VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# STAY HOME STAY SAFE Stay connected.



HEALTHVERMONT.GOV/COVID-19

## Incident Name: COVID-19 Response

## <u>Reporting Period:</u> 04/13/2020 08:00 AM - 04/13/2020 04:00 PM

## Situation Report Number:

31

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 April 13, 2020 the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was fully activated from 0800 to 1600, using an almost completely virtual structure, with only call takers stationed at Public Safety Headquarters and all other staff and state partner representatives working remotely. The SEOC will be fully activated daily until further notice.

#### **Executive Order Measures:**

- Governor Scott issued Addendum 9 to Executive Order 01-02 on 4/10/20 to extend the State of Emergency declared 3/13/20 and issue other COVID-19 related directives and clarifications.
  - The Executive Order and all Directives and Addenda--including the Stay Home, Stay Safe order--are extended until midnight on 5/15/20.
  - Lodging establishments can now accept reservations for stays and events occurring on or after 6/15/20. However this date could be extended as needed.
  - Clarified that the suspension of in-person real estate transactions includes those for sale by owner.
  - Motor vehicle inspections (except for school buses and motor buses) due in April 2020 are extended for 60 days.
  - Clarified that health care facilities, providers, and volunteers are immune from civil liability for any death, injury, or loss resulting from COVID-19 related emergency management services or response activities, except in the case of willful misconduct or gross negligence.

## Nationwide Updates:

- Major Disaster Declarations have been awarded in 50 states, four territories, and the District of Columbia.
- At least 316 million people in at least 42 states, three counties, nine 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.

### Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1300 on 4/13/20:

Total positive test results for COVID- 19	748		
Total tests for COVID-19	10,365		
Deaths	28		
People being monitored	38		
People who have completed monitoring	793		
Hospitalized patients with COVID-19	33		
Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19	33		
These numbers are reported once daily covering a 24-period from midnight to midnight.			

### 4/12 Call Statistics from 211:

- 211 received 7 calls, all from the general public.
- The most common call topic was testing (3 calls) (topics are not exclusive, i.e., some calls touch on multiple topics).

## Public Information

- There were multiple media inquiries about the traffic data collected by the Agency of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles counting the out-of-state cars entering Vermont. Governor Scott fielded a question in his press conference today about the same topic.
- The Joint Information Center amplified Department of Labor outreach on alphabetical registration for weekly unemployment benefits. Those whose last names begin with A-E were to register on Monday.
- Guidance was distributed to Emergency Management Directors and local responders about housing of healthcare workers and responders who may have been, or may in the future, be exposed to COVID-19.

### FEMA

- A Major Disaster Declaration has been approved for Vermont: Major Declaration FEMA-4532-DR-VT
- Vermont's Non-Congregate Care request has been approved by FEMA.
- FEMA has received the request for Title 32 502 (f) approval; it is under review with the Federal Government.
- FEMA is tracking the following Resource Requests (RRFs) in progress:
  - Medicines (Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) unable to fill)
  - Testing Materials, including swabs and test tubes (potentially will need to be filled by CDC International Reagent Resource (IRR))
  - Biologists (HHS unable to fill; Region and the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) is reviewing this with the Department of Defense)

- Incident Command System personnel for the VDH Health Operations Center (partially filled)
- Ventilators on adjudication at 72 hours
- FEMA is tracking Requests for Information, including eligibility questions associated with Public Assistance Category B, Emergency Protective measures.
- **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

#### Hospitals

- Bed availability statewide (as of 1600 on 4/13/2020):
  - 705 total beds
  - 55 ICU beds
  - 319 medical surge beds
  - 148 isolation beds
  - 120 negative pressure rooms
  - 125 staffed ICU beds
  - 774 staffed med surge beds

#### Long-Term Care Facility Update:

- 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 staffing is improving with support from the Department of Human Resources and the Agency of Human Services, along with infection control and health & safety assessments by the Department of Health Epidemiological team and the Department of Labor's Occupational Health and Safety Administration.
- Health Department Outbreak Prevention Team is proactively working with long-term care facilities on infection control; testing and isolation; and recovery preparations or needs. The Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington and Decker Towers in Burlington are a focus today.
- An essential employer workplace health and safety and PPE validation effort was finalized, which will assist those long-term care facilities not engaging in health care.

