

## Call 211 with questions about COVID-19

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

May 6th, 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



Good evening,

A few brief updates on healthcare, Breakfast on the Farm – a fun educational experience and new mapping of cases by town.

A reminder that there is a Food Bank open for residents in all Valley towns on Thursday at the Sundance Base Lodge at Mount Snow. (details below on other dates and locations)

Thank you to everyone who has reached out regarding unemployment and PUA benefits for self-employed. I have submitted all of your information in through the troubleshooting door the legislature was given to highlight constituent issues. Please stay in touch as these funds come in, or if it has been several days since we communicated and nothing has come in. As a reminder, I need this information emailed to [Ihsibilia@gmail.com](mailto:Ihsibilia@gmail.com) in order to try and assist:

- Name
- email

[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

## 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](#)

- last 4 SS #
- phone
- date you filed first claim
- Unemployment (UI) or Pandemic Assistance for self employed (PUA)

Hope to see some of you tomorrow morning on our 7 am coffee call.

## 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](mailto:kagan@hungerfreevt.org) (802)448-4396



## Governor Scott Press Conference:

Following remarks, the Governor and administration officials will be available for questions from members of the media. Wednesday May 6th 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-xsDpLCa0iRMj4dQrqum7uoXaQmqeGvT>



This year we won't be offering our in-person events because our collective health and safety is the most important thing to all of us right now. Instead,



**How to contact me:**

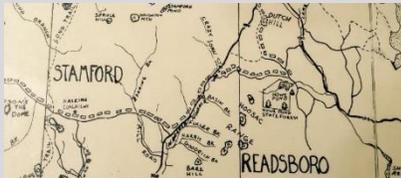
**phone:** 802-384-0233  
**email:** lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us

**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](#)

we will bring the barn, the cows, the calves and our interactive experience to you with a LIVE virtual breakfast on the farm on Saturday, May 16th. Husband and wife team Will and Brooke Gladstone, of Newmont Farm, will take you inside their family's farm. They'll answer your questions about dairy farming. Will and Brooke will tackle topics like the impact of dairy on the environment and whether cows are happiest inside or outside the barn. Grab the kids, your breakfast and your questions. This virtual Breakfast on the Farm event will be fun for the whole family – featuring live animals and a scavenger hunt. [Register](#) now

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

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/734376857?pwd=Z1BmNmIwcWxJMWxVZTFaZE96MmlQQT09>

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

**Brattleboro Reformer & Bennington Banner:** [A note to our readers: What you should know](#)

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

**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**

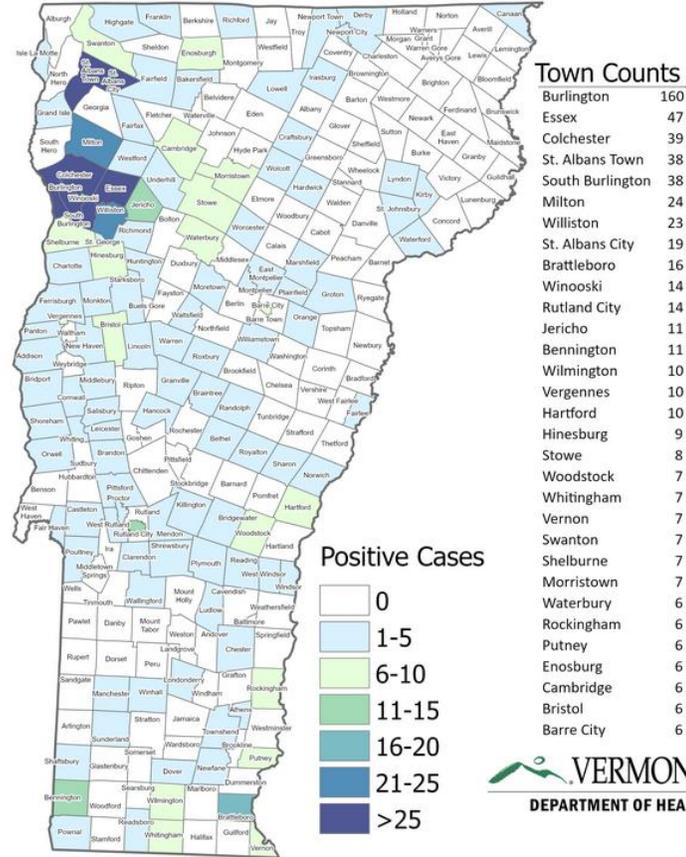
If you don't feel safe at home due to domestic or sexual violence threats, please call VT Domestic Violence Hotline 800-228-7395

**100 Activities for Coronavirus Quarantine**



**VT Helplink**  
 Alcohol & drug support center

**Vermonters Who Have Tested Positive for COVID-19 by Town**  
 Data Current as of March 5, 2020 - April 30, 2020



[An updated map by town of Vermonters who have tested positive for COVID-19 has been added at \[healthvermont.gov/covid19\]\(http://healthvermont.gov/covid19\)](#), in addition to a list of Frequently Asked Questions specific to the map.

**Look Through A Photographer's Lens: Bennington County During COVID-19**

**Scott has 'concerns' with expanding mail-in voting for general election**

**GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT ANNOUNCES SOME ELECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROCEDURES TO RESUME**

Governor Phil Scott announced limited elective procedures would resume, which had previously been put on hold as Vermont's health care system focused on preparing for, and responding to, COVID-19.

The Governor's decision comes as the state's modeling continues to show spread of COVID-19 has slowed – thanks to Vermonters' physical distancing efforts – and the state's ability to [track and trace outbreaks of COVID-19 has become more robust](#). Health care providers who recommence these procedures have been provided guidance and must meet

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

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### 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)

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

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specific mitigation criteria to protect patients and clinicians from possible infection.

