

## Call 211 with questions about COVID-19

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

April 23, 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



Good evening,

We took some time this weekend to enjoy the beautiful weather on Saturday and making soup and doing inside projects today. I also spent time on several state issues.

The continued problems with the unemployment insurance system are unacceptable, and we spent time on Saturday talking about how/if the Windham County delegation can bring about change for our constituents. This evening House members received some hopeful news from the Speaker of the House that legislators will be able to get more directly involved in assisting their constituents. In addition, there was a call for legislators to volunteer time to inputting claims on behalf of Vermonters which I have agreed to do. I know we keep saying more capacity has been added to Department of Labor and yet still we see folks struggling to get the funding they have earned or in the case of self employed, been awarded. This week is no different, and I have been told that dozens more call takers are being brought on line.

Please reach out to me with your contact information if you are having difficulty getting unemployment, and especially if you are in danger of not having enough food or not having shelter.

Hundreds of people traveled to the Rutland Southern Vermont Airport in North Clarendon Friday to get Meals Ready to Eat, which were being distributed by about 15 members of the Vermont National Guard. [Read VTDigger's story](#)

[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

[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

## 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](#)

The Legislature has adjourned until Tuesday, March 24th. The State House will be closed during the adjournment. All staff except essential security and IT personnel will work remotely. Please direct questions to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, via email using the provided link, in case of emergency call Capital Police at 802-828-2273, please let it ring until you receive an answer.  
sgt@state.vt.us



More food distribution events are scheduled next week:

- Wednesday, April 29, at the Hartness State Airport in North Springfield.
- Thursday, April 30, at the William H Morse State Airport in Bennington.
- Friday, May 1, at the Northeast Kingdom International Airport in Newport

I also participated in a series of calls and messages regarding statewide efforts to support the newly formed Communications Union Districts and accelerate expansion of broadband. On this topic, the Towns of Dover and Stamford are both considering joining the newly formed Deerfield Valley CUD. Tuesday at 6:30 the Dover selectboard will be meeting to talk more in depth about the effort.

There are new details on health and safety requirements for businesses that are opening and more business openings.

See this chronological high level listing of [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Vermont State Response & Resources](#) from the Governor's website.

I hope to see some of you tomorrow morning for the 7 am Coffee call – in many ways it reminds me of the great conversations from my years serving coffee to regulars and visitors.

## Governor Scott Press Conference:

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

Monday April 27th 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>

VPR: [When Is It Safe To Ease Social Distancing? Here's What One Model Says For Each State](#)  
By [Nurith Aizenman](#)

## Watch legislative committees



### How to contact me:

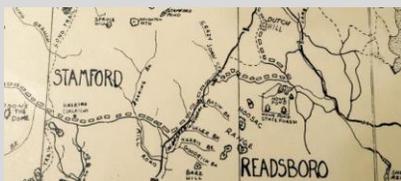
**phone:** 802-384-0233  
**email:** lsibilias@leg.state.vt.us

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

**Mail:** Rep. Laura Sibilias  
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



*Across the U.S., state leaders are grappling with the challenging decision of when to relax the social distancing restrictions that have helped keep COVID-19 in check.*

### **VTDigger:** [Handful of protesters rally against Scott's 'stay home' order](#)

*By [Kit Norton](#) Protesters demonstrate against the Covid-19 statewide shutdown in front of the Statehouse in Montpelier on Wednesday, April 22, 2020. Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger*

I hope to see some of you tomorrow morning at my coffee hour at 7 am.

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

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/734376857?pwd=Z1BmNmllwWxJMWxVZTFaZE96MmlQQT09>

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](#)

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

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

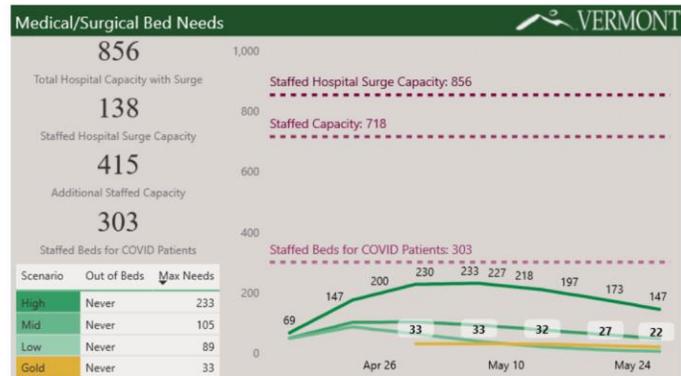
The intent of the 2020 Commercial Emergency Assistance Program (Emergency Assistance) is to provide monthly economic assistance to businesses located within the Town of Dover impacted by the 2020 COVID-19 State of Emergency declaration by the State of Vermont.

