

Stay Home, Stay Safe

Together we can help save lives.



Incident Name:

COVID-19 Response

Reporting Period:

04/29/2020 08:00 AM - 04/29/2020 04:00 PM

Situation Report Number:

45

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 April 29, 2020 the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was fully activated from 0800 to 1600, using a completely virtual structure. The SEOC will be fully activated during the week and partially activated through the weekend until further notice.

Key Updates:

The Vermont Foodbank and the Vermont National Guard will set up and operate Commodity Points of Distribution (CPODs) at state airports in North Springfield, Bennington, Newport and South Hero 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 are listed below (and on the attached map):

- *Wednesday, April 29 - Hartness State Airport (Weathersfield/Springfield)*
 - Thursday, April 30 - William H Morse State Airport (Bennington)
 - Friday, May 1 - Northeast Kingdom International Airport (Coventry/Newport)
 - Friday, May 1 - Folsom Education Center (South Hero)
-

Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1100 on 4/29/20:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Total positive test results for COVID-19 | 862 |
| Total tests for COVID-19 | 15,429 |
| Deaths | 47 |
| People being monitored | 18 |
| People who have completed monitoring | 832 |
| Hospitalized patients with COVID-19 | 11 |
| Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19 | 15 |

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

4/28 Call Statistics from 211:

- On 4/28, 211 received 54 calls, the vast majority from the general public (51 calls).
- The most common call topics were the Stay Home, Stay Safe order (24 calls), work (13 calls), and travel (12 calls) (topics are not exclusive, i.e., some calls touch on multiple topics).

Public Information

During today's press conference, the Governor reviewed his Restart Vermont initiative.

The initiative includes five critical steps for safely restarting Vermont's economy:

- Keep our eyes on the data
- Maintain health care readiness
- Increase testing & tracing
- Work smarter & work safer
- Play smarter & play safer

FEMA

- A Major Disaster Declaration has been approved for Vermont: FEMA-4532-DR-VT
- FEMA is tracking the following Resource Requests (RRFs) in progress:
 - ◊ Body Bags
 - ◊ Testing materials, including swabs and test tubes
 - ◊ HEPA filters for hospital and EMS personnel
 - ◊ PPE including gowns, gloves, coveralls, aprons, and boot covers
 - ◊ Boxed meals
- FEMA is tracking Requests for Information, including eligibility questions associated with Public Assistance Category B, Emergency Protective measures.

Health & Medical Branch

Health & Medical Branch

Hospitals:

- Bed availability statewide (as of 0900 on 4/29/2020):
 - ◊ 635 total beds
 - ◊ 65 ICU beds
 - ◊ 291 medical/surgical beds
 - ◊ 127 isolation beds

Alternate Care Sites as of 0900 4/29/2020:

- One site is currently operable in Chittenden County with two additional sites on standby in Rutland County and Washington County.

- ◊ The Chittenden County site has 6 COVID-19 positive patients and 1 non-COVID-19 patient. Total capacity is 400 beds.

Testing:

- The VDH Lab performed 66 tests on Tuesday 4/28.
- The University of Vermont Medical Center Lab conducted 253 tests.
- Testing continues at multiple nursing homes and a Department of Corrections facility.
- An aggressive testing strategy focused on health care staff and certain patients was announced today, 4/29, with an estimated 1,000 tests being performed each day.

Logistics Branch

- **Resource procurement status:**

- ◊ Thus far, there have been no requests for assistance with transportation of contaminated PPE from an outside healthcare entity to a facility with a V-PRO sterilizer.
- ◊ Planning is underway to demobilize the 4 temporary mortuary sites. This will be done in such a way that they could be stood up again should the need arise.
- ◊ Potential fixed mortuary sites have been identified, but not secured under contract at this time.
- ◊ BGS acquired 6 fans for emergency dental hubs. They now need to be distributed.
- ◊ The branch has identified a laundry service for washable medical gowns through an existing contract.
- ◊ The branch is working with MARS and others on plan for distribution of cloth face coverings for state employees and partners.
- ◊ The branch is working on a request for 10 temporary beds for the St Josephs long-term care site.
- ◊ Central Vermont Medical Center requested a new radio antenna. A contractor is waiting for SEOC approval to perform work.

- **National Guard (VTNG) deployment status:**

- ◊ New Activated/Deployed Resources:
 - 45 additional personnel assigned to Essex Regional Alternate Care site in Essex, for a total of 195 personnel.

