



# Executive Summary COVID-19 Response April 23, 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



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

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Safety and Security	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 4/23, the SEOC sent guidance to healthcare workers and first responders on the protocol for decontaminating used N95 masks at local hospitals.</li> <li>Request approved for Title 32 U.S.C. § 502(f) authorization – allows for use of VT National Guard on full-time duty orders.</li> <li>Canada and the US are extending border restrictions for another 30 days. Nearly 200,000 people cross that border daily in normal times.</li> <li>The EMS Office is developing plans for socially distanced EMS training, and is preparing an RFP to support a hybrid education program.</li> </ul>
Food, Water, Sheltering	Future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vermont Supreme Court extended the Judicial Emergency until May 31, 2020.</li> <li>The EMS Office plans to roll out the 2020 EMS protocol update on May 15<sup>th</sup>, with all accompanying training available online.</li> </ul>
Transportation	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yesterday, the Vermont National Guard distributed 42,240 meals at the Franklin County distribution site in Swanton. The demand was much higher than anticipated. On Friday, VTNG will distribute MREs at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport in Clarendon.</li> <li>ACCD continues to work in close contact with the Vermont Retail Grocers' Association to monitor supply chain issues. As of 4/22, the supply chain is in good shape outside of bread, sugar, bath tissue, sanitizer, and cleaning products which remain strained.</li> <li>Farmers markets will be allowed to reopen May 1, additional guidance is currently being drafted by the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.</li> <li>VAAFM is developing guidance for reopening nurseries and greenhouses, as a first step toward reopening the food and agricultural sectors.</li> <li>VAAFM is working with dairy cooperatives, processors and the Vermont Foodbank to move milk away from disposal and into products for the Foodbank. Costs and distribution issues are being reviewed this week.</li> <li>AHS is working with the Area Agencies on Aging on executing a distribution plan for 20,000 frozen meals.</li> </ul>
Transportation	Future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Agency of Education is working on FEMA PA guidance for schools using guidance provided by FEMA, updating continuity of operations for school nutrition directors, and finalizing a family FAQ.</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> </ul>
Transportation	Future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus route modifications can be found at: <a href="https://ridegmt.com/covid-19-update/">https://ridegmt.com/covid-19-update/</a></li> <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>

Incident Summary
<p>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").</p>
Key Information
<p><b>Current case status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1100 on 4/23/20:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive test results: 825</li> <li>Total tests conducted: 13,852</li> <li>Deaths: 43</li> <li>Hospitalized patients with COVID-19: 15</li> <li>Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19: 29</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Updates:</b> The Vermont Foodbank and the Vermont National Guard began distributing food to those in need in Franklin County yesterday, the first of five locations around the state that will be used for distribution. The National Guard has set up and is operating Commodity Points of Distribution (CPODs) at state airports in Swanton, North Clarendon, Newport, Bennington, and North Springfield on separate days over the next two weeks. Those in need of food can go to these locations on the appointed days and receive a seven-day supply of Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE) for each member of their household. Dates and locations can be found at <a href="http://vem.vermont.gov/pods">vem.vermont.gov/pods</a>.</p> <p><b>Executive Order Measures:</b> On April 17th, Governor Scott announced Addendum 10 which outlines a phased reopening of businesses in Vermont, and mandatory health &amp; safety guidance that will be required of all businesses currently operation and those re-starting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phased opening of businesses not defined as <i>essential</i> started yesterday. Subject to mandatory health and safety requirements, the following operations will be allowed to restart:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor Businesses &amp; Construction Operations</li> <li>Retail Operations; all orders must occur over the phone; no in-store transactions re allowed at this time.</li> <li>Low- or no-contact professional services such as appraisers, realtors, municipal clerks, attorneys, property managers, pet care operators, and others.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Local State of Emergency:</b> Burlington, Colchester, Johnson, Rutland, Vernon. <b>Local EOCs Activated (self-reported):</b> Bethel, Burlington, Chittenden (town), Charlestown, Hartford, Johnson, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peacham, Pittsfield, Pomfret, Rutland, Sharon, South Burlington, St. Johnsbury, Strafford, Thetford, Tunbridge, Vernon, Waitsfield, Weston, Woodstock.</p>

Health and Medical	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The state is only delivering medical gowns to hospitals with COVID-19 positive patients, due to a gown shortage. The SEOC Logistics Branch is working on establishing a laundry service for reusable gowns.</li> <li>Starting on 4/23, VDH is analyzing test kits collected from multiple nursing homes and a Department of Corrections facility, to gain a broad understanding of viral spread at those locations.</li> <li>VDH determined that serologic tests are not yet sufficiently reliable for use. Serologic (i.e., antibody) testing reveals not only current but also past COVID-19 infections.</li> <li>Governor Scott and the Department of Financial Regulation announced a requirement for health insurers to waive patient costs associated with diagnosing and treating COVID-19.</li> <li>In addition to the 4 already in operation, 4 more V-PRO units are set to arrive 5/2 and a plan has been approved for their distribution. The V-PRO systems are used to sterilize N95 respirators for hospitals and other organizations in the area.</li> <li>A FEMA RRF for various pharmaceuticals are being filled by the SNS and are en route to Vermont.</li> <li>VDH is finalizing contracts for augmenting COVID-19 testing staffing with EMS practitioners.</li> <li>The SEOC is coordinating a delivery of Burton Masks to the State of New York.</li> <li>The Joint Information Center compiled a list of the 11 Vermont companies currently making cloth face coverings: <a href="https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19/facecovering">https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19/facecovering</a></li> <li>One Alternate Care Site is currently operable in Chittenden County with four other sites on standby. The Chittenden County site has five patients, with three admissions possible today.</li> </ul>
Other Lifelines	Future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Logistics Branch is working with the Vermont Department of Health on a facility disinfection plan as part of a statewide procedure for future demobilization of sites.</li> <li>Alternate Care Site demobilization planning is underway. This will not be implemented yet, but is ready to go.</li> </ul>
Other Lifelines	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOL received 6,598 new unemployment insurance claims in the week ending on April 18<sup>th</sup>, which is down from 9,662 claims the week prior.</li> <li>1,951 registrants signed up to volunteer on the state portal – some have been sent to the Franklin Carriage House and the frozen meal distribution operation at the Plainfield warehouse. Lists of local volunteers are being sent to Upper Valley Strong and the Washington and Northern Orange Counties Regional Response Command Center.</li> <li>Currently, 118 power outages in Windsor &amp; Washington Counties</li> </ul>
Other Lifelines	Future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOL launched application portal today for self-employed workers and independent contractors to claim unemployment benefits.</li> </ul>