



## CVRPC COVID 19 Updates & Resources

03/31/2020

CVRPC is providing this information to assist municipalities to maintain situational awareness and to plan for, respond to, and recover from the COVID 19 pandemic. CVRPC hereby grants permission for reuse and reprint of information contained in this document.

Updated information is in **red text**. Updates include:

- Municipal News: **Barre City, Middlesex, Plainfield, Roxbury, and Waterbury**
- CVRPC Services: **Act 250 / Certificates of Public Good Notices**
- Updates: **Federal Emergency Declaration, Open Meeting Law**
- Resources Available: **CVEDC Business Assistance Information, Vermont Council on Rural Development, Give to Support Community Recovery**
- State Updates: **Vermont Department of Health, Agency of Commerce & Community Development, State Emergency Operations Center, Agency of Education**
- Federal Updates: **US Department of Housing and Urban Development, US Small Business Administration**

### MUNICIPAL NEWS

The following information has been gathered from municipal websites or provided directly to CVRPC by the municipality. This information is being shared to assist municipalities with mutual response as well as service and planning ideas.

#### Barre City

- All City buildings closed to public. **Office and vault closed to public - access index [online](#)**. Library closed; senior center closed; homeless shelter open 24/7, but at capacity and no additional people allowed.
- All board and committee meetings canceled except City Council, which is meeting virtually, in compliance with Open Meeting Law.

- Dog license deadline extended to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Late penalties and interest charges waived on water & sewer bills until April 30<sup>th</sup>. Late penalties and interest charges waived on property taxes until April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Resources:
  - Visit <https://www.barrecity.org/vt-dept-of-health-corona-virus-updates.html> for latest information
  - Barre Unified School District providing meals to children under 18. The school has drop locations where people can access free meals. Locations and times are on the school's [website - https://www.buusd.org/district/bsu-news/story/~board/district-homepage-news/post/free-meals-for-students](https://www.buusd.org/district/bsu-news/story/~board/district-homepage-news/post/free-meals-for-students).
  - Capstone Community Action is coordinating community response and assistance efforts
  - Local churches have suspended daily breakfasts in their individual buildings. All are working together to provide breakfast at 84 Summer Street (former ministries location)

## Barre Town

- All municipal buildings closed to public. All Barre Town departments are working regular hours. For services from the Town Clerk's Office, Planning and Zoning Office, Town Engineer's Office, Assessor's Office, Police Department administrative office, or Town Manager's Office:
  - Contact specific staff by email. If needed, send inquiry to [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org).
  - Call 802-479-9331 to be directed to the right office or access online at [http://www.barretown.org/contact\\_us/index.php](http://www.barretown.org/contact_us/index.php)
  - The drop box at front of the Municipal Building can be used to for payments or applications. When needed, staff will meet guests at front door and provide service in entryway.
  - Postal mail can be sent to PO Box 116, Websterville VT 05678.
- All public meetings will continue to be accessible to members of the public that wish to attend in person. A staff person will be at the building to receive guests. Strongly encourage the public to attend meetings virtually. Options will be posted with each meeting agenda.
- Deadline to license dogs without penalty extended to May 2. Call 802-479-9391 for details.

## Berlin

- Town Offices are closed to public. Doors locked but staff working. Allowing very limited access by appointment only for research in the vault; no advance booking. Much can be done through mail, email, phone, fax, and dropping off paperwork.

- Holding meetings using Zoom, access information for public to call in will be given in posted agendas. Some committee / board meetings have been canceled or postponed. And are removed from <http://www.berlinvt.org/calendar/> when not happening. Boards & Agendas/Minutes tab is where agendas are found.
- No changes in municipal services at this point. Next tax payment in Berlin is May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Resources:
  - Resource Line - 802-552-8805, recorded message updated Thursdays with events, meetings, deadlines, etc.
  - Berlin Facebook page has pinned post at the top of the page with information
  - Berlin area COVID 19 Mutual Aid Volunteer Signup
  - Berlin News to Know – email sent out a few times a month with community news, contact [corinnestridsberg@gmail.com](mailto:corinnestridsberg@gmail.com)

## Cabot

- Outside door to office is locked. Ring bell and staff will come outside to see what is needed. Wait outside for dog licensing or copying, if doing research allowing one researcher at a time.
- One person and Town Clerk will be present physically for meetings and will do meetings via phone.
- Extending late fee for dog licensing until May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Resources: Jenn Miner, EMD - [willowreignsnana13@gmail.com](mailto:willowreignsnana13@gmail.com) is handling all volunteers to help with delivering groceries, prescriptions, rides to doctor appointments, etc.

