



Incident Name:
COVID-19 Response

Reporting Period:
03/30/2020 08:00 AM - 03/30/2020 04:00 PM

Situation Report Number:
18

EOC Activation Level:
Full Activation



Vermont State Emergency Operations Center

Situation Report

Phil Scott, Governor

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Background / Current Situation

On March 30, 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 3/30/20:

- Governor Scott issued Addendum 7 to Executive Order 01-02, which included the following:
 - ◊ Any person, resident or non-resident, traveling into Vermont for anything other than an essential purpose, must immediately self-quarantine for 14 days.
 - ◊ Visitors are instructed not to travel to Vermont if they are displaying symptoms or if they are traveling from cities and regions identified as COVID-19 “hot spots,” including, among others, the states of Florida and Louisiana and the cities of Detroit, Chicago and New York City.
 - ◊ On-line reservations shall be suspended and lodging providers shall post a prominent notice on their web platforms which advises potential guests that reservations for lodging in Vermont, as allowed, shall be accepted by phone only. Lodging services are only allowable in support of the COVID-19 Response for vulnerable populations or essential personnel.
 - ◊ The Vermont State Police and all county and municipal law enforcement agencies shall monitor the compliance with this Executive Order by lodging providers and notify the Office of the Attorney General regarding potential non-compliance.

Nationwide Updates:

- Major Disaster Declarations have been awarded in 22 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.
- Stay-at-home orders have gone out in 30 states. This means at least 251 million people in at least 30 states, 81 counties, 15 cities and one territory are being urged to stay home. Maryland has been added most recently to this list.
- President Trump extended Federal social distancing guidelines to 4/30/20, and the CDC issued

a domestic travel advisory that urges New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut residents to refrain from non-essential travel for 14 days.

- The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the \$2-trillion Coronavirus Relief Bill by voice vote and President Trump has signed the Bill. Of the total bill, \$2-billion would be allocated to Vermont.

Ongoing Community Mitigation Measures:

- Gov. Scott issued Directive 5 pursuant to Executive Order 01-20 - Continuity of Learning Planning, on 3/26. This Directive directs schools for preK-12 students to remain dismissed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Schools are required to have continuity of learning plans for remote learning implemented on or before Monday, April 13, 2020.
- Gov. Scott has issued an addendum to his executive order to ask all Vermonters to “Stay Home/Stay Safe”. The order took effect on Wednesday 3/25 at 5:00pm.
 - All business and not-for-profit entities shall suspend in-person business operations, and are encouraged to develop distance-based services.
 - Vermonters are directed to stay at home or their place of residence, leaving only for essential reasons.
 - Businesses and entities providing services or functions deemed critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security as set forth in the order, shall remain in operation.
 - The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) developed a process for responding to questions regarding acceptable continuation of business operations.
 - ACCD has updated FAQs to help commercial entities, non-profits, employers to self-determine if their operations are critical to public health, safety, or economic and national security in Vermont. This FAQ can be found on the ACCD website.
 - ACCD has also developed Stay Home Stay Safe sector specific guidance for businesses. This information can also be found on the ACCD website.
- Gov. Scott issued an order for hospitals to postpone elective surgeries.
- Restaurants are still able to function, but may only provide curbside pickup or delivery service.

Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1300 on 3/30/20:

Total positive test results for COVID-19	256
Total tests for COVID-19	3,930
Deaths	12
People being monitored	219
People who have completed monitoring	546

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

3/29 Call Statistics from 211: 32 calls

- A majority of calls were from the general public (27 calls).
- Calls were related to the Stay Home Stay Safe order (10), work related (5), testing (5).

Public Information

- Amplified governor's messaging on Addendum 7, the closure of hotels, motels, B&B's, Inns, and

vacation rentals like AirBNB's, etc.

- Provided list of non-compliant hotels as identified in law enforcement inspections over the weekend.
- Public Service Announcements for TV and radio are in production to amplify the Governor's Executive Orders and addendums.
- Created guidance for communities to report violations of Governor's Addendum 7 (closure of hospitality and rentals noted above) to local law enforcement.

