



## **CVRPC COVID 19 Updates & Resources**

Week End 4/10/2020

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.

The document only contains updated information which is outlined below. Previous resources can be found in the previous update documents which are located on our website –

<http://centralvtplanning.org>

- Municipal News: [Duxbury, Plainfield, Washington](#)
- CVRPC Services: [Local Emergency Management Plans](#)
- Updates: [Central Vermont Medical Center \(CVMC\) Call Center](#)
- Resources Available: [Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Washington and Northern Orange County Regional Response Command Center \(WNOCRCC\)](#)
- State Updates: [Vermont Department of Health, Agency of Commerce & Community Development, Vermont Agency of Transportation](#)
- Federal Updates: [Congressman Welch's Overview of Stimulus](#)

### **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.

#### **Duxbury**

- Town Office building is closed the public. Contact town clerk by phone email and use drop box outside building.
- Selectboard is meeting remotely. Others are cancelled.
- Late dog license fee is waived

#### **Plainfield**

- All municipal buildings closed to public and all committee members. Available via phone (802-454-8461) and email - Town Clerk: [plainfieldtc@gmail.com](mailto:plainfieldtc@gmail.com), Assistant Town Clerk: [plainfieldatc@gmail.com](mailto:plainfieldatc@gmail.com)
- Selectboard meeting via technology. All other meetings suspended.
- Dog licenses extended to May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 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**

## Washington

- Town Office closed to public. Available by telephone appointment for vault work.
- Selectboard still meeting.
- No late fees for Dog licenses.

## 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.

### Emergency Management Plans (LEMP)

LEMPs should be adopted by Towns by May 1<sup>st</sup> annually in accordance with 20 V.S.A § 6 and State Emergency Management Plan. This deadline has not been extended. A current Local Emergency Management Plan is required for municipalities to receive federal preparedness funds and increased state reimbursement through the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF). CVRPC can assist municipalities to update their LEMPs. Contact Grace Vinson, [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com).

## UPDATES

### Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC)

CVMC has a COVID-19 call center available for anyone who has symptoms or health questions about the virus. The call center is staffed with nurses, providers, and schedulers 7 days a week

8am -5pm. When an individual calls CVMC, they will be triaged by one of the nurses. If the caller meets testing criteria, the nurse will forward the message to a provider to order the test. Once the test is ordered, a scheduler will contact the caller to schedule a time for testing.

CVMC COVID-19 Call Center  
802-371-5310  
7 days a week 8am - 5pm

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE

### Central Vermont COVID Response – a.k.a WNOC-RRCC

Capstone Community Action, Downstreet Housing & Community Development and the Vermont Department of Health have established a Central Vermont COVID Response Team - <https://www.facebook.com/WNOCRRCC/>. The *Washington and Northern Orange County Regional Response Command Center*, fondly referred to as WNOC-RRCC (Wi-Nock-Rock). Is working to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations, to reduce the medical surge and flatten the COVID curve, as well as to support and be an ally to state and local efforts.

WNOC-RRCC 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 lead. WNOC-RRCC's work is focused on homeless individuals in the Barre-Montpelier areas. The greatest number of homeless individuals are located in this area.

A call center is open to intake needs. The call center number is (802) 636-2025. Watch social media for updates:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WNOCRRCC/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wnoc.rccc/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WnocRccc>

Volunteers welcome! You can “staff” the call center from your home. WNOC-RRCC will provide training.

WNOC-RRCC is accepting Emergency Goods and Supplies that will be distributed to individuals and community efforts in need. The drop off location is located at Capstone Community Action, 20 Gable Place in Barre. It will be open weekdays between 7:30 am and 5:00 pm. Please ring the bell at the marked garage door.

- Donations accepted include non-perishable food items, consumable household supplies (cleaning products, paper goods, diapers, etc.), and COVID-related personal protective equipment (masks, rubber gloves, disposable suits & gowns).
- Items not accepted include clothing, footwear, electronics, building supplies, or other household hard goods.
- One-time specific donation needs will be posted on WNOC-RRCC's [Facebook page](#).
- Monetary donations are accepted gratefully at: [www.capstonevt.org](http://www.capstonevt.org).

WNOC-RRCC hosts weekly 30-minute update calls every Friday at 11:30 am to give a situational update on its activities during the past week, what needs are developing, and to share relevant local and state information. These events are open and free to the public. To participate:

- by computer, click here: <https://zoom.us/j/808413146>
- by phone, dial (929) 205-6099, and press 808413146#

To submit questions before or during the call, email Mike Rama at [mike.rama@wnocrrcc.org](mailto:mike.rama@wnocrrcc.org) or submit questions live in the Zoom chatbox.

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

## **Vermont League of Cities and Towns**

### **Volunteer Risk Management**

Are grassroots volunteers working on COVID 19 response covered by insurance for municipalities that are PACIF members? In brief, not if they are not sponsored or directed by the municipality. They may be if sponsored or directed. An authorized municipal volunteer who is injured or becomes ill while volunteering may have some medical coverage through an Accidental Death and & Disability policy that PACIF obtains on behalf of its members. Learn more about VLCT's advice and best management practices at <https://www.vlct.org/resource/volunteer-risk-management>.

### **Cyber Spotlight: Remote Work Security Webinar: 4/15/20, 2pm**

Did you make fast changes to support remote work? In this time of crisis, many organizations quickly deployed remote workers, and spun-up new virtual private network (VPN) and cloud instances that could result in security gaps. With employees working from home and sometimes even using their own personal devices, hackers have quickly pivoted. Coronavirus-related phishing increased 667% in March, Zoom attacks are rising, and hackers are increasingly targeting VPNs. How can you protect your organization during these challenging times? In this webinar: The latest COVID-19 scams • Work-from-home best practices • Emergency BYOD policies • Videoconference security tips • Remote work security.

