



The May 27th food distribution at Brattleboro Union High School (photo by Michael Bucossi, Brattleboro Fire Department).

Incident Name:
COVID-19 Response

Reporting Period:
05/29/2020 08:00 AM - 05/29/2020 04:00 PM

Situation Report Number:
62

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
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Background / Current Situation

On May 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 next meal distribution will be held on Monday, June 1st at the Rutland Regional Airport in Newport.
 - The full list of dates and locations can be found at vem.vermont.gov/pods
- Today, Governor Scott introduced [addendum 16](#) to the executive order, allowing for limited resumption of close contact businesses such as gymnasiums, fitness centers, nail salons, spas, and tattoo parlors, effective June 1st. The addendum also allows for social gatherings of up to 25 people in any confined indoor or outdoor spaces (also effective June 1st), but does not change the occupancy limits previously established for businesses, non-profits, and government entities.
- Today, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order> updated its reopening guidance, provided health measures are followed:
 - Pick-your-own agricultural produces can resume.
 - Organized outdoor markets, such as flea markets, can resume.
 - Overnight summer camps and limited residential summer college programming can operate. Starting June 7th, out-of-state participants at such camps and programs can follow a modified version of the travel quarantine restrictions.
 - Libraries; galleries; museums; theaters; and other indoor arts, culture, and entertainment organizations may allow customers starting June 1st.

Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1100 on 5/29/20:

Total positive test results for COVID-19 975

Total tests for COVID-19	31,885
Deaths	55
Total people recovered	859
People being monitored	42
People who have completed monitoring	881
Hospitalized patients with COVID-19	1
Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19	13

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

5/27-5/28 Call Statistics from 211:

- 211 received 67 calls related to COVID-19 on Wednesday and Thursday. The vast majority of calls were from the general public (61 calls).
- The most common call topics were the executive order (42 calls), travel (26 calls), and work (10 calls) (topics are not mutually exclusive, i.e., calls can touch on multiple topics).

Public Information

- Shared new graphics package and website update for new work additions to Be Smart, Stay Safe: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>
- Shared new modeling numbers from Department of Financial Regulation ahead of Governor's press conference: <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling>

FEMA

- A Major Disaster Declaration has been approved for Vermont: FEMA-4532-DR-VT
- FEMA is tracking the following Resource Request Forms (RRFs) in progress:
 - ◊ Testing materials, including nasal swabs and test tubes
 - ◊ HEPA filters
 - ◊ PPE including gloves, coveralls, aprons, boot covers, and N95 masks
 - ◊ 65,100 boxed meals are arrived at the Berlin Armory on 5/29
 - ◊ Powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs)
 - ◊ A soap order for the Agency of Human Services is arriving the afternoon of 5/29
- FEMA is procuring donations of cloth face coverings and bulk sanitizer on behalf of Vermont

Medical Logistics Branch

Daily Workflow Status 5/27

Orders Received: 29
Orders Filled: 27
Percentage Filled: 93%
Total Unfilled Orders: 2
EMS: 1
Other: 1

Daily Workflow Status 5/28

Orders Received: 26
Orders Filled: 16
Percentage Filled: 62%
Total Unfilled Orders: 10
Behavioral Health: 1
Long-Term Care: 2
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.

Other Updates:

- The new Inventory & Forecasting product went live today.
- The branch is working with the Agency of Human Services to organize the delivery of masks and thermometers.
- The branch met with the CDC to go over the PPE usage survey and its formulas. The CDC confirmed that the branch is on the right track, and requested that the branch let the CDC share this information.
- The White House Taskforce shipment is expected. Some items could require refrigeration. The branch is coordinating with the Vermont Health Lab.
- The branch participated in a promotional photoshoot for the government of Taiwan, in recognition of its donation of masks.
- The branch determined that KN95 masks cannot be sterilized due to higher levels of cellulose within the mask.
- Shipments received at the Medical Counter Measures Warehouse on 5/28:
 - ◊ KN95 masks from Burton
 - ◊ Procedure masks from the government of Taiwan
 - ◊ Tubes of saline from FEMA
 - ◊ Vacuette tubes from FEMA
 - ◊ Disposable isolation gowns (non-medical) from UVM

Logistics Branch

Resource Requests:

- Agency of Human Services (AHS) has requested possible vendors for nitrile or industrial nitrile gloves.
- BGS is coordinating water, portable restrooms, hand wash stations, and law enforcement

coverage for the upcoming food distribution sites.

