

## Call 211 with questions about COVID-19

News & Updates for the Windham - Bennington Vermont House District  
Dover | Readsboro | Searsburg | Somerset | Stamford | Wardsboro | Whitingham

April 16, 2020



### Bookmark for updates:

Vermont Department of Health [2019 Novel Coronavirus Current Status in Vermont Webpage](#) for updates.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control [Coronavirus Disease page](#)

World Health Organization [Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

### Department of Labor [FAQ for Employers and Employees](#)

### Government Operation

Governor Phil Scott  
[Executive Orders](#)

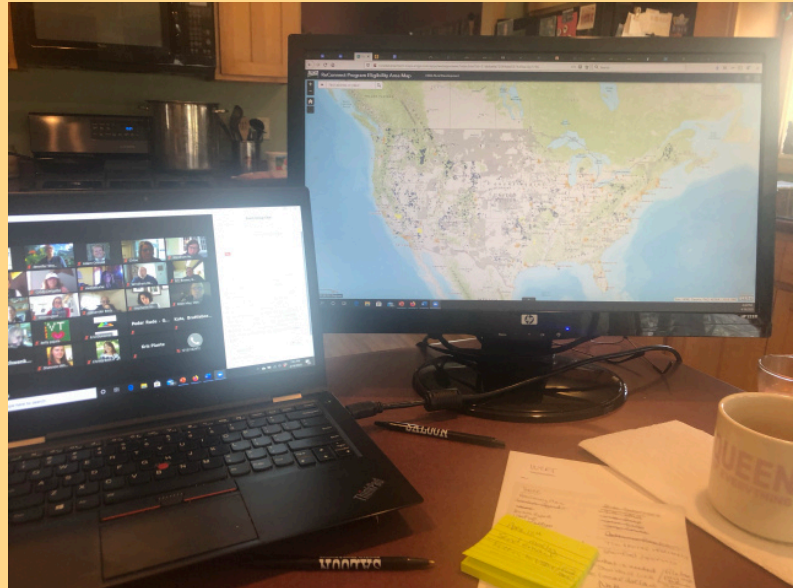
[Number 01-20](#)  
declaring a State of Emergency in Vermont & National Guard Call Out

[ADDENDUM 1 to 01-20](#)  
prohibits all non-essential mass gatherings to the lesser of fifty (50) people or fifty percent (50%) of the occupancy of a facility

[ADDENDUM 2 to 01-20](#)  
Prohibits on-premises consumption of food or drink

[ADDENDUM 3 to 01-20](#)  
Suspension of all Non-Essential Adult Elective Surgery and Medical and Surgical Procedures

[ADDENDUM 4 to 01-20](#)  
Closure of Close-Contact Businesses and Further Restrictions of the Size of Mass Gatherings



### PODCAST: [Productivity Tips for Working From Home](#)

Good evening,

Please join me tomorrow morning for Coffee with Laura. Coffee with Laura call at 7 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You can join that call here:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/734376857?pwd=Z1BmNmIwcWxJMWxVZTFaZE96MmlQQQT09>

Meeting ID: 734 376 857 Password: 003089 or by calling mobile  
+16465588656,,734376857# US (New York)  
+13126266799,,734376857# US (Chicago)

Unfortunately the Unemployment Insurance problems have continued to persist. For that reason I am asking you to send me the following information which I will in turn share with the Department of Labor. I'm sorry that this is happening. The problem is due to the number of Vermonters that need help and the capacity of the system their information is being put into, but we must persist in trying to find creative solutions to help folks who have been out of work for a month receive payment.