[Registration Link](#)

## STATE UPDATES

### **Vermont Department of Health (VDH)**

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

### **VTHelplink Clearinghouse**

VDH has launched [VTHelplink](#), a new, single source clearinghouse for Vermonters to receive free, confidential and personalized information and referrals to substance use prevention, treatment and recovery services throughout the state. [Read the press release](#).

New features on **VDH** website:

- “Ask a Question,” allows visitors to ask questions about COVID 19. Answers provided via web bot. Information updated regularly.
- Separate web page for health care providers at [healthvermont.gov/covid19-providers](https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19-providers) includes current guidance, health alerts, and resources for protecting patients and health care workers in different settings.
- Fact sheets with [COVID-19 information for health care workers](#), in addition to Vermonters who are [awaiting test results for COVID-19](#), [diagnosed with COVID-19](#), or [a close contact of someone with COVID-19](#).
- “Coping with COVID-19 Stress” gives Vermonters tips and resources to navigate these uncertain times.

### **Translated Guidance for Vermonters**

[New fact sheet](#), translated into nine languages, has been added to Department of Health website under “[Translated Materials](#).” The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Vermont has also posted a new series of [COVID-19 videos in several languages](#).

### **New Guidance on Cloth Face Masks**

Vermonters should wear cloth facial masks, or coverings, if they need to leave their homes for essential purposes, such as going grocery shopping, to the pharmacy, or outdoors if other people are nearby.

The advice to wear cloth masks is based on new data about how COVID-19 can spread *before* a person has any symptoms. Because people may have COVID-19 but no symptoms, wearing a face mask may help keep people from spreading the virus. Face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing and other prevention measures. [Read the CDC's guidance on how to use and make cloth masks.](#) [Watch a video](#) of the U.S. Surgeon General on how to make your own face covering using items around the house.

## Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)

ACCD has set up a "one stop shop" for various COVID-related issues:

<https://mailchi.mp/10d8a7781e26/covid-19-update-2020-04-01?e=d3777053ee>. The site includes the following:

- **New Recovery Resource Center** - to better organize news and information on COVID-19 response being released each day: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19>. Tools and programs for individuals, businesses, and communities to assist in recovery and FAQs on how to access those resources.
- **Unemployment Insurance Town Hall** – DOL is hosting a series of Virtual Town Hall events on issues around Unemployment Insurance, and other labor-related topics – Next events are scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to view past events, visit the [Department of Labor Website](#).
- **SBA Loans and Cash Advance** - Small business owners can apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan. By applying for a loan, a business harmed by COVID-19 may be eligible for a grant that provides an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 within three days of a successful application. This resource is now available to businesses and you can access it by reaching out directly to the SBA and filling out [an application on their website](#) (more details below in SBA section), or by contacting your [Regional Development Corporation](#), or the [Vermont Small Business Development Center](#).
- **New Volunteer Resource** - Governor Scott is calling on able Vermonters to sign-up to volunteer and support the state's COVID-19 response. Vermont is looking for volunteers to help in communities across the state and help is needed in a variety of areas and professions. Register at: <https://www.vermont.gov/volunteer>.

## Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans)

VTrans has extended the grant application deadline for Class 2 roadway and structures grants to May 15th for all Districts.

VTrans has determined that, with the exception of one emergency project, all construction projects it provides funding for do not meet the criteria for being critical for public health,

safety, or national security that would qualify them as essential per Governor Scott's Executive Stay Home Stay Safe Order issued March 24<sup>th</sup>. This pertains to any construction project that VTrans is providing funding for, including grant projects. This determination also extends to VTrans' maintenance activities which are currently limited to winter snow and ice control, safety patrols and responding to necessary repairs that affect the safety of the traveling public. VTrans urges municipalities to consider using VTrans' direction on projects they are funding as guidance for interpreting what are essential services per Governor Scott's Executive Order.

### **FY20 Grants In Aid Program**

At this time Grants-In-Aid projects are not considered essential and should not proceed with construction. While the Stay Home, Stay Safe order is in effect, CVRPC staff will not be conducting any related Grants-In-Aid field work or site visits, and municipalities should not be completing any Grants In Aid program work.

### **Agency of Natural Resources (ANR)**

#### **CWSRF and DWSRF Draft IUP Deadlines and Public Hearing Date Changes**

ANR is delaying the draft Intended Use Plan (IUP) and associated public hearing for its Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF respectively). Draft IUP release anticipated on May 1, 2020. Associated public hearing to be held virtually on June 20. Public accessibility activities include:

- Calendar invitations sent to everyone in ANR's CWSRF and DWSRF email list. No reservation is required. Call-in option will be included.
- PowerPoint presentation posted on ANR's website by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Questions can be submitted using the "chat" function during the meeting or via email in advance or during the meeting.

Current loan recipients can anticipate a communication from ANR containing information regarding a temporary suspension of loan repayments. Municipalities are invited to submit ideas for additional ways the program can support them through COVID response.

## **FEDERAL UPDATES**

### **Congressman Welch's Overview of Stimulus Bill**

- Direct payments to individuals (\$1,200 for people making \$75,000 or less).
- Expansion of unemployment insurance to self-employed and gig economy workers and increase in maximum benefits.
- \$100 billion in direct aid to hospitals.
- \$150 billion for state aid, including \$45 billion for FEMA Disaster Relief Fund (VT should get over \$1 billion).

- \$30 billion for K-12 and higher education.
- \$16 billion to replenish Strategic National Stockpile for PPE and other supplies
- Financial assistance for small business (access to SBA loans, 250% of small businesses estimated monthly payroll costs).
- \$9.5 billion to farmers.