## Calais

- Town offices are closed to public; staff working remotely with one person in office to take calls and perform other essential needs/services.
- Calais Emergency Management Team established an email - [calaisbclif@gmail.com](mailto:calaisbclif@gmail.com) and is posting on Front Porch Forum and participating in weekly VEM conference calls.
- All meetings on hold until further notice; may hold meetings via Zoom or similar platform.
- Municipal services being conducted electronically and via USPS.
- Complete Cabot's COVID 19 Community Relief Survey - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSek9Wuu7Z\\_55JQbdGtS2ECBQbKrL2xvvcAJ0nJ2XQfAcsmuA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSek9Wuu7Z_55JQbdGtS2ECBQbKrL2xvvcAJ0nJ2XQfAcsmuA/viewform) to identify information about what people need and what people can offer. If you know of a friend or neighbor in need you can also contact [calaisemergencymanagement@gmail.com](mailto:calaisemergencymanagement@gmail.com) or call Town Office at 456-8720.
- Resources: Calais updates residents via Front Porch Forum with links to [website](#) and established an [email account](#) for those needing assistance or offering assistance and created resource spreadsheet to track offers and needs

## Duxbury

- Contact Town Clerk Maureen Harvey for more information – 802-244-6660 or [DuxTC@fairpoint.net](mailto:DuxTC@fairpoint.net) .

## East Montpelier

- Town Office building closed to public. Public area of Emergency Services Facility closed to public.
- All non-essential committee/board meetings & events are canceled until further notice; Selectboard will meet as necessary and will have options for remote attendance
- No changes to town tax policies; late dog license fee is waived until April 15<sup>th</sup>; no changes to basic service options although methodologies may be tweaked; direct access to land records is severely limited and by appointment at discretion of Town Clerk.
- Resources
  - <https://eastmontpeliervt.org/town-office-building-closed/>
  - <https://eastmontpeliervt.org/COVID-19-information/>
  - A “those willing to volunteer & those with needs” matching is being run by Town Health Officer Ginny Burley ([vburleyvt@gmail.com](mailto:vburleyvt@gmail.com)) and Town Service Office Rachael Grossman ([garlicmountain@gmail.com](mailto:garlicmountain@gmail.com)).

## Fayston

- **Town Clerk, Lister, and Zoning offices are closed to the public until April 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- For attorneys and title searchers: Fayston will remotely assist in any way possible and send any documents needed via email or mail. Please allow 24 hours to respond. Appointments will no longer be scheduled.
- All documents received will be put aside and not handled for 3 days, after that period they will be processed as usual.
- Notary services not available.
- Selectboard to meet but most participants will be via teleconference. Planning Commission meetings postponed. DRB next meeting date of April 14 expected to be postponed as well.
- Residents should send in dog renewals via email. No late fees will be assessed until 5/1/2020.
- The Road Department will continue to operate but Garage is off limits to public except for deliveries. The Road Crew will limit their overlapping time in garage with Road Foreman delegating outside work to the crew as needed. Stuart is available at the Town via phone at 496-8827 or 498-8939.
- Municipal services are available via email/phone/fax etc. Notarizing has been discontinued.
- Resources:

- Mad River Valley Emergency Response Team
- <https://www.facebook.com/mrvemergencyresponse/> is serving Waitsfield, Warren, Moretown, and Fayston

## Marshfield

- Old Schoolhouse Common (Village Clerk’s Office & Onion River Food Shelf) building locked. People allowed into food shelf one at a time. Village Clerk working; call ahead.
- Town Office closed to public. Clerk available by phone, email, and online. Website is [www.town.marshfield.vt.us](http://www.town.marshfield.vt.us), where online resources are available for the following: Grand list and tax book, redacted tax bills, tax maps, zoning regulations. Documents that can be scanned and emailed: more detailed tax maps, recent surveys that have not been scanned into land records system, lister cards. Contact Clerk (802) 426-3305 regarding how to research land records and for title search information.
- Zoning and listing questions emailed to: [zoning@town.marshfield.vt.us](mailto:zoning@town.marshfield.vt.us) or [listeners@town.marshfield.vt.us](mailto:listeners@town.marshfield.vt.us)
- Selectboard will continue to meet. Contact Town Clerk in advance for meeting access instructions. Postponed meetings: Planning Commission, Stranahan Stewardship Committee, Development Review Board, Library Board, Energy Committee, Conservation Commission, and Historical Society.
- Dog license late fees waived till May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Resources:
  - Visit [https://www.town.marshfield.vt.us/index.asp?SEC=9CC3984E-E8F6-4E72-A199-0A1C301D3DAA&DE=9EC514EB-DB4D-4232-82A7-5BC48FBE61B8&Type=B\\_BASIC](https://www.town.marshfield.vt.us/index.asp?SEC=9CC3984E-E8F6-4E72-A199-0A1C301D3DAA&DE=9EC514EB-DB4D-4232-82A7-5BC48FBE61B8&Type=B_BASIC) for a list of volunteers willing to help those in isolation. Drew McNaughton is managing this effort – [drewmcnaughhton@gmail.com](mailto:drewmcnaughhton@gmail.com)

