

Call 211 with questions about COVID-19

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

May 10th, 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

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



Happy Mother's Day to all of the moms out there. I hope you were able to connect with loved ones in a way that was meaningful for you today. With the opening up of small gatherings of less than 10 between family and friends that have been taking precautions – I was able to have both my mom and one of my daughters join the Goose City crew this morning for a careful breakfast. What a joy!

A reminder that the governor's press conferences have been happening on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 am. Details follow below. Last Friday we learned that child care facilities would be reopening June 1st as would summer camps that can meet health and safety requirements. The Vermont Agency of Education also issued guidance on [End of School Year Gatherings and Graduations](#).

Vermont is implementing a phased approach to reopening the economy, balancing the need to restore and strengthen our overall social and economic well being with the prevention of a resurgence of COVID-19 that would undermine or lose the

[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

[ADDENDUM 10 to 01-20](#)
Work Smart & Stay Safe - Restart VT:
Phase I

[ADDENDUM 11 to 01-20](#)
Work Smart & Stay Safe --Restart VT:
Phase II

[ADDENDUM 12 to 01-20](#)
Work Smart & Stay Safe -Restart VT:
Phase III

[ADDENDUM 13 to 01-20](#)
Play Smart and Play Safe: Restart
Phase V

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](#)



important public health outcomes achieved to date. Here is information for business owners about [that process](#).

For those still struggling with issues related to unemployment or assistance for self employed, please let me know so we can get your situation straightened out.

I've received several inquiries about the proposed Hazard Pay bill that passed the Senate. Vermonters who have been laid off due to the pandemic are receiving a federal unemployment benefit of \$600 a week – on top of their regular unemployment benefit. That equates to a \$30,000 annual salary on top of the unemployment benefit. A reminder for Vermonters who were laid off at the beginning of the state of emergency: [Unemployment claimants called back must accept suitable work](#).

The state hazard pay benefit being contemplated has passed the Senate and still must pass the House. In addition, it is being funded with federal COVID-19 relief funds. There are restrictions on how those relief funds can be used, for instance, thus far it appears they can not be used to fill budget gaps but may be used for this type of proposed hazard pay.

Hazard pay is intended for essential workers below a certain wage threshold, this proposed monthly hazard pay grant of \$1000 a month (equivalent to \$12,000 a year) is an acknowledgment that folks who have been laid off are being compensated more then minimum wage folks whose jobs are essential and who can not leave their positions.

The proposed cut off for the the essential workers to receive this hazard pay is for those who currently make less then \$25 an hour or \$52,000 annually. For perspective on some of the average wages for essential workers: in the U.S. the average cashier makes \$20,000 a year, the average police officer makes \$51,000, the average nurse makes \$70,000 a year.

The current language and listing of essential jobs currently proposed for hazard pay can be found in the current version of the bill <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/BILLS/S-0346/S-0346%20As%20passed%20by%20the%20Senate%20Official.pdf>

Here is a refresher on [when you should and shouldn't wear a cloth mask](#) from the Department of Health. And a reminder that we are asked to wear masks to prevent others from getting sick because of us, not to protect ourselves. This weekend I heard from a constituent who was concerned about this article [Vermonters Are Watching Their Neighbors — and Reporting Them](#). My constituent was incredulous that Vermonters would call law enforcement when other Vermonters or visitors were not following the [Governor's Executive orders](#), or following health and safety guidelines. I have heard from other constituents who are enraged when encountering others without masks on at the grocery store or in the post office. Going into a grocery store or other essential service

[Watch legislative committees](#)



How to contact me:

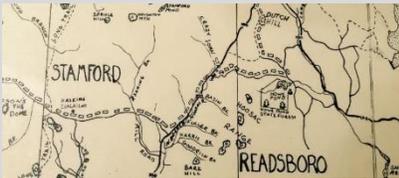
phone: 802-384-0233
email: lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us

Website:
www.laurasibiliavt.com

Mail: Rep. Laura Sibilía
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](#)

without a mask on is viewed by many as blowing your nose into your hands and then offering to shake hands with the closest passerby. Sure, it's not illegal, but it causes others to fear for their health, and is viewed as being disrespectful. If you can't find a mask – let me know, I would be happy to help locate several for you.

This week I'm going to shift my coffee hour online sessions to accommodate a larger group of constituents – I will continue with Monday and Friday at 7 am for the early birds and will be shifting to Wednesday late afternoon/evening at 5:30 pm for those who may find it more convenient to meet later in the day.

Governor Scott Press Conference:

Following remarks, the Governor and administration officials will be available for questions from members of the media.
Monday May 11th 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 youtube channel, linked here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-xsDpLca0iRMj4dQrqum7uoXaQmgeGvT>

Coffee with Laura call at 7 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You can join that call here:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/734376857?pwd=Z1BmNmIwZWxJMWxVZTFaZE96MmlQQT09>

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

Many thanks to Representative Dylan Giambatista for putting together this video on how to follow the legislature while we are quarantining.

[BCRC - Regional Planning](#)

Windham County
[BDCC - Regional Development](#)
[WRC - Regional Planning](#)

Businesses are invited to join BDCC for this week's Resiliency Webinar Friday at 2:15. Please send questions in advance by emailing 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.

