

Incident Name:
COVID-19 Response

Reporting Period:
03/12/2020 08:01 AM - 03/12/2020 04:00 PM

Situation Report Number:
2

EOC Activation Level:
Partial Activation



Vermont State Emergency Operations Center

Situation Report

Phil Scott, Governor

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Background / Current Situation

On March 10, 2020, Governor Phil Scott ordered that additional state agencies and departments activate through the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to support the ongoing work of the Vermont Department of Health and expand the capacity of state government to coordinate the COVID-19 response. The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that COVID-19 is officially a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

On March 12, 2020 the Vermont SEOC was partially activated remotely from 0800 to 1600. Operations will resume in the SEOC on Friday, March 13, 2020 at 0800. The State Emergency Operations Center will be activated during weekdays from 0800 to 1600 for the foreseeable future.

Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1300 on 3/12/20:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Vermont cases of COVID-19 | 2 |
| Vermonters tested negative for COVID-19 | 97 |
| Vermonters being monitored | 212 |
| Vermonters who have completed monitoring | 70 |

On March 7, 2020, health officials announced the first case of novel coronavirus COVID-19 in Vermont. This Bennington County case is considered presumptive positive, pending confirmation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

On March 11, 2020, health officials announced the second presumptive positive case of novel COVID-19 at the University of Vermont Medical Center, pending confirmation by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

As of March 12, 2020, twenty (20) states have declared a state of emergency. See attached map.

The State Emergency Operations Center is working closely with health officials to develop guidance on, and answer questions about, whether large gatherings and events should be canceled. At this time,

officials are not recommending these events be canceled, but that guidance is subject to change as the situation evolves.

It is reasonable for older adults and persons with underlying health conditions to consider not attending a mass gathering event. Health Department and Agency of Education officials continue to work with colleges, universities and other educational institutions on guidance about potential closures of their facilities. The Health Department is focused on ensuring its most vulnerable populations are protected, and is working to continuously update guidance and address emerging needs of long-term care facilities as new information becomes available.

Number of calls regarding COVID-19 received by 2-1-1: Tracking by topic, sector, location will begin tomorrow.

- March 11 = 23 calls

Agency of Education

Higher Education Closure / Operation Status:

- Middlebury College: Extending spring break. Closing campus, courses go online
- University of Vermont: Classes canceled 3/16, 3/17 - go online 3/18. Campus to remain open
- Champlain College: Extending Spring Break to 3/20. Online Course for three weeks following, student not to return to campus
- Landmark College: Extending spring break by one week, through March 29, 2020
- Norwich University: Extending spring break by one week, through March 20, 2020
- St. Michael's College: going online after spring break through April 14, cancelled spring season sports.

Messaging Sent Out:

- School Food Administrators received new Guidance for School Nutrition Program Operations, which discussed best practices for safe meal service as well as different models for feeding students depending on the operational status of the school (more detailed guidance on that point is pending).
- Superintendent Update Call with Sec. French scheduled for March 19.

Requests for Information: **None**

Pending Requests for Information: **None**

Closed, Active or Pending Missions

- Closed: Coordinate Agency of Education (AOE) communications with State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Joint Information Center (JIC)
- Active:
 - ◊ Coordinate School Closure Notification / Decision-making with SEOC / Health Operations Center (HOC) – HOC has provided bullet points for AOE review. HOC still reviewing internally.
 - ◊ Coordinating with VEM / to plan for School Food Distribution in the event of School Closure / Dismissal. Expect guidance by Monday 03/16.
 - ◊ Articulating preemptive school closure notification procedure

- Pending:
 - Developing guidance on remote learning
 - Planning for Long-Term School Closure / Dismissal and guidance.
-