FEMA

- FEMA is actively filling the request for U.S. Coast Guard or FEMA personnel to staff the Health Operations Center (HOC). Five personnel identified and on site. The Civil Air Patrol has offered resources, which is under review.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning and Response Team was Mission Assigned by FEMA to support Medical Facility assessments, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning and Response Team was Mission Assigned by FEMA to support Medical Facility assessments. Assessment reports have been received and are under review.
- The push of Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) resources was received on 29 March.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) orders in the system will be validated against the SNS received. PPE orders through the Resource Request Form (RRF) process going forward will be subject to cost share.
- FEMA submitted an RRF for:
 - Ventilators: Adjudication will take place nationally, directly with State
 - 1 infection control expert for the Health Operations Center
 - 10 microbiologists
 - 10 epidemiologists
 - High priority for Cepheid Gen Expert Module Test Kits and associated materials.
 - Federal Medical Station - Denied

Nationally: The National Response Coordination Center in Washington, D.C. 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) is fully activated and is completely virtual.

Health & Medical Branch

Health & Medical Branch

- Drive-up testing is available at Brattleboro Memorial, Copley, Central Vermont, Dartmouth Hitchcock, North Country, Northwestern, Porter, Springfield, Rutland Regional and UVM MC hospitals, with variable hours.
- Major testing push beginning this week of 3/29/2020.
 - Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) across state with new test kits.
 - Landmark College (Putney, VT) testing site collected specimens on 3/29/2020 to fill gap not covered by hospitals and FQHCs.
- Current hospitalizations:
 - 19 COVID-19 in-patient
 - 46 Persons Under Investigation (PUIs)
 - 15 COVID-19 patients discharged

- Bed availability statewide (as of 0900 3/29):
 - ◊ 644 total beds, up from 577 yesterday
 - ◊ 55 ICU beds, up from 8 yesterday
 - ◊ 320 med surge beds, up from 276 yesterday
 - ◊ 83 isolation beds, down 2 from yesterday
- Multiple hospitals are anticipating staff shortages in the coming weeks, especially due to staff with close contact with COVID-19 patients.
- Long-term care:
 - ◊ One long term care facility has multiple COVID-19 positive persons and has experience multiple COVID-19 deaths.
 - ◊ Vermont Veterans Home is at minimum staffing and has requested staffing support.
- Hospitals are receiving donations of N95s and surgical masks (or hand-made substitutes) from local providers.
- Activation and status of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS):
 - ◊ 8 truck SNS shipment received 3/29/2020.
 - ◊ The SEOC created MedLog (Medical Logistics) Branch to support PPE and medical supplies distribution plan on 3/30/2020.
- The SEOC is working with the HOC on fatality management, the relocation of persons for COVID-19 protection, and to develop a medical & health staffing plan, as well as law enforcement security for various work activities, support of med surge in Burlington, St. Albans and Barre, refrigeration for OCME, and PPE for Vermont National Guard.
- Testing:
 - ◊ The VDH Lab received additional testing supplies this morning and is implementing training for two new microbiologists.
 - ◊ The lab is looking for US DOT Category B Infectious Materials shipping containers or equivalent.
 - ◊ A web portal will soon be online to efficiently provide testing results to providers.
 - ◊ UVM Medical Center is triaging testing, with healthcare workers, those in long-term care facilities, and hospitalized patients as the top priorities.

Human Services Branch

- **Congregate Housing Status:**
 - ◊ Harbor House for homeless population in Burlington area - 50 bed capacity - 5 beds in use.
 - ◊ A location for a recovery site in the White River Junction area is being identified.
 - ◊ Finalizing plans to accept psychiatric care patients at isolation facility - Woodside.
 - ◊ Lease agreement in progress at isolation/recovery facility in Central Vermont.
 - ◊ North Beach Campgrounds, Burlington – site setup in progress, campers delivered. Camper lease agreement in process.
- **No known gaps in Agency of Human Services (AHS) essential services due to absenteeism rate.**
- **Long Term Care Facility Status:**
 - ◊ Statewide Licensed Capacity: 2,964
 - ◊ Current Operating Capacity: 2,696
 - ◊ 30-Mar-20 Census: 2,373
 - ◊ 30-Mar-20 bed availability: 323
- Use of schools as community resources – working with Buildings and General Services (BGS) to staff up Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donation points in certain municipalities. Available

to coordinate other similar missions as needed.

- Agency of Education (AOE) receiving reports of illness in school food service kitchens, which may impact their ability to distribute any meals. Working on a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) that includes updated guidance and SEOC resource needs.
- Disabilities and Independent Living (DAIL) is checking with long term care facilities to identify any equipment and staffing needs.
- The Human Services Branch is working with Department of Corrections to ensure they maintain a two-week supply of PPE in their inventory at the state correctional facilities.