## Middlesex

- Town Clerk’s Office closed to public. Will continue to provide essential services via phone and email. **Call 223-5915 or email [mdxclerk@comcast.net](mailto:mdxclerk@comcast.net) if you have a pressing concern.** Town Hall is closed to all public meetings or gatherings.
- All public meetings temporarily being held remotely.
- **Select Board: Holding meetings via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Access numbers published on the posted agendas and on Front Porch Forum. Board apprised regularly of Town challenges regarding road maintenance and public safety.**
- Resources:
  - Visit town website - <http://middlesexvermont.org/> for more resources
  - Meals on Wheels in Waterbury is accepting orders, call (802) 244-1234
  - [Google Form to ask for assistance](#) and [Google Form to offer assistance](#)

## Montpelier

- City Hall unlocked for lobby access; municipal offices not open to public. Senior Center closed.
- Property Tax installments due on May 15th will not accrue interest or penalties for late payments until June 15th. Parking meters and related enforcement suspended.
- Resources:
  - Coronavirus response webpage for list of resources (including list of shelters) - <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1155/Coronavirus-Response>
  - [Crowd-Sourced Montpelier-Area COVID 19 Mutual Aid Volunteer Sign-up](#)

## Moretown

- Town offices closed to public.
- All meetings cancelled until further notice
- No changes in municipal services
- Resources:
  - Contact Stefan Pratt (EMD) for more information at [firecadet100@gmail.com](mailto:firecadet100@gmail.com).
  - Mad River Valley Emergency Response Team <https://www.facebook.com/mrvemergencyresponse/> is serving Waitsfield, Warren, Moretown, and Fayston

## Northfield

- Municipal buildings and facilities closed through 04/06/2020
- Some meetings have been canceled, visit town website - [http://www.northfield-vt.gov/text/Current\\_Notices/Current\\_Notices.htm](http://www.northfield-vt.gov/text/Current_Notices/Current_Notices.htm) for latest info
- Send requests for information, documents, licenses and certificates to Town Clerk at 485-5421 or visiting the Town's website. For questions regarding utility billing, please call 485-5411. For other municipal questions, please call 485-6121
- Resources:
  - Visit [town website](#) for current notices
  - Northfield Mutual Aid Task Force: [http://www.northfield-vt.gov/text/Current\\_Notices/MutualAid\\_Poster.pdf](http://www.northfield-vt.gov/text/Current_Notices/MutualAid_Poster.pdf)

## Orange

- Town Hall closed to rentals and use. Town offices closed to all public and in person appointments. Staff hours reduced at this time. Available by phone (802) 479-2673 for all other business. Please email [aeastman@orangevt.org](mailto:aeastman@orangevt.org) or [treasurer@orangevt.org](mailto:treasurer@orangevt.org) with questions
- Select Board will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, but officials are considering moving those meetings to an online-only platform pending passage of open meeting law amendments.
- April 1 deadline for rabies renewals/registrations. Watch for possible extensions.

- Title searches, public access to the vault and notary services are suspended.
- Town Website - <https://orangevt.org/> has a posted letter informing people regarding office changes .