- **Agency of Transportation (AOT):**

- ◊ AOT provided vehicle counts at 27 staffed and 37 automatic traffic collection border crossings sites across the state.

- **Department of Human Resources (DHR):**

- ◊ Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) medical volunteer activity:
 - 35 volunteers are deployed at 3 locations
 - Pending Requests
 - MRC Long-Term Care Deployment Team – 78 MRC volunteers expressed initial interest.
 - MRC is coordinating planning, training, and fit testing.
 - MRC is following up with Central Vermont Medical Center on its volunteer assistance request for patient screening at entrances
- ◊ Temporary Employee Activity:
 - DHR received 3 additional applications and made 5 additional direct hires.

- **SerVermont:**

- Currently 35 volunteers are deployed
 - 88 volunteers referred to Northeastern Orange County Consortium- Bradford EMD
 - 678 Volunteers referred to City of Burlington Response and Recovery Center (Chittenden County)
 - 368 Volunteers referred to Green Mountain United Way (Washington and Caledonia County)
- 1,978 people signed up to volunteer.
- Pending requests:
 - Upper Valley Strong will be requesting a list of regional volunteers

Medical Logistics Branch

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Update as of Close of Day 4/28/2020:

| Daily Workflow Status | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Orders Received | 48 |
| Orders Filled | 38 |
| Percentage Filled | 79% |
| Total Unfilled Orders | 10 |
| Behavioral Health | 1 |
| EMS | 1 |
| Hospital | 1 |
| Long-Term Care | 0 |
| Outpatient Care | 0 |
| Public Safety | 0 |
| Residential Home | 0 |
| Other | 7 |

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

Thermometer Update:

- The University of Vermont (UVM) requested expedited shipping for infrared thermometers once received in Canada. The thermometers have FDA and CE seals. Estimated arrival is May 5th, but will hopefully arrive at UVM on May 1st.

Other Updates:

- May 1st through the 4th is a Chinese holiday, so this may delay shipping.
- A delivery of procedure masks from Medique expected to arrive in the country today, with an estimated delivery date at the SNS Warehouse of sometime this week.
- 2,000 Venitra procedure masks were shipped and are inbound.
- Direct Worx N95s (3M1860): No shipment or expected delivery date received. The branch attempted to re-coordinate this purchase 5 separate times now.
- New England Medical Specialties N95 (3M1860): No shipment or expected delivery date received. The branch is awaiting an update from the distributor.
- 7 million nitrile gloves are on order with Medline. 4.5 million gloves are expected in early July. The Department of Buildings and Services (BGS) and UVM are looking for other sources with faster delivery capability.
- JK Adams face shields: 5,000 picked up today by BGS.
- Northeast processing (disinfecting wipes): A contract is being set up. The branch is waiting on a delivery time frame.
- Goggles: BGS is working on purchasing 2,000 goggles. UVM also received a donation of goggles from a company in Essex and is working on a distribution plan.
- The FEMA RRF for gowns was successful. The branch is anticipating two deliveries in May, with a total allocation of 11,860. Breakdown of sizes - (L) 5,900, (XL) 5,930.
- 40,000 masks (a mix of N95/KN95/KN90 masks) will be delivered to the SNS warehouse today from the shipment sent to Rutland Armory.
- The branch modified a FEMA RRF for N95s from 100K to 85K masks, noting the particular models needed.
- The branch created a draft of survey questions for the PPE Usage Rate Project.
- The branch delivered donated KN95s to New York today.

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 2 beds in use as of 4/29.
- The Chittenden Recovery Center (Holiday Inn in South Burlington) has 2 residents as of 4/29.
- General Assistance Motel Summary, including Econo Lodge in Montpelier (4/29/2020): 1,338 rooms; 1,587 adults; 260 children.

Long-Term Care Facility Status:

- Statewide Licensed Capacity: 2,978

- Current Operating Capacity: 2,699
- 4/29 Census: 2,225
- 4/29 Bed Availability: 474

Staffing Status:

- The staffing unit is working with the Child Development Division (CDD) to investigate staffing support for the growing demand for childcare.

Mass Feeding Status:

- Frozen meal distribution continued at Northern Vermont partner sites today. Distribution concludes tomorrow in Central Vermont.
- The Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) and the Mass Feeding working group are reviewing bids for contracts in Chittenden County.