Logistics Branch

- External resource status -
 - 10 Epidemiologists needed for VT Department of Health/Health Operations Center
 - 10 Microbiologists needed for VT Department of Health/ Health Operations Center
 - 1 Infection Control Specialist for VT Department of Health/ Health Operations Center

These requests have been submitted as Federal resource requests and are awaiting approval from Department of Health and Human Services.
- Resource procurement status:
 - Buildings and General Services (BGS) contracted to have a 275kW generator installed at the St. Albans alternate care facility and is waiting for the transfer switch.
 - BGS is working on additional items that are needed for the UVM alternate care facility working with the site manager.
 - BGS has purchased the 100 blankets for the St. Albans alternate care facility.
 - BGS stood up a donation management group that is capturing donation offers and establishing a storage facility for inspection and putting the donations into distribution.
 - BGS is working on establishing catering for meals for isolation/recovery sites and Department of Corrections facilities.
 - BGS has initiated the lease of four refrigerator trailers and are working with the points of contact from each site on location and additional items needed to fulfill the request. Additional security and body handling services is being pursued along with additional needs identified for each site.
 - BGS has contracted for a mobile tent system for NVRH, estimated arrival is between 4/4 and 4/11.
- National Guard deployment status:
 - Activated/Deployed Resources:
 - Strategic National Stockpile Warehouse Support, 8 personnel
 - Med/ Logistics Planners - 2 at Joint Force HQ and Med Detachment
 - Alternate Care Facility (Burlington) - 25 personnel
 - University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCC) Clinic Support - 28 personnel
 - Landmark College, testing site support - 10 personnel
 - Additional Updates:
 - Alternate Care Facility (Barre): completed
 - Alternate Care Facility (St. Albans): completed
 - Alternate Care Facility (Morrisville): on hold
 - Alternate Care Facility (Rutland): on hold
 - Medical Planner support for Dept of Aging and Independent Living: anticipated
- Agency of Transportation continues to distribute PPE from SNS Warehouse

- ◊ Vermont Transit has suspended service until 4/15.
- ◊ Supported Landmark College testing site with two message boards, traffic cones and barrels.

Economic Development Branch

- ACCD continues to handle inbound inquiries from businesses and residents. Inquiries are largely focused on approval to operate outside the guidance, as well as whistleblower and community complaints about continued businesses operations outside of order. ACCD continues to provide additional guidance to further clarify a businesses ability to operate. Workplace complaints from employees are being funneled through VOSHA.
- ACCD is working to further refine business guidance documents in reaction to the Governor's executive order update, specifically around lodging properties and the retail sector. As guidance is updated, it will be communicated through the appropriate channels.
- ACCD continues to work in close contact with the Vermont Retail Grocers Association to monitor supply chain issues. Supply chain in good shape outside of bath tissue, sanitizer, and cleaning products which remain strained.
- ACCD remains in touch with the Associated Industries of Vermont, Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and Vermont Manufacturing Extension to determine manufacturing sectors ability to convert to PPE production. Survey updates and new communications developed in conjunction with VDH to be sent 3/31.

Infrastructure & Emergency Services Branch

- The Division of Fire Safety (DFS) was fielding guidance-related questions from the Fire Service related to COVID-19 patients, First Responders and HIPAA. DFS Director Desrochers and Vermont Fire Academy (VFA) Chief Peter Lynch will attempt to provide the departments with answers and encourage departments to submit questions via the State sponsored links and maintain situational awareness from the many guidance documents and sites that are being provided.
- The Vermont State Police is assisting a local police department experiencing slight staffing problems associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. While they have not had any officers with positive diagnoses, they are without two officers and have asked the State Police for assistance responding to calls for service (primarily after hours). VSP is assisting in this regard through their troopers at the Williston barracks.

Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KTYX)

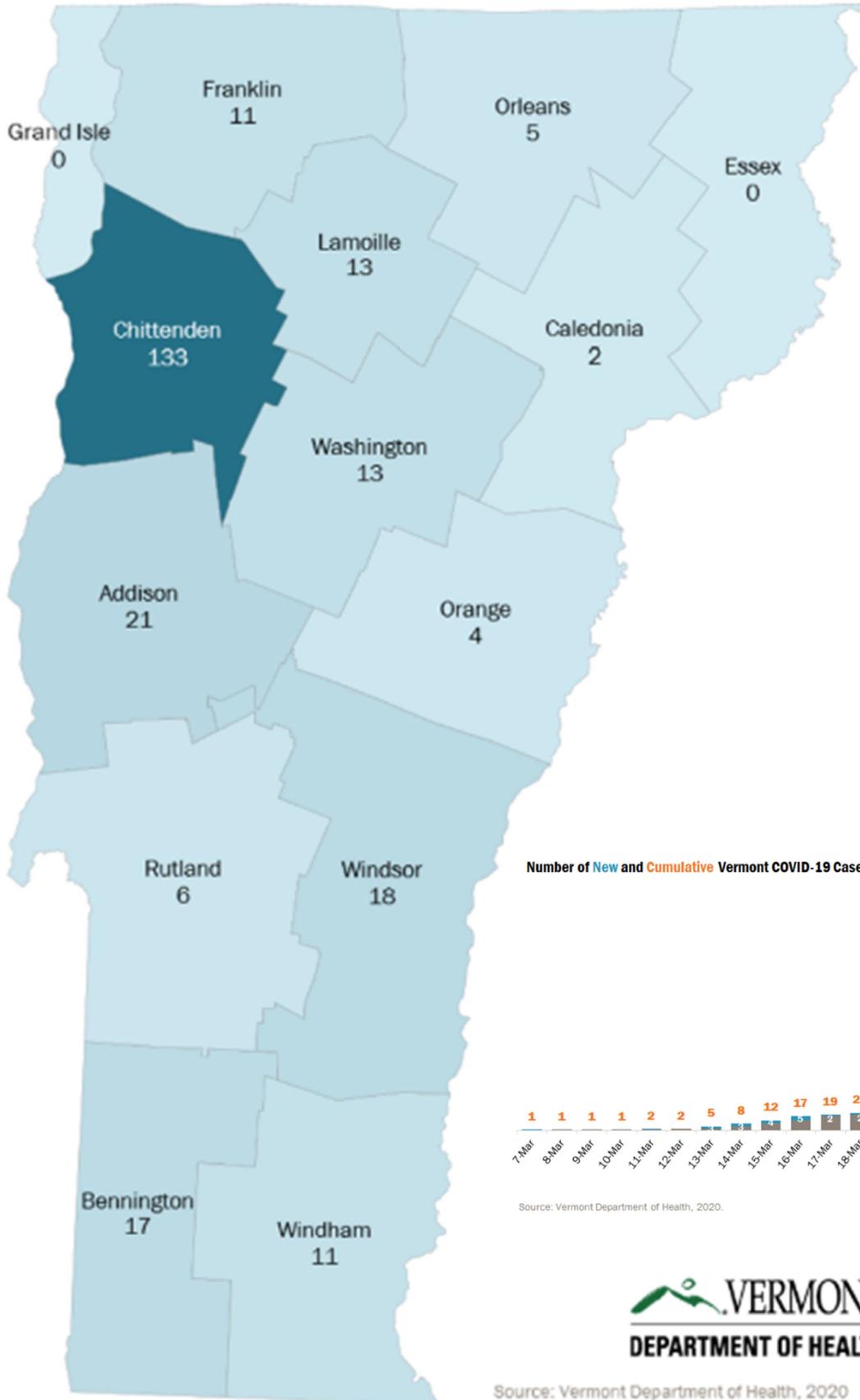
<p>Monday</p>  <p>Definitely Rain</p> <p>43 F / 6 C 30 F / -1 C</p>	<p>Tuesday</p>  <p>Clear</p> <p>45 F / 7 C 26 F / -3 C</p>	<p>Wednesday</p>  <p>Chance of Snow Showers</p> <p>46 F / 7 C 30 F / -1 C</p>	<p>Thursday</p>  <p>Chance of Snow Showers</p> <p>44 F / 6 C 34 F / 1 C</p>	<p>Friday</p>  <p>Clear</p> <p>50 F / 10 C 31 F / 0 C</p>
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- **Tonight:** Rain showers, snow showers, and sleet before 11pm, then a chance of rain and snow showers between 11pm and 3am, then a chance of snow showers after 3am. Low around 30. Southeast wind 3 to 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow and sleet accumulation of less than a half inch possible.
- **Tuesday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45. North wind 5 to 8 mph.
- **Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. Northeast wind 3 to 7 mph.