Agency of Transportation (AOT):

- Assisting with food distribution at the Caledonia State Airport in Lyndonville
- Providing 100 cones to temporary testing site at Barre Memorial Auditorium 16 Auditorium Hill, Barre
- Providing 100 cones to temporary testing site at Essex Alliance Church Community Center, 37 State Road, Essex Junction
- Picking up face shields from J.K Adams
- Picking up face masks from PortaBrace
- 17 scheduled deliveries of PPE across the state

Vermont National Guard (VTNG):

- VTNG completed demobilization of Barre Alternative Care Site
- VTNG is distributing food at various sites across the state with support from AOT. The sites are currently scheduled until June 5th.
- VTNG is providing support to "pop-up" sites for COVID-19 testing across the state.

Department of Human Resources (DHR):

- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) medical volunteer activity:
 - 97 Volunteers Deployed
 - MRC has 771 accepted volunteers, with 385 added since 3/1

SerVermont:

- 12+ AmeriCorps/ MRC volunteers are deployed at 211, filling 15-18 shifts a day to support surge operations.
- 3,041 volunteers have been accepted.

Health & Medical Branch

Health & Medical Branch

Daily summary of hospital bed availability

- Number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized: 1 positive, 13 persons under investigation
- Number of COVID-19 patients discharged from hospital: 0
- Total hospital beds available: 513
- Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available: 42
- Medical/surgical beds available: 211
- Isolation beds available: 110

Hospital resource needs

- **Personnel** - none known at this time, but may require additional personnel for the Offense-Minded Testing Strategy.
- **Equipment** - none known at this time, but may require additional equipment for the Offense-Minded Testing Strategy.
- **Supplies** - none known at this time, but may require additional supplies for the Offense-Minded Testing Strategy.

Alternate Care Facility Status Report

- No pending resource needs are known at this time as there are zero patients at the Essex Alternate Care Site. No admissions are expected at this time.
- The Barre Alternate Care Site has been demobilized.

Human Services Branch

Gaps in Agency of Human Services (AHS) essential services due to absenteeism: none at this time

Status of Long-Term Care Facilities (Nursing Homes Only):

- Statewide Licensed Capacity: 2,978
- Current Operating Capacity: 2,699
- Census as of 5/28: 2,196 (503 available)
- Resource Needs: None
- Current Outbreaks: No known outbreaks at this time

Status of Isolation and Recovery Sites:

- The Harbor Place isolation and recovery site has a 50-bed capacity, with 2 resident(s) as of 5/28.
- General Assistance Motel Summary, including Econo Lodge in Montpelier and Holiday Inn in South Burlington as of 5/28: 1,588 rooms; 1,843 adults; 314 children.

Statewide Mass Feeding Plan:

- There was a food distribution site today at Caledonia County State Airport in Lyndonville.

Additional Updates:

- The Child Development Division (CDD) is participating in a multi-agency, statewide distribution on June 1st and 2nd of cloth facial coverings, soap, and thermometers to CDD providers, summer day camps, Office of Economic Opportunity shelter staff, and state employees.
- AOE is working on finalizing guidance to schools on maximizing use of federal funds and identifying cloth mask / other PPE needs from schools.

Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force

Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD):

- Governor Scott announced new guidance for close contact businesses, overnight summer camps, arts and culture, flea markets, pick your own operations, and more. The guidance also raises the gathering limit from 10 people to 25 people. Read the ACCD memo for full details: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>
- ACCD; the Agency of Human Services; the Department of Public Safety; the Agency of

Agriculture, Food, and Markets; the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance; Southeastern Vermont Community Action; the meal-delivery service Mama Sezz; area restaurants; and other regional and state non-profits are working to stand up a new program to serve meals to those in need. The initiative is modeled after the success of Shiftmeals that has served thousands of meals over the past two months in the Burlington, Montpelier, and Quechee areas. Within the next few weeks, the Brattleboro program aims to provide 600 meals, 4 days per week for one month. Efforts are underway to expand this model to provide healthy, local food in other parts of the state. The State is working on the mechanics of securing the upfront and flexible funding needed to build more local nonprofit feeding partnerships.