Additional Updates:

- The Child Development Division (CDD) is receiving an influx of messages and phone calls from childcare providers, and has requested support from outside the division for additional staffing to respond to inquiries.
- CDD is currently processing invoices from childcare providers that have been submitted up until yesterday, April 28.
- CDD is developing a childcare re-opening plan, which will include input from childcare providers as part of the plan's development process.
- 1,155 Essential Persons have completed the online collector form to request referrals for have completed this form for 1,847 children. 342 Essential Persons requested help for 539 school-aged children, 414 Essential Persons requested help for 579 children under 6, and 155 Essential Persons requested help for 356 children in both age groups. The remaining 244 Essential Persons representing 373 children did not indicate a need for child care.
- The Agency of Education (AOE) is working on additional CARES Act applications to the U.S. Department of Education, and is continuing work on the application for schools.

Economic Development Branch

AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ACCD):

- **Guidance to Business and Communities** – ACCD has updated its sector guidance in accordance with Addendum 11: <https://accd.vermont.gov/content/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance>
- **Documenting Economic Impacts** – ACCD wants to hear from all Vermont businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This information will help us paint a complete picture as we work toward solutions. Please share information via the ACCD Business Impact Form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vtcovid19>

VERMONT RETAIL AND GROCERS' ASSOCIATION (VRGA):

Supply Chain (updated 4/29):

- **Bread** – Limited varieties, but supply is available

- **Flour** – Plenty of wheat, milling capacity limited, but supply has started to catch up
- **Sugar** – Still working to catch up
- **Milk** – Supply is good
- **Eggs** – Supply improving, cost continue to drop
- **Cheese** – Supply continues to improve
- **Paper & Bath Tissue** – Paper Towels improving; Bath Tissue: Demand continues to be high but product supply increasing.
- **Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Isopropyl Alcohol** – Demand continues to be high.
- **Meat** – The plant closures will be disrupting processing of beef, pork and chicken. Supply is plentiful, for now. Distributors are looking to alternative sources such as food service suppliers and or other meat wholesalers, but many times there is a difference between what they normally carry and what distributors carry. In some instances, when product has been available, distributors have tried to purchase more than normal and freezing the excess in anticipation of a national shortage. The important piece that retailers needs to plan for thawing product.
- **Produce, Deli, Bakery** – Ample supply
- **Pasta/Canned Veggies/Box Prepared Products** – Supply is improving

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL):

- **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program Launched** – This program provides unemployment benefits to self-employed, sole proprietors, and independent contractors. DOL added additional staff to process claims and answer questions.
 - Frequently Asked Questions with information on the general process, eligibility, payments is here: <https://labor.vermont.gov/pua-faqs>
 - Determine eligibility for PUA benefits here: https://labor.vermont.gov/PUA_Eligibility
 - Applicants without internet access may call 877-660-7782 for assistance with their claim.

VERMONT OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AGENCY (VOSHA):

Mandatory Safety Training Now Available - Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order included a directive that by May 4th, all employees returning to work and those already working, must complete a mandatory training on health and safety requirements as provided by VOSHA, or another training program that meets or exceeds the VOSHA-provided standard. The Department of Labor has posted training materials in both online and printable formats here:

<https://labor.vermont.gov/document/protecting-safety-and-health-workers-vosha>

AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE FOOD AND MARKETS (AAFM):

- **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, Farmers to Families Food Box** – AAFM staff are working with state partners to explore a Vermont-based proposal to the recently-launched USDA Farmers to Families Food Box program. More information at www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/farmers-to-families-food-box.

Infrastructure & Emergency Services Branch

No reported interruptions of service or other disruptions or shortages.

Emergency Medical Services (VTEMS) –

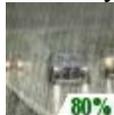
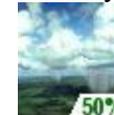
- VTEMS is finalizing its plan for an EMS strike team.
- VTEMS is finalizing the review process for its hybrid EMT course.

Division of Fire Safety (DFS)/Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) –

- USAR is monitoring the upcoming rain event with the National Weather Service Albany office.