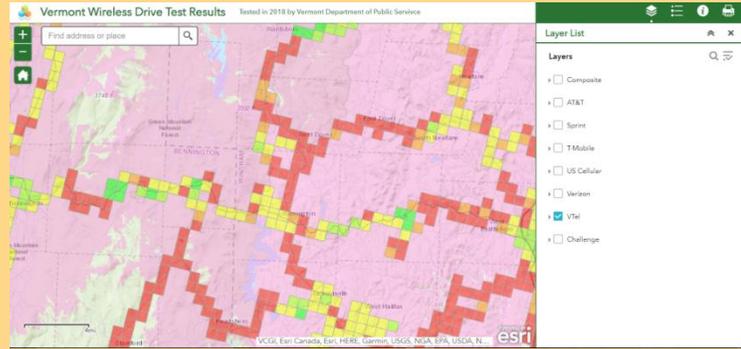
Increase in violence against women being reported

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



Deerfield Valley Fiber

Annual Meeting of the Deerfield Valley [CUD this Tuesday May 12th at 5 PM](#). The Towns of Dover and Stamford have recently voted to join the district for a total on 9 towns.

IDEA BANK: Future of the Vermont State College System

The Office of the Speaker is hosting an "Idea Bank" for the future of the Vermont State College System. This effort leverages the collective knowledge and creativity of Vermonters while providing a database to organize submitted ideas. [Those that have been submitted, thus far, have been organized into broad categories, which will be continually updated as feedback is received.](#) If you would like to contribute your own thoughts to the Idea Bank, please email them to your Vermont State Representative.

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

Kind regards,

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

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 for free help.

More info
here: www.vtlegalaid.org/health

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

COVID-19 Temporary Emergency DOVER FOOD SHELF



Mount Snow Sundance Base Lodge

Brought to you by [Shires Housing](#), [Town of Dover](#), [Mount Snow](#)

with help from the [VT Foodbank](#)

In this time of uncertainty and need, we want to offer a little assistance

COVID-19 DEERFIELD VALLEY FOOD RESOURCES

March 31, 2020 3–6 pm Mount Snow Sundance Base Lodge
April 7, 2020 3–6 pm Mount Snow Sundance Base Lodge
April 8, 2020 11–12 Foodbank Butterfield Common Dover
April 23, 2020 3–6 pm Mount Snow Sundance Base Lodge
April 30, 2020 3–6 pm Mount Snow Sundance Base Lodge
May 7, 2020 3–6 pm Mount Snow Sundance Base Lodge
May 12, 2020 11–12 Foodbank Butterfield Common Dover
May 21, 2020 3–6 pm Mount Snow Sundance Base Lodge
May 28, 2020 3–6 pm Mount Snow Sundance Base Lodge

To Donate or for Questions

contact COVID-19 Emergency Dover Food Shelf Becky Arbella at (774)402-0079

or email becky.arbella@shireshousing.org

Deerfield Valley Food Pantry has Year Round Food Assistance

April 16, 2020 1–3 pm Deerfield Valley Food Pantry 7 Church St Wilmington
April 18, 2020 9-11 am Deerfield Valley Food Pantry 7 Church St Wilmington
May 14, 2020 1-3 pm Deerfield Valley Food Pantry 7 Church St Wilmington
May 16, 2020 9-11 am Deerfield Valley Food Pantry 7 Church St Wilmington
Please visit <http://www.deerfieldvalleyfoodpantry.org> for a full calendar

contact the Deerfield Valley Food Pantry (802) 464-0148

7 Church St Wilmington, VT 05363

MEAL ACCESS for Families with Young Children.

Have your children lost access to meals they were receiving at child care? Every school district and supervisory union in the state is providing FREE meals to all children 18 and under. Dial 2-1-1 to find out how you can begin accessing nutritious meals for your children 0-18 years old.



Feeding your child three square meals a day while schools and childcare are closed can be difficult, but there are many resources to help! Programs like 3SquaresVT and WIC are also available to provide assistance during these uncertain times.

For more information about these programs and to see how you can apply, access the Hunger Free Vermont COVID-19 response webpage at <https://www.hungerfreevt.org/coronavirus>.

If you have any questions, reach out to Keely Agan at Hunger Free Vermont kagan@hungerfreevt.org (802)448-4396



VERMONT COUNTS



2020 CENSUS

Have you taken the Census?

If you have not completed your census yet, now is a great time. You can complete it without leaving home or coming in contact with another person. There are three simple ways to complete the Census:

- Online: Go to www.2020census.gov. Can't find your 12-digit code that you received in the mail? No problem. Just follow the instructions and you will still be able to complete the questionnaire on-line.
- By Phone: Call 844-330-2020 to get started in English. The 2020 Census can be completed by phone in 14 different languages.
- By Mail: All homes that do not respond online or by phone will receive a paper questionnaire. Simply respond using a blue or black ink pen, and return the questionnaire in the envelope provided.

Regardless of how you respond, your answers will be kept confidential. Every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life and the U.S. Census Bureau cannot release any information that identifies you individually.

As of Wednesday, April 8, Windham County had the second lowest census response rate (24.9%) in the state, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into our community, county, and state every year for the next decade. This money means better health care, schools, roads, job

opportunities, housing assistance, disaster assistance and more. With so much at stake for Vermonters, every response counts!

Brooks Memorial Library Staff are available to assist the public in accessing the Census questionnaire.

Call 802-254-5290 ext.1206 or email info@brookslibraryvt.org for assistance. For more information on the 2020 Census, visit: www.2020census.gov.

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