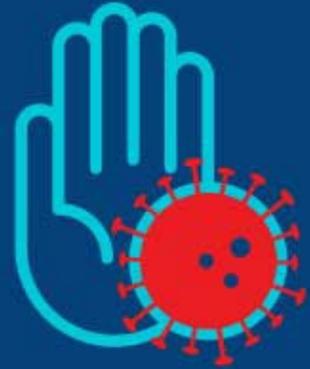


COVID-19



Incident Name:
COVID-19 Response

Reporting Period:
03/31/2020 08:00 AM - 03/31/2020 04:00 PM

Situation Report Number:
19

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 31, 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 3/31/20:

- The SEOC manager is working on submitting a Major Disaster Declaration Request in the coming days.
- There is a new website for Vermonters looking to volunteer:
<https://www.vermont.gov/volunteer>

Nationwide Updates:

- Major Disaster Declarations have been awarded in 24 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.
- 265 million people in at least 32 states, 80 counties, 17 cities, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are being urged to stay home.
- 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.

Ongoing Community Mitigation Measures:

- Governor Scott issued Addendum 7 to Executive Order 01-02 on 3/30 requiring 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.
- 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 3/31/20:

Total positive test results for COVID-19	293
Total tests for COVID-19	4,250
Deaths	13
People being monitored	237
People who have completed monitoring	556

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

3/30 Call Statistics from 211:

- 211 received 119 calls, the majority of which were from the general public (88 calls)
- Roughly half of calls were related to the Stay Home Stay Safe order (66 calls), and a third of calls were work related (42 calls) (topics are not exclusive, i.e., some calls touch on multiple topics)

Public Information

The Vermont National Guard took video and still photographs of SNS stockpile warehouse this morning and will make it available to the press online, as requested.

- FEMA is actively filling the request for U.S. Coast Guard or FEMA personnel to staff the Health Operations Center (HOC). Six personnel identified. The Civil Air Patrol has offered resources, which is under review and may be filled without a FEMA RRF.
- 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 supplies received.
 - PPE orders through the Resource Request Form (RRF) process going forward will be subject to cost share.
- FEMA submitted an RRF on behalf of the State 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.

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 is working on the additional PPE and Supplies 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 is working with the Agency of Human Services (AHS) on facility contracting for isolation shelters for the homeless. The BGS leasing section are leading the efforts to identify spaces across the state for this and other AHS needs. BGS is partnering with AHS providers to eliminate redundancy of effort.
 - 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 Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital, 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

Latest business inquiry numbers from the ACCD support center:

- 3,287 businesses have contacted ACCD as of 3/30/20
- Inquiries by sector:
 - Construction – 880
 - Property Management – 319
 - Agriculture/Forestry – 262
 - Financial and Professional Services – 253
 - Consumer Retail – 193
 - Manufacturing – 185
 - Transportation – 172
 - Real Estate – 114

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.

Department of Labor is reporting new claim numbers:

Between March 8 – 14, DOL received ≈ 640 initial claims

Between March 15 – March 21, DOL received ≈ 14,000 initial claims

Total claims between March 8 – March 29 ≈ 45,000 (a 6,000% increase over the prior 3-week period)

Agency of Agriculture

The agency is keeping close eye on dairy price volatility and impact on dairy industry in the months ahead. 645 cow dairy farms are impacted, with concern that large dairy farm attrition will occur without the mitigating effects of auctions and cattle transport.

Infrastructure & Emergency Services Branch

- The Department of Public Service (PSD) reports that broadband service providers are monitoring their networks to ensure a consistent user experience and do not anticipate network congestion. The PSD is developing guidance for consumers for managing broadband service use in homes and businesses to ensure a better experience for important traffic such as telehealth video calls.
- The Vermont State Police (VSP) received a delivery of cloth surgical masks and more rigid masks along with a donation of masks from an unknown business. These arrived at the Williston Barracks and will be sorted through.
- VSP is continuing to monitor absenteeism and disruptions in services for local police departments that may experience staffing problems associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Division of Fire Safety (DFS) provided feedback of survey results indicating counties' capacity to continue providing services. 36% of counties reported experiencing decreased availability in the past week, which is not a change from the previous week. Many departments are receiving their updates through state sites and emails and Vermont Fire Academy will continue to provide direction to established links.