## Plainfield

- All municipal buildings closed to public and all committee members.
- All meetings suspended until further notice.
- Resources:
  - Visit Plainfield Emergency Management page - <https://www.plainfieldvt.us/emergency-management.html> for latest information.
  - Plainfield is coordinating with Marshfield to offer volunteer help. To learn how to offer and ask for help, visit: **I can help, List of volunteers, request a delivery**

## Roxbury

- Town Office closed to public. **Not accepting appointments for title searches.** Library closed to public. Senior Center not having meals. Town Clerk keeping regular hours. Selectboard still meeting. No other meetings being held.
- Dog Licenses extended to May 1st. No changes for May property taxes payments.
- Resources:
  - Visit Town website - <https://roxburyvt.org/> for information on town office closures and resource page - <https://roxburyvt.org/resources-vt/covid-19-resources/> for COVID19 resources

## Waitsfield

- Town Offices closed to public.
- Selectboard meetings being held via ZOOM; all other meetings canceled on website.
- Payments, permits still being issued. Submit payments through the USPS or use the Town Office drop box. Staff is entering the building one at a time to complete tasks but not letting anyone in.
- Visit Town website - <https://www.waitsfieldvt.us/2020/03/10/covid-19-coronavirus-information/>, Waitsfield Facebook page and Front Porch Forum for updates
- The school supplied information for [Mad River Valley Community Fund](#) for people with financial hardships. They are also offering free breakfast and lunch to children 18 and under in the school district.
- Resources:
  - Mad River Valley Emergency Response Team <https://www.facebook.com/mrvemergencyresponse/> is serving Waitsfield, Warren, Moretown, and Fayston

## Warren

- Municipal buildings closed to public. Departments available to correspond via email and telephone.
- Dog licenses extended until May 1, 2020.
- Information on Board, Committee, and Commission meetings and changes in municipal services will be posted on town website - <http://www.warrenvt.org/> and Valley Reporter Facebook
- Resources:
  - Mad River Valley Emergency Response Team  
<https://www.facebook.com/mrvemergencyresponse/> is serving Waitsfield, Warren, Moretown, and Fayston

## Washington

- Contact Town Clerk at (802) 883-2218/ [washingtontownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:washingtontownclerk@gmail.com) for information

## Waterbury

- **Municipal offices and library are closed to the public. Reach staff by e-mail, phone or mail to inquire about available municipal services.**
- Town has extended the deadline for licensing dogs to April 30th for all dog owners.
- Resources:
  - [Waterbury CARES](#) collects information on those seeking assistance and those offering assistance - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOi1I3-AMDuXEtBGbeti573EvheBjpsnh\\_NuVZZJx2RAdVuw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOi1I3-AMDuXEtBGbeti573EvheBjpsnh_NuVZZJx2RAdVuw/viewform)

## Williamstown

- Town office closed. Public library closed to public.
- The Pub has take-out and delivery. Bar Harbor Bank is doing business through drop box, ATM, or by appointment.
- Williamstown Food Shelf will still be open on Saturdays 9:00 to 1:00 but people are to call ahead 802-477-3264. They will bring food out to your car - no one allowed inside.
- All Committee and Commission meetings canceled.
- Dog Licenses will be extended through May 1st.
- Check Town website - <http://williamstownvt.org/> for further updates

## Woodbury

- Town offices closed to public. Staff available by phone, email, or USPS



- Dog Licenses extended through May 1st
- Resources:
  - COVID 19 Useful Information (from Johns Hopkins University): <https://www.woodburyvt.org/2020/03/29/COVID-19-useful-information/>
  - [Woodbury COVID 19 Response](#) for information on offering assistance or if you know of someone who may need assistance.
  - Contact Michael Gray ([grhayes1956@comcast.net](mailto:grhayes1956@comcast.net)/802-456-1983) for information.

## Worcester

- Offices closed to public
- All non-essential meetings canceled
- Resources:
  - [Worcester COVID 19 Mutual Aid Volunteer Form, Worcester COVID 19 Mutual Aid Help Request Form -](#)
  - Worcester Neighbor Network - <http://www.worcestervt.org/town-government/worcester-neighbor-network>

## CVRPC SERVICES

CVRPC provides a variety of services related to planning, public engagement, project management and project implementation in all programmatic areas (transportation, community development, brownfields, emergency planning, energy, natural resources, etc.) and on special projects. Municipalities can contact Bonnie Waninger via email ([waninger@cvregion.com](mailto:waninger@cvregion.com)) or cell (802-585-9174) to discuss how CVRPC can assist.

## Mapping

CVRPC's GIS staff will provide services free of charge to municipalities and regional organizations for COVID 19 planning and response. We provide web-based maps for several municipalities in the region. CVRPC can also provide printed or digital maps.