#### **Testing:**

- 59 specimens were tested yesterday at the Department of Health Lab.
- The University of Vermont Medical Center Lab is testing new systems today (one internal design and one Cepheid).

## Human Services Branch

There are no known gaps in Agency of Human Services (AHS) essential services due to absenteeism.

#### Isolation and Recovery Sites:

- The Harbor Place isolation and recovery site has a 50-bed capacity, with 4 beds currently in use. Additional work is ongoing for COVID-19 positive patients identified in White River Junction and Rutland.
- There is a lease agreement in place at the isolation and recovery facility at the Holiday Inn, Burlington (160 beds).
- Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) staff are working with the Vermont National Guard to utilize a portion of the Essex surge facility to support skilled nursing needs.
- A new lease agreement is being pursued in Rutland (Holiday Inn, 25 beds for skilled nursing).

#### Long-Term Care Facility Status:

- Statewide Licensed Capacity: 2,978
- Current Operating Capacity: 2,699
- 4/13/2020 Census: 2,280
- 4/13/2020 bed availability: 419

#### Staffing Status:

- Temporary positions are posted and interviews are underway (for RN, LPN, case management, and mental health specialist positions). LNA positions are being posted and interviews will follow.
- Coordination with volunteer efforts is underway.
- Staffing patterns have been developed for the alternate general care sites.
- Staffing patterns are being developed for the alternate sub-acute care sites.
- The branch is working with the Department of Corrections (DOC) nursing on staffing needs.
- The DOC requested Department of Health (VDH) support for confirmed COVID-19 cases within a correctional facility. VDH's Epidemiology Branch is tasked with providing support.
- Questions pertaining to staff redeployment have been compiled and elevated for answers.
- The Staffing Group created a staff request form and is in the process of disseminating it.

### Mass Feeding Status:

- Plans from the Agency of Human Services and from Community Action Agencies have been combined into one plan.
- Buildings and General Services (BGS) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) are working on regional procurement planning efforts.
- The SEOC is working with the VT Food Bank on a FEMA request for Meals Ready to Eat (MREs).
- Several contracts are in place with Supervisory Unions.

#### Additional Updates:

- Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) continues to provide support to partner agencies, including establishment of skilled nursing sites.
- The Child Development Department (CDD) is managing the roll-out of a change to the guidance on who is eligible for childcare.
  - 1,066 Essential Persons have completed the online collector form to request referrals for 1,707 children. 313 Essential Persons requested help for 495 school-aged children, 377 Essential Persons requested help for 530 children under 6, and 141 Essential Persons requested help for 323 children in both age groups. The remaining 235 Essential Persons representing 359 children did not indicate a need for child care.
  - The 1,066 Essential Persons are located in the following counties:

- 104 from Addison
- 40 from Bennington
- 19 from Caledonia
- 344 from Chittenden County
- 4 from Essex
- 102 from Franklin
- 6 from Grand Isle
- 46 from Lamoille
- 32 from Orange
- 19 from Orleans
- 69 from Rutland
- 121 from Washington
- 76 from Windham
- 72 from Windsor
- 12 live outside VT
- General Assistance Motel Housing Summary daily numbers (from 4/10/2020):
  - 1,138 rooms
  - 1,297 adults
  - 206 children
- The Agency of Education is working on FEMA Public Assistance guidance for Vermont schools and updating their food service continuity of operations plan.

Medical Logistics Branch

# Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Update as of Close of Day 4/10/2020:

Daily Workflow Status		
Orders Received	52	
Orders Filled	35	
Percentage Filled	67%	
Total Unfilled Orders	17	
Behavioral Health	2	
EMS	1	
Hospital	1	
Long-Term Care	2	
Outpatient Care	1	
Public Safety	4	
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:

- Pending order statuses will be updated after a 0700 meeting with the University of Vermont tomorrow.
- The branch captured concerns from the Vermont Occupational Therapy Association President about the governor's executive order preventing essential workers from purchasing needed clothing items to do their jobs (scrubs, boots, shoes, etc.).