Vermont State Police

- Established a 3-tiered contingency plan in response to the expectation of increased COVID-19 cases throughout the State.
 - There are no additional precautions for law enforcement officers to take during their normal course of duty in light of the COVID-19 virus.
 - Security & Crime Issues impacting state facilities, critical infrastructure, and/ or local jurisdictions: NONE
 - Homeland Security National Terrorism Advisory System changes: NONE
 - National Operations Center Incident Reports: NONE
 - Deployed special state assets, pending missions and resources needs: NONE
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Vermont Department of Health

- GIS has been activated in the Health Operations Center (HOC) and will be helping with mapping of status of hospitals, will link up with the SEOC Mapping and Display Unit.
 - Determined a communication path between Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) and Vermont Department of Health (VDH) re: communications with extended Long-Term Care facilities.
 - Updated Crisis Standards of Care and method of determining distribution of supplies, waiting for approval from VDH Policy Group.
 - Requested a representative from Mental Health to work in the HOC as an agency rep.
 - Request to the Strategic National Stockpile is drafted and will be sent the Federal Department of Health and Human Services today or tomorrow.
 - Identification and implementation of incident response accounting mechanism is underway.
 - Working to get ahead of staffing issues and process for on-boarding new staff into WebEOC.
 - Working to understand how we can reduce numbers of calls to ensure sustainable staffing within VDH.
 - Yesterday, Wednesday March 11, was the first day of packing and shipping of Personal Protective Equipment at the warehouse.
 - Today, Thursday, March 12, is the first day of Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers deployed to assist in the warehouse.
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SerVermont

211 submitted a request for volunteers to assist with surge capacity in their call center to handle the anticipated influx of COVID-19 related calls, which will stretch their current capacity. SerVermont will assist with identifying volunteers, managing their scheduling, and connecting them with 211. Volunteers from the Medical Reserve Corps and AmeriCorps will staff the call center beginning 3/23/20 and are planning on staying operational until at least 4/5/20.

211 also submitted a request for information about obtaining a mobile call center and laptops should

they have enough volunteers to handle the surge, but not enough space or laptops.

- Status of volunteers:
 - Number of active and available affiliated/unaffiliated: N/A
 - Number and location of Volunteer Reception Center: N/A
 - Types of skilled volunteers available: N/A
- Pending missions: 211 Call Center Volunteers
- Potential support needs: Mobile Call Center
- Deployed special state assets (AmeriCorps and NCCC): N/A
- Non-state (EMAC, IEMAC, federal) resource status to include type, locations, deployment date, demobilization status: N/A
- Offers of volunteers: Medical Reserve Corps, AmeriCorps
- Deployed volunteers: None

Military Support

- Non-state (EMAC, IEMAC, federal) resource status: None
- State resource status: Joint Operations Center: Monitoring
- COOP prepared, not activated.
- Health Protection Condition (HPCON) in draft, currently Normal.
- Pending missions: None
- Potential resource needs: None
- Alternate SEOC facility at Camp Johnson has been made available.

Division of Fire Safety

Coordinating an outreach through several Fire Service leadership organizations to determine if plans are in place to be utilized if conditions are presented and operations and resources are depleted beyond what is detailed in the agencies current mutual aid agreements and procedures.

- Status of fires and/or affected buildings/structures: None
- Sites requiring life safety debris removal and emergency access issues: None
- Requested inspections of damaged structures: None
- Requested inspections of warming centers and overnight shelters: None
- Deployed DFS assets, missions and resource needs: None

Department of Labor

- No assets requested at this time.
- OSHA has published guidance on preparing workplaces for COVID-19 found at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

Buildings & General Services

- Buildings and General Services Building/tenant risk assessment tool: *Draft under review for distribution.*
- State College facility inventory: received report from Vermont Technical College. Awaiting Northern Vermont University and Castleton State College reports. Reaching out to recently closed private colleges to check availability.
- Pending missions: Identify supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (face masks):
 - N95 - 225 (62 available to share)
 - N100 - 20
 - Full face Respirators: 6 (w/ 3 sets of P100 HEPA cartridges & filters)
- Mobile Call Center request: Reached out to partners to identify possible sources should this equipment be needed. Also checking on availability through emergency contracts.
- Status of state buildings: Fully operational
- Status of emergency contracts: None deployed at this time
- Donations coordination status: None
- Deployed special state assets: None
- Potential resource needs: None