For each person who has been unsuccessful in applying for UI benefits, please [email me](#):

- First Name
- Last Name

[ADDENDUM 5 to 01-20](#)  
Work from Home Order

[ADDENDUM 6 to 01-20](#)  
Stay Home to Stay Safe Order

[ADDENDUM 7 to 01-20](#) Requirement  
to quarantine

[ADDENDUM 8 to 01-20](#)  
Non-Congregate Sheltering in  
Vermont; Extension of Certain  
Deadlines Relating to Closures of  
DMV and Bars and Restaurants

[ADDENDUM 9 to 01-20](#) Extension of  
State of Emergency Declared March  
13, 2020; Other COVID-19 Related  
Directives and Clarifications

### Directives

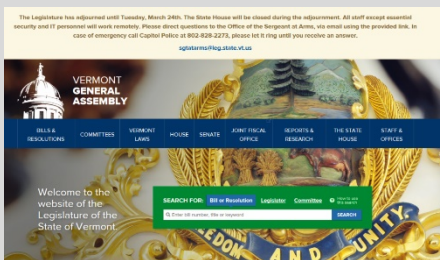
[Directive 1 - Continuity of Education  
Planning.pdf](#)

[Directive 2 - Childcare For Essential  
Service Providers.pdf](#)

[Directive 3 - Department of Motor  
Vehicles Suspension of In-Person  
Transactions.pdf](#)

[Directive 4 - Department of Liquor and  
Lottery - Delivery and Take-Out of  
Beverage Alcohol - Amended March  
20, 2020.pdf](#)

[Directive 5 – Continuity of Learning  
Planning .pdf](#)



[Watch legislative committees](#)

- Mailing Address
- Town
- Zipcode
- Date you became unemployed
- # of weeks you have received payment for
- Error message you are receiving

With regard to property maintenance and real estate, it has been suggested to me several times that we may hear the Governor address these issues tomorrow, Friday, during his press conference. Information on how to watch is below:



*Chewie is looking forward to Spring returning!*

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON STATE'S ONGOING RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Governor Phil Scott and members of the administration hold a media briefing Friday to provide an update on the State's continued response to COVID-19. This update will include the latest modeling on the rate the illness is spreading in Vermont.

Following remarks, the Governor and administration officials will be available for questions from members of the media.

When: Friday, April 16 at 11:00 a.m.

GENERAL PUBLIC VIEWING: Most Vermont TV and radio stations live broadcast the briefings. The Governor's media briefing will be available to stream through ORCA Media's



**How to contact me:**

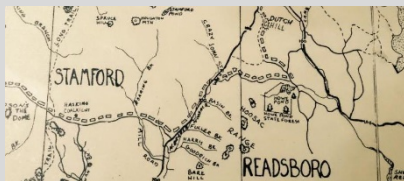
**phone:** 802-384-0233  
**email:** [lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us)

**Website:**  
[www.laurasibiliavt.com](http://www.laurasibiliavt.com)

**Mail:** Rep. Laura Sibilia  
PO Box 2052  
West Dover, VT 05356

**Follow my work in the Vermont House of Representatives:**

[Vermont Legislature Website](#)  
[My Voting Record](#)



**Town Websites**

[Dover](#)  
[Readsboro](#)  
[Searsburg](#)  
[Stamford](#)  
[Wardsboro](#)  
[Whitingham](#)

**Regional Resources**

Bennington County  
[BCIC - Regional Development](#)  
[BCRC - Regional Planning](#)

Windham County  
[BDCC - Regional Development](#)

YouTube channel, linked here: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-xsDpL\\_Ca0iRMj4dQrqum7uoXaQmqeGvT](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-xsDpL_Ca0iRMj4dQrqum7uoXaQmqeGvT)

**Q&A with Laura (questions I am getting and answers I am giving)**

**Q:** Can you tell me where I can get the following information: As of today 29 people have died in Vt. What were their ages. Did they have any secondary illnesses. Thank you

**A.**The number of deaths from COVID-19 in Vermont can be found at [www.healthvermont.gov/COVID19-currentactivity](http://www.healthvermont.gov/COVID19-currentactivity). There are no specific details on the patient age and sex for the public at this time. For the number of deaths from COVID-19 in the U.S., visit the CDC page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

**HIPAA** laws protect the privacy of individuals.

No one has a right to see your health records and doctors are prohibited from sharing your medical information except under [narrow circumstances](#).

