

## Call 211 with questions about COVID-19

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

July 19th 2020

### VERMONT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

*Laura Sibilgia*



#### 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

[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



Good evening,

#### [Economic Recovery grants are still available for businesses.](#)

Last week the Governor announced a mask mandate would be in place starting on August 1st. Even though Vermont's statistics on cases are amongst the lowest in the country, we look to the South and West and see serious outbreaks happening. With no national plan, our governors have to assess the national landscape and make decisions based on what they see. This decision comes with controversy, and like most decisions elected officials have to make, will not make everyone happy. Many places and businesses have been able to open in Vermont with modifications – if we can all wear masks when we are indoors and not able to socially distance, we can reduce the negative effects that come with an outbreak. I appreciate and support Governor Scott moving forward with this

(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

**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**

added conservative policy in order to protect the gains in openings our state has made.

School re-openings are also a source of conflict and anxiety for parents, teachers, administrators, board members, and eventually tax payers. There is no handbook for how to safely operate schools during a pandemic, how to provide quality instruction and adequate protections and support for staff, how to do that in state with locally controlled districts and state controlled finance mechanism. I have included links to the state guidance and information coming out from Windham Southwest Supervisory Union. These conversations are currently happening all around the state. I want to encourage parents, teachers and board members to assume everyone is operating with the best intentions, to communicate respectfully and openly and to stay engaged. There is consensus, nothing is more precious than our children and our health.

I want to hear from you about your concerns and what you need from the state of Vermont to keep making the best decisions for your child, your health and your district. To that end, I am hosting a listening session on Thursday July 30th at 7 pm.

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I'd like to hear from you! Parents and teachers in WSWSU and WCSU let's talk about back to school:

Time: Jul 30, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87482334656?pwd=Y25sWDZWS8vTS96WkJuem9ydDIKZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 8233 4656

Passcode: 624729

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87482334656#,,,,,0#,,624729# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,87482334656#,,,,,0#,,624729# US (New York)

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**20/21 School Year Information from the Vermont Agency of Education**

**[A Strong and Healthy Start:Hybrid Learning During the 2020-2021 School Year](#)**

**WCSU COVID-19 RESPONSE**

The schools of Windham Central Supervisory Union are dedicated to providing information and resources to aid in student, family and staff welfare during this time.

All updates to procedures and regulations by WCSU and the VT AOE will be shared on this site, as will other useful information and educational materials. WCSU's responses will be as thoughtful and timely as possible and always in accord with state of Vermont regulations. [Website here](#)

**Twin Valley Community Input Meetings Reminder**

Twin Valley administrators will be hosting community input meetings regarding the safe and healthy guidelines for the reopening of schools. These meetings will take place in person (weather

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

**Racial Equity Task Force**  
**(Executive Order 02-20)**

**Amended and Restated**  
**Executive Order No. 01-20**  
Declaration of State of  
Emergency in Response to  
COVID-19 and National Guard  
Call-Out - Amended and  
Restated

**ADDENDUM 1 TO AMENDED**  
**AND RESTATED 01-20**  
Extension of State of Emergency  
Declared March 13, 2020

**ADDENDUM 2 TO AMENDED**  
**AND RESTATED EXECUTIVE**  
**ORDER NO. 01-20**

## 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](#)

### **AMENDMENT TO DIRECTIVE 3**

[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](#)

permitting) with a hybrid online option through Google Meet. If you are coming to one of our in-person meetings, we invite you to bring a folding outdoor chair. Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Both meetings will be for all members of the Twin Valley community.

Meetings will be held as follows:

Tuesday, July 28th from 5-6 pm at TVES in Wilmington

Thursday, July 30th from 6-7 pm at TVMHS in Whitingham

If you prefer to meet remotely, please use these links:

TUESDAY 7/28: [meet.google.com/kva-cjke-jdh](https://meet.google.com/kva-cjke-jdh) or call 1 240-609-0415 PIN: 119 284 480#

THURSDAY 7/30: [meet.google.com/wzv-rbjr-eus](https://meet.google.com/wzv-rbjr-eus) or call 1 409-753-5157 PIN: 130 495 392#



## Mask ordinance

Effective August 1st for all over age of two – not required when eating or drinking – businesses are required to inform their patrons of this requirement. They can refuse service to those who will not comply.

## GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT ANNOUNCES STRENGTHENED MASK REQUIREMENTS

Montpelier, Vt. – As the state continues its sustained efforts to encourage mask use as a tool to limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect the most vulnerable, Governor Phil Scott today announced strengthened mask requirements in public places and congregate settings.

