

Call 211 with questions about COVID-19

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

August 2nd 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
(50) people or fifty percent (50%)
of the occupancy of a facility



Good evening,

Tonight I issued [a statement regarding illegal graffiti on Route 100 over the weekend](#). I want to acknowledge and thank the four young women from towns across

our district who brought this issue to my attention yesterday morning. But more importantly I want to reassure them, and all of us, that we can easily do better – just by listening to each other. I'm deeply interested in ways our communities can look past what divides us and reach back out to each other as neighbors and

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

Close Contact Businesses; Large Social Gatherings

Addendum 17 to 01-20

Modified Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in Vermont;

friends who love our communities and state. Times are tough and we need each other.

Information below on broadband, bike paths, and public input sessions on police reforms.

Don't forget to mail your primary ballot – including all unused ballots – back to the Town Clerk tomorrow. The Primary election is next Tuesday August 11th and you can vote in person – with your mask to protect the poll workers!



We will get through this friends!

Economic Recovery grants are still available for businesses.

August 1st – Masks are mandatory in public. Masks or Cloth Facial Coverings is required in Public wherever close contact is unavoidable. As of Saturday, August 1, 2020, Vermonters shall wear masks or cloth facial coverings over their nose and mouth any time they are in public spaces, indoors or outdoors, where they come in contact with others from outside their households, especially in congregate settings, and where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet. Businesses may deny you service without a mask.

**Proposals Requested for Everyone Eats Program
\$5 million available for community projects that engage restaurants in emergency feeding**

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](#)

Strengthening the Use of Facial Covering

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](#)

[Directive No. 6 - Uniform School Reopening](#)

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.
apgs@leg.state.vt.us



[Watch legislative committees](#)

In response to COVID-19, restaurants, farmers and community organizations across Vermont have stepped forward to help feed neighbors experiencing food insecurity. These programs have helped stabilize communities by nourishing Vermonters, alleviating the surging demand on food shelves, and providing economic support to restaurants. The State of Vermont has allocated **\$5M from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)** to a new program called Everyone Eats, which supports restaurants feeding Vermonters who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

Participating restaurants will be paid \$10/meal and at least 10% of the ingredients for each meal must be sourced from local farms and value-added food producers. Projects will be awarded on a rolling basis starting the first week of August until the funds have been allocated. Program funds need to be expended by December 18, 2020.

The Request for Proposal can be accessed by visiting: <https://www.sevca.org/vt-everyone-eats>

An information session will be hosted to provide an overview of the program and application process. Prospective applicants can register to attend that webinar via the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4603467960>.

Broadband connection program

Governor Phil Scott announced that the Vermont Department of Public Service has launched a Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP). LECAP provides up to \$3,000 in assistance to help consumers extend telecommunications lines to their homes, with \$2 million in total funds available.

“We know how important access to reliable internet has been during this pandemic,” said Governor Scott. “While expanding access has been a longstanding challenge in Vermont, I appreciate the efforts of the Public Service Department team, the Legislature and many private partners to help get more Vermonters connected. This assistance program is another step forward in this challenging work, which is critical to increasing equity in education heading into our school reopening this fall.”

This program was passed through [Act 137](#) and developed in response to the COVID-19 emergency to help Vermonters access broadband.

Under this program, up to \$3,000 in financial assistance is available to offset the customer cost portion of a line extension. For details about how to qualify for the LECAP, Vermonters should call the department at 800-622-4496 or visit the department’s [Line Extension Customer Assistance Program webpage](#). All line extensions funded through this program must be completed on or before December 30, 2020. Additional information can be accessed at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov>.

