

# CONTACT TRACING SLOWS THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



**Incident Name:**  
COVID-19 Response

**Reporting Period:**  
07/06/2020 08:00 AM - 07/10/2020 04:00 PM

**Situation Report Number:**  
77

**EOC Activation Level:**  
Partial Activation



# Vermont State Emergency Operations Center

## Situation Report

Phil Scott, Governor

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### *Background / Current Situation*

From July 6 through July 10, 2020 the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was partially activated from 0800 to 1600 each day, using a completely virtual structure. The SEOC will be partially activated every weekday until further notice.

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#### **Key Updates:**

- [\\$30 million in housing assistance](#) to those affected by COVID-19 was announced today. The programs use federal CARES Act funding to provide relief for those tenants unable to pay rent, landlords suffering from a loss of rent payments and those lower income homeowners needing assistance in paying their mortgage.
- On Monday, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development released [mandatory guidance](#) for in-person operations at colleges and universities. The guidance seeks to accomplish 3 objectives:
  1. Decrease the risk of individuals infected with COVID-19 from entering the campus through effective public health prevention.
  2. Decrease transmission of COVID-19 among staff and students once on campus through effective public health measures.
  3. Quickly identify individuals with COVID-19 and put containment procedures in place to minimize the impact on students, staff and education.

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#### **Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1200 on 7/10/20:**

Total positive test results for COVID-19	1,277
Total tests for COVID-19	74,098
Deaths	56
Total people recovered	1,066
Travelers being monitored	1,759*

Contacts being monitored	56**
People who have completed monitoring	2,699
Hospitalized patients with COVID-19	2
Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19	9

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

\*Includes travelers who are being monitored in Sara Alert, which provides free daily symptom check reminders for 14 days while they are quarantining. People traveling to Vermont from out of state are strongly encouraged to enroll in Sara Alert.

\*\*Includes close contacts who are being monitored in Sara Alert, which provides free daily symptom check reminders for 14 days while they are quarantining. People who are identified as close contacts of people with COVID-19 are enrolled unless they opt out.

### 7/6-7/9 Call Statistics from 211:

- 211 received 135 calls related to COVID-19 on Monday through Thursday. The vast majority of calls were from the general public.
- One of the most common call topics was signing up for food distribution sites.

### *Public Information*

- The Joint Information Center (JIC) posted information about Farmers-to-Families meal distribution, including advice to look for other locations or dates if sites close to those in need are full. The JIC also included information on other feeding resources available around the state.
- The JIC completed a communications plan for encouraging the use of cloth face coverings and provided state agencies with a promotional toolkit. The JIC will share materials with state agencies throughout the month of July and August.
- The JIC updated the face covering web page to delete dead links and update face mask information: <https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19/facecovering>

### *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:
  - ◊ HEPA filters
  - ◊ PPE including gloves, coveralls, gowns, aprons, boot covers, and N95 masks
  - ◊ Hand sanitizer

## AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ACCD):

- Economic Recovery Grants were launched for businesses that demonstrate revenue loss in any 1-month period from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020, when compared with the same month in 2019. Businesses that pay Rooms & Meals Tax or Sales & Use Tax apply through the Department of Taxes. All other businesses apply through ACCD to access these grants. Full information on the application, who is eligible, FAQs, how to apply, and technical assistance is here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/economic-recovery-grants/application>
  - ACCD and the Department of Taxes hosted several webinars to discuss the Economic Recovery Grants that are available to Vermont businesses. The training covers eligibility requirements, grant award calculation information, grant application processes, and what documents businesses will want to have prepared and on-hand when applying. View the webinars and slides here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/economic-recovery-grants/webinars#overview>
  - The Vermont Commission on Women is assisting with outreach efforts to Vermont's small minority and women owned businesses to let them know about new grant money available through the Economic Recovery Grant program. These grants are for 51% women-owned and minority-owned businesses with zero - five employees. That includes people who are self-employed. The application portal is here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/economic-recovery-grants>
- The Governor's Restart Task Force and ACCD today announced new guidance for the reopening of college campuses to students this fall. The guidance will require all students be tested upon arrival and sign a code of conduct agreement as well as require colleges to reduce density in classrooms and dining halls to keep students and faculty communities safe. View the details here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business/restart/plans#colleges>
- The Local Support and Community Action Team of the Governor's Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force has launched a series of virtual forums, facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development, in every county across the state to: Share challenges and ideas for community recovery; connect to others working to respond, recover and build long-term resilience; and meet with a "visiting team" of state, federal, business and nonprofit leaders. All are welcome to participate in their county's forum and registration is required. Sign up here: <https://www.vtrural.org/recovery>
- Vermont's Regional Development Corporations, Associated Industries of Vermont, the Lake Champlain Chamber, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont Retail & Grocers Association, the Vermont Vehicle & Automotive Distributors Association, and other business organizations are working together to survey Vermont's employers to help identify employer masks/face coverings and other personal protective equipment (PPE) needs in the state. The purpose of this survey is to help quantify use, demand (current and future), and supply of masks/face coverings to help inform ongoing efforts to assist Vermont employers in securing the masks/face coverings and other PPE they want and need. We appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VERMONTFACECOVERINGSURVEY>
- The Paycheck Protection Program resumed accepting applications. The new deadline to apply for a loan is August 8, 2020. For more information: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business/paycheck-protection-program-ppp-loans>