“Based on national and regional data on how the virus is spreading – and rather than waiting like other states have – I feel we need to act now to protect our gains, which have allowed us to reopen much of our economy,” said Governor Scott. “That’s why today I signed an Order, which will strengthen our current mask mandates, so that we do not take steps backwards and we can stay open into the fall as people move more of their interactions indoors,” Governor Scott added.

Effective Friday, August 1, 2020, the amendment requires all Vermonters to wear masks or cloth facial coverings any time it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet with others from outside their household.



## [Watch legislative committees](#)



### How to contact me:

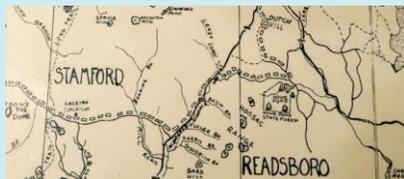
**phone:** 802-384-0233  
**email:** lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us

**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](#)

Those who are not required to use masks include those exercising outdoors, those under the age of 2, those with a medical or developmental condition that is complicated by a facial covering and those with difficulty breathing. Businesses and other entities may require customers to wear masks, including signage explaining mask requirements and denial of entry or service to those who decline to wear masks.

“Unfortunately, this issue has become polarized and, I’m still worried that a mandate will create unnecessary conflict and resistance,” Governor Scott said. “Attacking, shaming, and judging isn’t going to help; but understanding, educating, leading by example, meeting people where they are, and maybe a little kindness and understanding will,” Governor Scott encouraged.

Developed in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), this amendment is critical to the state’s strategy to limit the spread of COVID-19 in anticipation of K-12 and college students returning to school, as well as the fall and winter recreation seasons.

To view the full amendment to the Executive Order, visit <https://governor.vermont.gov/content/addendum-2-amended-and-restated-executive-order-no-01-20>  
Existing mask guidance that shall continue to apply includes:

- [Phased Restart Work Safe Guidance issued by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development \(ACCD\)](#)
- [Safety and Health Guidance for Reopening Schools, Fall 2020 issued by the Agency of Education \(AoE\)](#)
- [Health Guidance for Childcare and School Age Camps/Care issued by VDH, AoE and the Department of Children and Families \(DCF\)](#)
- [Guidance to Healthcare Providers issued by VDH](#)
- 

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 [dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling](http://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling).

### **Sole Proprietor Grants Application Now Open**

An economic relief grant program has been announced which will provide grants of \$5,000, \$7,500 or \$10,000 to qualifying sole proprietors through a lottery draw. The program is funded through \$1.5 million from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development’s CDBG Program, and passed through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The application window will open Monday, July 20, 2020 and grants will be awarded through a lottery system on August 14, 2020.

Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) and Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) will be administering funds. Details including the program breakdown, full eligibility requirements, application materials and timelines, as well

[Stamford](#)  
[Wardsboro](#)  
[Whitingham](#)

### Regional Resources

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@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](#)



**VT Helplink**  
Alcohol & drug support center

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

as technical assistance and FAQs, can be found on the [program portal](#).

### Upcoming #Hiring2DayVT Virtual Job Fairs

The Vermont Department of Labor has announced a [series of Virtual Job Fair events](#). The series will highlight local employers and will include a Q&A about local career opportunities. [Register to attend](#) any of these upcoming events:

- July 30th at 11:00am: Bennington, Middlebury, Rutland, and others in southwestern Vermont
- August 6th at 11:00am: Burlington, St. Albans, and others in northwestern Vermont
- August 13th at 11:00am: Brattleboro, Springfield, and others in southeastern Vermont
- August 20th at 11:00am: Montpelier, Morrisville, White River Junction, and others in central Vermont



### URGENT CENSUS: Second homeowners, Property Managers and Realtors:

Help us pave the roads!

Federal and state transportation dollars are allocated according to population. This requires an accurate federal census. The 2020 Census response rate is currently 44.4% for Windham County, 48.8% for Bennington County. In our towns with large second home populations, the response numbers are extremely low.

As our town and state officials scramble to improve these response rates, we need your help!

There have been some questions about how 2<sup>nd</sup> homeowners should respond to the Census. Here's the guidance.

If you live at multiple places throughout the year, count yourself at the address where you live and sleep most of the time. If you split your time evenly between two or more places, count yourself where you were staying on April 1, 2020. However, a census response is required from each and every property.

