

## Call 211 with questions about COVID-19

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

June 16th 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](#)

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

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### Government Operation

Governor Phil Scott  
[Executive Orders](#)

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

[Amendment to 01-02](#)  
Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 and National Guard Call-Out - Amended and Restated

[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](#)

Good evening,

A few updates for you as we wind towards an adjournment - likely next week.

First – [the State of Emergency for the State of Vermont has been amended, restated and extended until July 15th.](#)

The Vermont Secretary of State was authorized to utilize Voting by Mail in March when the legislature passed several emergency actions prior to the State of Emergency. The Secretary of State is elected by Vermonters to, amongst other duties, oversee elections. In March, we took the unusual step of requiring that there be agreement between the Secretary of State and the Governor in order to Vote by Mail. This week, the legislature, without opposition from the governor, returned sole discretion of that decision: [House gives Secretary of State Condos full authority to expand mail-in voting](#)

Part one of economic relief for businesses and housing was passed this week – More is coming. The first part includes:

- \$50 million of Coronavirus Emergency Economic Recovery Grants distributed to businesses by the Department of Taxes and Agency of Commerce and Community Development.
- \$20 million to local, regional, and State economic development organizations to distribute grants which may include the Vermont Economic Development Authority, regional development corporations, community action agencies, and private institutions.
- \$23 million to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for grants to nonprofit housing partners and service organizations as well as for shelter facilities necessary to provide self shelter and assistance for persons who are, or at risk of, experiencing homelessness, in order to mitigate COVID-19 effects.

[S.350](#) expedites \$70 million in Coronavirus Emergency Economic Recovery Grants to businesses who have suffered more than a 75% decrease in revenues from 3/1/20 to 9/1/20 as compared to the same one-month period in 2019. There are two funding streams for the business grants:

- \$50 million distributed quickly by the Department of Taxes to organizations that pay rooms and meals, and sales taxes.

Closure of Close-Contact Businesses and Further Restrictions of the Size of Mass Gatherings

[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

[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

[ADDENDUM 14 to 01-20](#)  
Be Smart, Stay Safe

[ADDENDUM 15 to 01-20](#)  
Outdoor Restaurants, Bars and Other Establishments that Offer Food and Drink

[ADDENDUM 16 to 01-20](#)  
Close Contact Businesses; Large Social Gatherings

[Addendum 17 to 01-20](#)  
Modified Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in Vermont; Municipal Regulation of Bars and Restaurants

## Directives

- \$20 million to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development working with local, regional, and State economic development entities. Funds will be distributed to organizations that do not pay sales, or rooms and meals taxes.
- \$23 million to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for grants to nonprofit housing partners and service organizations as well as for shelter facilities necessary to provide self shelter and assistance for persons who are, or at risk of, experiencing homelessness, in order to mitigate COVID-19 effects.

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Department of Taxes have ten days to publish guidelines governing the implementation of their programs, including application and award procedures, eligibility standards, grant amounts, and provisions that ensure equitable distribution of the funds among regions and across business types, sizes, and sectors.

It is important to keep in mind that there are restrictions on the use of the CRF money, and they can only be used to cover costs that:

are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and were incurred during the period that begins on 3/1/20 and ends on 12/30/20.

Businesses in need of this support should begin to [signup through Vermont Tax](#) so they are in the system and pipeline to apply for the grants through the Tax Department.

I am also planning to host another meeting call Wednesday night:

Coffee with Laura call 5:30 pm on Wednesday.  
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)

Education Tax Rate Calculations | [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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[No, Canada: A Closed Border Strains Vermonters' Personal, Economic Bonds](#)

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## Meal Distribution for Those in Need

Meal distribution missions in Vermont are continuing weekdays in June, but now require the completion of a 3-question pre-

[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](#)

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[Watch legislative committees](#)

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**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](#)

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**Town Websites**  
[Dover](#)  
[Readsboro](#)  
[Searsburg](#)  
[Stamford](#)  
[Wardsboro](#)  
[Whitingham](#)

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**Regional Resources**

registration survey. This change will streamline the process of pick-up, and help planners assess the ongoing need for such services.

Wednesday, June 17: Dover Area – **registration slots still open**

These sites will feature only Farmers to Families perishable meals, and registration will help determine the demand at each site and ensure those in need are served. Registrants will be given a window of time to arrive, minimizing the time commitment for pickup. Only those who have registered can pick up food.

To register on-line visit: <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/food-help> Those who cannot register online can do so by phone by calling 2-1-1. Those who are ill, have been advised to quarantine, or lack transportation can ask a friend or relative to register and pick up meals for them.

People will access by going west on the North Access Road, past the parking lots and towards the Moover Drop Zone where the trucks will be parked- The food will be delivered to the car and then they can continue down the Mountain Road to Handle Road- go south on Handle, East on the South Access Road and onto Route 100 to return home.

