



COVID 19 Updates & Resources

4/16/2020

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: [Barre Town](#), [Middlesex](#), [Montpelier](#), [Northfield](#), [Orange](#), [Roxbury](#), [Waitsfield](#), [Warren](#), [Williamstown](#), [Woodbury](#)
- CVRPC Services: [Map Information](#)
- Updates: [Commercial Grade Wi-Fi Donations to Vermont Towns](#)
- Resources Available: [WNOC-RCC](#), [Vermont League of Cities and Towns](#), [Vermont Council on Rural Development](#), [Hunger Free Vermont](#), [Building Bright Futures](#)
- State Updates: [Agency of Natural Resources](#), [Agency of Commerce & Community Development](#), [Vermont Emergency Management](#), [Vermont Department of Health Access](#)
- Federal Updates: [USDA Rural Resource Guide](#)

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 Town

- All public meetings are accessible to the public by teleconference only. Phone-in information will be posted with each meeting agenda, check [website](#) for details.
- New resources here:
http://www.barretown.org/departments/emergency_services/covid-19_resources.php

Middlesex

- Food Shelf Update – regular Saturday food distribution has been suspended and grants are being made available to Middlesex families to help them pay for groceries. More info [here](#).

Montpelier

- [Montpelier Alive Business Update](#) (updated daily by 5pm)
- [Mutual Aid Needs Request](#) form

Northfield

- [Press release](#) from Selectboard on COVID-19

Orange

- [Town Office Update](#)
- Selectboard meeting online via Zoom, check the [website](#) and bulletin board out front for access to meetings.

Roxbury

- Selectboard meeting via conference call, check [website](#) for access to meetings on the agenda(s).
- Visit <https://roxburyvt.org/resources-vt/covid-19-resources/> for updated information on solid waste services, Northfield Pharmacy and other topics.

Waitsfield

- [Information](#) on town land and trails that are open/restricted access.

Warren

- Information on Mad River Valley Emergency Response Team “[Neighbors Shopping for Neighbors](#)” program: if you would benefit from assistance from a neighbor, call Lynn Barnes 802.496.4746 and mention the “Neighbor Shopping for Neighbors” program (*this information applies to Waitsfield, Fayston, Warren, and Moretown*).

Williamstown

- All burning is suspended until further notice; no permits will be issued, absolutely no burning of any kind outdoors, including fire pits.

Woodbury

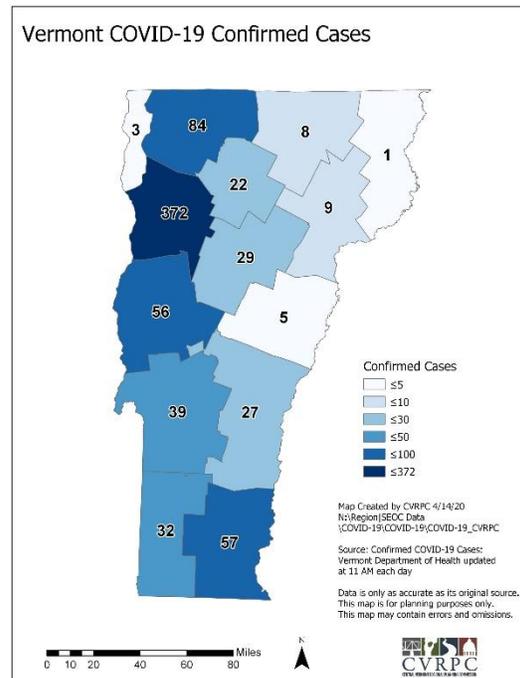
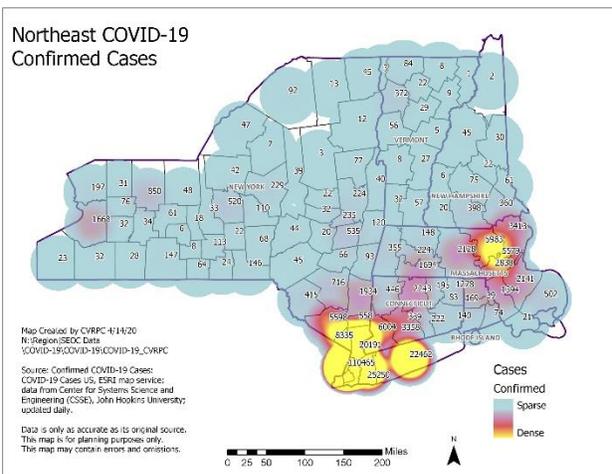
- [COVID-19 Guidance Sheet](#)

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) or cell (802-585-9174) to discuss how CVRPC can assist.