- ACCD hosted a series of sector-focused webinars explaining the proposed \$400 million-dollar economic recovery and relief package and answering questions. Recordings of those webinars are available at the Recovery Resource Center: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/vermont-economic-recovery-and-relief-package#webinars>
- The Vermont Arts Council has opened an additional round of Artist Development Grants to help artists as they adapt and respond to the current COVID-19 crisis. Grants can fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills; or activities that increase the viability of an artist's business. **Grants are due July 13, 2020.** Apply online here: <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/artist-development>
- Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center is offering a new course for newly appointed health officers at small- and medium-size manufacturers. The course aims to orient and help health officers navigate their new responsibilities. Learn more here: <https://vmec.org/event/manufacturing-health-officer-training-continuously-adapting-to-new-guidance-and-requirements/>

Vermont Retail and Grocers' Association (VRGA):

Supply Chain Updates (5/28):

- Bread – The supply is good.
- Flour – There is a limited supply of flour and yeast. Demand remains high.
- Sugar – The supply is still working to catch up.
- Milk – The supply is good.
- Eggs – There are complex challenges with cartons/packaging, but they do not appear to be impacting the supply. Eggs are plentiful.
- Cheese – The supply is good.
- Paper & Bath Tissue – The paper towel supply is improving. Bath tissue demand continues to be high but the product supply is increasing.
- Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Isopropyl Alcohol – Demand remains high. Smaller stores are still having a hard time access enough cleaning supplies. Larger stores seem to be leveling off. Hand sanitizer availability is improving.
- Meat – Options are limited. Consumers may not always get the exact protein they would like, but the meat supply is still plentiful. Beef prices remain high, pork prices vary depending on the cut and region in the county the supply is coming from. Chicken supply seems to be leveling off.
- Produce, Deli, Bakery – The supply is good.
- Pasta/Canned Veggies/Box Prepared Products – The overall variety is still limited.

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

- AAFM Business Impact Survey results, as of May 28, 2020:
 - Economic Impact: \$23,100,475 (median loss of \$15,000 per business)
 - Estimated Monthly Revenue Loss: N/A
 - Number of Businesses Surveyed: 223
 - Open/Closed Status:
 - Fully Open: 87 (39%)
 - Partially Open: 98 (44%)
 - Closed: 36 (16%)
 - Employment Losses:
 - Reported loss of employees: 78 (35%)
 - No change: 132 (59%)

- Milk price forecasts are starting to recover, with May at \$13.21 and climbing to \$17.37 in November. While still under the average cost of production for Vermont dairy farms, prices are returning to be in the range of those received during 2017-2019. Price fluctuations and actual prices paid will continue to vary on market demand, milk supply, and international export.
 - Cheesemakers have reported a slight uptick in sales through wholesale distribution to northeast regional metro markets.

- Announcements for the Local Food Market Development (LFMD) and Farm to School Infrastructure programs were made last week. Combined, the two programs funded over \$11,000 in COVID relief projects to agriculture businesses and schools.

- AAFM released a new Request for Applications for “Local Food in Your Community” grants to assist communities and producers with implementing projects to increase points of access to local products and began targeted outreach to producer associations, municipalities, and partner organizations. Grants will be awarded in the range of \$2,000-\$5,000. **The application deadline is June 30, 2020.**

- The Working Lands Enterprise Fund is taking applications for COVID-19 Response Business Development Grants. We have received 75 applications to date. Applying organizations must have experience and be able to clearly demonstrate negative business impacts due to COVID-19. Grants will be awarded within the range of \$5,000 to \$25,000. **The application deadline is May 31st at midnight.**

- Fairs and producer associations (both having nonprofit status) are reporting confusion regarding eligibility for state and federal relief funding. AAFM is developing resources about eligibility for state and federal funding and support opportunities for the fairs and field days community