**Resource Requests:**

- BGS requested permission to draw gloves and masks from the Medical Counter Measures (MCM) warehouse stockpile. The mask order was approved by the SEOC Manager with the distribution of KN-95 masks.

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

- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) medical volunteer activity:
  - 150 volunteers total, 79 currently activated (no change)

**Building and General Services (BGS):**

- BGS is working on finding interpreters for food distribution sites.
- BGS is finalizing the procurement of supplemental warehouse space for the public health lab and the MCM Warehouse.
- A recent FEMA delivery of gowns contained the wrong style of gowns, leading to a shortfall of Level IV waterproof surgical gowns for the strategic stockpile. BGS is currently searching for options to make up this shortfall.
- The Office of Purchasing and Contracting (OPC) ordered N-95 masks that will arrive in 2 weeks -
  - OPC is following up to double check the arrival and looking into other supply chain options.

**Vermont National Guard (VTNG):**

- VTNG is supporting pop-up testing sites.
- VTNG is supporting food distribution.

**SerVermont**

- SerVermont is working on finding volunteers for August food distributions, working alongside Hunger Free Vermont and its affiliated Vermont Hunger Councils.

**Agency of Transportation (AOT):**

- AOT supported food distribution sites this week, concluding the agency's participation in the program.
- AOT is picking up face shields from JK Adams.

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*Infrastructure & Emergency Services Branch*

**Infrastructure -**

- There were close to 8,000 persons without power this week due to weather related events. Most, if not all, outages have been restored.
- There are no other disruptions of services.

**Emergency Services-**

- No reports of absenteeism due to COVID-19.

### **Major Incidents-**

- Wednesday many departments responded to various issues caused by showers and thunderstorms. No major incidents, damages, or injuries were reported.

### **Operational Period Notes-**

- The branch worked on providing a summary of service interruptions or potential service interruptions emergency services capabilities statewide.
- The branch monitored heat-related concerns for pop-up sites as well as food distribution sites.
- USAR provided assistance to the Department of Health with test kit assembly on Thursday at the Health Lab in Colchester.

## **DEPARTMENT/AGENCIES REPORTS OF INCIDENT RELATED ACTIVITIES:**

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

- DFS continues to distribute bulk hand sanitizer to emergency response agencies, out of the Vermont Fire Academy and USAR/Haz-Mat facility in Milton.
- USAR and Swiftwater Teams will monitor Tropical Storm Fay as it approaches Vermont on its path through the State Friday night into Saturday for flooding.

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

- Today the predicted wildland fire danger throughout the entire state is Moderate – Class 2.

## **Health & Medical Branch**

## *Health & Medical Branch*

### **Daily summary of hospital bed availability**

- Number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized:
  - ◊ Monday - 1 positive, 14 persons under investigation
  - ◊ Friday - 2 positive, 9 patients under investigation
- Number of COVID-19 patients discharged from hospital:
  - ◊ Monday - 0
  - ◊ Friday - 0
- Total hospital beds available:
  - ◊ Monday - 446
  - ◊ Friday - 415
- Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available:
  - ◊ Monday - 44
  - ◊ Friday - 32
- Medical/surgical beds available:
  - ◊ Monday - 162
  - ◊ Friday - 152
- Isolation beds available:
  - ◊ Monday - 87
  - ◊ Friday - 86

## Resource needs

- **Personnel** - none known at this time, but continue to watch as the Offense-Minded Testing Strategy is combined with the start of schools in August and September. More cases may strain contact tracing resources
- **Equipment** - none known at this time, but hot and stormy weather conditions may require additional equipment to keep outside testing integrity. There may be opportunities to increase indoor testing during inclement weather, but current recommendations are to conduct outdoor testing whenever possible.
- **Supplies** - none clearly known at this time, but investigating whether testing supplies may run short as testing increases all across the country and around the world.