Vermont Case Count – March 30, 2020

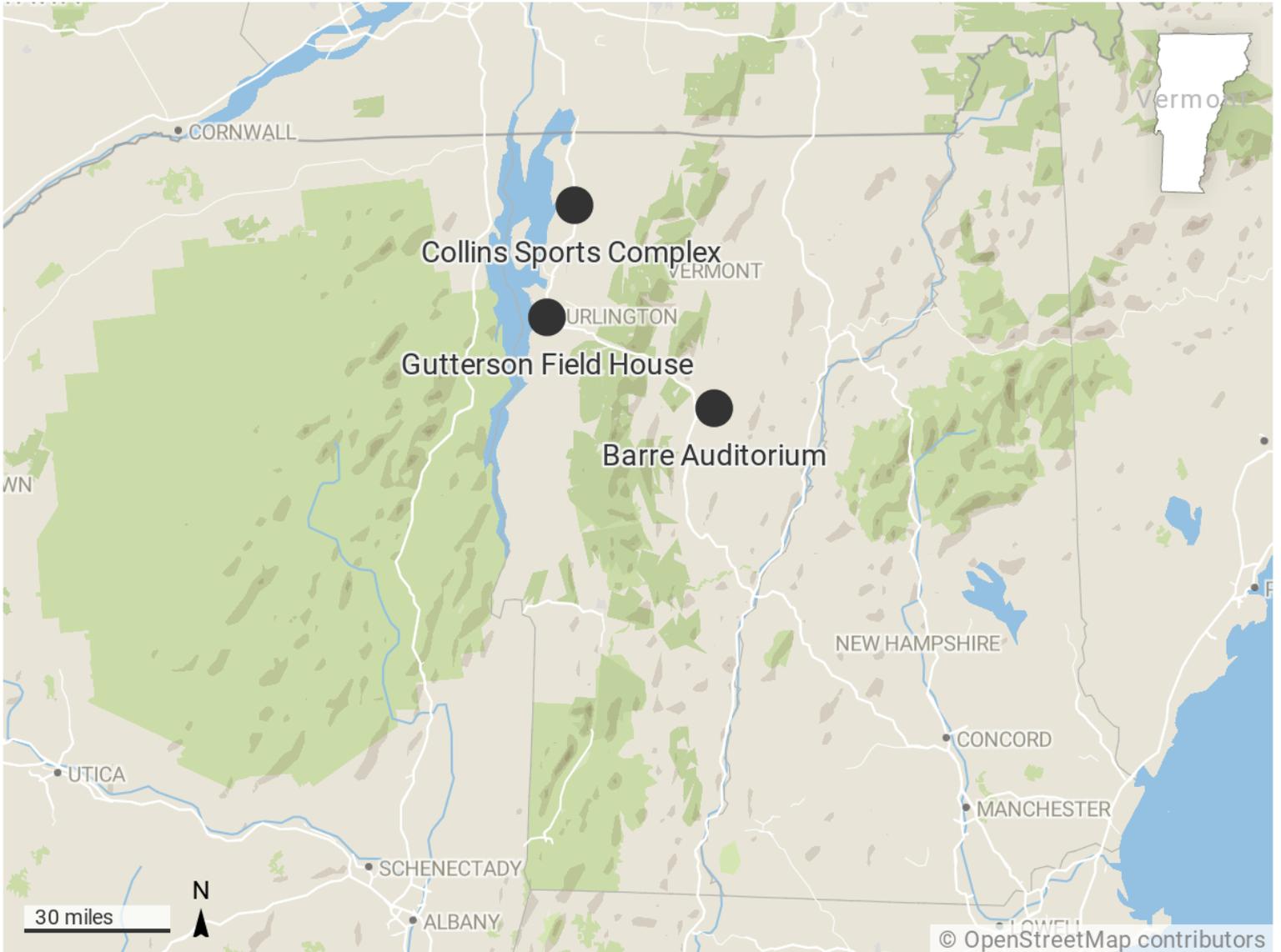
*People who tested positive for COVID-19 in Vermont while visiting or seeking care are included in the Vermont county where they were identified.

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



Source: Vermont Department of Health, 2020.