As the number of cases of COVID 19 is increasing in Vermont, municipalities may be contacted by the public for information. Data and statistics on vulnerable populations and locations of key services that people may need can be mapped to help your municipality provide information to the community. Sample data sets that might be helpful to map include:

- Number of cases by county (town level data is not being released currently) (confirmed, deaths, recovered)
- Wi-Fi hotspots
- Schools providing food delivery services for students
- Drive through testing sites
- Unemployment figures

- Vulnerable Population data
- Broadband availability
- Cable and fiber routes
- Cell coverage

### Meetings via Technology

As expected, free conference call and web-based meeting platforms are beginning to experience volume challenges. CVRPC purchased a GoToMeeting account. We are “lending” that account to municipalities and regional organizations on-the-fly when they experience an unexpected free technology challenge. Our staff has investigated several web-platforms and can coach municipalities on which may serve their needs.

### Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)

Through a contract with Vermont Emergency Management, CVRPC can coach/lead municipalities, regional organizations, and businesses through continuity planning. We use COOP templates provided by VEM and FEMA and health information provided by VDH. CVRPC’s role is to assist these entities to think through essential functions and how accomplishing those functions may need to shift during pandemic response.

### Information & Questions

CVRPC can assist find information you need. Generally, health-related questions are referred to VDH and municipal and regional needs are referred to the State Emergency Operations Center.

### Act 250 / Certificates of Public Good Notices

CVRPC is receiving requests for municipal contact information from applicants who wish to share files digitally with municipalities, rather than mail advance notices and applicant packets. The contact information we request from municipalities annually for our own use is public information. If your municipality prefers to receive Act 250 and Section 248 (Certificate of Public Good) applications, etc. in hard copy, you may request that from the applicant.

We wish you all safety in the upcoming weeks. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or needs for which CVRPC can assist.

## UPDATES

### Federal Emergency Declaration: **EM-3437-VT**

#### Cost Tracking

The FEMA emergency declaration (issued 03/13) applies to emergency protective measures in preparation for/in response to COVID 19. ***Municipalities should track all response costs related to COVID 19 similar to other disasters.*** VEM will distribute information through VLCT,

RPCs, and municipal EMDs on how to apply for that funding and what is eligible.

If an eligible organization has or may have **at least \$3,300 in eligible uninsured Category B Emergency Protective Measure costs**, the organization should submit a FEMA **Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form**. Applications to access this funding submitted through VEM. Link for the form and the required information: [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1505397829631-758807d2f22ea320a71a74ade429675d/FEMA\\_Form\\_009-0-49\\_RPA\\_508\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1505397829631-758807d2f22ea320a71a74ade429675d/FEMA_Form_009-0-49_RPA_508_FINAL.pdf)

See this link for more information: <https://vem.vermont.gov/news/information-federal-public-assistance-eligibility-COVID-19>.

### **Local Hazard Mitigation Plans**

Some municipalities with expired or nearly expired Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) have inquired whether the 30-day deadline applies in regards to ERAF requirements. The normal 30-day after declaration Request for Public Assistance has been waived, so there is no time limit for submitting a draft LHMP update to VEM.

### **Open Meeting Law**

Governor Scott signed H.681, An act relating to government operations in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, into law. The emergency measures noted below are applicable only during the Governor's declared state of emergency due to COVID 19.

- **Electronic-only Meetings Permitted:** Public body may hold meetings by electronic or other means without being physically present or having staff present at a physical meeting location.
- **Technology Used Must Be Publicly-Friendly:** When meeting electronically, public body must use technology that permits attendance by the public. Whenever feasible, public access via telephone must be allowed. Electronic meeting access information must be posted and be included in each meeting agenda.
- **Recordings Required for Selectboard and Schoolboard Meetings:** Municipal legislative bodies and school boards must record their public meetings, unless unusual circumstances make it impossible to do so.
- **Minutes Timeframe Extended When Short-Staffed.** In the event of a staffing shortage, a public body may extend the time limit for the posting of minutes to not more than 10 days (rather than 5 days) from the date of the meeting.
- **Deadline Extension by State Agencies.** State agencies may extend any deadline for licenses, programs, permits and plans due to them agency for renewal or review from a municipality or regional planning commission. Deadlines cannot be extended more than 90 days after the date that the declared state of emergency ends.

- **Deadline Extension by Municipalities.** Municipalities may extend any deadline for licenses, programs, permits and plans issued by the municipality, provided the deadline does not relate to a State license, program or plan noted above. Items extended by municipalities are valid for 90 days after the declared state of emergency ends.

The full text is at:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/BILLS/H-0681/H-0681%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Unofficial.pdf>.