I’d like to hear from you! let’s talk about connectivity:

Time: Jul 30, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87482334656?pwd=Y25sWDZWS8vTS96WkJudm9ydDIKZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 8233 4656

Passcode: 624729



How to contact me:

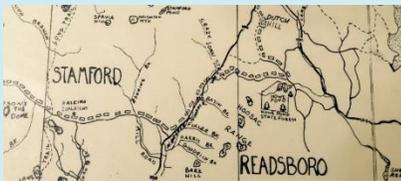
phone: 802-384-0233
email: lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us

Website:
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](#)

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87482334656#,,,,,0#,,624729# US (Chicago)
+16465588656,,87482334656#,,,,,0#,,624729# US (New York)

Vermont legislative committees to hold community meetings regarding police reform

The House Committees on Government Operations and on Judiciary will be co-hosting virtual meetings on Thursday, August 6; Wednesday, August 12; and Sunday, August 16 to obtain input from community members on proposed changes to law enforcement in Vermont.

The national reaction to events over the past several months has brought systemic racism in the United States into dramatic focus. While Vermont's legislature has pursued many efforts in recent years to begin to identify and address implicit bias, recognition of the urgency of this work has grown, particularly related to law enforcement. In response, the legislature is considering ideas on how police practices in the State should change, including policies on use of force, citizen oversight, use of body cameras, hiring and training of police officers, and other relevant issues. Before the legislature returns from recess at the end of August, the two primary House committees working on these issues want to engage Vermonters who may be affected by these policies. The committees seek to hear about Vermonters' experiences with law enforcement in Vermont. They also seek residents' suggestions on how to improve interactions between the police and communities of color and other marginalized groups. The public will be able to provide input on specific bills that are already before the legislature, including Senate bills 119 and 124 and House bills 464 and 808, and weigh in on priorities for change that are not included in the existing bills.

The two-hour meetings will be held on Thursday, August 6 at 1:00 p.m.; Wednesday, August 12 at 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, August 16 at 4:00 p.m. To register to give testimony at one of these hearings, please fill out the registration form

at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Links/Public-Hearing-LE>. Testimony should be limited to two minutes. Individuals will be able to access the meetings through their computers or phones. You can listen to the meeting via Live Stream here <https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-judiciary> .;

If you would like to submit written testimony, please email it to testimony@leg.state.vt.us and indicate Police Reform in the subject line

\$3.6 million in bicycle and pedestrian improvements available

Vermont Business Magazine The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) has issued a grant solicitation for new infrastructure projects that improve access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. In 2019, awards totaled \$3.6 million for construction and planning projects throughout the state.

"These projects make it possible for more people to walk and bike safely in Vermont communities," said Transportation Secretary Joe

[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](#)



VT Helplink
Alcohol & drug support center

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



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.vtlawhelp.org/health

Flynn. "Municipalities across Vermont understand that providing good facilities for walking and bicycling are key factors for livability that can stimulate economic development in our downtowns and improve public health. In light of the current pandemic, providing safe ways for Vermonters to walk and bike is especially important. Supporting our downtowns is critical in helping jumpstart our economy."

The AOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program improves access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians through the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects. The program improves transportation options for commuters, visitors to the state, and recreational use. Vermont ranks fourth in the nation for the percentage of commuters who bike or walk to work and fourth in per capita spending on bicycle/pedestrian projects, according to the League of American Bicyclists 2018 benchmarking report on bicycling and walking in the U.S.

To learn more about the AOT 2020 grant program and to access the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Guide and Application, visit <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>. Applications must be received by 1:00 p.m., September 30, 2020. A pre-application training webinar will be offered on August 11 and August 12.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to participate. For more information about the 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian program or other AOT initiatives related to bicycling and walking, contact Jon Kaplan at 802-498-4742 or jon.kaplan@vermont.gov.

[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. Follow my regular posts online at <http://www.laurasibiliavt.com>

Kind regards,

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



Upcoming #Hiring2DayVT Virtual Job Fairs

[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. 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 online.
- By Phone: Call 844-330-2020 to get started in English. The 2020 Census can be completed by phone in 14 different languages.

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

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 2nd 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
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**
5. **Select "No" when asked to confirm no person lives at this property**
6. **Select primary reason – Seasonal (most likely)**
7. **Complete!**

A twice-weekly webinar hosted by the SBA Vermont District 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 \(“PPP Loans for Self Employed Individuals”\)](#)

[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.](#)