Alternate Care Sites

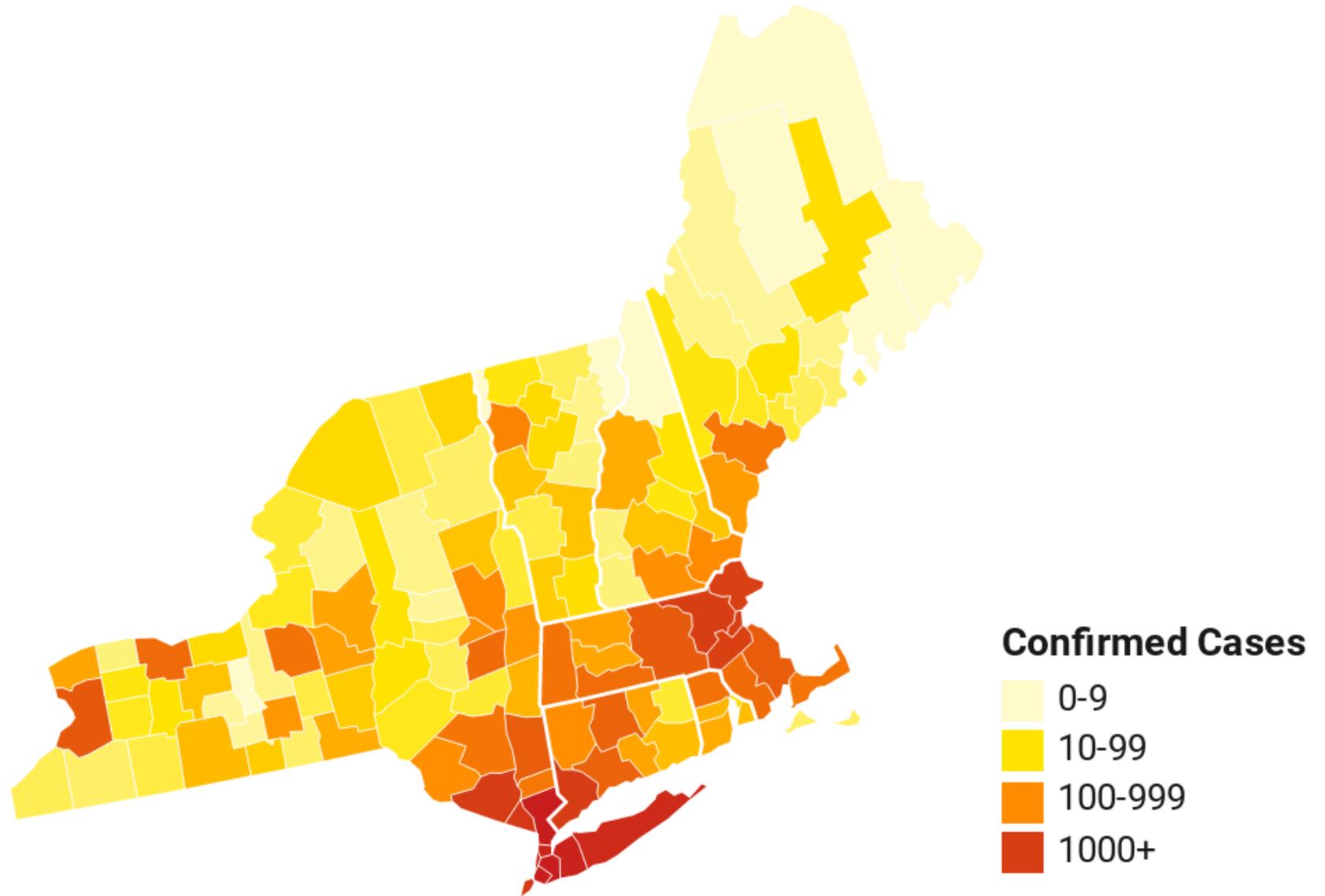


● Med-Surge Sites

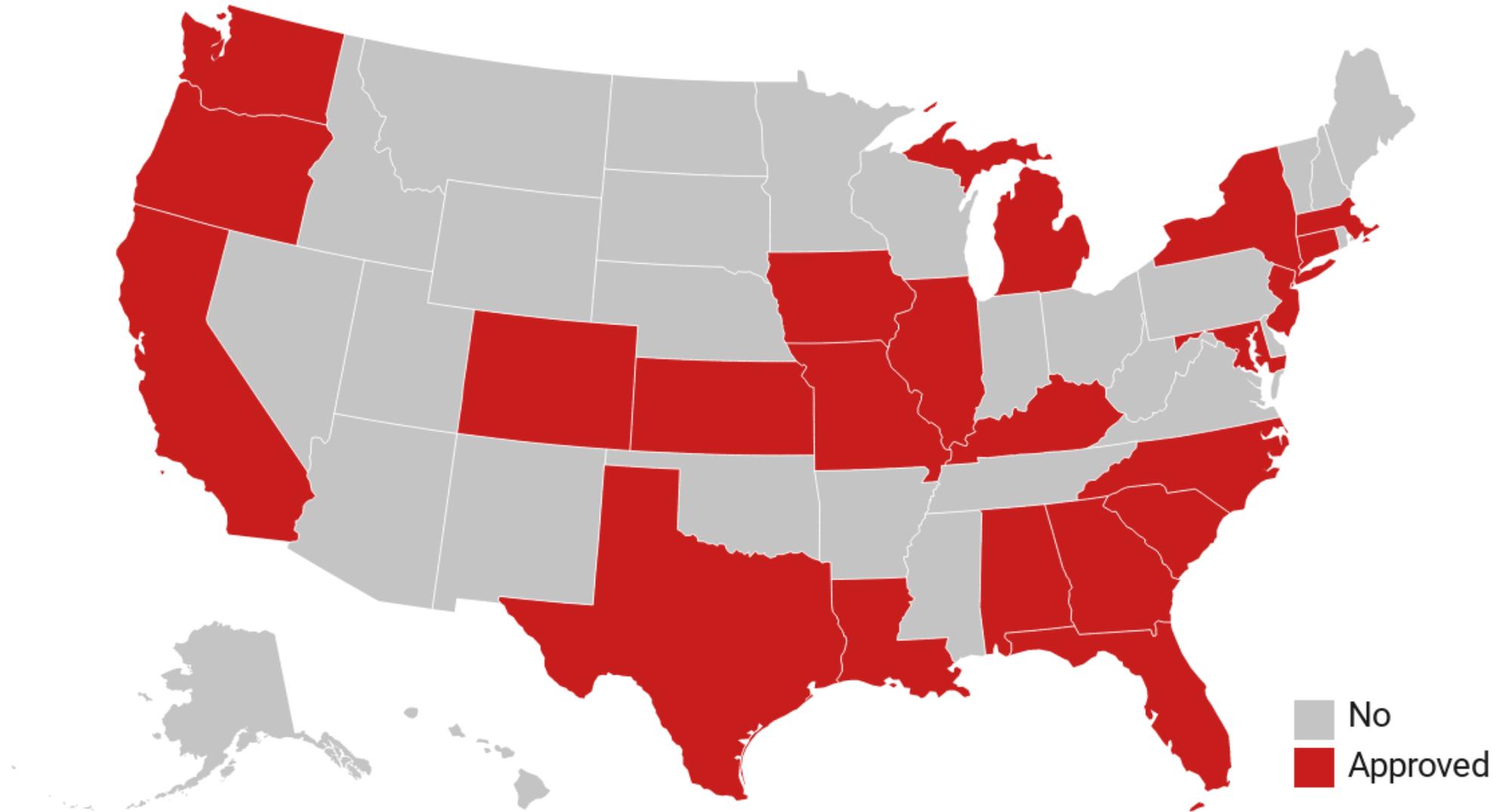
Updated 3/30/2020

Map: Brett Pierce • Created with Datawrapper

New England Cases By County



Major Disaster Declarations



Updated 3/30/2020

Map: Brett Pierce • Source: FEMA • Created with Datawrapper



Executive Summary

COVID-19 Response

March 30, 2020 (1600 EST)

