



Incident Name:
COVID-19 Response

Reporting Period:
03/23/2020 08:00 AM - 03/23/2020 04:00 PM

Situation Report Number:
11

EOC Activation Level:
Full Activation



Vermont State Emergency Operations Center

Situation Report

Phil Scott, Governor

Erica Bornemann,
Director
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Background / Current Situation

On March 23, 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 3/23/20:

- Stay-at-home orders have gone out in the states of Delaware, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, New Jersey, Illinois and California.
- All non-essential businesses have been ordered to close in the states of Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania.
- Hawaii has ordered that all persons entering the State of Hawaii self-quarantine for 14 days or the duration of their stay, whichever is shorter.
- 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 non-essential travel.
- American Red Cross is experiencing a national blood supply shortage.

Additional community mitigation measures announced 3/23:

- Gov. Scott has ordered all businesses and non-profits put into place, to the maximum extent possible, telecommuting or work from home procedures effective on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

Ongoing community mitigation measures:

- 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.

- 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 3/23/20:

Total positive test results for COVID-19	75
Total tests for COVID-19	1,173
Deaths	5
People being monitored	336
People who have completed monitoring	316

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

Public Information

- Press release: Vermont is being granted waiver on standardized tests related to provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Fielded multiple inquiries about updates to the "Essential Persons" list.
- Received multiple inquiries about homeless populations and COVID-19.
- Many questions regarding enforcement of Governor's Executive Orders as they relate to working conditions and the ability for employers to provide 6 feet of social distancing space.
- All media inquiries should be submitted via email: cv19media@vermont.gov

Health & Medical Branch

Health & Medical Branch

- Hospitals:
 - Multiple hospitals are anticipating staffing shortages in the coming weeks.
 - Elective surgeries/procedures have been postponed per the Governor's Order.
 - Bed Availability statewide (as of 0900 3/23):
 - 38 ICU
 - 284 Med Surge
 - 53 Isolation
 - 530 Total Beds
 - Of these beds, 120 are negative pressure
- Resources update:
 - PPE supply about the same as yesterday, though not all facilities reporting
- 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.
- Activation and status of the Strategic National Stockpile:

- ◊ National Guard Support began work at SNS Warehouse today.
- ◊ SEOC working with HOC to develop PPE distribution plan.
- ◊ SEOC working with HOC to develop medical and health staffing plan.
- ◊ Supplies arrived 3/16/2020 being picked and packed according to a prioritization schedule and shipped.
- ◊ SEOC working with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on fatality management
- ◊ SEOC working on policy for relocation of persons for COVID-19 protection.
- COVID-19 Testing:
 - ◊ UVM MC doing triage of testing for priority
 - ◊ Testing top priority:
 - Health Care workers
 - Long-term Care Facilities
 - Hospitalized patients
 - ◊ Collection kits also becoming short in supply
 - ◊ Drive-up testing available at Copley, DHMC, North Country, Northwestern, Porter, UVMMC, NVRH Hospitals with variable hours.
 - ◊ Potential resource needs PPE, Medical Surge Locations, staffing (VDH currently handling these)
 - ◊ VDH Call Center:
 - Current effort working
 - Long term planning ongoing with HOC and SEOC

Human Services Branch

- The Department of Corrections coordinated for 6 bedding set-ups (cots and blankets) to be delivered from Northwest State Correction Facility (NWSCF) to Northwestern Counseling & Support Services (NCSS) today.
- Camper units are scheduled to be delivered to the North Branch Campground beginning tomorrow 3/24
- P&P septic lined up to begin sewage removal on Thursday 3/26. They will do a daily pick-up and supply an ADA accessible port-o-let that they will maintain.
- The AHS operations leads are developing a communications plan.
- Feeding, Staffing, and Transportation Plans are all in development.

Infrastructure & Emergency Services Branch

- ◊ The Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation (FPR) released information to all fire wardens that Town Forest Fire Wardens have the authority to decide whether to issue burn permits or not. FPR doesn't have the authority to issue a statewide burn ban except under extreme fire hazard.
- ◊ The Public Service Department (PSD) has released a map of public WiFi hotspots, including libraries, town halls, schools, and SOV buildings with public access to the internet. As a safety precaution, users are discouraged from entering the premises or congregating outside. These sites should be accessed from within a parked vehicle:
<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/announcements/public-wifi-hotspots-vermont>

- Supply Chain impacts
 - Grocery: 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.
 - Medical:
 - The Agency of Agriculture has received reports from Vermont's businesses who are producing/interested in producing supplies for COVID-19 response including Vermont Glove making up to 50 masks per hour, Vermont Flannel is investigating their ability to produce masks and a Vermont distillery interested in making hand sanitizer.
 - Economic injury impact- ACCD staff has recorded over 1,300 interactions with businesses and an estimated loss to date as recorded from those interactions is now \$100 million.
 - Unemployment status and rate- No Report.
 - Other updates:
 - ACCD is working with SEOC to develop a web form and workflow to intake business inquiries as to their essential or non-essential status.
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Logistics Branch