#### **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](#)

### Hospitalization Needs – April 22nd Trajectory



Modeling is for planning purposes only  
Not representative of definitive outcomes

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## NEW ORDER FROM GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT CONTINUES PHASED RE-OPENING; EXPANDS HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES, INCLUDING MANDATORY TRAINING

Governor Phil Scott outlined some additional openings as part of the phased restart of Vermont's economy, [introduced last week](#).

The Governor's [Stay Home, Stay Safe order](#) remains in effect, but with [modeling](#) continuing to indicate Vermonters are significantly slowing the spread of the virus, the Administration is taking a cautious, incremental and evidence-based approach to putting Vermonters back to work.

Governor Scott has emphasized the need for continued – and even expanded – vigilance as the state implements its restart strategy, saying: "Restarting the economy requires each of us to take a lot of personal responsibility. Each and every one of us has to do our part to help prevent the spread and protect the vulnerable by adhering to all of the social distancing and public health guidance."

The Governor's [most recent order](#), signed Friday, directs any entity currently operating, or soon to be opened, to implement specified physical distancing, health, and sanitation measures, including requiring employees to wear face coverings for nose and mouth. It also requires all employers to provide – and all employees to complete – training on these health and safety requirements by May 4. VOSHA training is under development and will be released Monday, April 27.

If able to comply with the outlined safety measures, the Governor's order allows the following operations to reopen:

- Expanding on [Addendum 10](#), outdoor businesses, construction operations and recreation maintenance



**VT Helplink**  
Alcohol & drug support center

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)

work may operate with a maximum of five total workers per location. (Effective April 27).

- Manufacturing and distribution operations, and interior construction of uninhabited structures, may resume operations with a maximum of five employees in one location, if they are low-density and ensure employees are always six feet apart. (Effective April 27). [Corresponding guidance from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#) makes clear that, consistent with [Addendum 7](#), workers from out of state must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival; lodging properties remain closed to guests, including to non-essential out-of-state workers, except those previously exempted such as essential workers.
- Outdoor retail space, previously restricted to curbside or delivery service, can allow in-person shopping with a maximum of 10 total people. (Effective April 27).
- Farmers Markets may open May 1 with strict alterations that focus on food distribution and prevent congregating. They must meet the same health and safety requirements of all other operations and are directed to use a pre-order/pick-up model whenever possible. Local municipalities must approve reopening. Additional guidance will be provided by the Agency of Agriculture.

For a full list of health and safety requirements for all businesses and specifications for each newly opened operation, [click here to view Addendum 11](#).

To view ACCD's memo to business for specific safety guidelines and protocols, as well as additional resources, visit [accd.vermont.gov](http://accd.vermont.gov).

For more information on:

- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data, visit [www.healthvermont.gov/covid19](http://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19).
- The Governor's actions, visit [governor.vermont.gov/covid19response](http://governor.vermont.gov/covid19response).
- The state's modeling, visit <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling>.

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

#### **Valley quilters and sewers stepping up to make face masks**

By Lauren Harkawik  
WILMINGTON – Quilters and sewers around the community have been employing their skills, and fabric stashes, for a good cause in recent weeks. Tessa Atwood is making masks



### 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

for organizations far and wide, including hospitals. Sewers such as Twyla Wallace, Mary Brady, and Angel Balch have been busy making masks to distribute within the community. [read more](#)

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here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-xsDpLca0iRMj4dQrqum7uoXaQmqeGvT>

### VOSHA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROVIDE TRAINING FOR VERMONTERS TO RETURN TO WORK

Montpelier – As detailed in Governor Phil Scott's [recent order](#), signed on Friday, the Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Agency (VOSHA) has developed training and other materials to inform Vermonters on appropriate safety measures necessary to return to work amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Training and other materials were developed in conjunction with the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

All businesses and non-profit and government entities in operation must complete and document mandatory health and safety training by May 4, 2020.

“As we begin to reopen our economy and get people back to work, it is important that everyone understand the safety measures necessary for accomplishing safe and healthy workplaces,” said Interim Commissioner Michael Harrington. “

All employers must provide training and details of standard operating procedures to their employees. Training developed by VOSHA includes:

- The signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and an explanation of how the disease is spread;
- Information on appropriate social distancing and personal hygiene practices, including those set forth in [Addendum 11](#) and other applicable guidance; and
- The types, proper use, limitations, location, handling, decontamination, removal, and disposal of any PPE being used.

As described in the recent order, employers may choose to adopt an additional training program that meets or exceeds

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](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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the VOSHA-provided standard, or additional policies and procedures that are applicable to the employment environment and employees' duties, which shall not be less restrictive than those developed by VOSHA.

Training materials can be accessed on the Department of Labor's website or downloaded and printed. Once training is completed, a certificate of completion will be made available to keep for the individual's records. To document compliance, employers will be asked to keep record of all employee certificates.

Training materials can be found by visiting <https://labor.vermont.gov/VOSHA>

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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