Agency of Transportation

- All roads remain open.
- Deployed special state assets: 67 message boards showing the COVID-19 message.
- Pending missions: None
- Resources that may be requested from the Agency of Transportation: N95 Facemasks and Mobile Communication Trailer

Agency of Human Services

The Agency of Human Services (AHS) met with Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) to begin discussions regarding developing guidance and support for partners supporting the homeless. Several outcomes were identified, as follows:

- Create guidance for dissemination and request comments from Vermont Department of Health (VDH)
- Share guidance, once completed, with the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)
- Develop a communications protocol between the SEOC, Health Operations Center (HOC) and homeless partner organizations
- Create basic checklist that organizations can use

Other Agency of Human Services tasks:

- Some organizations have funding to support COVID-19 impact on the homeless, but discussions need to be had with regards to financial impact and any possible support.
- Explore Department of Children and Families (DCF) to ask to mobilize new, additional funding to support homeless / shelter operations
- Determine whether staffing shortages can be supported by Americorps members
- Determine how best to support behavioral shelters
- Develop Public Service Announcement / general documents needed to be disseminated to

organizations

Department of Aging and Independent Living:

- Testified about response to COVID-19 at the Legislature yesterday; working closely with VDH on COVID-19 issues pertaining to our populations and partners.
- A public COVID-19 Internet page, as well as an employee Intranet page are established.
- Staff advised that if sick with any symptoms (not just specific to COVID-19), you MUST stay home.
- DAIL is currently evaluating, on a case-by-case basis, the need for in-person meetings of large groups at this time.
- Security Committee has updated the Home and Community Visit Guidelines to include guidance pertaining to illness as it pertains to conducting visits with DAIL clients/the public.
- DAIL's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) has been updated and is ready to deploy if needed.
- Division Directors are working to ensure appropriate telework options are available, for conducting our work offsite if health conditions warrant that; Agency of Digital Services (ADS) is providing valuable support to this effort.

Department of Corrections:

- Visitation at correctional facilities have been suspended for two weeks.
- Begun daily conference call briefings with correctional facility supervisors and Probation and Parole supervisor.

Agency of Commerce & Community Development

Key activities

- Connected with Vermont Arts Council, per arts council contacting Governors office. Will be sharing communications and business inquiries when applicable.
- Working with the Department of Labor to craft communication to business community and employers to inform that we are working to figure out unemployment insurance and the possibilities of Small Business Administration (SBA) loans.
- Will set up an specific email to capture business pinch points, where they would like guidance, and to report specific business impacts so we can document. Goal is to release 3/13.

Growing Areas of Concern

- Canada - Quebec is asking anyone who has returned to Quebec from any part of the world or who has flu symptoms to self-isolate for 14 days to slow the spread of the coronavirus. What will this mean for border
- The business community is reaching out across ACCD and Department of Labor from all sectors with growing concerns about ability to remain viable as this escalates. We are preparing a communication and will look to capture business issue in real time.

Events and Tourism properties are looking for mass gathering guidance as well. Immediate big events:

- Ski season - through April
- Maple Open House Weekend 3/21-22
- Killington Brewers Festival 3/21

Other Updates in the tourism space:

- Ski resorts: Some cancellations but not wide-spread, also still seeing new bookings.
- Resorts are offering flexibility and fulfilling requests for guests and conferences who want to shift bookings to later in the year
- Sporting events have seen some teams drop-out (mostly from Boston-area) but no event cancellations as of yet
- Berkshire East (MA) has announced it will close early for the season.

States that have banned state employee travel: ME, MA, CT, NJ, PA, MD, OH, MN, NM, WA (source: self-reported by State Tourism Directors at the request of the U.S Travel Association)

External Resources Unit

- EMAC requests: None.
- Federal requests: None.

