



## COVID 19 Updates & Resources

5/19/2020

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

Information has been gathered from municipal websites or provided directly to CVRPC by the municipality and updated to this [Municipal Chart](#) with the latest updates in red. This information is being shared to assist municipalities with mutual response as well as service and planning ideas. Contact Nancy Chartrand, [chartrand@cvregion.com](mailto:chartrand@cvregion.com) with updates.

### 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.

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE

#### Vermont Food Bank

##### Farmers to Families Food Box Distributions

The Foodbank continues partnering with The Abbey Group, the State of Vermont, and the Vermont National Guard and to provide boxes of chicken, produce, dairy products, and non-perishable food at distributions held throughout the state. For the most up-to-date information visit: <https://www.vtfoodbank.org/coronavirus-services-for-individuals/coronavirus-food-distributions>

Please note that the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Morristown site has been relocated from the airport to Lamoille Union High School in Hyde Park and food is available **while supplies last**.

## Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

### VHCB Business Consultation Available

To support the resilience and long-term success of Vermont's producers, the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program is offering disaster response support to working lands businesses with urgent needs related to COVID-19. Consult with an expert business advisor who can assess the unique needs of your business, provide assistance and connection to resources, and help you plan your next steps. The initial consultation is 30-60 minutes with follow-up meetings as needed to address specific issues. Learn more [here](#).

## Vermont League of Cities and Towns

### Town Finance Related to COVID-19 FAQ's

In response to questions posed by municipalities concerning the financial toll wrought by a global health pandemic on local communities, VLCT has assembled [information](#) related to municipal efforts to potentially lessen the severity of COVID-19.

## Community Engagement Lab

### Forum Series: Reimagining the Role of Arts Organizations

The Community Engagement Lab is offering a [series of forums](#) for artists, instructors, and arts organizations to explore how arts organizations can reestablish themselves in and after the pandemic. The forums will be open to the public and will feature panels of artists and arts leaders in dialogue about the challenges and opportunities facing the arts field.

## Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce

### LCRCC Webinar: Adapting Vermont Hospitality to COVID-19

On Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00am, LCRCC will host a webinar to address the unique challenges the hospitality industry has faced and to discuss a path forward as the economy begins to reopen. The webinar is free, but registration will be capped at 90 people. Register [here](#).

## Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

### WLEB COVID-19 Response Business Development Grants

Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) launched a one-time grant program COVID-19 Response Business Development Grants. Funding is available for agriculture and forestry businesses to maintain operations while increasing capacity to rebuild and/or recover. Applying organizations must have experienced, and be able to clearly articulate, negative business impacts due to COVID-19. Eligible proposals must focus on business response, shifting marketing strategies, or other activities that may improve business recovery. Project activities eligible for funding include:

- Market development
- Value-added production
- Research and development
- Growth strategy

Funds total \$180,000 and eligible grants will be awarded within the range of \$5,000 to \$25,000. Application period closes on May 31, 2020. Learn more [here](#).

## STATE UPDATES

### **Governor Scott Extends State of Emergency, signs “Be Smart, Stay Safe” Order**

On May 15, Governor Scott released Addendum 14 to Executive Order 01-20. This Addendum:

- Extends the State of Emergency through June 15, 2020
- Loosens restrictions on where Vermonters can travel, to include for in-state stays at available lodging, campground and marina facilities.
- Amends Addenda 6 and 7 to allow the limited resumption of lodging operations, parks for recreational vehicles and campgrounds, all public and private camping facilities, and marinas effective May 22 for Vermont residents only, or those who have met the 14-day quarantine requirement.
- Encourages public mask use
- Allows the legislative body of each municipality to enact more strict local requirements regarding mask use than what is set forth in Addendum 14.

Read the full Addendum [here](#).

### **Vermont Department of Children and Families**

#### **Restart Stipends Available for Child & Summer Care**

A new application for stipends to childcare and day camp operators is available. These stipends are part of the \$6 million dollars allocated to childcare in order to assist in reopening by helping defer the cost of COVID-19 related expenses. Learn more and request a stipend [here](#).

### **Vermont Department of Taxes**

The Department of Taxes’ new [newsletter](#) contains several updates related to COVID-19, including the revised tax schedule, scams to watch out for, information on the taxability of personal protective equipment (PPE), clarification on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and more.

### **Office of the State Treasurer**

#### **Payroll Info for Employees Furloughed due to COVID-19**

For employers in our VMERS system experiencing furloughs or reduced work schedules, please see the guidance on employer reporting during the COVID-19 pandemic - [VMERS Guidance: Payroll Reporting Furloughed Employees](#).

### **Agency of Commerce and Community Development**

#### **“Be Smart, Stay Safe”- Guidance for Lodging Operations**

On May 15, the Governor released [Addendum 14: “Be Smart, Stay Safe”](#) as an update to the Stay Home, Stay Safe order from March 24. This addendum permits online reservations for stays beginning May 22, 2020.

Under this Addendum, ACCD issued updated guidance for lodging operations regarding appropriate occupancy limits for stays and events and physical distancing, health and sanitation training measures. Read the guidance [here](#).

## **ACCD Phased Reopening—No/Low Contact Indoor Operations & Professional Services**

Amendment to Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 enables the ACCD Secretary to authorize limited, incremental and phased resumption of non-essential business, non-profit, and government operations, in consultation with the VDH and the approval of the Governor. **Under this amendment, ACCD issued guidance for No/Low Contact Indoor Operations & Professional Services uploaded here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-besmart-stay-safe-order>.**

- Services operating with a single worker or small office environments (such as appraisers, realtors, municipal clerks, attorneys, property managers, pet care operators, and others) may operate if they can comply with mandatory health and safety requirements, with no more than 10 persons (service provider and clients) present at one time.
- Remote work is required whenever possible.
- Operators must maintain a log of customers and their contact information for 30 days in the event contact tracing is required.

**[\\*NEW DAY Weekly COVID-19 Q&A with ACCD – FRIDAY, May 22, 2 PM](#)** – Ask questions and learn about best practices, new tools, and resources.

## **FEDERAL UPDATES**

### **Council of Development Finance Agencies**

#### **CDFA Launches Federal Financing Webinar Series**

The CDFA Federal Financing Webinar Series is an exclusive, eight-part online offering that will convene finance experts, federal agencies, and local practitioners to discuss the variety of federal programs available to finance economic development. The first webinar is this Friday, May 22, and will feature a discussion on CARES Act assistance available through the EDA.

### **National Association of State Treasurers**

#### **Grants for Employee Wellness Programs**

In an effort to improve the financial wellness of the state and local public sector workforce, a new national initiative will competitively select and provide grants to state and local governments to establish or improve upon their own financial wellness programs. For a copy of the press announcement [click here](#).

A webinar will be held on Thursday, May 28th at 3 pm ET to ask questions about the grant and application. Please submit questions prior to the call at [grants@NAST.org](mailto:grants@NAST.org). To register for this complimentary webinar, [please click here](#).

### **Small Business Administration**

#### **PPP Loan Forgiveness Application Available**

The SBA released, over the weekend, the [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) Loan Forgiveness Application](#) and detailed instructions for applying. Additional guidance from SBA for borrowers and lenders is forthcoming.