



## COVID 19 Updates & Resources

5/22/2020

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 League of Cities and Towns

##### Town Office Closure FAQs Related to COVID-19 (Revised 5/21)

See the document [here](#), including new information on whether towns can require masks, and how this measure would be adopted and enforced.

##### Open Meeting Law Compliance Amid COVID-19 Webinar – Wednesday, 6/3, @ 2 PM

Led by VLCT Staff Attorney Susan Senning, this one-hour training will cover the basic requirements of the Open Meeting Law, note the temporary changes in Act 92, and provide guidance and resources to ensure compliance during the COVID-19 declared state of emergency. Register [here](#).

## Share Your Municipality's COVID-19 Fiscal Info

Please complete VLCT's survey to add your local experience to state and national advocacy efforts. Your answers will help focus VLCT's member assistance and inform the National League of Cities' [campaign](#) advocating direct funding to municipalities.

## Hunger Free Vermont

### Pandemic EBT

P-EBT is a new resource available to families with school-aged kids who have been impacted by the current school closure. P-EBT provides money to purchase groceries to families with kids who would be accessing free school meals if school wasn't closed.

Many families have already been notified that they qualify and will be receiving P-EBT soon. Households already enrolled in 3SquaresVT will have P-EBT loaded on the card they already have. Other households will get an EBT card in the mail, similar to a debit card, that can be used at most food retailers. The following links provide additional information: [Pandemic EBT](#), [Facebook](#).

Over 35,000 families already qualify for P-EBT, but more are eligible. All families with school-aged kids are encouraged to apply for free school meals TODAY to see if they qualify for P-EBT.

## 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 Arts Council

### Survey for Creative Sector Recovery

The Vermont Arts Council is looking for feedback from the creative sector regarding needs, response, and recovery. Businesses and arts organizations can take this [survey to provide](#) input.

## STATE UPDATES

### Governor Scott Announces \$400 million Economic Relief and Recovery package

On May 20, Governor Scott provided details on a two phase economic relief and recovery proposal using funds from the \$1.25 billion the state received from the federal CARES Act.

Phase 1 involves \$310 million for immediate relief, in four main areas of action:

1. [Housing assistance](#): Rental Housing Stabilization Fund for property owners and a Re-Housing Recovery Fund to address homeless need. (\$50 million)

2. **Financial assistance:** Emergency Action Grants for food and accommodation services, retail, and agriculture, Vermont Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Grant program, and small business focused Vermont Restart loans and grants. (\$250 million)
3. **Technical assistance:** Restart Vermont Recovery Guides, and Employee Assistance Program to support the mental health and wellbeing of business owners and their families.(\$5 million)
4. **Marketing support:** Promotional marketing campaign to promote Vermont to Vermonters and deliver a toolkit of creative assets to be used by local communities, and regional marketing and consumer stimulus grants to encourage local spending, with implementation strategies to be proposed by local entities. (\$5 million)

Phase 2 involves \$90 million for long-term recovery. Read more in the [press release](#). Get more

## Vermont Department of Health

### More Pop-Up Testing sites added throughout the State

See the full list and register [here](#).

### Interim Guidance for Resuming Elective Dental Services

Dental procedures can resume very low risk and low risk procedures immediately if dental health care professionals fully adhere to the guidance [here](#).

### Resuming Inpatient Surgeries and Procedures

Inpatient surgeries and procedures can resume immediately if providers adhere to the mitigation requirements outlined [here](#).

### Outpatient Services: Clinic Visits, Diagnostic Imaging, and Limited Outpatient Surgeries and Procedures

Outpatient surgeries and procedures can resume immediately if providers adhered to the mitigation requirements [here](#).

## Vermont Department of Taxes

### Estimated Tax Penalties and Interest Waived

The Department of Taxes has waived penalties and interest for estimated income tax payments originally due June 15, 2020 so long as they are paid by July 15, 2020. This relief applies to Vermont personal income tax, corporate and business/pass-through income tax, and fiduciary and estate income tax.

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.

## Agency of Commerce and Community Development

### Webinar series on Economic Relief Package

ACCD is hosting a series of webinars to explain the economic relief and recovery package and how it will support various sectors throughout the economy. Register [here](#).

- Retail Industry Presentation: Tuesday, May 26 from 12:15pm-1:00pm
- Brewery/Distillery Presentation: Tuesday, May 26 from 3:00pm-3:45pm

**New ACCD Guidance (May 22):** see all [Work Safe Guidance here](#).

- Hair salons and barbershops: may reopen May 29 with safety measures in place (25% occupancy, maintain social distancing, no walk-ins allowed, etc.)
- Religious facilities and places of worship: may resume operations subject to mandatory health and safety guidance. Outdoor/drive in/remote services preferred, limited to 25% occupancy, observe physical distancing, and facial coverings are recommended
- Interior residential and commercial construction: may occur in occupied structures as of May 22
- Bars, breweries, distilleries, wineries, cideries and tasting rooms: may offer outdoor beverage service in compliance with this outdoor dining guidance
- Restaurants: reservations or call ahead required, total outdoor restaurant capacity limited to 50 or the maximum seating capacity, whichever is less, 10 feet of space or more between tables (see link below for full list of requirements)
- Professional services (this includes municipal offices): 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.
- Yard Sales: may occur at private residences with 10 or fewer people present at any one time
- Swimming Facilities: may open if they comply with previously issued guidance for outdoor recreation facilities

Click [here](#) for full details.

**Other recently updated guidance available via [ACCD “Work Safe” webpage](#):**

## FEDERAL UPDATES

### USDA

#### **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program- Direct Payments to Farmers**

Under the CARES Act and the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, USDA will be distributing \$16 billion in direct payments to farmers and ranchers. Beginning May 26, the USDA, through the Farm Service Agency, will be accepting applications from agricultural producers who have experienced losses. Find your local office