**NYT:** [Corona Virus Deaths By County and State](#)

**USDA Implements Immediate Measures to Help Rural Residents, Businesses and Communities Affected by COVID-19**

**Vermont to Join Multi-State Effort to Coordinate Coronavirus Recovery**

**[Southern Vermont Young Professionals Newsletter](#)**

**From the Vermont Department of Health:**

Please visit and share the Vermont Department of Health's new COVID-19 web pages, including the new data dashboard for an in-depth picture of COVID-19 activity in Vermont at [healthvermont.gov/covid19](http://healthvermont.gov/covid19). Visitors can access the dashboard by clicking on the map of Vermont.

At a press conference Wednesday, Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD said Vermont may be seeing a trend toward cases beginning to plateau. He emphasized, however, that as we look to the future, we will still need to act to prevent spread of the virus and to protect Vermonters from getting infected. As we consider, in the Governor's words, loosening the spigot, and easing restrictions, it may not mean an end to social distancing or limitations on large gatherings. Vermonters should not expect a quick end to the need for facial coverings or reducing our focus on respiratory hygiene. This is a long game, and individual efforts to prevent the spread of germs are essential, as is our continued testing and contact tracing efforts to contain outbreaks.

## WRC - Regional Planning

Businesses are invited to join BDCC for this week's Resiliency Webinar (Friday April 17) at 2:15. Please send questions in advance by emailing [bdcc-covid-questions@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:bdcc-covid-questions@brattleborodevelopment.com) Direct

link: <https://zoom.us/j/781064798>



### State Resources for COVID-19

[Department of Health](#)

[Department of Labor](#)

[Agency of Commerce](#)

[Department of Motor Vehicles](#)

[Department of Taxes](#)

[Department of Public Service](#)

[Secretary of State](#)

[Veterans Affairs](#)

[Department of Children & Families](#)

### Dover commercial businesses program

The intent of the 2020 Commercial Emergency Assistance Program (Emergency Assistance) is to provide monthly economic assistance to businesses located within the Town of Dover impacted by the 2020 COVID-19 State of Emergency declaration by the State of Vermont.

### **Increase in violence against women being reported**

If you don't feel safe at home due to domestic or sexual violence threats, please call VT Domestic Violence Hotline 800-228-7395

### 100 Activities for Coronavirus Quarantine



**VT Helplink**

Alcohol & drug support center

## **Serologic (antibody) testing**

Serologic testing measures antibodies in the blood of a person who has been infected with COVID-19, whether they felt sick or not. In other words, it measures the body's immune response to the virus, but does not detect the virus itself.

As the number of people who are infected with COVID-19 begins to level off or go down, it will be important to identify who is immune. This also helps us to know how many people contracted the COVID-19 virus, who might still be at risk of getting it, how to determine who should get the vaccine first when it's available, and who could return to work.

At this stage in the pandemic, the priority is to know who is currently infected with COVID-19. But serologic testing is a critical part of Vermont's strategy. The Vermont Department of Health has convened a working group of experts to research antibody tests. Based on those findings, we will decide how to best include this type of test in Vermont

## **Vermont's Great Experiment**

[A few weeks ago, National Guardsmen in the state got an impossible assignment. And then they pulled it off.](#)

## **Vermont Fish & Wildlife Asks Successful Hunters to Report Their Turkey Online**

A successful hunter in Vermont's April 25-26 youth turkey weekend and the May 1-31 spring turkey season must, by law, report their turkey within 48 hours to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. In the past, this could be done at a local reporting station. This year, because of COVID-19 precautions, hunters are required to report their turkey electronically through the department's website [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

The information needed to report turkeys online is the same as what has been traditionally collected at check stations including license, tag and contact information, harvest details, and biological measurements.