“Our testing and tracing program will allow us to work with our health care providers and hospitals to begin providing some procedures that were put on hold,” said Governor Scott.

Under the Scott Administration’s guidance, health care providers can begin non-essential outpatient clinic visits, diagnostic imaging and outpatient surgeries and procedures if the following steps are taken.

Outpatient clinic visits and diagnostic imaging  
Outpatient clinic visits and diagnostic imaging can resume immediately if providers demonstrate they are adhering to physical distancing and relevant CDC guidelines regarding infection control and prevention to maintain a safe environment for patients and staff. Examples of the precautions that should be taken when providing care in both the hospital/facility and clinic settings include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A process to screen patients for COVID-19-related symptoms prior to scheduled procedures.
- A process to screen all staff and essential visitors for COVID-related symptoms prior to entering facility.
- Protective equipment and supplies should be worn and utilized as necessary to ensure staff and patient safety. This may require surgical, N95, KN95, or other equivalent masks and eye-protection goggles.
- All patients and companions must wear mouth and nose coverings (provided by the patient or by the site) when in public areas.
- Patient companions are permitted only if required for direct patient assistance.
- Only individuals who are essential to conducting the surgery or procedure shall be in the surgery or procedure suite or other patient care areas where personal protective equipment (PPE) is required.
- Waiting room chairs must be spaced to require a minimum of six-foot physical distancing.
- Providers must have written procedures for disinfection of all common areas.
- Providers must have signage to emphasize social restrictions (distancing, coughing etiquette, wearing of mouth and nose coverings, hand hygiene) and access to hand sanitizer.
- Providers will comply with guidance issued by relevant professional specialty societies regarding appropriate prioritization of procedures and care issues specific to COVID-19.
- Continue to consider alternative care delivery models, including telemedicine, when appropriate.
- Providers will reevaluate and reassess policies and procedures frequently, based on COVID-19 related data, resources, testing and other clinical information.

Outpatient surgeries and procedures



### 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](http://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

Providers may also begin to perform outpatient surgeries and procedures that have a minimal impact on inpatient hospital bed capacity and PPE levels, including those performed in the office or ambulatory surgical center. In the case of outpatient surgeries and procedures, providers should adhere to the mitigation requirements for outpatient clinic visits and diagnostic imaging, described above, and put into place the following measures:

- Screening: A process must be in place to screen patients for COVID-19-related symptoms prior to all scheduled procedures (by phone, online, or in-person).
- Testing: COVID-19 testing is required for procedures requiring airway management. Testing should be done as close as possible to the procedure and not to exceed 96 hours prior to the procedure. Patients will be required to self-quarantine between testing and procedure.
- Testing of Health Care Employees: Each provider shall develop and implement a plan for the periodic testing of healthcare workers including nurses, physicians, emergency medical personnel, medical and nursing students, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, hospital volunteers, administrative staff or any other employee who may come in contact with a patient. These plans shall be coordinated with the Vermont Testing Task Force.
- Available Personal Protection Equipment: Each outpatient clinic will be responsible to ensure that it has adequate supplies of PPE, through its own suppliers, for needed examinations or procedures and in the case of a COVID-19 surge. Providers will not rely on state sources or state supply chain for PPE.
- Testing Results: Results of the test should be communicated to the patient prior to arrival at the facility for the outpatient surgery; and facilities and providers should continue to collaborate regionally to determine testing locations and follow Department of Health Advisories regarding location of testing sites and collection of specimens.

### Suspension of Operation

If the Vermont Department of Health has determined that a COVID-19 outbreak has occurred and providers cannot safely care for Vermonters in a way that (1) limits the exposure of patients and staff to COVID-19; (2) preserves PPE and ventilators; and (3) preserves inpatient hospital capacity, it will notify and require all providers in the region to return to the standards set out in the executive order issued on March 20, 2020. Depending on the severity of the outbreak, the Vermont Department of Health may require all Vermont providers to return to those standards.

- Monday, Governor Scott signed an amendment to [Addendum 3](#) to allow for these procedures, which can be found here <https://governor.vermont.gov/content/amendment-addendum-3-executive-order-01-20>

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](mailto:info@brookslibraryvt.org) for assistance. For more information on the 2020 Census, visit: [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov).

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

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## **Health Dept. Notice – Face Masks**

As the state begins taking measured steps toward re-opening, we should make wearing cloth face coverings a habit to protect one another.

There are certain places Vermonters are now required to wear coverings over their nose and mouth including on public transportation, when visiting medical offices, and some other businesses or organizations.

### **When should you wear a cloth face covering?**

Any time you're around other people, such as on a trip to the grocery store, pharmacy, or another business.

### **When don't you need one?**

You don't need a face covering if you are walking or exercising outside and it's not too crowded. But bring one in case you encounter other people and stop to chat – Please use your best judgment. You don't need one at home unless someone is sick.

We all still need to stay at least 6 feet away from people, even when wearing a mask, practice good hand hygiene and follow the state's Stay Home, Stay Safe guidance.

The advice to wear cloth masks is based on data about how COVID-19 can spread before a person has any symptoms. Wearing a face mask may help keep people from spreading the virus.

Some people should never wear a mask, including children under the age of 2 and anyone who has trouble breathing or can't remove the mask without assistance.

Medical-grade mask supplies are needed for our health care workers and first responders. Please use cloth or other recommended face coverings for yourself and loved ones.

Find more information

visit: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19>.

For our full guidance on face masks, including how to make one,

visit: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID-19-VDH-mask-guidance.pdf>

### **Need to buy a face covering?**

Visit <https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19/facecovering>

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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 Sibilia  
Dover, Readsboro, Searsburg, Somerset, Stamford,  
Wardsboro, Whitingham