Secretary of State’s Office summary of bill: <https://sos.vermont.gov/secretary-s-desk/commentary/updated-covid-19-impacts-and-considerations-for-open-meeting-law/>

VLCT FAQ related to the changes in the law:

[https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/documents/Resource/Open%20Meeting%20Law%20Covid-19%20FAQs\\_1.pdf](https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/documents/Resource/Open%20Meeting%20Law%20Covid-19%20FAQs_1.pdf)

## Public Transit Services

Green Mountain Transit has experienced ridership decreases and driver shortages as a result of COVID 19. Service modifications are available at [https://ridegmt.com/service-alerts-related-to-COVID 19/](https://ridegmt.com/service-alerts-related-to-COVID-19/). Washington and Orange County service changes in brief:

- Barre Link services suspended
- Capitol Shuttle, Montpelier, suspended. Transit Center Building is closed.
- Mad River Valley, all routes suspended
- Montpelier Link Express, service operational; some trips suspended
- Waterbury Link Express, service operational; some trips suspended
- Elderly & Disabled persons and Medicaid service, service operational; verbally screening riders
- US 2 Commuter, 6:40 am departure from Marshfield suspended
- All Central Vermont services are expected to move to on-demand services

GMT buses currently are operating fare free for all passengers.

## Times Argus Publication Schedule

The Times Argus has changed its publication schedule. This may affect municipal legal notice publication.

- Print edition: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
- E-edition: Wednesday and Friday

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE

### CVEDC Business Assistance Information

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation's website <https://cvedc.org/COVID-19-resources/> summarizes COVID-related programs, resources, and assistance for the local business community. CVEDC encourages small businesses to reach out if they are experiencing concern or strain from COVID 19. **Some businesses are hiring new employees due to COVID 19 response.**

### Central Vermont COVID Response

Capstone Community Action, Downstreet Housing & Community Development and the Vermont Department of Health have established a Central Vermont COVID Response Team. This team is working to 1) meet the needs of vulnerable populations (homeless, low income, older adults, people with disabilities, etc.), and 2) to the extent possible, help insure our medical system is not overwhelmed. The team is working to address congregate recovery, medical, transportation, food access, outreach, volunteer management, and training needs. CVRPC participates as the team's non-emergency medical transportation team lead. The team's work is focused on homeless individuals in the Barre-Montpelier areas. The greatest number of homeless individuals are located in this area.

*Municipalities with an immediate need for vulnerable populations services should contact the State Emergency Operations Center at 1-800-347-0488.*

### Building Bright Futures

Building Bright Futures is a nonprofit, public-private partnership authorized by law to improve the systems that serve Vermont's young children and families. It's COVID 19 resources page - <https://buildingbrightfutures.org/coronavirus/> - is aimed at child care providers impacted by COVID.

### Free Internet Services for Low Income Households

Internet access will be essential for many people. The link below is to the **Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS)**, which has links to companies like Comcast that are offering free internet for 2 months for low-income households. Comcast is also committed to serving people even if they cannot pay their bill. Mobile phone companies are helping out and hotspots will have free access etc.

The DPS website link is: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/new-connectivity-resources-support-you-during-COVID-19-state-emergency-vermont>. People will still need devices that allow them to have access to the internet.

## **No Kid Hungry Emergency Relief Grants Available**

No Kid Hungry is offering real time funding and assistance for schools, early childcare centers, and community organizations that are making sure kids have access to the meals they need as The Vermont Community Foundation has established the [VT COVID-19 Response Fund](#) to support nonprofits that are particularly equipped to address community impacts of the spread of the coronavirus in Vermont. The Community Foundation will provide flexible resources to nonprofits working to address the most immediate public health and economic impacts, focusing on vulnerable populations and the service providers that support them. You can donate online [here](#). schools close due to coronavirus. No Kid Hungry is providing emergency grants to support these local efforts like home delivered meals, grab and go meals programs, school and community pantries, backpack programs, and other steps to help reach children and families who lose access to meals. \$1 million in emergency grants available on a rolling basis. Submit interest requests via <https://www.nokidhungry.org/coronavirus-grant-request>.

## **Mental Health & Wellness**

### **Washington County Mental Health Services**

WCMHS' website provides a variety of resources to assist individuals with maintaining mental and emotional wellness during the COVID 19 pandemic. It's COVID landing page is [https://www.wcmhs.org/COVID\\_19-landing-page/](https://www.wcmhs.org/COVID_19-landing-page/).