For any property you own but only use part of the time, follow these instructions:

1. Visit [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov)
2. **Enter the Census ID or address for this secondary property**
3. **Enter "0" for the number of people living at this property**
4. **Hit Next, and when a "soft error" occurs, click Next again**



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.vtlegalhelp.org/health](http://www.vtlegalhelp.org/health)

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



#### 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

5. **Select "No" when asked to confirm no person lives at this property**
6. **Select primary reason – Seasonal (most likely)**
7. **Complete!**

#### Stay Home, Stay Safe Q&A for Municipalities

Jointly hosted by VLCT and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, this weekly question and answer webinar with Deputy Secretary Ted Brady is an opportunity for municipalities to ask questions and learn more about best practices, new tools, and resources to help cities and towns navigate these difficult times.

Agency of Commerce and Community Development Virtual Town Hall Series

- DATE: Monday, August 3, 2020
- TIME: 2:00pm – 3:00pm
- PRESENTER: Ted Brady, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Commerce & Community Development
- Link to event: [Join here](#)

#### VSAC shows you how to pick the right education loan

##### Online interactive webinar tackles the ABCs of student loans

WINOOSKI (July 20, 2020) – Vermont Student Assistance Corp. is offering a free online webinar for students and families on how to make smart borrowing decisions, Tuesday, July 28 at 6 p.m. Students and families can participate via Zoom by registering at [https://bit.ly/VSAC\\_ed\\_loans](https://bit.ly/VSAC_ed_loans) or by visiting VSAC's Facebook page. The event also will be recorded and available for viewing at a later date.

With college bills coming due soon, parents and students need to decide which loans to accept to get the best interest rates and terms. Most Vermonters borrow to help cover the costs of their education – about 7 in 10 Vermont students use loans to pay at least part of the bill.

Not all loans are created equal, so families and students need to understand the features of each loan they are considering in order to make the best decision possible. Learn about the differences between federal loans, private loans and loans made by schools. Find out how interest rates and repayment options affect how much you'll pay back.

You'll also learn how to maximize your financial aid offer to lower how much you have to borrow. Bring your questions and get answers from the experts. Panelists include Marilyn Cargill, vice president of VSAC's financial aid services, research and marketing; Deborah Lessor, VSAC manager of private loan origination, and Greg Davis, director of financial aid at Champlain College.

Parents and students will have the opportunity ask questions during the presentation, which may be addressed during the live broadcast itself, privately during the broadcast or in a follow-up 1:1 consultation. You can also submit your questions prior to the webinar by sending them to [haskell@vsac.org](mailto:haskell@vsac.org).

still be able to complete the questionnaire online.

- 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 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).

#### PPP Forgiveness Webinar

A daily webinar hosted by the SBA Vermont District Office to discuss Paycheck Protection Program forgiveness

- Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 10:00am
- [Join online](#)
- Join by phone: (202) 765-1264; Code: 237511921#

#### PPP & EIDL Webinar

A twice-weekly webinar hosted by the SBA Vermont District

For more information, contact Sabina Haskell at 542-2240 or [haskell@vsac.org](mailto:haskell@vsac.org).

#### \*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*

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

What: Media Availability

Governor Phil Scott and members of the administration to hold a media briefing Tuesday to provide an update on the State's continued response to covid-19.

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

When: Tuesday, July 28 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>



#### Primary endorsements (...if you want them, scroll if you don't)

This week I turned in my paperwork to run for a fourth term as the representative for the Windham/Bennington District. As I've noted previously, independents do not appear on the August 11th primary ballots. The primaries are for the parties to reduce the number of candidates running in the general election. You can only vote on one of the party ballots.

Many people have asked me about candidates in the primary election. If you are voting in the Republican primary, I would ask you to consider returning Governor Scott for two more years. Looking across the country, it is easy to see how lucky we have been to have a competent and decent Governor during the unprecedented emergency presented by the pandemic.

If you are voting in the Democratic primary, I encourage you to give [Molly Gray](#) a good look. Molly's background is impressive – a

Office to discuss the Paycheck Protection Program, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Advance, and information about updates to these programs

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00am – 10:00am
- [Join online](#)
- Join by phone: (202) 765-1264; Code: 470177937#

**“PPP: There’s Still Money Available” Archived Webinar**

The Department of Economic Development hosted a [virtual town hall](#) to share updates about the Paycheck Protection Program.