There are a few things hunters can do in advance to make submitting a report easier such as having their Conservation ID Number handy (located on their license), knowing what town and Wildlife Management Unit the bird was harvested in, and completing all the necessary measurements such as beard and spur lengths, and weight. Although not required, the department also requests that hunters use the online reporting tool to upload a digital photo showing the bird's beard and properly tagged leg. Hunters who provide a valid email address will

You aren't alone <https://vthelplink.org/>

### Municipalities:

Vermont has received a federal disaster declaration DR5342 which opens up federal disaster funds to assist State agencies, municipalities and critical private non-profits in Emergency response costs related to COVID-19.

The declaration will provide 75% federal funds to qualified applicants for emergency protective measures including; Emergency Operations Center operations, medical sheltering, medical supplies, provisions of food/water/ice/medicine, security and law enforcement for temporary facilities, and communications of general health and safety information to public.

COVID-19 FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FACTS <https://vem.vermont.gov/COVID19/disaster/faq>



Need help paying your Medicare premiums? Need help paying for prescription drugs? If you have lost income you may get more help with Medicare costs and drug costs. Contact the Vermont Legal Aid Health Care Advocate at 800-917-7787 or [HCA@vtlegalaid.org](mailto:HCA@vtlegalaid.org) for free help. More info here: [www.vtlawhelp.org/health](http://www.vtlawhelp.org/health)

[Windham Regional Commission Resource Guide for Individuals](#)

receive a confirmation email when they successfully submit a turkey harvest report using this new online reporting tool.

The department encourages anyone who experiences problems reporting through the online tool to contact a local State Police dispatcher to be connected with a State Game Warden for harvest reporting assistance. Southern Vermont regional dispatch numbers are listed below:

- Brattleboro Dispatch – 802-257-7101
- **Rutland Dispatch** – 802-773-9101
- **Shaftsbury Dispatch** – 802-442-5421
- **Westminster Dispatch** – 802-722-4600

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department urges hunters to hunt only if they are healthy, hunt close to home, travel and go out alone or with a family member you are already in close contact with. If you do hunt with someone you do not already live with, take separate vehicles to your hunting location and make sure to maintain at least six feet between both of you. Only share a hunting blind with someone you have been in continuous close contact with for the past two weeks, and be sure to carry hand sanitizer and avoid touching your face. Remember to wash your mouth calls after handling, request landowner permission by phone, and maintain appropriate social distancing from others while afield.

### [Special enrollment period for uninsured Vermonters extended to May 15](#)

### **VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION REQUIRES INSURERS TO COVER COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT WITH NO COST SHARING**

Montpelier, VT – Governor Phil Scott and the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) today announced an [emergency regulation](#) requiring commercial insurers to waive cost-sharing requirements, such as co-payments, coinsurance or deductible requirements, for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19. The emergency regulation is retroactive to March 13, 2020, the date that Governor Scott declared a [State of Emergency](#).

The emergency regulation applies to fully funded health insurance plans such as plans sold on the exchange or to large group employers. Consistent with existing DFR rules, insurers will be required to cover out-of-network services for members if in-network providers are unavailable.

- March 6, 2020: DFR issued an emergency bulletin requiring insurers to [cover the cost of COVID-19 testing](#).
- March 20, 2020: DFR issued guidance to insurers to [provide additional grace periods to Vermonters](#) who are struggling to pay their health insurance premiums.

- March 30, 2020: DFR issued an emergency regulation to expand the coverage of [telehealth and audio-only medical visits](#).

If you have questions about or problems with your health insurer, please contact DFR Consumer Services at 800-964-1784 or [dfr.insuranceinfo@vermont.gov](mailto:dfr.insuranceinfo@vermont.gov).

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Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, or if you need assistance navigating government services at (802) 384-0233 or [lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us)

Kind regards,

Rep. Laura Sibilía  
Dover, Readsboro, Searsburg, Somerset, Stamford,  
Wardsboro, Whitingham