Logistics Branch

- Resource procurement status:
  - The University of Vermont Medical Center received 4 of the 8 ordered VPro sterilization units on 4/11. The units are planned to be installed at additional hospital sites for healthcare and first responder use.
  - Buildings and General Services (BGS) submitted a request for N-95 sterilization services with Battelle Decon Services. Battelle will be used as a backup for the VPro units, if necessary. BGS is awaiting a marked-up contract back from Battelle.
  - BGS is establishing contracts for food service for isolation/recovery sites and Department of Corrections facilities with Agency of Human Services (AHS).
  - BGS is continuing work on the four temporary mortuaries. Enclosures have been completed, laptops and cell phones have been delivered. BGS is establishing contracts with contractors to build ramps at the four sites and arrange security with the local sheriffs departments.
  - Rutland Regional and St Albans Alternate Care Sites have requested some supplies, which are being sourced.
  - The branch is working on the acquisition of school cleaning supplies and the availability of cleaning supplies from other vendors.
  - The branch is working with the Vermont Department of Health on a facility disinfection plan as part of a statewide procedure for demobilizing sites.
  - BGS is working on establishing contracts or agreements with hotels for health care and first responders if the need arises.
- National Guard deployment status:
  - Activated/Deployed Resources:
    - Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Warehouse Support: 10 personnel
    - Medical Logistics Planners: 1 personnel and 1 support for the Department of Aging

and Independent Living (DAIL)

- University of Vermont Medical Center Clinic Support: 30 personnel
- Medical/Logistics Planners: 6 personnel
- Essex Regional Alternate Care site in Essex (set up completed 4/7): 155 personnel.
- Set up (2) Mobile Maintenance Tents for Temporary Mortuary sites (CVMC and UVMMC).
- The Agency of Transportation (AOT):
  - AOT continues to distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) warehouse.
  - AOT set up message boards with COVID-19 messages.
  - AOT is working to collect donated PPE, delivering and storing it to be inspected for possible use for SNS and other needs.
  - AOT provided vehicle counts at 45 high-priority border crossings across the state.
- Department of Human Resources (DHR)
  - Paid leave, carry over, premium pay, time sheet coding, and other guidance provided via email from the commissioner's office.
  - Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) medical volunteer activity:
    - 28 volunteers have been deployed at 4 locations:
      - Department of Health call center (12)
      - SNS Warehouse (14)
      - Department of Health epidemiological team (1)
      - Health Operations Center (1)
    - Pending Requests: 0
  - Temporary Employee Activity:
    - Requested positions: 164
    - Approved & created positions: 162
    - Positions posted in recruitment: 118
    - Applications received: 226
    - Offers made: 6
    - Direct hires: 7
- SerVermont
  - There are over 30 volunteers assigned to the 211 call center.

### Economic Development Branch

#### Agency Commerce and Community Development (ACCD):

- Thanked 1,700 registrants for answering the Governor's call to volunteer.
- Updated the State Home, Stay Safe essential employee guidance for financial, legal and professional services, and for municipalities helping Vermonters navigate and access state and federal COVID-19 funding. ACCD also posted guidance enabling marriages in certain situations. Additional details can be found on the ACCD website.
- Tested a web-bot to help businesses, individuals and communities quickly find guidance they need on the Governor's 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' order.
- ACCD wants to hear from all Vermont businesses impacted by the response to the COVID-19 virus. Please share these impacts via the ACCD Business Impact Form: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vtcovid19</u>

#### Department of Labor (DOL):

- DOL implemented a new structure to better manage the intake of weekly claims and inquiries. The voluntary framework designates specific days of the week for individuals to contact the Department, based on the first letter of their last name. Additional details on the changes to improve services can be founds on the DOL website.
- •
- Unemployment Insurance claim numbers as of 4/09 (updated every Thursday):
  - March 29- April 4 DOL received 22,754 applications and processed 16,474
  - Total claims between March 8 April 28 ≈ 70,000
  - Estimated (unofficial) unemployment is above 20% and could rise to 30%.

#### Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (AAFM):

- The USDA has issued new guidance on milk dumping.
- AAFM is exploring alternatives to milk dumping, possibly involving the Vermont Food Bank. Farmers have dumped more than 495,000 pounds or 54,000 gallons milk since the beginning of April.
- AAFM is working with its partners to provide confidential resources and mental health counseling support for farmers and their families. Additional information is available on the Farm First website: <u>https://www.farmfirst.org/mental-health-on-the-farm</u>.
- AAFM has issued new guidance on the closure of farmers markets.

#### Vermont Retail and Grocers' Association (VRGA) Supply Chain Update (End of Day 4/8):

- Bread The supply is nearly recovered.
- Milk There is ample supply.
- Eggs Supply has improved, but the cost increase is dramatic, with a dozen eggs costing roughly \$3.
- Cheese The supply is improving.
- Paper & Bath Tissue The supply of paper towels is improving, but bath tissue sells as fast as it gets on the shelf. Sale volume is comparable to this time last year, but re-supply remains a challenge.
- Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Isopropyl Alcohol No improvements; still a struggle to get a supply.
- Meat The supply of beef, chicken, and pork is improving significantly.
- Produce, Deli, Bakery There is ample supply.
- Pasta/Canned Veggies/Box Prepared Products The supply is challenged and is working on catching up.

Infrastructure & Emergency Services Branch

#### Infrastructure -

- As of 13:24, there were 1,148 power outages in the following counties: Chittenden, Windsor, Windham, Franklin, Washington, and Rutland.
- No other disruptions or shortages at this time.

#### **Emergency Services -**

• No reported issues.

#### Areas of Concern -

• A concern has been expressed about the possible effects of high wind this afternoon on tents set up a various sites (e.g., screening tents outside hospital emergency departments). Vermont National Guard is checking the anchoring of the tents.

#### Department /Agencies Reports

#### Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) -

• No reported interruptions in services.

#### Forest, Parks, & Recreation (FPR) -

• Predicted fire danger for Vermont today is low statewide.

#### Public Service Department (PSD) -

- Overnight winds did not result in significant power outages.
- Power utility companies are currently working to restore power to those impacted.

#### Agency of Digital Services (ADS) -

• No reported interruptions in service

#### Judiciary -

- Judicial Security received confirmation of a positive COVID-19 case at the Bennington Criminal Court screening area, which was first reported on 4/6/20. Judicial staff is requesting a determination if any additional screening is now warranted with the positive case determination.
- Vermont Supreme Court has extended the Judicial Emergency until May 31, 2020.

#### Vermont State Police (VSP) -

• No interruptions in service.

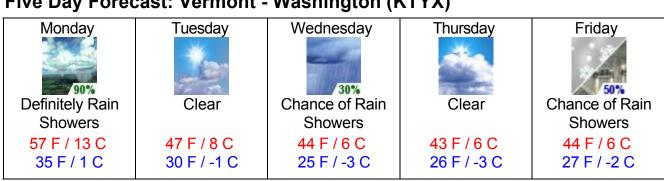
#### Division of Fire Safety (DFS) -

• Email request went out to regional offices to make sure any tents in the areas are secure for the forecasted wind.

#### Emergency Medical Services (EMS) section -

- Compiling agency responses to the EMS absenteeism survey.
- Issued the first weekly survey to EMS districts, assessing their COVID-19 response needs and preparation.
- Investigating EMS staffing shortage contingency plans.
- Investigating options for resumption of EMS education programs.