Health & Medical Branch

Health & Medical Branch

- Drive-up testing is available at Putney's Landmark College, Brattleboro Memorial, Copley, Central Vermont, Dartmouth Hitchcock, North Country, Northwestern, Porter, Springfield, Rutland Regional and UVM Medical Center hospitals, with variable hours.
- A major testing push began 3/29/2020:
 - Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) across the state have new test kits.
 - The Landmark College (Putney, VT) testing site collected specimens starting on 3/29/2020 and is ongoing to fill a gap not covered by hospitals and FQHCs.
- Current hospitalizations:
 - 21 COVID-19 in-patients, up 2 from yesterday
 - 52 Persons Under Investigation (PUIs), up 6 from yesterday
 - 15 COVID-19 patients discharged, no change from yesterday
- Bed availability statewide (as of 0900 3/29):

- ◊ 584 total beds, down from 644 yesterday
- ◊ 35 ICU beds, down from 53 yesterday
- ◊ 307 med surge beds, down from 320 yesterday
- ◊ 80 isolation beds, down from 83 yesterday
- Long-term care:
 - ◊ One long-term care facility has multiple COVID-19 positive persons and has experienced multiple COVID-19 deaths.
 - ◊ One senior living facility has multiple COVID-19 positive persons and has experienced 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, medical & health staffing and infection control plans for various work activities, support of Alternate Care Sites in Burlington, St. Albans and Barre, PPE for Vermont National Guard, N95 fit-testing of responders, and sourcing public health scientists out of <https://www.vermont.gov/volunteer> web site.
- Testing:
 - ◊ The VDH lab received and tested MagMAX Auto extraction kits which allows for additional daily output of tests.
 - ◊ The VDH lab implementing training for two new microbiologists
 - ◊ The VDH lab received additional testing supplies this morning and is implementing training for two new microbiologists.
 - ◊ The lab is looking for U.S. DOT Category B Infectious Materials shipping containers or the equivalent.
 - ◊ A web portal will soon be online to efficiently provide testing results to providers.

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.
- **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
 - ◊ 31-Mar-20 Census: 2,358
 - ◊ 31-Mar-20 bed availability: 338
- Disabilities and Independent Living (DAIL) is checking with long term care facilities to identify any equipment and staffing needs.

- Child Development Division (CDD) is reaching out to colleagues in Washington state, Rhode Island, and Maryland to compare states' support for childcare programs during the response period. Childcare program payments are taking longer than usual, expected completion tomorrow. CDD has started coordination with Vermont After school to provide supports for school aged children.
- The Agency of Education (AOE) is releasing updated guidance to superintendents on school calendars and for independent schools. Continuing to work on continuity of operations planning for school food service with Human Services Branch and the SEOC Mission and Resource Support Section.

Medical Logistics Branch

Strategic National Stockpile PPE Update

Orders received 3/30/2020 – 70

Orders filled 3/30/2020 – 57 (lower number due to amount of receiving and inventory)

Unfilled Orders:

Behavioral Health – 2

EMS – 8

Hospital – 3

Long-Term Care – 7

Outpatient Care – 3

Public Safety – 14

Other – 32

Weather

Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KTYX)