Heat Map – COVID

Using data from the Vermont Department of Health, ESRI and VCGI, Pam DeAndrea has created a useful mapping tool which updates COVID-19 confirmed cases information both in the Northeast Region and Vermont – see an examples below and please advise if you are interested in similar mapping. COVID Confirmed Cases cannot be mapped to the town-level due to HIPAA requirements.



UPDATES

Commercial Grade Wi-Fi Hot Spot Donations to Vermont Towns

Microsoft/RTO has contacted the Vermont Public Service Department with an offer to donate and install public Wi-Fi hotspots in rural locations in Vermont at no cost. These can be set up at schools, town offices, libraries, or other community gathering spots where they can be accessed by a vehicle for telehealth and remote learning purposes. This is available to all rural Vermont towns.

To be clear, this offer is from Microsoft, not the State of Vermont, and is just for the provision and installation of the commercial-grade Wi-Fi hotspot equipment, not associated broadband service. The donation does not include internet access or electricity to power the device. The device will not need to be returned.

Interested towns, libraries, schools, or other potential hosts should send an email to Robert.fish@vermont.gov with the physical address of the location, a contact person to pass along to Microsoft/RTO and their local installer, and how the donation will improve access to telehealth and remote learning in their community. Additional information is below.

The goal is to install these hot spots in the next few weeks. Microsoft/RTO is already scheduling installations at the first 19 locations. You are encouraged to act quickly, lists of interested towns will go to Microsoft daily.

Criteria:

- Rural Vermont locations preferred.
- Qualified locations include schools, libraries, town-owned buildings, other community gathering spaces. Community health centers could also be a great option.
- Locations must have parking and or reach on the street parking. While the equipment will not be removed after COVID-19, the focus of the donation is telehealth and remote learning.
- Locations must be able to provide electricity and internet access
- Locations should not currently have Wi-Fi access that adequately reaches the street.
- Requests will be filled on a first come first served basis until the equipment available has been exhausted.

How to Request a Hot Spot

- Send an email to Robert.fish@vermont.gov with the following information:
 - The name and physical address of the proposed location
 - Full contact person for the installer to reach out to
 - Any current outdoor Wi-Fi zones/hot spots
 - Any questions you may have

Background

The idea is that even though there may be hot spots in nearby towns, with COVID we want people to travel as little as possible. Internet access is essential to online, remote learning and working from home. Many Vermonters do not have reliable internet access at home and will be searching for access elsewhere. To be clear, we want to actively discourage users from entering the premises or congregating outside. This is also an opportunity to provide an additional

community service available even after this pandemic passes.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Washington and Northern Orange Counties Regional Response (WNOC-RRCC)

- WNOC-RRCC is publishing weekly newsletters to share operational updates, needs, and community news pertaining to Central Vermont. Their second weekly newsletter available [here](#).
- Resources shared in this week's newsletter include:
 - Donation needs
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Information on WNOC-RRCC Community Call Center
 - Community efforts and resources: Mad River Valley Emergency Team, Montpelier Food Pantry, Barre Mutual Aid, and more

Sign up to receive weekly newsletters [here](#).

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Essential Local Government Services and Functions Related to COVID-19

In response to questions posed by VLCT members concerning their status around the "Essential Functions and Services" as defined by the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, the Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) has assembled the following information: [What Are Local Government Essential Functions & Services - Rev. April 9, 2020](#).

For additional FAQs and information about municipal emergency planning assistance and coordination, visit [the Coronavirus Covid-19 Resources and Recommendations](#) webpage. Included are webinars for viewing on topics related to remote work, COVID effects on human resources, and more.

Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD)

Resources for COVID-19 Community Response and Mutual Aid

Over the past few weeks, VCRD has been part of a coalition of regional organizers working to facilitate communication between mutual aid groups across the state, compile resources to assist their efforts, and maintain open channels of communication between local volunteers and state leadership. Resources available on its website(www.vtrural.org) include:

- Link to [Vermont Department of Health's COVID-19 webpage](#) for the latest information on how to protect yourself and others.
- [Toolkit and Resource List for Establishing Local COVID-19 Mutual Aid Efforts](#). This toolkit is intended to serve as a best practices guide for establishing local mutual aid networks. It is a living document that is updated as needed.