- **Community Acts of Kindness (share what you know!)**
- **Fun Stuff to Help Pass Time (distance learning, ideas to pass the time, ideas to keep kids entertained, historical virtual tours of amazing places)**
- **Recovery Resources (online AA, NA and other 12 Step-focused meetings)**
- **Helpful support links**

### **Vermont Department of Mental Health**

VDMH published *Staying Mentally Healthy During Self-Isolation or Quarantine*, available at <https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/document/staying-mentally-healthy-during-self-isolation-or-quarantine>.

### **Vermont Council on Rural Development**

VCRD, in partnership with [Community Resilience Organizations](#), [Community Workshop](#), the [Northeast Kingdom Collaborative](#), and the [Space on Main](#), have compiled a Vermont COVID 19 Community Response & Mutual Aid Toolkit. This resources serves as a best practices guide for establishing local mutual aid networks:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SJSoeSCmchnUpS4BXOVButth1dtpxlqkXQLdT46OD9E/e>  
[dit](#).

VCRD is hosting regular online convening's for local and regional response groups. VCRD aims to foster collaboration and information sharing between groups across the state. Reach out to

[info@vtrural.org](mailto:info@vtrural.org)/ (802) 223-6091 with questions. Previous meeting content at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eniA1-DVyvVVJUbhE0XTb0bYwqGi4KVWRSGe3A1fkM/edit>.

VCRD will provide direct technical assistance for those initiating and supporting efforts in their community. Use [this short form](#) to request technical support, to offer it to others, or to be added to the VCRD e-mail list specifically for COVID 19 community resources.

## Give to Support Community Recovery

The Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) has established the [VT COVID-19 Response Fund](#) to support nonprofits that are equipped to address community impacts of the spread of the coronavirus in Vermont. VCF will provide flexible resources to nonprofits working to address the most immediate public health and economic impacts, focusing on vulnerable populations and the service providers that support them. Online donations are accepted [here](#).

## STATE UPDATES

### Vermont Department of Health (VDH)

VDH publishes a host of information at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

- [COVID-19 Activity in Vermont](#)
- [What Vermont is Doing](#)
- [Updates \(Daily\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Guidance for Specific Groups](#)
- [CDC Updates](#)

VDH has published a [Fact Sheet Defining COVID-19 Terminology](#). This easy-to-read flyer distinguishes among self-observation, quarantine, and isolation.

### [Vermont's Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\)](#)

VDH is calling on licensed and certified health care professionals to sign up with the state's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) as part of the state's efforts to support the health care providers responding to the COVID 19 pandemic. MRC units are community-based groups of volunteers who supplement local emergency and public health resources with their existing skills. People with medical or other health care backgrounds are needed to bolster the ranks of the current health care work force. Learn more [here](#).

### Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)

ACCD is assessing and responding to community impacts of COVID 19 on Vermont businesses.

It is hosting a webpage with business-related information at: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19-guidance>. In addition, individuals can sign up for ACCD's COVID 19 Economic and Community Response Newsletter through the website.

ACCD continues to update its website with COVID-19 guidance for Vermont businesses. Recent information includes:

- ACCD requested businesses refrain from contacting it regarding “essential business” inquiries. This information is available through its website, the Governor’s executive order, business industry code, and approved professions.
- Lodging businesses must cease electronic reservations immediately; only over the phone for essential workers/business can continue.
- ACCD directed large “big box” retailers to cease non-essential sales. These retailers must:
  - Restrict access to non-essential goods. Stores must close aisles, close portions of the store, or remove items from the floor.
  - Only offer non-essential items via online portals, telephone, delivery, or curbside pickup, to the extent possible.
  - Except in the event of emergencies threatening the health and welfare of a customer, showrooms and garden sections of large home improvement centers should be closed.
- ACCD issued a list of [recommended best practices for retailers](#) allowed to continue in-person operations.

ACCD continues to request that businesses impacted by the response to the COVID 19 virus share these impacts via the [Agency Business Impact Form](#). Submissions help ACCD assess the full impact of the pandemic as economic entities work toward solutions.

### State Emergency Operations Center

The SEOC is hosting COVID 19 update calls for local officials every Friday at 2pm. These calls provide an overview of the State’s response to the COVID 19 pandemic and to answer questions that municipal officials may have. Specific questions must be submitted call at <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=O5O0IK26PEOcAnDtzHVZxoUpluO7W5BOig27XwhVBN1UMkpBU1FKQjBBNTVKWUFJUjJHRjU0TEuOUi4u> (or click [here](#)) by Friday at 10am. A summary of frequently asked questions can be found at: <https://vem.vermont.gov/coronavirus>. This list is updated weekly after the call.