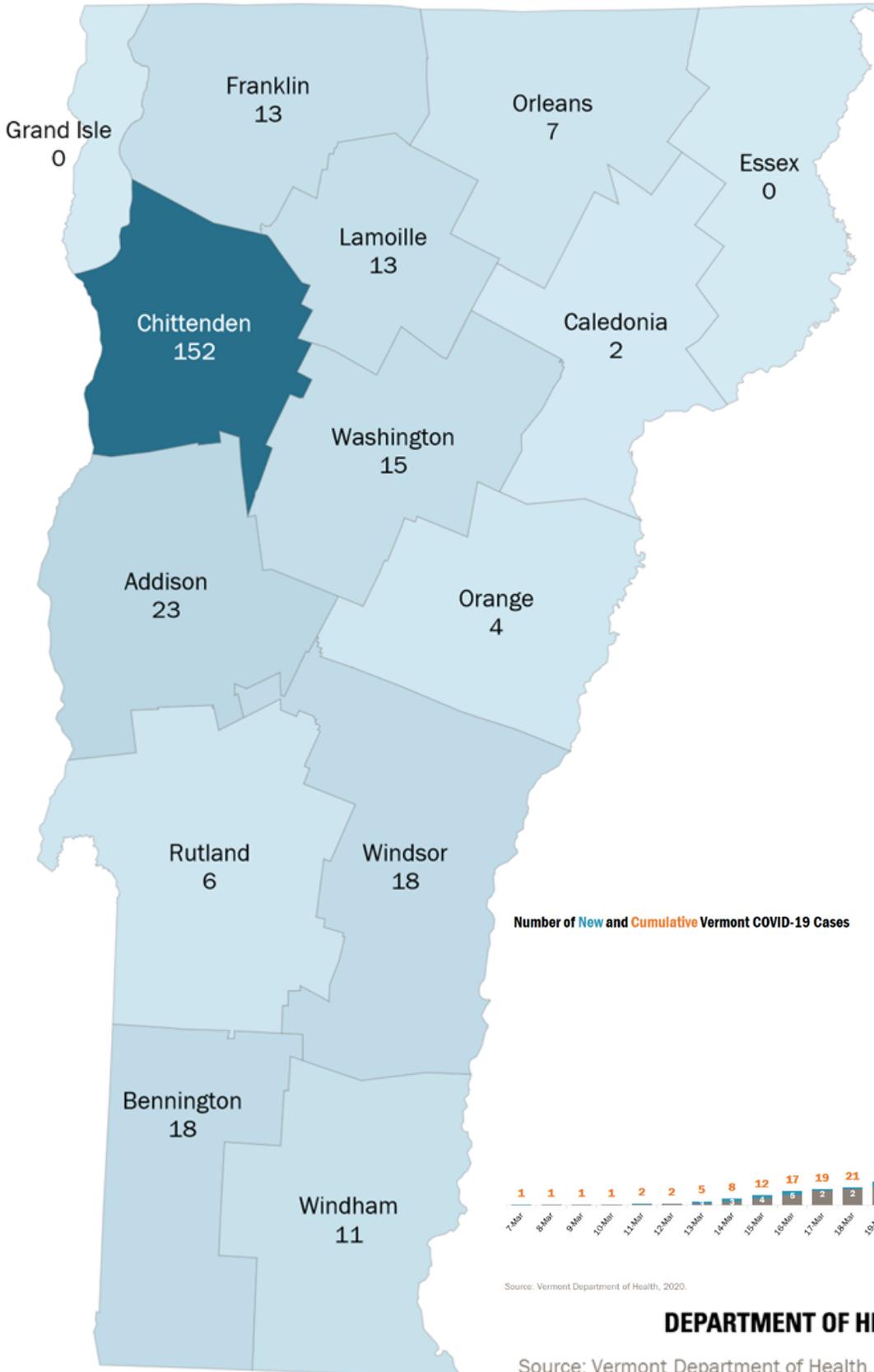
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				
Clear	Chance of Snow Showers	Likely Rain Showers	Clear	Clear
45 F / 7 C 26 F / -3 C	43 F / 6 C 31 F / 0 C	43 F / 6 C 35 F / 1 C	51 F / 10 C 30 F / -1 C	53 F / 11 C 32 F / 0 C

- **Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. Northeast wind 3 to 8 mph.
- **Wednesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 42. Light north wind increasing to 5 to 9 mph in the morning.
- **Wednesday Night:** A 30 percent chance of snow showers after 2am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. North wind around 7 mph. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

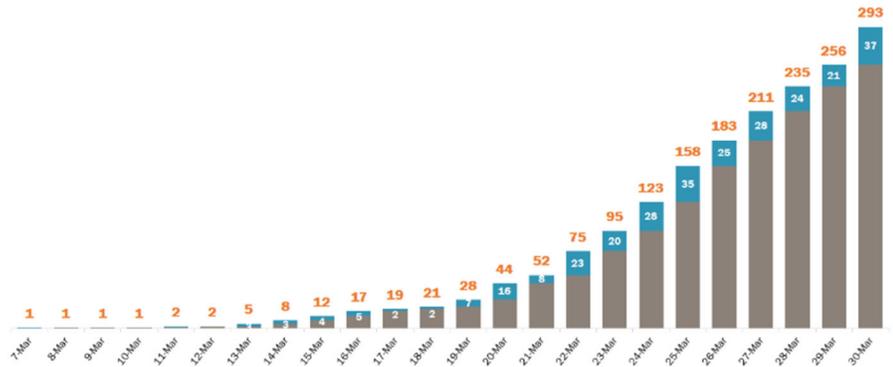
Vermont Case Count – March 31, 2020

*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.



