



COVID 19 Updates & Resources

4/24/2020

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 contains only updated information. Previous resources can be found on our website – <http://centralvtplanning.org>.

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. Contact Nancy Chartrand, chartrand@cvregion.com with updates.

Orange

- Access by appointment only for land records research, title search operations, and other business. Appointments made via email or phone and will be no longer than 60 minutes. All visitors granted access must adhere to health and safety guidelines including wearing a mask and gloves supplied by the individual. See [Town Reopening Protocol](#) and [COVID Update](#).

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.

CVRPC is organizing a roundtable for Selectboards and Managers/Administrators for the week of April 27. Contact Bonnie Waninger, waninger@cvregion.com, if you'd like to recommend specific topics for discussion.

UPDATES

None.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Municipal Essential Functions and Services: How Do I Know if My Service is Essential? Webinar

Ted Brady, Deputy Secretary for the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, reviewed frequently asked questions about specific essential services and functions for municipalities. You can view the presentation slides and watch the recorded webinar [here](#). A brief overview is below.

Four steps to determine if you are conducting an essential service and can continue in-person operations:

1. Consult [Addendum 6: Stay Home Stay Safe](#), which details what services and functions are critical. Read the [ACCD guidance](#) associated with [Addendum 10](#) released on 4/17/20. This outlines mandatory health and safety requirements for all business operations, and provides details on the “phased restart” for certain non-essential businesses.
2. Review the [ACCD Stay Home, Stay Safe FAQs](#) and [ACCD's sector by sector guidance](#)
3. Review [ACCD's NAICS code reference sheet](#), which has “yes/no” indicators next to each NAICS code to determine whether your business/service is critical.
4. Consult [the list of professions ACCD has deemed essential](#).

Essential Public Safety and Public Works services, as outlined in [Addendum 6: Stay Home Stay Safe](#), include but are not limited to: *law enforcement, public safety and first responders, including fire, ambulance services, emergency medical technicians and emergency management personnel.*

Road crews should only do repairs to roadway infrastructure necessary to ensure the imminent safety of motorists. This includes repairing potholes or failing culverts. *Regular spring maintenance is non-essential* and must be done in accordance with [Addendum 10](#).

Financial and professional services (land record and title searches for example) are not considered critical, and must only be done in accordance with [Addendum 10](#).

Remember that all businesses (essential and non-essential) must follow the VT Department of Health and CDC guidelines associated with [Addendum 10](#).

Webinar – Local Financing Opportunities to Help Communities Recover – April 27th @ 10:00 am

Presented by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, this introductory webinar for municipal leaders answers the question: What tools are currently available (and what tools are being

considered by the state) to help towns access financing that bridges expected revenue gaps due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Register [here](#).

Free Remote Work Software Available for Municipalities

Audio/video conference software company LogMeIn.com (owner of GoToMeeting, GoToWebinar, and GoToStage) is offering a free Coronavirus Emergency Remote Work Kit to municipalities, health care providers, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations. This includes free temporary licenses to use their online meeting, webinar, and remote work software products. VLCT encourages members to ensure the security of the program(s) they use for working and holding meetings remotely. While VLCT does use some LogMeIn programs, this notification is not an endorsement of LogMeIn or its products. For details, visit <https://www.gotomeeting.com/work-remote/contact-sales>.

Vermont Arts Council

Arts and humanities organizations in Vermont facing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply for emergency relief funding through a new partnership between the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities. The [COVID-19 Cultural Relief Grant Program](#) is seeded with more than \$700,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

STATE UPDATES

Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)

ACCD will hold a virtual Town Hall event on Friday, April 24 at 2:00pm. This event will focus on the work of the Employer Financial and Technical Support Team, an action team of the Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force. Department of Economic Development Commissioner Joan Goldstein will moderate a panel of business advisors to talk about the financial assistance programs available from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Register [here](#).

Additional Guidance on Phase 1 Restart of the Economy was provided today during Governor Scott's press conference – see ACCD's detailed memo outlining this guidance [here](#).

Department of Labor

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program (PUA) has launched. This program provides unemployment benefits to self-employed, sole proprietors, and independent contractors. More information on the application process and eligibility can be found here:

<https://labor.vermont.gov/PUA>

Department of Public Service

The Department of Public Service encourages people with connectivity issues to contact DPS Service

Consumer Affairs & Public Information at 1-800-622-4496 or email psd.consumer@vermont.gov. DPS is also asking families with students that lack Internet access to fill out a [survey](#); this information will be used to help identify locations where students lack access to the Internet or where consumers want service to be improved.

Department of Financial Regulation

Governor Scott and Department of Financial Regulation Commissioner Michael Pieciak announced a multi-state initiative to secure student loan relief options for thousands of Vermonters with privately held student loans. Under this initiative, many Vermonters with commercially owned Federal Family Education Loan Program loans or privately held student loans who are struggling to make their payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible for expanded relief. Borrowers in need of assistance, including VSAC borrowers, must immediately contact their student loan servicer or lender to identify the options appropriate to their circumstances.

FEDERAL UPDATES

Small Business Administration

SBA Issues Compliance Requirements for the Paycheck Protection Program

View [guidance for companies to follow to ensure compliance](#) with the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) and maximize the amount of loan forgiveness. If you have been approved by your lender for a PPP loan or plan to apply when the program reopens, it is very important to review this guidance.