- The Farmers-to-Families Food Box Program in Vermont are being distributed 5 days a week through the end of June. It is unclear whether USDA will offer contract extensions. June 1st will be the first distribution date with all VT produce included in the food boxes. To date, the following foods have been distributed:
 - 10,000 boxes of pre-cooked chicken (20lbs each)
 - 10,000 boxes of mixed Cabot dairy (7.5lbs each)
 - 10,000 boxes of fresh produce (25lbs each)
 - 21,000 gallons of milk (Hood, Thomas Dairy, & Monument Farms)

- The USDA started accepting applications on May 26, 2020 for the CFAP direct payments through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. AAFM has information about the program payments and eligibility on their COVID-19 webpage.

- A proposed Restart Vermont Dairy Farm Relief Program will provide up to \$40 million in grants to

dairy farmers (cow, goat, and sheep's milk) to cover market losses and extra expenses caused by COVID-19 related business disruptions. The plan is to issue cash payments based on the loss of income and extra costs with maximum grant amounts for 4 size-based tiers: Large Farm Operations, Medium Farm Operations, Certified Small Farms, and Small Farm Operations. AAFM will administer these dairy relief grants.

- The Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) plans to award \$180,000 in COVID-19 Response Business Development Grants to agriculture and forestry businesses. Funds are designed to complement businesses' ability to maintain operations while increasing capacity to rebuild and/or recover. Request For Applications: **WLEF COVID-19 Response Business Development Grants Applications accepted May 21–31, 2020.**
- AAFM will award up to \$25,000 to projects that support and strengthen collaboration between communities and local producers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects must demonstrate how investments will address community food access, expand direct-to-consumer markets, increase business revenue, realize cost savings, or improve access to specialty crops and other local products.
 - Request for Applications: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/local-food-your-community-program>
 - Applications for grants of \$2,000–\$5,000 will be **accepted through June 30th, 2020.**

Infrastructure & Emergency Services Branch

Infrastructure -

- There are 46 power outages or disruptions at this time.

Emergency Services -

- The branch coordinated EMS coverage for next week's food distribution sites.
- Local fire and law enforcement agencies were made aware of food distribution sites for next week.
- There is no reported absenteeism.

Department/Agencies Reports

Vermont State Police (VSP)/Wilderness Search and Rescue -

- VSP is informing local law enforcement of upcoming food distribution events for the next week.

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

- The Department of Health Lab said the assistance of USAR personnel is no longer needed.

Public Service Department (PSD) -

- No disruptions of services or issues.

Agency of Digital Services (ADS) -

- No disruptions of service or issues.

Forest, Parks, & Recreation (FPR) -

- The daily (5/29) predicted fire danger for Vermont is MODERATE (Class 2) throughout the state.

Weather

Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KTYX)

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
				
Definitely Rain Showers	Chance of Rain Showers	Clear	Slight Chance of Rain Showers	Chance of Rain Showers
84 F / 28 C	73 F / 22 C	58 F / 14 C	58 F / 14 C	65 F / 18 C
61 F / 16 C	44 F / 6 C	38 F / 3 C	38 F / 3 C	43 F / 6 C

- Tonight:** Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 11pm, then showers likely. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds and heavy rain. Low around 62. South wind 5 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.
- Saturday:** A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly before 3pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. West wind 9 to 14 mph. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.
- Saturday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers after 7pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. Calm wind.
- Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 61. Northwest wind 6 to 8 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.
- Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Calm wind.