- External resource status
 - Fulfilled: None reported.
 - Pending- Federal- FEMA has a mission assignment for US Army Corps personnel to assess medical surge facilities. This team should be available early next week.
 - 3 staff members from US Forest Service have been recalled and the request has been rerouted to the US Coast Guard to fulfill. More details to come.
 - Pending- EMAC
 - 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.
- Resource procurement status
 - Building and General Services (BGS) have ordered 150 ventilators to-date and are looking

for another 40.

- ◊ BGS contracted to have a 275kW generator installed for the St. Albans med-surge facility at Collins Perley. The unit was delivered to the site on 3/23 at 8:30am. The unit will be up and running as soon as the electrician can install a transfer switch, which they are currently trying to procure.
- ◊ BGS has identified a contract source for blankets for the St. Albans med-surge facility.

• Resource needs pending and unable to fulfill at this time: None

• VTNG Deployment status

◊ Active missions:

▪ **Activated/Deployed Resources (Internal Mission #, Short Title):**

- COVID 002 – SNS Warehouse Support
- COVID 003 - Medical Surge Support (Burlington)
- COVID 004 - Medical Surge Support (Barre)
- COVID 005 - Medical Surge Support (St. Albans)
- COVID 006 – University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCC) Clinic Support

◊ Pending missions:

- None

◊ Additional VTNG Updates:

- Joint Operations Center at tier 2 (additional staffing).
- Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) currently in use.
- Vermont National Guard (VTNG) in Health Protection Condition (HPCON) BRAVO.

• Other updates

- ◊ 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.
- ◊ All Vermont Rest Area Facilities are be closed (the parking lots will remain open with portable bathrooms).
- ◊ Vermont Agency of Transportation is 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. Currently standing by, awaiting request.
- ◊ 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.
- ◊ Department of Human Services (DHS) provided guidance on how supervisors should continue to screen employees returning from out-of-state travel using the updated screening tool. Employees returning from travel who are required to stay home for 14 days per VDH guidance or management direction, should telework. If teleworking is not possible, employees should use the time reporting code for COVID-19 paid leave.

Weather

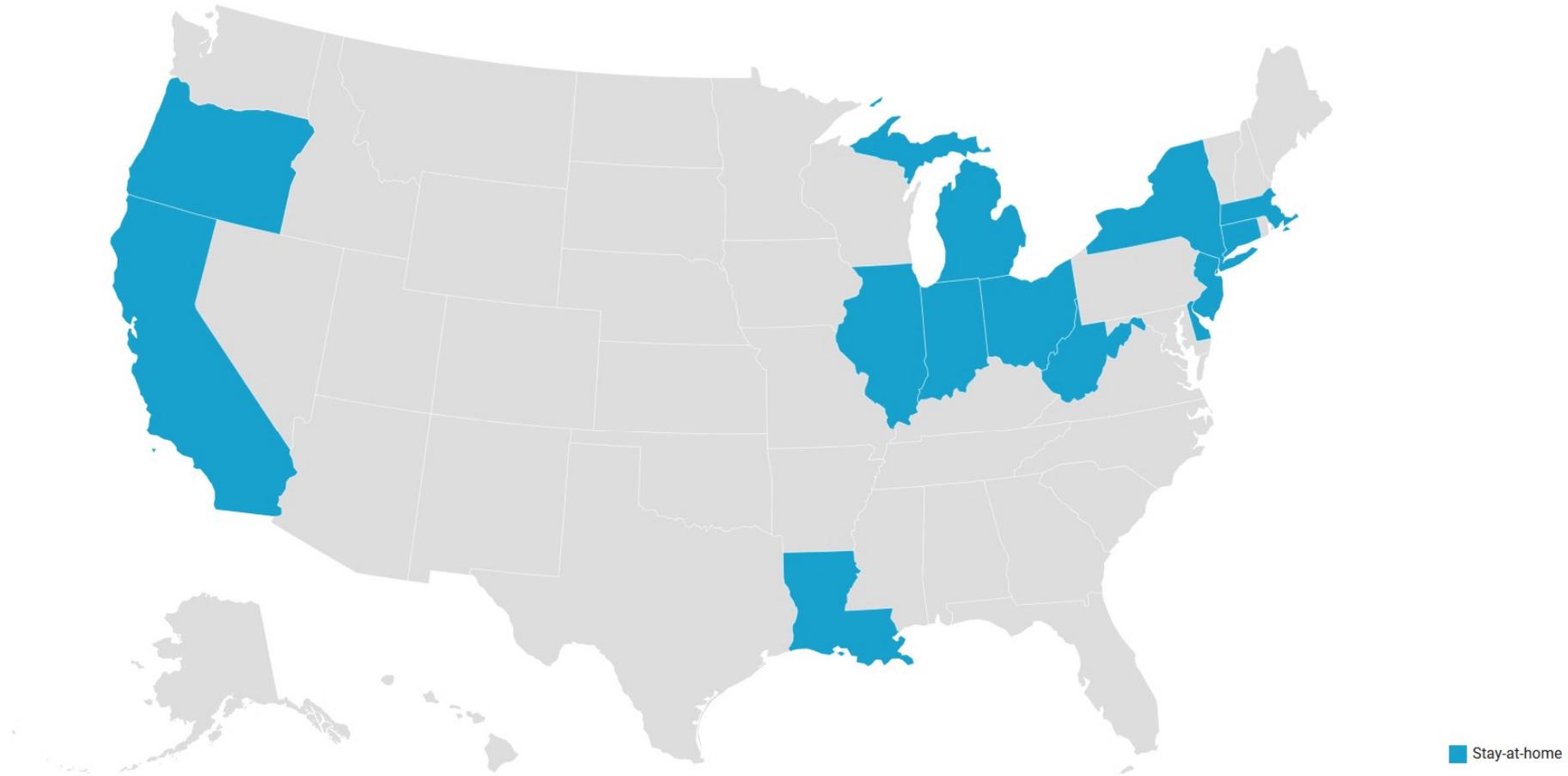
Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KCXX)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				