- [Directory of Community Organizers across the state](#). This directory includes contact information of local response leads at the town, regional, and statewide levels, and can help to identify gaps in response infrastructure.
- Recordings of [Online Convenings](#) for these leaders to foster collaboration and information sharing between groups across the state.
- Zoom meetings of the COVID-19 Community Response and Mutual Aid Teams (listed in the directory above). Visit [this page](#) for links to past meeting notes and video, and the next meeting date and login information.
- Technical assistance for those initiating and supporting efforts in their communities. Use this [short form](#) to request technical support, to offer it to others, or to be added to our email list specifically for COVID-19 community resources.

Building Bright Futures (BBF)

In response to the current COVID-19 crisis, BBF has been focused on a key aspect of their role, which is monitoring the systems that support young children and their families. They have expanded their online [resources](#) and have initiated [child care forums](#) for participation by parents, childcare, after school providers and early childhood partners.

Hunger Free Vermont

Hunger Free Vermont is working diligently to ensure all Vermonters have access to the resources they need to stay healthy and nourished during this challenging time. They are preparing informational materials, collaborating with state agencies and Vermont’s congressional delegation, and connecting with communities across Vermont to make certain we’re all prepared to mitigate the impacts of coronavirus on the food security of Vermonters, particularly older adults, working Vermonters who may lose hours and paychecks, those without access to paid leave, and families and students who will be disproportionately impacted by school closings. Link here for information on [Feeding Your Family](#), and find additional information on their [website](#).

STATE UPDATES

Agency of Natural Resources

The DEC Water Investment Division (WID) has updated "[Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 and DEC’s Water Investment Division \(WID\) Grants, Contracts, and Loans](#)"

For COVID-19 and Active Agreements

As COVID-19 may cause impacts to agreement timelines and the successful completion of active agreements. DEC staff will be contacting grantees, contractors, and loan recipients with more information and guidance on next steps in the coming weeks.

For COVID-19 and Pending Agreements

DEC is evaluating unexecuted funding commitments due to possible budgetary impacts of COVID-19. This applies to agreements and amendments not yet signed/executed. Grantees who may be incurring costs under pending agreements are advised to stop all spending until further notice.

As more information becomes available, DEC will post updates to [its website](#) and distribute via E-Newsletter ([subscribe for updates](#)).

Vermont Emergency Management

Major Disaster Declaration D4-4532

Vermont's request for a major disaster declaration was approved on April 8, 2020. Vermont was approved for **Public Assistance (PA)** funds for the state and all municipalities. This will provide 75% reimbursement for emergency protective measures including:

- Emergency Operations Center Operations
- Emergency Medical Care
- Medical Sheltering
- Medical Supplies
- Provisions of food, water, ice, medicine and other essential needs
- Security and law enforcement for temporary facilities
- Communications of general health and safety information to public

Vermont's request for **Individual Assistance** is still being reviewed at the federal level. For more information on the major disaster declaration, visit <https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19/disaster>.

Public Assistance (PA) Applicant Information

VEM is hosting virtual applicant briefings for organizations seeking to receive PA funding. The PowerPoint presentations used during the briefings will be posted [here](#).

If you have applied for emergency declaration (EM3437), you do not need to resubmit to DR4532, you will be automatically put into the Disaster. For more information, visit <https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/pa>

Vermont Department of Health (VDH)

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

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>.

ACCD is holding daily [Town Halls for employers/employees](#) (Town halls for employers will be on Tues/Thurs @ 2pm, town halls for employees will be on M/W/F @ 2 pm).

Guidance for Road Crews

ACCD has also published new guidance for municipal road crews that applies to regular maintenance and job duties during the Stay Home, Stay Safe order. Review the guidance [here](#) (scroll down to the section titled **Municipalities**).

Recovery Resource Roundup

Several organizations supporting businesses in the state have created resource centers [aggregating programs and offers of assistance](#) to businesses. The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and several other food system organizations have also [compiled resources for food related businesses](#).

Vermont Department of Health Access

Emergency Management Services COVID-19 Specific Medicaid Funding

See first two items under the "Provider Assistance" bullet: [Updated COVID-19 Medicaid Retainer Cover Letter & Process](#) and [COVID-19 specific Medicaid Retainer Application Checklist](#)

FEDERAL UPDATES

USDA

USDA COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

USDA has developed this [resource guide](#) as a one-stop-shop for federal funding and partnership opportunities. The Guide lists federal programs that can help rural communities, organizations, and residents impacted by COVID-19, including technical, training, and management assistance, financial assistance, and state and local assistance.