## 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.

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*Human Services Branch*

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

- Statewide Licensed Capacity: 2,978
- Current Operating Capacity: 2,699
- Census as of 7/8: 2,201 (498 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 8 residents as of 7/9.
- General Assistance Motel Summary, including Econo Lodge in Montpelier and Holiday Inn in South Burlington as of 7/9: 1,171 rooms; 1,366 adults; 288 children.

## Statewide Mass Feeding Plan:

- The Human Services Branch is actively supporting statewide mass feeding strategies: Farmers-to-Families food distribution, the Mass Feeding Work Group, and the Vermont Restaurants Emergency Task Force.

## Agency of Education (AOE):

- AOE is continuing to work on sourcing PPE and other supplies to support school reopening.
- AOE is developing FAQ documents to in response to questions about the agency's health guidance for school reopening.
- AOE is preparing guidance on hybrid learning.

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*Medical Logistics Branch*

**Workflow Status for the week of July 03, 2020 to July, 09, 2020**

- Orders Received: 126
- Orders Filled: 86
- Percentage Filled: 69%
- Total Unfilled Orders: 40
  - ◊ Behavioral Health: 2
  - ◊ EMS: 2
  - ◊ Long-term Care: 16\*
  - ◊ Outpatient Care: 8
  - ◊ Public Safety: 1
  - ◊ Other: 11

\*Most unfilled requests were for items that can be sourced through regular supply chains.

**Other Updates:**

- The branch is set to support the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State, to provide PPE for election operations.
- The branch participated in a COVID-19 vaccine planning call on Thursday, 7/9.
- The branch provided a PPE report to the governor, including the 180-day projections for PPE needs.
- The Department of Buildings and General Services requested that the branch consider a more formal communication with the Agency of Education (AOE) about sourcing their own masks. The branch is currently waiting to receive policy guidance from AOE.

*Weather*



- **Friday Night:** Showers likely, mainly after 2am. The rain could be heavy at times. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. East wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.
- **Saturday:** Showers likely, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 85. Heat index values as high as 90. Southeast wind 8 to 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

- **Saturday Night:** Showers likely, mainly before 9pm. The rain could be heavy at times. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. South wind around 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.
- **Sunday:** A 50 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 84. South wind 9 to 13 mph. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.
- **Sunday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. Southwest wind 3 to 7 mph. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.

### **Tropical Storm Fay**

- Tropical Storm Fay is expected to lift northward and track towards Interior New England and New York by Saturday morning. The main impacts will be the potential for a swath of locally heavy rainfall to cross the region overnight until mid/late morning Saturday. The higher rainfall rates in a short period of time (towards Saturday morning) could produce localized flooding and bring smaller creeks and streams to bank-full. Otherwise, most will not witness any flooding.
  - ◊ Greatest rainfall is expected across portions of northern NY and VT's Southern Green Mountains where 1 to 2 inches is possible.
  - ◊ Localized amounts approaching or exceeding 2.5 inches may lead to localized partial "gravel" washouts and may cause streams to reach or exceed their banks
  - ◊ Additional scattered showers and thunderstorms with locally heavy rainfall is possible Saturday afternoon.