 100% Definitely Snow 36 F / 2 C 29 F / -1 C	 Clear 42 F / 5 C 24 F / -4 C	 50% Chance of Rain 42 F / 5 C 29 F / -1 C	 50% Chance of Rain Showers 47 F / 8 C 32 F / 0 C	 20% Slight Chance of Snow Showers 42 F / 5 C 23 F / -5 C
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A quick-hitting system will bring widespread accumulating snow to the North Country this afternoon and tonight. The highest snowfall totals will be across Rutland and Windsor counties, where 3-7 inches are expected. Elsewhere, a dusting to 4 inches is likely. Heavy wet snow will develop across the area this afternoon into the evening hours. Snow may become heavy at times after sunset before tapering to scattered snow showers and areas of freezing drizzle around midnight. A very light glaze of ice is possible.

Statewide Stay-at-home Orders

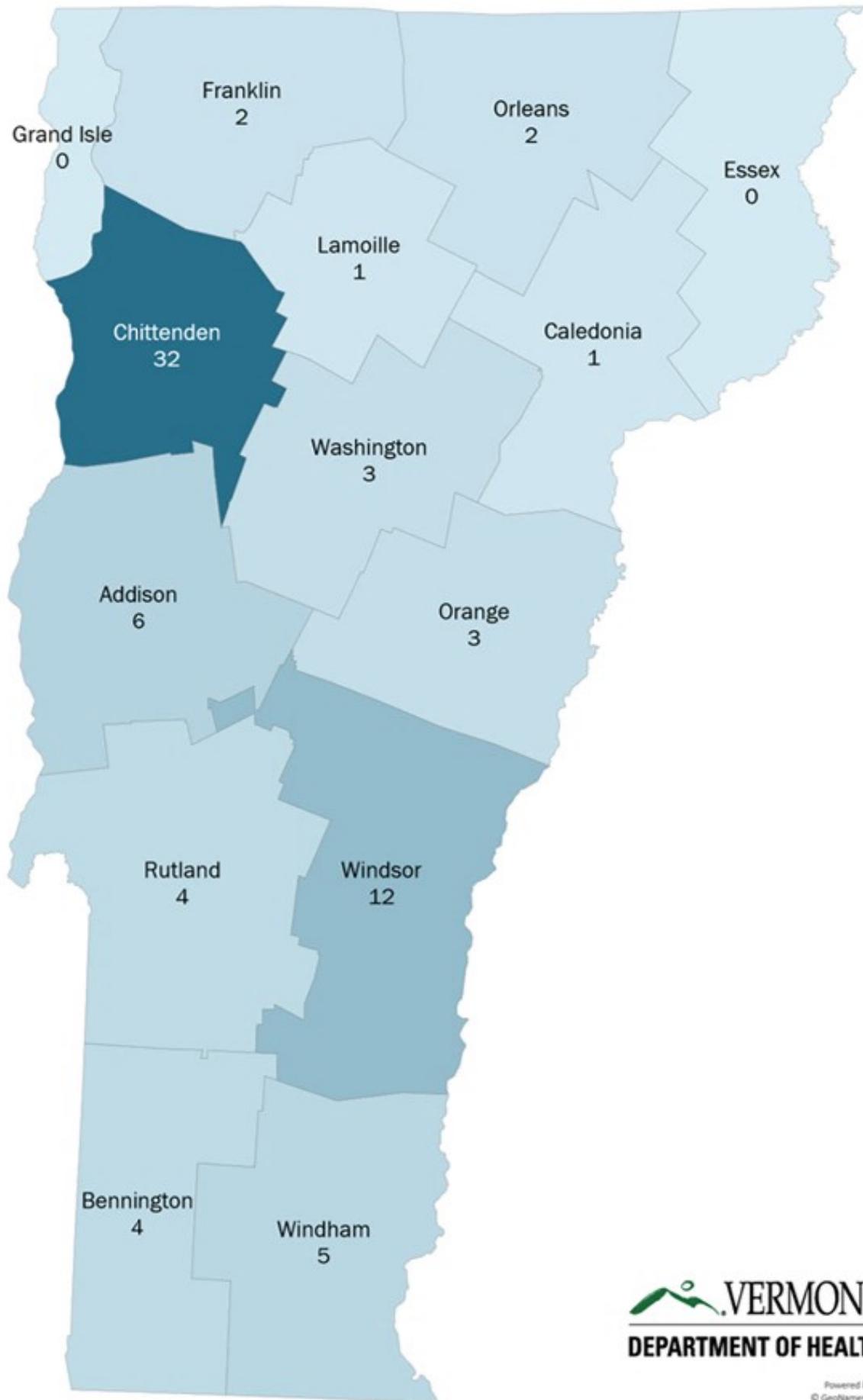


Updated 3/23/2020
Map: Brett Pierce • [Get the data](#) • Created with Datawrapper

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.





SITREP ATTACHMENT Executive Summary_032320

COVID-19 Response
March 23, 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

Safety and Security	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation (FPR) released information to all fire wardens that Town Forest Fire Wardens have the authority to decide whether to issue burn permits or not. FPR doesn't have the authority to issue a statewide burn ban except under extreme fire hazard. The Public Service Department (PSD) has released a map of public WiFi hotspots available on their website. As a safety precaution, users are discouraged from entering the premises or congregating outside. These sites should be accessed from within a parked vehicle.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Food, Water, Sheltering	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 3/21 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.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic injury impact: ACCD staff has recorded over 1,300 interactions with businesses and an estimated loss to date as recorded from those interactions is now \$100 million. ACCD is working with SEOC to develop a web form and workflow to intake business inquiries as to their essential or non-essential status. The Agency of Agriculture has received reports from Vermont's businesses who are producing/interested in producing supplies for COVID-19 response Unemployment Insurance has published a website for claim filing online for affected employees. 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.

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>