Executive Summary

COVID-19 Response

May 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

Safety and Security	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VSP is working with local police departments, the Department of Buildings and General Services, and a sheriff's department on traffic control and security at food distribution sites.
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.
Food, Water, Sheltering	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The combined FEMA Food Box / Farmers to Families food distribution sites began at the beginning of May. Yesterday the site at the Franklin County Airport in Highgate/Swanton distributed 1,000 CFAP perishable household sets (including chicken, produce, dairy and milk), and 2,280 boxes (of 15 box-meals) of non-perishable meals. As of 2pm today, the Lyndonville site estimates it will distribute 1,000 perishable household sets and over 4,000 non-perishable boxes. (# not final count) The next meal distribution sites will be held, Monday, June 1st, 10am-2pm at the Rutland Regional Airport in North Clarendon. The June 1 through June 5 sites will distribute all remaining emergency non-perishable box food ordered in April. ACCD continues to work in close contact with the Vermont Retail Grocers' Association to monitor supply chain issues. As of 5/28, the supply chain is in good shape outside of flour and yeast, sugar, cleaning supplies, meat, pasta, canned vegetables, and box prepared products. AHS, ACCD, VAAFM, and DPS are working with other state, local, and non-profit partners to stand up a new program to serve meals to those in need, beginning in the Brattleboro area. Within the next few weeks, the Brattleboro program aims to provide 600 meals, 4 days per week for one month. Efforts are underway to expand this model to provide healthy, local food in other parts of the state.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Development Division (CDD) is participating in a multi-agency, statewide distribution on June 1st and 2nd of cloth facial coverings, soap, and thermometers to CDD providers, summer day camps, Office of Economic Opportunity shelter staff, and state employees. The Agency of Education is working on finalizing guidance to schools on maximizing use of federal funds and identifying cloth mask / other PPE needs from schools.
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
<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 largest number of cases in 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 1100 on 5/29/20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive test results: 975 Total tests conducted: 31,885 Deaths: 55 Total people recovered: 859 Hospitalized patients with COVID-19: 1 Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19: 13 <p>Key Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today, Governor Scott introduced addendum 16 to the executive order, allowing for limited resumption of close contact businesses such as gymnasiums, fitness centers, nail salons, spas, and tattoo parlors, effective June 1st. The addendum also allows for social gatherings of up to 25 people in any confined indoor or outdoor spaces (also effective June 1st) but does not change the occupancy limits previously established for businesses, non-profits, and government entities. Today, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development updated its reopening guidance, provided health measures are followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized outdoor markets, such as flea markets, can resume. Pick-your-own agricultural produces can resume. Overnight summer camps and limited residential summer college programming can operate. Starting June 7th, out-of-state participants at such camps and programs can follow a modified version of the travel quarantine restrictions. Libraries; galleries; museums; theaters; and other indoor arts, culture, and entertainment organizations may allow customers starting June 1st. <p>Local State of Emergency: Burlington, Colchester, Johnson, Rutland, Vernon.</p> <p>Local EOCs Activated (self-reported): Burlington, Chittenden (town), Charleston, Hartford, Johnson, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peacham, Pittsfield, 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"> The Department of Financial Regulation has released new modeling to help guide policy decisions. This update includes some dynamic maps that highlight the risk of exposure to COVID-19 increases as you travel outside of Vermont. This concludes that 41% of all COVID-19 cases in the US are within a 5-hour drive time from Vermont's borders. The Vermont National Guard has completed demobilization of the Barre Alternative Care Site. One Alternate Care Site is currently operating in Chittenden County with two other sites on standby. The Chittenden County site currently has no COVID-19 positive patients nor non-COVID-19 patients. Tomorrow, there will be pop-up testing sites for asymptomatic members of the public in Barre and Essex. More such testing sites for the Offense-Minded Testing Strategy are currently planned through June 5th. Available appointments at pop-up testing clinics are filling quickly.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 5/28, a Health Alert Network Advisory was disseminated to health care providers to let them know how to use and request the state's allotment of Remdesivir, which is a drug under an Emergency Use Authorization from the federal Food and Drug Administration to treat COVID-19.
Other Lifelines	Current Situation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vermont Arts Council opened an additional round of Artist Development Grants to help artists as they adapt and respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Grants can fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills; or activities that increase the viability of an artist's business. Grants are due July 13, 2020. Hair salons and barber shops may reopen today with limited operations and following mandatory health and safety requirements.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong to severe showers and thunderstorms are expected tonight and could produce gusty winds and locally heavy rains. There is the potential for thunderstorms to move over the same region in a short period of time (also known as training) which could result in localized minor flash flooding.