Weather

Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KTYX)

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Clear | Likely Rain | Definitely Rain | Likely Rain Showers | Chance of Rain Showers |
| 58 F / 14 C 38 F / 3 C | 54 F / 12 C 45 F / 7 C | 60 F / 15 C 45 F / 7 C | 57 F / 13 C 40 F / 4 C | 63 F / 17 C 43 F / 6 C |

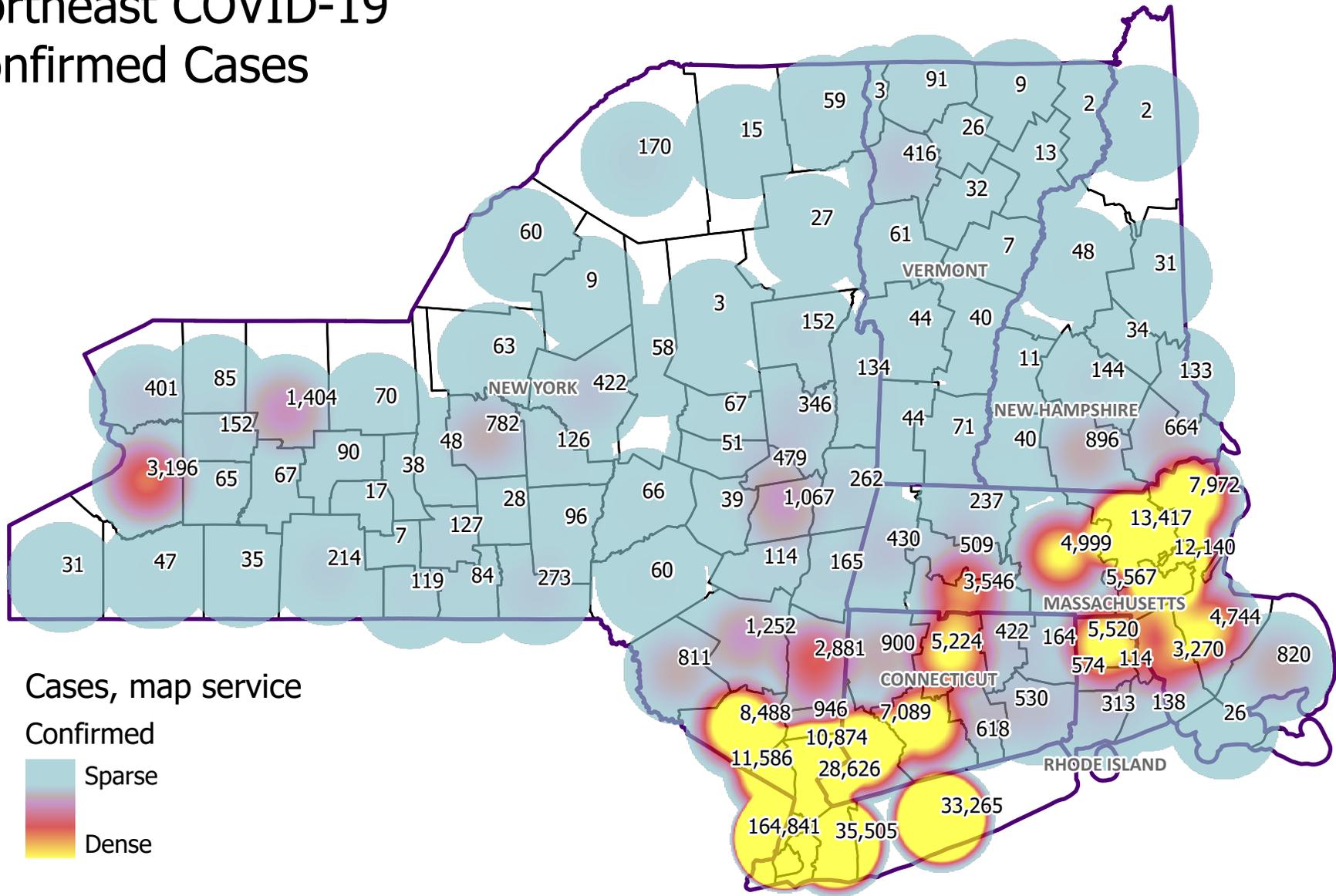
Tonight: Mostly cloudy with lows in the upper 30s, a 20 percent chance of showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph, gusts to 35 mph along the western slopes of the Green Mountains.

Thursday: A 30% chance of rain, mostly cloudy with highs in the mid 50s. Southeast winds 15 to 25 mph, gusts up to 35 mph. Winds along the western slopes of the Green Mountains will be southeast 20 to 30 mph with gusts in the 40-45 mph range.