## Weather

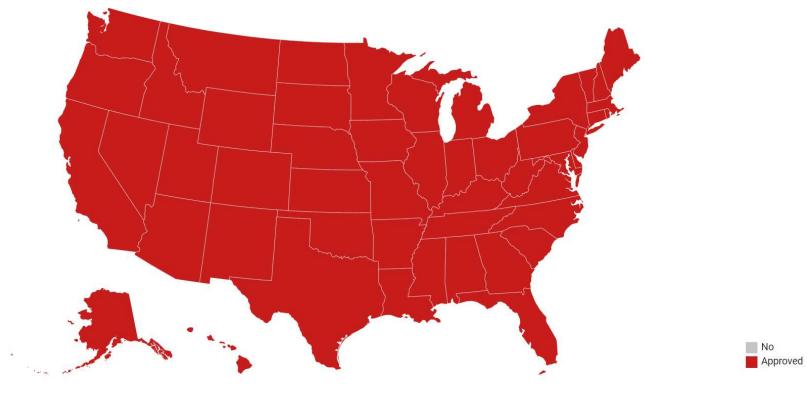


## Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KTYX)

# A Wind Advisory is now in effect for Bennington and Windham Counties of Vermont until 8 PM this evening.

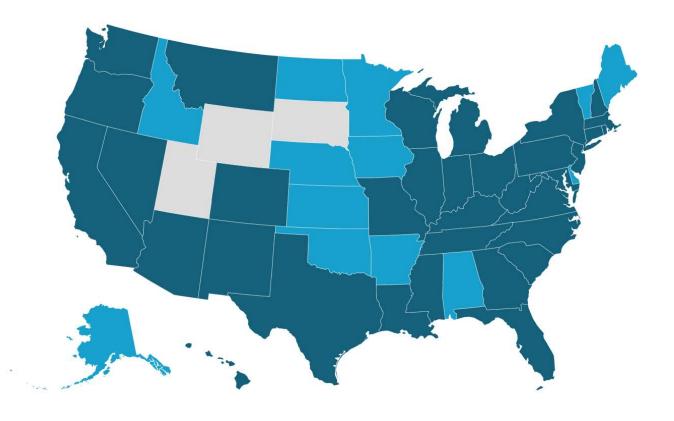
- **Tonight:** Showers and thunderstorms likely before 10pm, then a slight chance of showers between 10pm and midnight. Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low around 36. West wind 13 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.
- **Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. West wind 14 to 17 mph.
- **Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. West wind 7 to 9 mph.

## **Major Disaster Declarations**



Jpdated 4/13/20 Map: Brett Pierce • Source: FEMA • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

## Title 32 Orders



Approved Requested

Updated 4/13/2020 by Pam DeAndrea



#### Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Satety and Security	<b>Current Situation</b>	<ul> <li>The attorney general issued a directive to law enforcement on how to enforce the governor's executive order, emphasizing education and voluntary compliance, while also allowing the Office of the Attorney General to pursue civil and criminal enforcement of the order, including a \$1,000-a-day fine for continued noncompliance.</li> <li>Vermont Supreme Court has extend the Judicial Emergency until May</li> </ul>	Incident	
satety a	Future C	<ul><li>31, 2020.</li><li>Continuing to monitor absenteeism and disruptions in service, which are expected to increase over time.</li></ul>		
eltering	Current Situation	<ul> <li>ACCD continues to work in close contact with the Vermont Retail Grocers' Association to monitor supply chain issues. As of 4/8 the supply chain is in good shape outside of bath tissue, sanitizer, cleaning products, and prepared/boxed food which remain strained.</li> <li>The Human Services Branch is working with FEMA, the VT Food Bank, and Community Action Agencies to determine a statewide feeding plan. Needs and sources have been identified, and the organizations are in the process of identifying gaps. Contracts for feeding are being pursued within Buildings and General Services.</li> <li>AHS is pursuing new lease agreements for isolation/recovery sites in Rutland with beds available for skilled nursing.</li> </ul>		
Food, Water, Sheltering	Future	<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>The Area Agencies on Aging will need assistance with meal delivery.</li> <li>The Agency of Agriculture is helping producers and retailers overcome supply chain disruptions by sharing opportunities for retailers to connect with and begin purchasing from producers who may have previously sold mainly to restaurants or institutions.</li> <li>The Agency of Education is working on FEMA Public Assistance guidance for Vermont schools and updating their food service continuity of operations plan.</li> <li>The SEOC is working with the VT Food Bank on a FEMA request for Meals Ready to Eat (MREs)</li> </ul>		key information
Iransportation	<b>Current Situation</b>	<ul> <li>US/Canadian border crossings remain closed for non-essential travel.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Bus route modifications can be found at: <a href="https://ridegmt.com/covid-19-update/">https://ridegmt.com/covid-19-update/</a></li> </ul>		
T	Future	<ul> <li>Vermont Translines suspended their bus service through May 15<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>Governor Scott suspended Amtrak service to Vermont indefinitely.</li> </ul>		