Number of New and Cumulative Vermont COVID-19 Cases



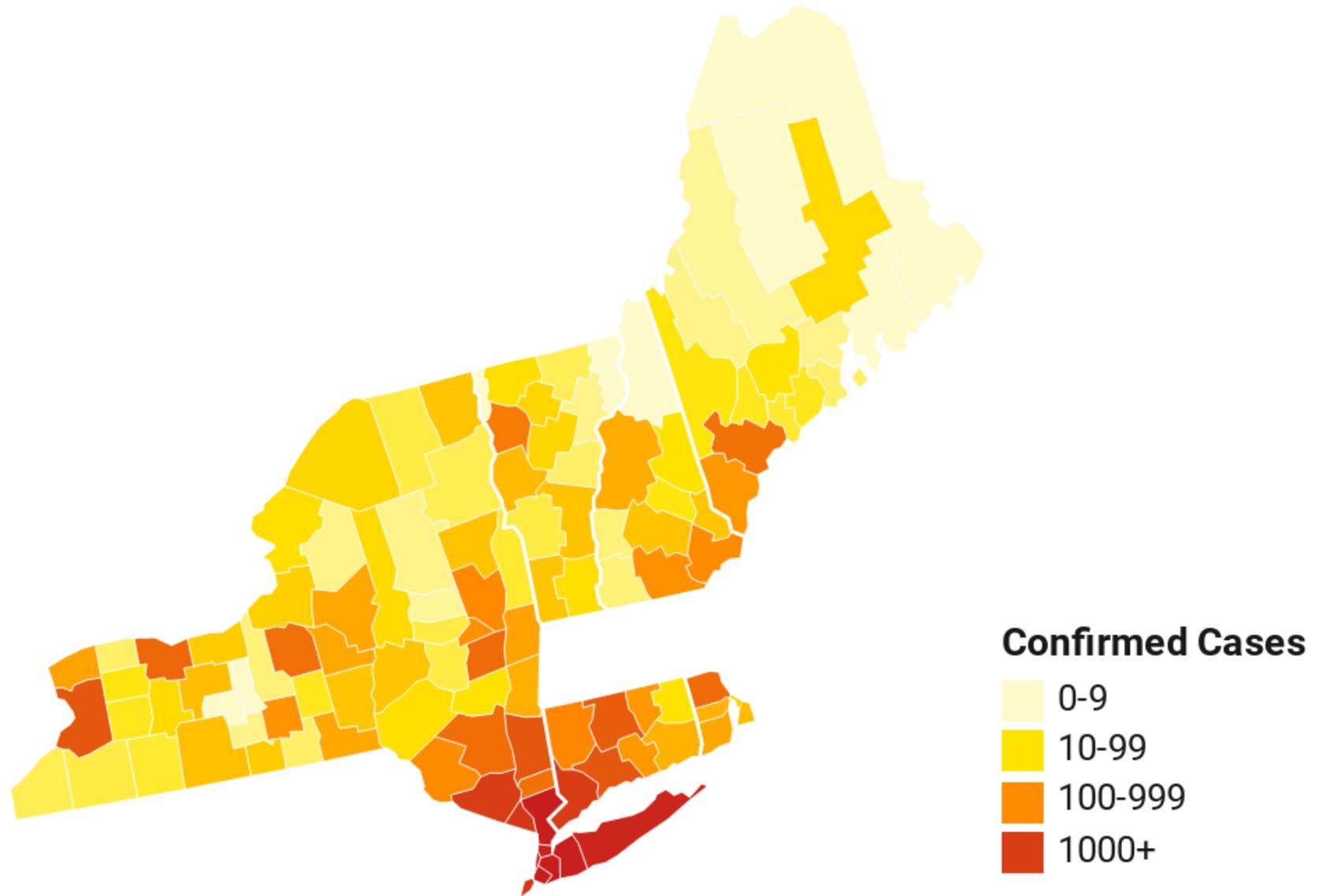
Source: Vermont Department of Health, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