Key Information	<p>Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1300 on 3/23/20: Positive test results: 75 Total tests conducted: 1,173 Deaths: 5 People being monitored: 336 People who have completed monitoring: 316</p> <p>Key Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay-at-home orders have gone out in the states of Delaware, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, New Jersey, Illinois and California. <p>Updated Executive Order Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gov. Scott has ordered all businesses and non-profits put into place, to the maximum extent possible, telecommuting or work from home procedures effective on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. <p>Ongoing Executive Order Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. <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, Chittenden (town), Strafford, Peacham, Rutland</p>

Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Health and Medical	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the face of limited supplies, testing is being prioritized to hospitalized patients, those in long-term care facilities, and healthcare workers. All 17 hospitals are active in response. Elective surgeries and procedures are postponed, per the governor's order. Drive-up testing available at Copley, DHMC, North Country, Northwestern, Porter, UVMHC, NVRH Hospitals with variable hours. The Strategic National Stockpile PPE warehouse is assisted with transportation of PPE by the Agency of Transportation and with staffing (starting today) by the National Guard. The Human Services Branch has been developed and integrated into the SEOC. Objectives are to identify human services issues surrounding homelessness, DCF youth, mental health, and staff shortages agency-wide. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is standing up a 5-bed unit at Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) for COVID-19 pending and/or positive tests. National Guard supporting three upcoming Red Cross Blood drives at their armories. Let's Grow Kids is collecting information on childcare needs of Essential Persons through a web form and 211.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vermont National Guard personnel being activated: x2 personnel activating for medical overflow planning. x5 activating Sunday to assist Vermont Department of Health (VDH) Strategic National Stockpile Task Force. Vermont National Guard sourcing unit on a warning order for up to 25 soldiers to come on in support of a medical surge facility set-up plan. State Active Duty (SAD) mission for five members of the Air National Guard is set for Monday morning at the SNS warehouse. 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. US Forest Service individual augmentees due Monday to support Health Operation Center (HOC) staff were recalled. The mission was reassigned to the US Coast Guard to fill.