Resource and Capabilities Unit

The Resources and Capabilities Unit's agencies have been focused on coordinating information requirements and continuity of operations plans with Law Enforcement, Fire Service, and Emergency Medical Services.

- Acting/Pending/Demobilized resources and missions: None
- State agencies took inventory of N95 masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Wednesday and Thursday; there are approximately 16,160 masks of all types (mostly N95) potentially available for redistribution, at least 2,860 of which are expired (but use is allowed).
- Wednesday and Thursday the emergency services proponents (Vermont State Police for law enforcement, Division of Fire Safety for fire service, Department of Health for Emergency Medical Services) are working with various agencies to ensure they have Continuity Of Operations Plans (COOPs) for low staffing levels. Friday MARS will work with those proponents to develop and finalize a polling schedule and system and for gaps.

Department of Human Resources

Department of Human Resources is reviewing relevant personnel policies, contracts and statutes in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and will publish:






- Guidance to supervisors
- Guidance to employees
- Implementation and approval process for telework requests
- Guidance for employees regarding school closures

Guidance will be posted on the Vermont Department of Human Resources website as it is approved.

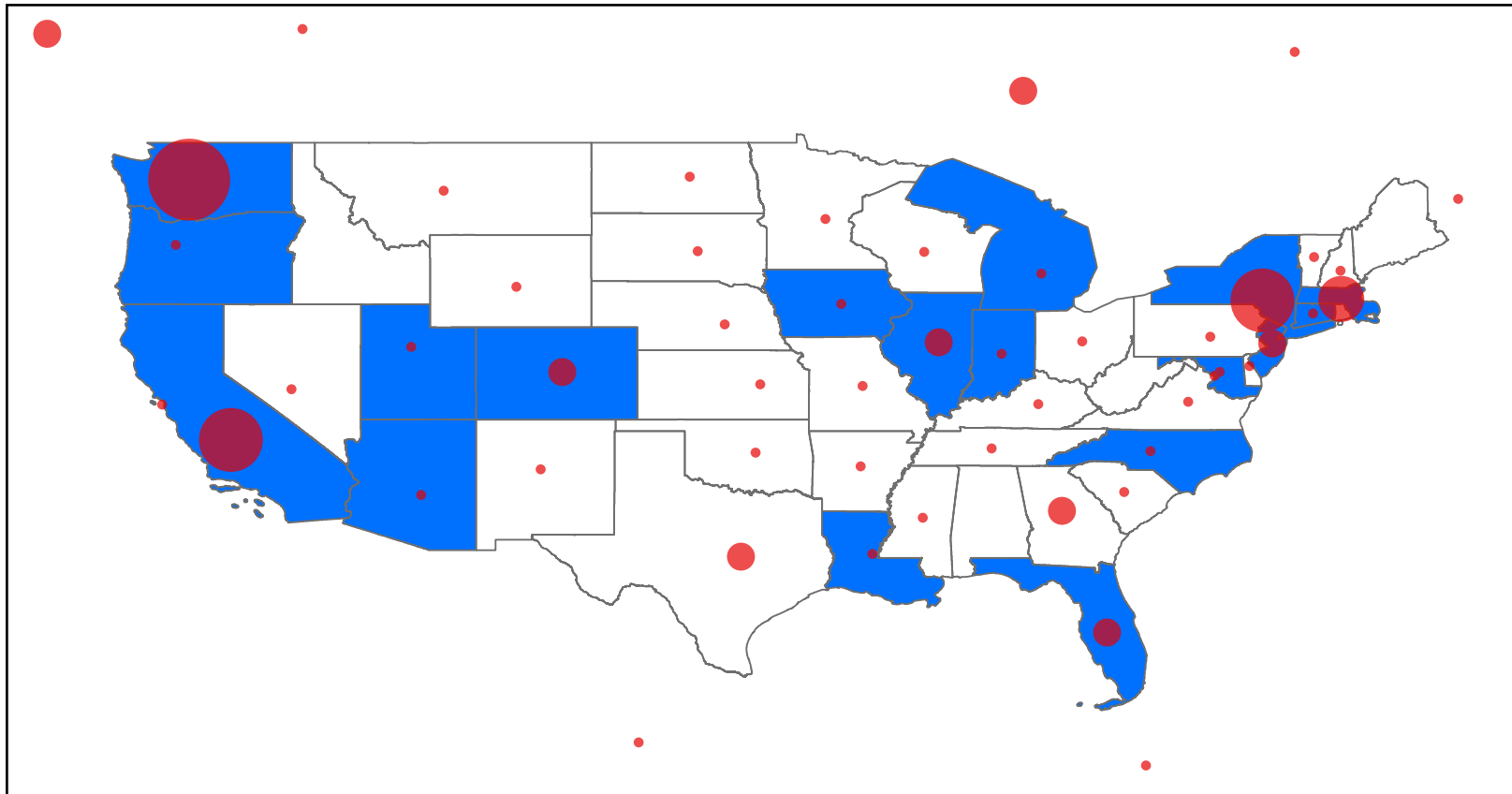
- Multiple media inquiries were made to Vermont Department of Health (VDH) regarding presumptive positive test at UVM Medical Center
- UVM Medical Center held a press conference regarding positive test relaying guidance set forth by VDH.
- Social media posting was shared among several state agencies regarding VDH request that public stop going to Emergency Room for suspected COVID cases, asking those patients to call primary care physician first.
- Joint Information Center (JIC) doing census of communicators to determine skill sets and availability for remote staffing for Joint Information Center and Joint Information System.
- Possible press conference is being discussed with VDH and Governor's office, no decision as of 1500.