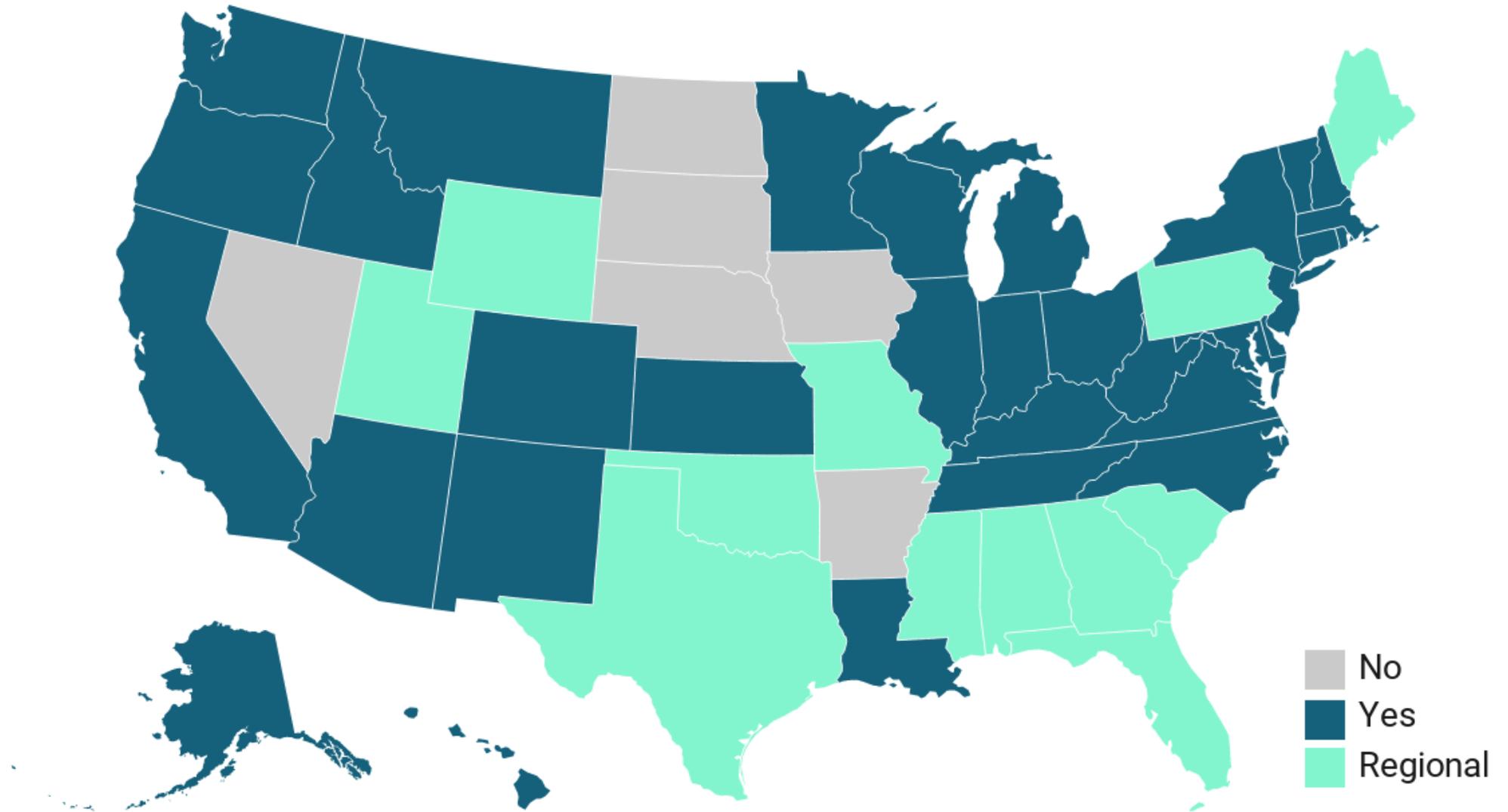
Source: Vermont Department of Health, 2020