Thursday Night: Rain likely, especially after 3am. Cloudy with lows in the upper 40s. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph, gusts up to 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

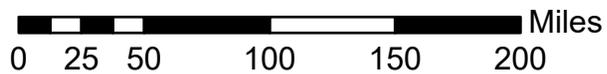
Friday: Rain before 2pm, then rain showers after 2pm. Highs in the lower 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Northeast COVID-19 Confirmed Cases



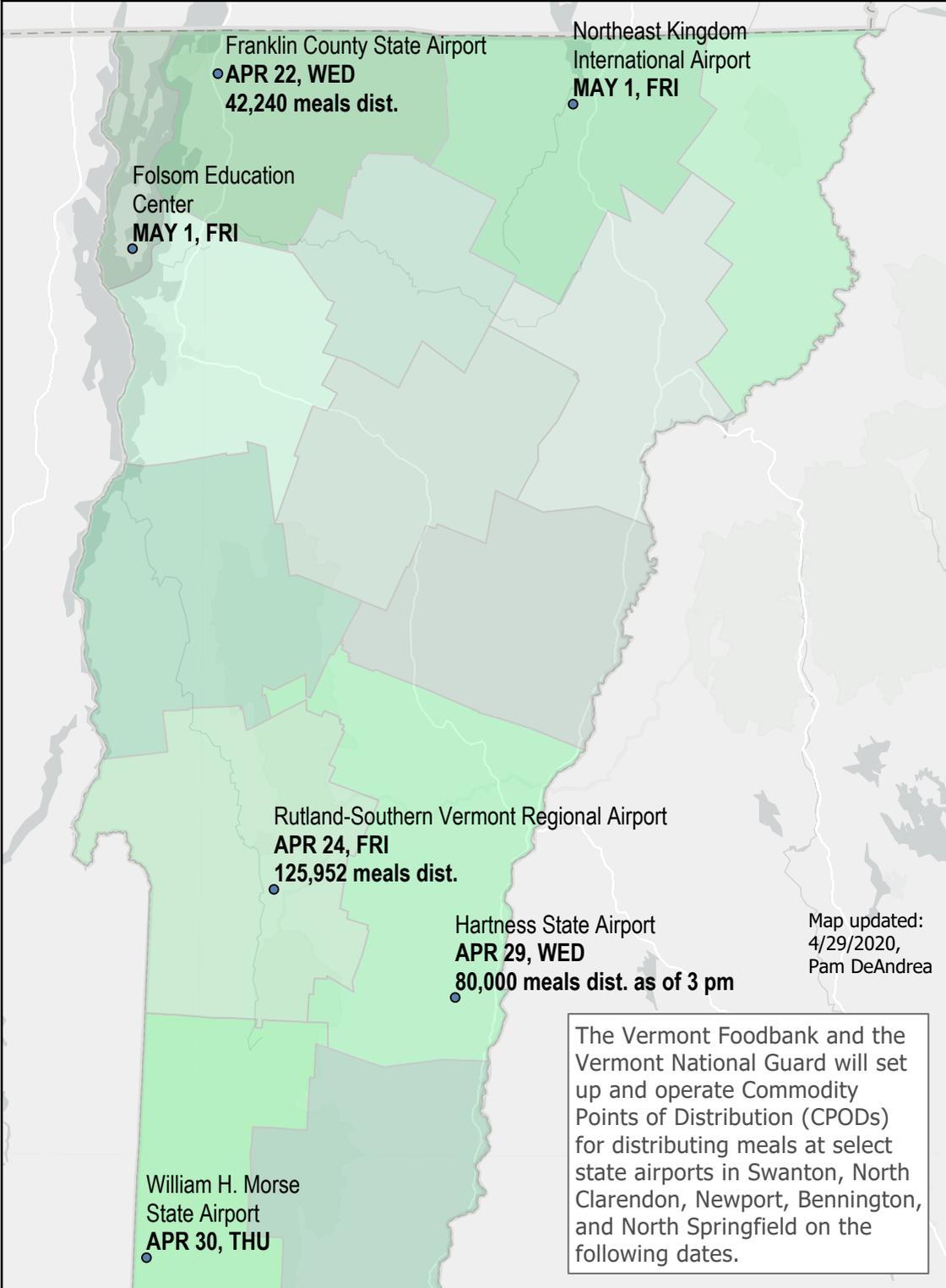
Cases, map service

Confirmed



Updated 4/29/2020 by Pam DeAndrea

Commodity Points of Distribution (CPOD) Sites



Franklin County State Airport
● **APR 22, WED**
42,240 meals dist.