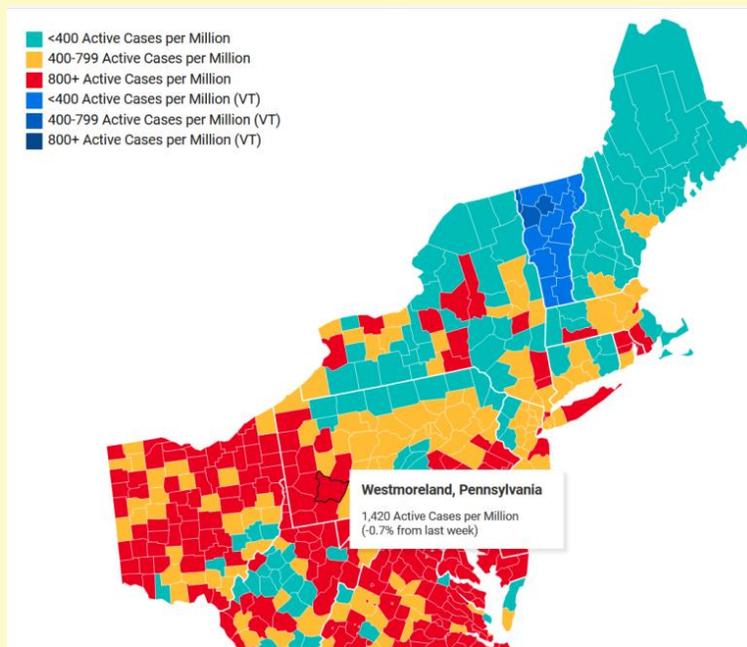
- [Archived webinar](#) (from June 5th at 2:00pm)
- [Download presentation \(“PPP Loans for Self Employed Individuals”\)](#)

Vermont farming family, experienced justice seeker and pursuer of human rights at the global scale.

But what she told me when I first met her, pre-pandemic, at the statehouse is what got my attention and support. When I asked her what she would do as LT Governor, she told me she was going to bring attention to the issues of rural Vermont. Of course that caught my attention. I have been completely impressed with her commitment and ability to do just that during her campaign – which is happening in the midst of the most serious emergency of our lifetime.

I would be honored to have you write my name in on a blank spot under State Representative on either the Republican or Democratic ballot, but you do not have to – my name will appear on the November General Election ballot regardless.

And if you don’t agree with any of my suggestions – that’s okay – please just vote!



Updated: July 24, 2020 (Next Update: July 24, 2020)

**[Map of quarantine and non-quarantine counties throughout the Northeast.](#)**

Vermont Residents Vermonters may travel outside of Vermont to counties across the Northeast including New England; New York; Pennsylvania; Ohio; New Jersey; Delaware; Maryland; Washington, D.C.; Virginia; and West Virginia that have a similar active COVID-19 caseload to Vermont (defined as less than 400 active cases per million) and return without quarantining if they do so in a personal vehicle. Vermonters must remember to follow any travel restrictions and quarantine requirements for the states they plan to visit.

If they travel to a quarantine county or outside of the Northeast (including New England; New York; Pennsylvania; Ohio; New Jersey; Delaware; Maryland; Washington, D.C.; Virginia; and West Virginia), Vermonters will be required to quarantine in Vermont upon return. [Read more about quarantining at the Vermont Department of Health website.](#)

Non-Vermont Residents Residents of other states who live in counties across the Northeast including New England; New York; Pennsylvania; Ohio; New Jersey; Delaware; Maryland; Washington, D.C.; Virginia; and West Virginia that have a similar active COVID-19 caseload to Vermont (defined as less than 400 active cases per million) may enter the state for leisure travel without quarantining if they do so in a personal vehicle. Residents of other states who live in a quarantine county or are from any other state outside of the Northeast (including New England; New York; Pennsylvania; Ohio; New Jersey; Delaware; Maryland; Washington, D.C.; Virginia; and West Virginia), must follow quarantine guidelines: Travelers arriving to Vermont in a personal vehicle, may complete either a 14-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine followed by a negative test in their home state and enter Vermont without further quarantine restrictions.

Travelers arriving to Vermont via public transportation (plane, train, bus) or from further than a direct car ride would allow may complete either a 14-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine followed by a negative test in a Vermont lodging establishment or with friends and family (travelers must stay in their quarantine location for the duration of quarantine other than to travel to and from a test site).

[Read more about quarantining at the Vermont Department of Health website.](#)

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- [Sibilia: 2020 reelection announcement](#)

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