New England Cases By County



Stay-at-home Orders

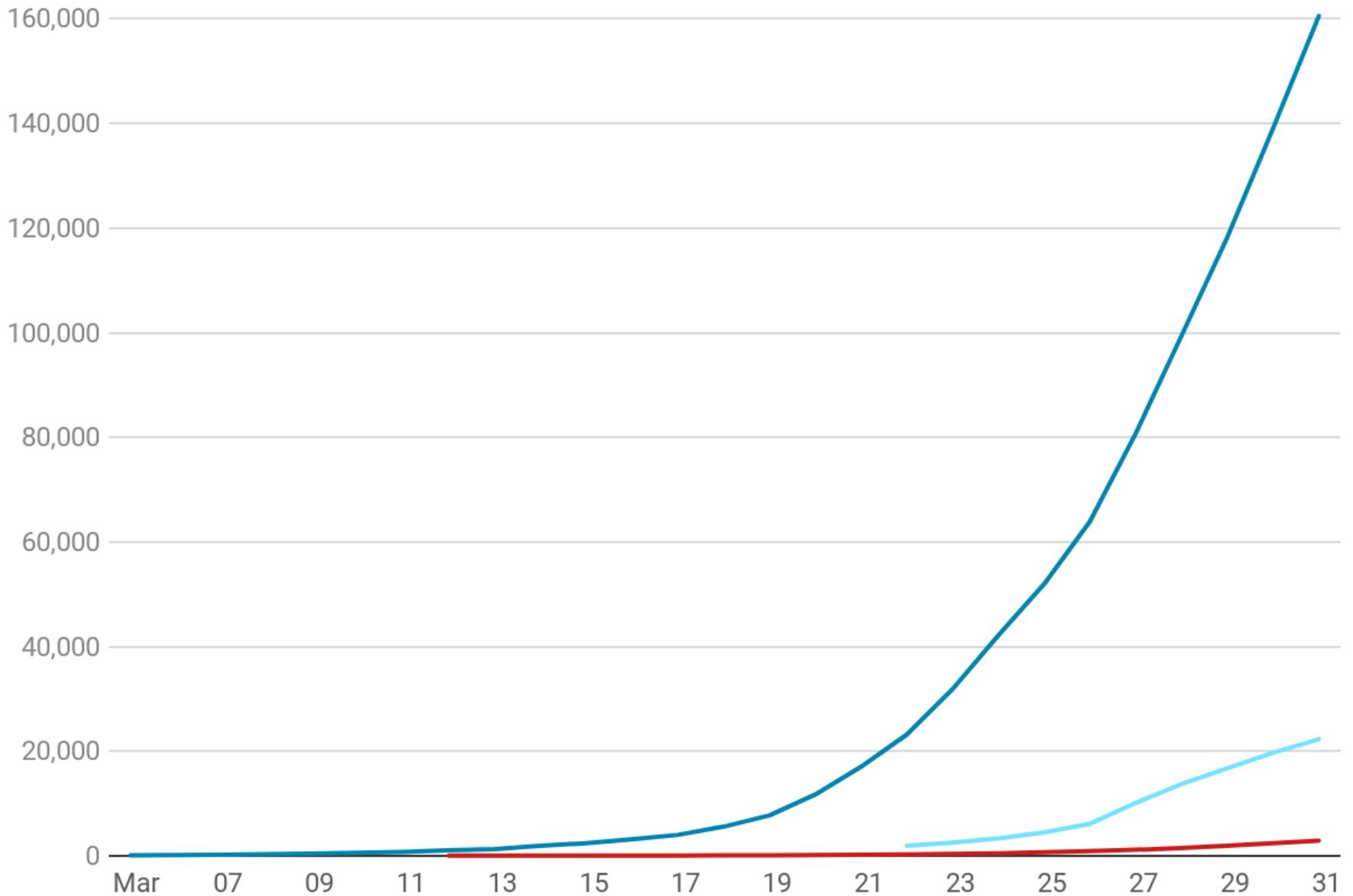


Updated 3/31/2020

Map: Brett Pierce • Source: NY Times • Created with Datawrapper

COVID-19 US Cases Over Time

— positive — hospitalized — death





Executive Summary COVID-19 Response March 31, 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