Municipal officials may contact Grace Vinson, [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com), for the call in number.



The SEOC has put a call out to all Vermont manufacturers who may be able to transition their operations to aid in the production of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the COVID-19 response. Needed items include:

- N95 Respirators
- Surgical Masks
- Full Face Shields
- Goggles
- Surgical Hoods
- Gloves
- Boot Covers
- Booties
- Tyvek Coveralls
- Impermeable Aprons
- Coveralls
- Gowns
- Fluid Resistant Gowns
- Surgical Gowns

Manufacturers willing to explore shifting production should reach out to Vermont Procurement Technical Assistance Center Director Joanne Spaulding at [joanne.spaulding@vermont.gov](mailto:joanne.spaulding@vermont.gov).

### Department of Labor

DOL COVID information is available at <https://labor.vermont.gov/COVID19>. The site's updates and notifications include:

- Workers compensation updates and claims handling changes
- USDOL OSHA temporary enforcement guidance
- VT DOL memo on expanding unemployment insurance benefits
- COVID 19 information in various languages

Unemployment claims can be initiated through the website above.

### Department of Taxes

DOT COVID information is available at <https://tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus>. The site's updates and notifications include:

- Meals and Room Tax and Sales Use Tax relief
- Income Tax deadline extension
- Secure Messaging directions
- Electronic filing and online service information

### Public Service Department

The PSD has prepared a map of public buildings in Vermont where WiFi with access to the internet is publicly available. These sites are accessible at all hours from a parked vehicle on the road or parking lot. As a safety precaution, PSD discourages users from entering the premises or congregating outside. These sites should be accessed from within a parked vehicle. This

information was compiled through an email survey of schools, libraries, and town offices conducted in March 2020.

Please share this information widely. The site is available at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/announcements/public-wifi-hotspots-vermont>.

### **Agency of Education (AOE)**

AOE Secretary released a [memo](#) on March 31. The Secretary granted waivers from the requirement to hold 175 student attendance days to all COVID 19 school closures prior to March 18, 2020 based on public health considerations. Schools closed prior to March 18 must request a waiver from AOE. The memo also describes attendance procedures in regards to a school's need for additional waivers.

## **FEDERAL UPDATES**

### **USDA Rural Development (USDA RD)**

USDA RD has launched a COVID 19 resource page about actions taken by the Agency to help rural residents, businesses, and communities impacted by the COVID 19 outbreak. The resource page is available at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus>.

Currently, it includes:

- Immediate Opportunities for RD Customers Impacted by COVID 19
- COVID 19 Stakeholder Notifications for:
  - USDA Rural Utilities Service
  - USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service
  - Single-Family Housing Direct Loan and Grant Programs
- Single-Family Housing Direct We Care Letter (USDA payment and moratorium assistance that can be provided)

### **FEMA and Economic Development Administration (EDA)**

FEMA and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) are collaborating on small businesses recovery, working with the Small Business Administration (SBA), Department of Labor (DOL), and the USDA Rural Development (USDA RD) to provide different types of assistance (loans, grants, unemployment support). Two disasters are in progress:

- a health and human services disaster for response to COVID 19 pandemic, and
- an economic disaster from the pandemic's impact.

There may be economic stimulus funding for recovery projects. Municipalities are encouraged begin building build a list of local and regional projects that are:

- ready for construction (permits in place or easily obtained),

- ready for design and/or permitting, and
- ready for scoping (have idea, need 30% conceptual designs).

These projects might be infrastructure (water, wastewater, broadband, transportation, etc.), community development (housing, community centers, etc.), or other areas (public projects to support business needs, etc.). These projects lists can be forwarded to Zachary Maia, [maia@cvregion.com](mailto:maia@cvregion.com). At minimum, please include project name, estimated cost, and a contact person's name, email, and telephone number. Municipalities may receive similar requests from multiple entities. You are encouraged to respond to all entities with the same list.

### **US Small Business Administration (SBA)**

SBA COVID 19 information available at <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>. Information available on:

- Paycheck Protection Program
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Loan Advance
- SBA Debt Relief
- SBA Express Bridge Loans
- Guidance for Businesses and Employers
- SBA Products and Resources
- Government Contracting
- Local Assistance

SBA loan program for Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) is live. Businesses that submitted last week must resubmit to apply for the (up to) \$10,000 cash advance. These loans are available to self-employed individuals and contractors. Paycheck Protection Program being rolled out to keep workforce employed.

### **US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

HUD is beginning to move funding through the Community Development Block Grant program and to communities like Burlington.