Northeast Kingdom
International Airport
● **MAY 1, FRI**

Folsom Education
Center
● **MAY 1, FRI**

Rutland-Southern Vermont Regional Airport
● **APR 24, FRI**
125,952 meals dist.

Hartness State Airport
● **APR 29, WED**
80,000 meals dist. as of 3 pm

William H. Morse
State Airport
● **APR 30, THU**

Map updated:
4/29/2020,
Pam DeAndrea

The Vermont Foodbank and the Vermont National Guard will set up and operate Commodity Points of Distribution (CPODs) for distributing meals at select state airports in Swanton, North Clarendon, Newport, Bennington, and North Springfield on the following dates.



Executive Summary COVID-19 Response April 29, 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

Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Safety and Security | Current Situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vermont State Police, Emergency Management, and the Search and Rescue Coordinator are working on guidance and public messaging regarding congregation at swimming holes. Canada and the US are extending border restrictions until May 21. Nearly 200,000 people cross that border daily in normal times. |
| | Future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As states begin to lift their restrictions, travel could become more prevalent and lead to an increased risk of virus transmission. USAR is monitoring the upcoming rain event with the National Weather Service Albany office. |
| Food, Water, Sheltering | Current Situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 1415 today, the Vermont National Guard and the Vermont Foodbank distributed a total of 248,192 meals at distribution sites in Swanton, Clarendon, and North Springfield. The demand continues to be much higher than anticipated. On Thursday 4/30, VTNG will distribute MREs at the William H Morse State Airport in Bennington. Frozen meal distribution continued at Northern Vermont partner sites today. Distribution concludes tomorrow in Central Vermont. ACCD continues to work in close contact with the Vermont Retail Grocers' Association to monitor supply chain issues. As of 4/29, the supply chain is in good shape outside of bread, sugar, bath tissue, sanitizer, and cleaning products which remain strained. |
| | Future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern is rising over the impact of meat plant closures on the beef, pork, and chicken supply chain. Supply is plentiful for now, but distributors are looking towards alternative sources to plan for future shortages. VAAFM are working to explore a Vermont-based proposal to the recently launched USDA Farmers to Families Food Box program. |
| Transportation | Current Situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. For more info: https://vtrans.vermont.gov/vtransparency |
| | Future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transportation is not running under normal operations, and it is unclear when this would return to standard conditions. As industries begin to open up the current social distancing protocols may prove to be challenging on bus routes. |

Incident Summary

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

Northeast COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

Cases, map service
Confirmed
Sparse
Dense

0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

Updated 4/29/2020 by Pam DeAndrea

Key Information

Current case status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1100 on 4/29/20:

- Positive test results: 862
- Total tests conducted: 15,215
- Deaths: 47
- Hospitalized patients with COVID-19: 11
- Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19: 15

Key Updates:

As of 1415 today, The Vermont Foodbank and the Vermont National Guard have distributed around 80,000 meals (5,000 cases) at the Hartness State Airport in North Springfield. Distribution will continue until 6pm today. There are distributions scheduled at three locations around the state for Thursday and Friday this week. All dates and locations can be found at vem.vermont.gov/pods.

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

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

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| Health and Medical | Current Situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An aggressive testing strategy focused on health care staff and certain patients was announced today, 4/29, with an estimated 1,000 tests being performed each day. 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. The SEOC Logistic Branch procured a laundry service for reusable gowns for hospitals and long-term care facilities. A FEMA request for gowns has been approved. Two deliveries of gowns are expected in May. VT EMS is finalizing its plan for an EMS strike team. VT EMS is finalizing the review process for its hybrid EMT course. The Federal government distributed cloth face coverings to all states. Vermont will be receiving an allocation this week. One Alternate Care Site is currently operable in Chittenden County with four other sites on standby. The Chittenden County site has six COVID-19 positive patients, and one non-covid-19 patients. The SEOC has placed an order for 7 million nitrile gloves. 4.5 million gloves are expected in early July. The Department of Buildings and Services (BGS) and UVM are looking for other sources with faster delivery capability. The SEOC delivered donated KN95 masks to the State of New York today. |
| | Future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. No sites are being demobilized at this time. |
| Other Lifelines | Current Situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Human Services staffing unit is working with the Child Development Division (CDD) to investigate staffing support for the growing demand for childcare. The Agency of Education (AOE) is working on additional CARES ACT applications to the U.S. Department of Education, and is continuing work on the application for schools. |
| | Future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDD is developing a childcare re-opening plan, which will include input from childcare providers as part of the plan's development process. |