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

Community Lifeline Status



Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Safety and Security	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vermont State Police is assisting a local police department facing staffing shortages due to COVID-19 with responding to calls for service.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Services Branch is finalizing plans to accept psychiatric patients at an isolation facility. Human Services Branch is coordinating the establishment of several isolation/recovery sites across the state to house vulnerable populations should the need arise. Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) has updated Stay at Home Stay Safe Information to help commercial entities, non-profits, employers to self-determine if their operations are critical to public health, safety, or economic and national security in Vermont - https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19-guidance/stay-home-stay-safe-business-faqs ACCD continues to work in close contact with the Vermont Retail Grocers Association to monitor supply chain issues. Supply chain in good shape outside of bath tissue, sanitizer, and cleaning products which remain strained.
Food, Water, Sheltering	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Action agencies are struggling with the task of feeding homeless populations who are being housed in hotels/motels. This is a big change in service for them and is presenting a huge challenge. Concerns are rising around health of employees and staffing a local food shelves should people get sick, many employees and volunteers are in vulnerable populations. Many sites are having to limit hours due to a lack of volunteers.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vermont State Police is assisting a local police department facing staffing shortages due to COVID-19 with responding to calls for service.
Other Lifelines	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vermont 211 received 32 calls on Sunday, March 29. Inquires have been predominately from the general public (27). Inquiries have most often included questions about the Stay Home Stay Safe order (10). Agency of Education is finalizing Continuity of Learning Guidance. A new plan template was distributed to Supervisory Unions. The Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) has stood up a donation management group that is capturing donation offers and establishing a storage facility for inspection and putting the donations into distribution.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vermont State Police is assisting a local police department facing staffing shortages due to COVID-19 with responding to calls for service.

Incident Summary	<p>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").</p>
	<p>Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1300 on 3/30/20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive test results: 256 Total tests conducted: 3,930 Deaths: 12 People being monitored: 219 People who have completed monitoring: 546 <p>Key Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 251 million people in at least 30 states, 81 counties, 15 cities and one territory are being urged to stay at home (MD and VA newest additions). Major Disaster Declarations have been awarded in 22 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. <p>Executive Order Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gov. Scott issued Addendum 7 to Executive Order 01-02 on 3/30/20 which stated that any person, resident or non-resident, travelling into Vermont for anything other than an essential purpose, must immediately self-quarantine for 14 days. Gov. Scott instructed visitors are not to travel to Vermont if they are displaying symptoms or if they are travelling from cities and regions identified as COVID-19 "hot spots," including, among others, the states of Florida and Louisiana and the cities of Detroit, Chicago and New York City Gov. Scott ordered that on-line reservations shall be suspended and lodging providers shall post a prominent notice on their web platforms which advises potential guests that reservations for lodging in Vermont, as allowed, shall be accepted by phone only. Lodging services are only allowable in support of the COVID-19 Response for vulnerable populations or essential personnel. <p>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, Charleston, Chittenden (town), Strafford, Peacham, Rutland, Pomfret, Woodstock, "Mountain Town" virtual EOC (4 towns), Thetford, South Burlington.</p>

Health and Medical	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The satellite COVID-19 testing site at Landmark College in Putney, VT is fully operational as of 0815 on March 29 with support from the National Guard. This additional location will fill the gap not covered by a hospital or Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). Three medical surge sites are available for operations. The Vermont Medical Surge Team is working to identify additional sites if needed. Sites are in Barre, Burlington, and St. Albans. Drive-up testing is available at the following hospitals: Brattleboro Memorial, Copley, Dartmouth-Hitchcock, North Country, Northwestern, Porter, Springfield, Rutland and UVMHC. Testing is currently being expanded as new test kits are being distributed to hospitals and FQHC across the state to include people with mild to moderate symptoms. Tests will still be prioritized, and a referral from a Primary Care Provider is still needed. Eight trucks of a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) shipment of personal protective equipment (PPE) were received 3/29. The SEOC created a MedLog (Medical Logistics) Branch to support PPE and medical supplies distribution plan on 3/30. As of 1600, the SNS Warehouse Operations will be coordinated through this SEOC Branch. The VDH Lab received additional testing supplies this morning and is implementing training for two new microbiologists.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vermont State Police have assigned 42 staff to assist as COVID-19 Epi tracers. The Agency of Digital Services (ADS) has set up accounts and training began today 3/30 at VDH in Burlington. Establish Receipt, Stage, and Ship (RSS) sites for PPE donations. Continue SEOC and HOC efforts to furnish Alternate Care sites/hospitals with tents for triage and/or surge capacity. Blood Donor drives scheduled throughout Vermont in upcoming days and weeks to help with national blood shortage. Schedules regularly updated at redcrossblood.org. AOT is taking the lead on the delivery of Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets with the assistance of Vermont National Guard in support of Health Operation Center Logistics. A web portal will soon be online to efficiently provide testing results to providers