Community Lifeline Status



Red - most unstable or completely inadequate level of service
Yellow - functional but inadequate for stability of a consistent level of service
Green - stable

Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Safety and Security	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vermont State Police is monitoring for potential assistance to a local police department facing staffing shortages due to COVID-19 with responding to calls for service. 36% of counties reported experiencing a decrease in available fire service responders this week. This number is holding steady. Current fire mutual aid agreements are in place to provide more than five additional departments at every incident in all counties.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to monitor absenteeism and disruptions in service. Expecting to increase over time.
Food, Water, Sheltering	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Services Branch is in the final stages of preparation to accept psychiatric patients at an isolation/recovery facility. Human Services Branch is coordinating the establishment of several isolation/recovery sites across the state to house vulnerable populations should the need arise. Enforcement of lodging restrictions outlined in the Governor's Executive Order is underway. Yesterday several establishments were reported as not compliant. Vermont State Police and the Attorney General's Office is following up with these business. 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.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Transitioning to a curb-side/delivery model is proving difficult for the Food Bank, but demand from home-bound seniors is rising and will continue to.
Transportation	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border crossing points into Vermont are being prepared for data collection on visitors from out-of-state. Temporary gates are being constructed at Canaan, Derby and Alburgh. US/Canadian border crossings remain closed for non-essential travel.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vermont Translines suspended their bus service through April 15th. Governor Scott suspended Amtrak service to Vermont indefinitely.

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 case status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1300 on 3/31/20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive test results: 293 Total tests conducted: 4,250 Deaths: 13 People being monitored: 237 People who have completed monitoring: 556 <p>Key Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 265 million people in at least 32 states, 80 counties, 18 cities, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are being urged to stay home. (AZ and TN newest additions). Major Disaster Declarations have been awarded in 24 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, traveling into Vermont for anything other than an essential purpose, must immediately self-quarantine for 14 days. Gov. Scott instructed visitors 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. 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.
	Local State of Emergency: Burlington, Colchester, Johnson, Rutland Local EOCs Activated (self-reported): Burlington, Chittenden (town), Charleston, Hartford, Johnson, Peacham, Pomfret, Rutland, "Mountain Town" virtual EOC (Landgrove, Londonderry, Weston), South Burlington, Strafford, Thetford, Waitsfield, Woodstock

Health and Medical	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Landmark College (Putney, VT) sample collection site collected specimens on 3/29/2020 and is ongoing to fill a gap not covered by hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) with support from the National Guard. Today they collected five-times the number of samples collected yesterday. In addition to this site, drive-up testing is available at the following locations: Brattleboro Memorial, Copley, Central Vermont, Dartmouth Hitchcock, North Country, Northwestern, Porter, Springfield, Rutland Regional and UVM Medical Center hospitals, with variable hours. 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. Three alternate care facilities are available for operations. The Vermont Medical Surge Group is working to identify additional sites if needed. Sites are in Barre, Burlington, and St. Albans. The Medical Logistics Branch is supporting the SNS Warehouse Operations. PPE and medical supplies distribution plan will be forthcoming as they plan for an additional shipment of supplies. The VDH Lab received additional testing supplies and is implementing training for two new microbiologists and other new support personnel.
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vermont State Police and Burlington Police have assigned 42 staff to assist as COVID-19 Epi tracers. Training is ongoing this week at the Health Department in Burlington. Continuing to monitor outbreaks are long-term care/senior housing facilities, newest being at Pinecrest in Essex Junction, VT. Blood Donor drives scheduled throughout Vermont in upcoming days and weeks to help with national blood shortage. Schedules regularly updated at redcrossblood.org. A web portal will soon be online to efficiently provide testing results to providers; this is still under development.
Other Lifelines	Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Public Service (PSD) is developing guidance for consumers for managing broadband service use in homes and businesses to ensure a better experience for important traffic such as telehealth video calls. There is a new website for Vermonters looking to volunteer: https://www.Vermont.gov/volunteer
	Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No known disruptions to communications, energy, or hazardous material sectors at this time.