Weather

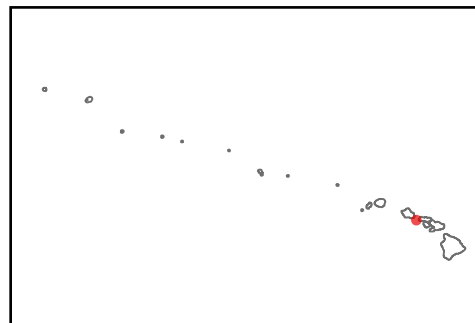
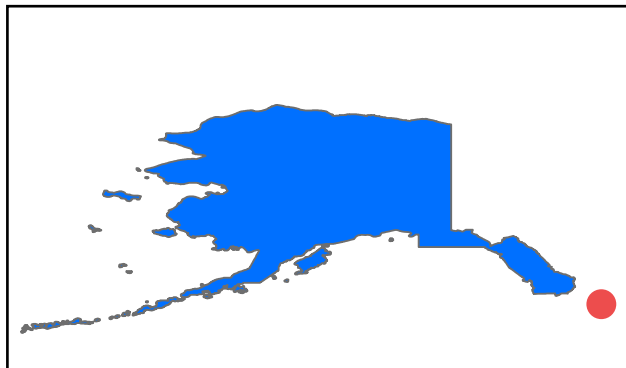
Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KCXX)

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Likely Rain | Definitely Rain | Clear | Clear | Clear |
| 43 F / 6 C 34 F / 1 C | 46 F / 7 C 29 F / -1 C | 38 F / 3 C 18 F / -7 C | 30 F / -1 C 10 F / -12 C | 38 F / 3 C 24 F / -4 C |

COVID-19 States With Emergency Declarations



- Florida
- Illinois
- Maryland
- North Carolina
- Connecticut
- California
- New Jersey
- Oregon
- Washington
- Louisiana
- Utah
- Colorado
- New York
- Alaska
- Michigan
- Indiana
- Massachusetts
- Iowa
- Arizona



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3/12/2020 4:22 PM
Brett Pierce, VEM