## Executive Summary

**COVID-19 Response**  
**July 10, 2020 (1600 EDT)**

**SEOC Activation Status: Partial**  
**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



**Key**  
 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

<b>Safety and Security</b>	<b>Current Situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Division of Fire Safety continues to dispense hand sanitizer to emergency response agencies.</li> <li>As states lift their restrictions, travel is becoming more prevalent, leading to increased risk of virus transmission.</li> </ul>
	<b>Future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USAR and Swiftwater Teams will monitor tropical storm Fay as it approaches Vermont on its path through the State Friday night into Saturday for flooding.</li> </ul>
<b>Food, Water, Sheltering</b>	<b>Current Situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In July and August, Farmers-to-Families food boxes containing fresh produce, dairy products, and chicken will be available at <a href="#">multiple daily food distributions throughout the state</a>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reservations are required for the distributions. <a href="#">Register online</a> or call 211 if there are internet issues.</li> <li>On 7/6 through 7/9, 2,546 sets of food were distributed at 12 sites.</li> <li>On 7/10, 669 sets of food were reserved at 3 sites (the number reserved tends to be slightly higher than the number actually distributed).</li> </ul> </li> <li>The application for an <a href="#">Economic Recovery Grant</a> is open to Vermont businesses. With funding available to the State of Vermont through the federal Coronavirus Relief Funds, these grants are intended for businesses who can demonstrate revenue loss in any one-month period from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020, when compared with the same month in 2019. Some 3,600 applications have been received so far.</li> <li>On 7/3, the Division for Historic Preservation announced that Vermont State Historic Sites are <a href="#">open on a limited basis</a>.</li> </ul>
	<b>Future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings and General Services is working on finding interpreters for food distribution sites.</li> <li>The Agency of Education is developing FAQs and sourcing supplies to support school reopening.</li> <li>The Local Support and Community Action Team of the Governor's Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force, in partnership with regional and local leaders, and with coordination from the Vermont Council on Rural Development, is hosting <a href="#">Community Recovery Visits</a> in each Vermont county in the summer and fall of 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Current Situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interstate travel to and from counties in nearby states with 400 or fewer active COVID-19 cases per million is permitted without quarantine requirements. ACCD will update the <a href="#">cross-state travel map</a> each week as to which counties are permitted for travel to and from without quarantine.</li> </ul>
	<b>Future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

<b>Incident Summary</b>	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").
<b>Key Information</b>	<p><b>Current case status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1200 on 7/10/20:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive test results: 1,277</li> <li>Total tests conducted: 74,098</li> <li>Deaths: 56</li> <li>Total people recovered: 1,066</li> <li>Hospitalized patients with COVID-19: 2</li> <li>Hospitalized patients under investigation for COVID-19: 9</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">\$30 million in housing assistance</a> to those affected by COVID-19 was announced today. The programs use federal CARES Act funding to provide relief for those tenants unable to pay rent, landlords suffering from a loss of rent payments and those lower income homeowners needing assistance in paying the mortgage.</li> <li>On Monday, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development released <a href="#">mandatory guidance</a> for in-person operations at colleges and universities. The guidance seeks to accomplish 3 objectives:         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease the risk of individuals infected with COVID-19 from entering the campus through effective public health prevention.</li> <li>Decrease transmission of COVID-19 among staff and students once on campus through effective public health measures.</li> <li>Quickly identify individuals with COVID-19 and put containment procedures in place to minimize the impact on students, staff, and education.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p><b>Local State of Emergency:</b> Burlington, Colchester, Johnson, Rutland, Vernon.  <b>Local EOCs Activated:</b> Burlington, Chittenden, Charlestown, Hartford, Johnson, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peacham, Pittsfield, Rutland City, Sharon, South Burlington, St. Johnsbury, Strafford, Theford, Tunbridge, Vernon, Waitsfield, Weston.</p>

## Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

<b>Health and Medical</b>	<b>Current Situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There have been 45 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Vermont in the past week, up from 36 cases the previous week. The percentage of tests conducted that are positive is under 1%.</li> <li>In June and July, the average age of those infected with COVID-19 has been under 40 years old, compared with an average age of 40-50 in May, and 50-54 in March and April.</li> <li>There have been no new cases associated with the outbreaks in Winooski/Burlington and Fair Haven in the past week.</li> <li>There are pop-up testing sites for asymptomatic members of the public every weekday throughout the state. The sites are currently planned through 7/31. <a href="#">Available appointments</a> are filling quickly.</li> <li>One Alternate Care Site is currently operating in Chittenden County with no patients. One other site is on standby in Rutland County.</li> </ul>
	<b>Future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Medical Logistics Branch of the SEOC is set to support the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State with PPE for election operations.</li> <li>Department of Health Commissioner Levine said the State will continue its aggressive testing strategy, with expanded testing at institutions.</li> <li>Buildings and General Services is finalizing the procurement of supplemental warehouse space for the public health lab and the State's PPE warehouse.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Lifelines</b>	<b>Current Situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were close to 8,000 persons without power this week due to weather related events. Most, if not all, outages have been restored.</li> </ul>
	<b>Future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tropical Storm Fay is expected to lift northward and track towards Interior New England and New York by Saturday morning. The main impacts will be the potential for a swath of locally heavy rainfall to cross the region overnight until mid/late morning Saturday. The higher rainfall rates in a short period of time (towards Saturday morning) could produce localized flooding and bring smaller creeks and streams to bankfull. Otherwise, most will not witness any flooding.</li> </ul>