[New PPP rules make federal loan program more flexible for Vermont businesses](#)

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**Windham Southwest Supervisory Union Summer Food UPDATES**

Food: We are offering meals for all children in our towns aged 18 and under. The meals will be offered from June 15 – Aug. 21. We will distribute meals on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays. Children will receive 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches (4 meals) each day.

- Stamford School 11:40 – 12:00
- Readsboro Bandstand 11:00 – 11:20
- Halifax School 11:00 – 11:20
- Searsburg 11:40 – 12:00
- Whitingham (old post office) 11:40 – 12:00
- Jacksonville Library 11:40 – 12:00
- Wilmington (old high school) 11:00 -11:20
- Wilmington TVES 11:40 – 12:00

Serving kids favorites including Quesadillas, Grinders, Wraps and Tacos and always fresh fruit and vegetables. Please call 464-1300 ext 126 for more information or to inform us of any dietary restrictions

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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 at 2:15. Please send questions in advance by emailing [bdcc-covid-questions@brattleborodevelopm ent.com](mailto:bdcc-covid-questions@brattleborodevelopm ent.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](#)

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

[A Deadly Mosquito-Borne Illness Is Brewing in the Northeast Prevention](#)

**AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDS TO PURCHASE ELECTRIC PUBLIC TRANSIT VEHICLES**

Montpelier, Vt. – Governor Phil Scott and the Agency of Transportation (AOT) today announced the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded federal funds to Vermont for the purchase of electric public transit vehicles through the Low or No Emission Program.

“As we continue our work on COVID-19 response and recovery, we remain committed to supporting the transportation needs of our rural communities, especially for essential workers and services,” said Governor Scott. “Growing the state’s fleet of electric public transit vehicles is a vital strategy in meeting our energy goals and reducing vehicle emissions.”

The FTA will provide \$793,420, which will cover 80% of the cost of four vehicles, bringing Vermont’s total number of electric public transit vehicles to 12. Green Mountain Express in Bennington and Rural Community Transportation in Lyndonville will each receive two vehicles. AOT will use the funds to purchase four “cutaway” vehicles, which are smaller than standard city busses and similar to large vans. While the non-federal match funding for the grant award will not be required until FY22, AOT will assess state budget impacts due to COVID-19 and will work closely with the two transit providers to assure that the shared match commitment of \$153,591 will be available prior to the final grant acceptance.

“We can achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions by replacing older diesel buses with electric models, and this latest investment will further contribute to these reductions,” said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. “We’re grateful for our local partners’ collaboration in bringing this technology to their communities.”

Vermont’s public transit electrification plans are developed in consultation with key partners to ensure a seamless transition of the transit service fleet. In each FTA grant application, AOT has worked with the regional utility company and transit provider to ensure that new vehicles and charging infrastructure are carefully considered and designed to meet the initial and future needs of an electric fleet. AOT also works with the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) to create the vehicle and charging specifications and to develop the metrics that will be used to assess the performance and costs of these new vehicles.

**Windham Regional Broadband Project Webinar**  
Feasibility Study for the Windham Region CUD

When: June 24, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

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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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### 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.

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

Where: Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82783247868>

Please register with Susan

Westa, [swesta@windhamregional.org](mailto:swesta@windhamregional.org). Space is limited.

The webinar will be recorded and posted on WRC's website for all to view.

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### updated guidance for the lodging, campgrounds and accommodations

Effective June 8, interstate travel to and from New England and New York counties with 400 or fewer active COVID-19 cases per million is permitted without quarantine requirements.

You can view weekly updates as to which counties are under this threshold [at our Cross State Travel Information page](#).

Effective June 8, lodging operations may also increase occupancy limits to 50% or a total of 25 guests and staff, whichever is greater. Food service may only be offered in compliance with current restaurant guidance, which limits dining to 25% of capacity.

New quarantine requirements will go into effect on June 15:

- Travelers may either: Complete a 14-day quarantine; or complete a 7-day quarantine followed by a negative test – in their home state and enter Vermont without further quarantine restrictions if they drive directly from their home via their personal vehicle.
- Travelers may either: Complete 14-day quarantine; or a 7-day quarantine followed by a negative test – in a Vermont lodging establishment regardless of destination origin or manner of travel (travelers must stay in their quarantine location for the duration of quarantine other than to travel to and from a test site).
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With these updates, all guests will have to certify they are coming from a non-quarantine county or have completed the appropriate quarantine. They will also have to register with the Vermont Department of Health to receive Sara Alerts. [More information on certification and alerts can be found at the ACCD website](#).

Please review the [ACCD memo for full details](#) including additional mandatory health and safety regulations.

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<https://www.hungerfreevt.org/coronavirus>

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- [Sibilia: 2020 reelection announcement](#)

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 or assistance. For more information on the 2020 Census, visit: [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov).

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Free history class!  
<https://oyc.yale.edu/african-american-studies/afam-162>

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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

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

Monday June 17th 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>