthcoming next week to allow for some additional healthcare providers such as dentists, physical therapists and chiropractors to resume operations in a limited capacity. 	
 as of 5/15 for stays beginning on May 22nd. Lodging may be provided for the following purposes: Housing vulnerable populations (emergency shelter for homeless individuals) as arranged through the state; Providing accommodations for health care workers, other workers deemed necessary to support public health, public safety or critical infrastructure and workers entering the state for authorized work; Use of lodging properties as quarantine facilities as arranged by the state; and Lodging for Vermont residents and others who certify self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days prior to lodging overnight in Vermont. Addendum 14 allows the legislative body of each municipality to enact more strict local requirements regarding mask use than what is set forth in Addendum 14. Local State of Emergency: Burlington, Colchester, Johnson, Rutland, Vernon. Local EOCS Activated (self-reported): Burlington, Chittenden (town), Charleston, Hartford, Johnson, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peacham, Pittsfield, Rutland, Sharon, South Burlington, St. Johnsbury, Strafford, Thetford, Tunbridge, Vernon, Waitsfield, 	Other Lifelines	Current Situation	 ACCD updated its guidance for non-essential retail and drive-in operations. This guidance, developed with the Department of Health and Department of Public Safety, goes into effect May 18th and allows for reopening retail operations in a limited capacity with mandatory health and safety requirements. ACCD repots that 204 businesses completed the Business Impact Form during the 4/22-5/15 timeframe. The estimated monthly revenue loss is \$9,200,674 with a 61% reduction in employment reported. Consolidated Communications issued an outage notification this morning with fiber and cable down in the area Burlington and Williston. It is not clear at this time how many dial-tones are affected. Verizon is reporting seven cellular towers out of service in Sheldon, Richford, Enosburg, Alburgh, Swanton, and South Burlington, likely due to the same issue. The fiber cut is being repaired now and is expected to be back in service later tonight. 	
		Future	• Widespread rainfall is expected Friday through Tuesday with precipitation amounts ranging from 1-3 inches with higher totals across southern Vermont. Impacts are expected to be low at this time.	

- Total people recovered: 796
- Hospitalized patients with COVID-19: 3
- Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-1 Key Updates:
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- Addendum 14 allows the legislative body of each mur to enact more strict local requirements regarding mas than what is set forth in Addendum 14.

Local EOCs Activated (self-reported): Burlington, Chitte (town), Charleston, Hartford, Johnson, Landgrove, Lond Peacham, Pittsfield, Rutland, Sharon, South Burlington, Johnsbury, Strafford, Thetford, Tunbridge, Vernon, Waitsfield, Weston, Woodstock.