#### Executive Summary COVID-19 Response April 13, 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

 Community Lifeline Status

 Image: Script of Script

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

• 28 Medical Reserve Corps volunteers are deployed at 4 sites: a VDH call center, the SNS warehouse, the VDH Epi team, and the HOC. • University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMMC) is trying out two new COVID-19 testing systems today. Testing is available at the following locations: hospitals statewide, the Island Pond Health Center, the Champlain Islands Health Center, and the Wells River Health Center. BGS has leased four temporary mortuaries and is working with the **Current Situation** points of contact from each site to operationalize. BGS is currently working to install ramps and arrange for security. Medical The Alternate Care Sites in Essex, Rutland, Burlington, Barre, and St. Albans are ready to accept patients when needed. • UVMMC has received four VPro Decon units, allowing for the decontamination of N95 masks in-state, four more units are Health and inbound. The units will be installed at additional hospital sites for healthcare and first responder use. The state continues to pursue the out-of-state Battelle system as a back-up. · VDH issued the first weekly survey to EMS districts, assessing their COVID-19 response needs and preparation. • The Logistics Branch is working with the Vermont Department of Health on a facility disinfection plan as part of a statewide <sup>-</sup>uture procedure for future demobilization of sites. · Buildings and General Services is establishing contracts with hotels for isolation housing for healthcare and emergency workers, if needed. • The Department of Labor unofficially estimates unemployment in Vermont to be above 20%. • The Agency of Education (AOE) has gone live with a case management system for stakeholder questions and comments. 1,700 registrants signed up to volunteer on the state portal: **Current Situation** https://www.vermont.gov/volunteer. ACCD sent out an initial communication. **Other Lifelines**  ACCD has scheduled several kickoff meetings for the Governor's Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force. ACCD reports the Small Business Administration (SBA) is overwhelmed by the volume of applications and is running low on funding. • The Department of Labor predicts that unemployment in the state could rise to 30%.

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 United States having the largest number of cases. The disease the virus causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19").

Key

## Current case status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1100 on 4/13/20:

- Positive test results: 748
- Total tests conducted: 10,365
- Deaths: 28
- Hospitalized patients with COVID-19: 33
- Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19: 33

#### Key Updates:

 The SEOC sent clarification to Emergency Management Directors and Responders today regarding the option to provide non-congregate housing to healthcare workers and first responders who are at a reasonable risk of being exposed to or infected with COVID-19.

#### Executive Order Measures:

- Gov. Scott issued Addendum 9 to Executive Order 01-02 on 4/10/20 to extend the State of Emergency declared 3/13/20 and issue other COVID-19 related directives and clarifications.
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- Health care facilities, providers, and volunteers are immune from civil liability for any death, injury, or loss resulting from COVID-19 related emergency management services or response activities, except in the case of willful misconduct or gross negligence.

Local State of Emergency: Burlington, Colchester, Johnson, Rutland

Local EOCs Activated (self-reported): Bethel, Burlington, Chittenden (town), Charleston, Hartford, Johnson, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peacham, Pomfret, Rutland, Sharon, South Burlington, Strafford, Thetford, Tunbridge, Waitsfield, Weston, Woodstock, St. Johnsbury, Pittsfield.