

COVID-19 Health & Safety

Guidance for Childcare Programs, Summer Programs and Afterschool Programs

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May 12, 2020

thank you!

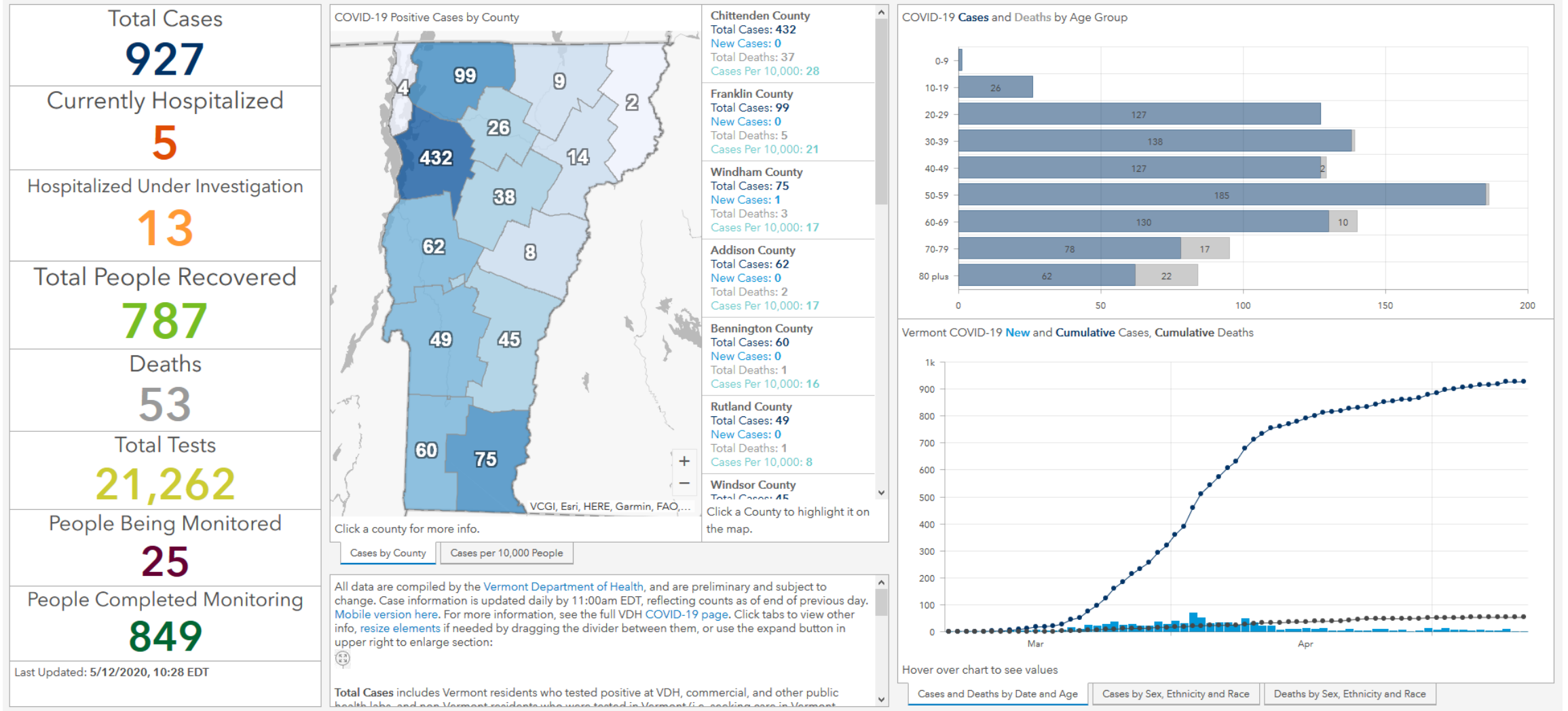
**A great many thanks
for all you are doing on behalf of children
and families in these complex
and uncertain times.**

Today's Objectives

1. Review where we are with COVID and data
2. Review the COVID Recovery Phases
3. Testing and Contact Tracing
4. Health Guidance for Childcare, Afterschool, and Summer Programs
5. Additional Opportunities for Learning ,Training and Resources
6. Question and Answer

COVID-19 in Vermont New Data Dashboard Situational Awareness

healthvermont.gov/covid





Important note:

The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve very rapidly – so the information we are providing today may change quickly

COVID-19 Recovery: A Phased Approach

Phase I (current)

- Slow the Spread

Phase II

- State-by-State Reopening

Phase III

- Establish Immune Protection and Lift Physical Distancing

Phase IV

- Rebuild Our Readiness for the Next Pandemic

Trigger for Moving to Phase II

A state can safely proceed to Phase II when it has achieved all the following:

- A sustained reduction in cases for at least 14 days,
- Hospitals in the state are safely able to treat all patients requiring hospitalization without resorting to crisis standards of care
- The state is able to test all people with COVID-19 symptoms, **and**
- The state is able to conduct active monitoring of confirmed cases and their contacts

Phase II: Reopen, State by State

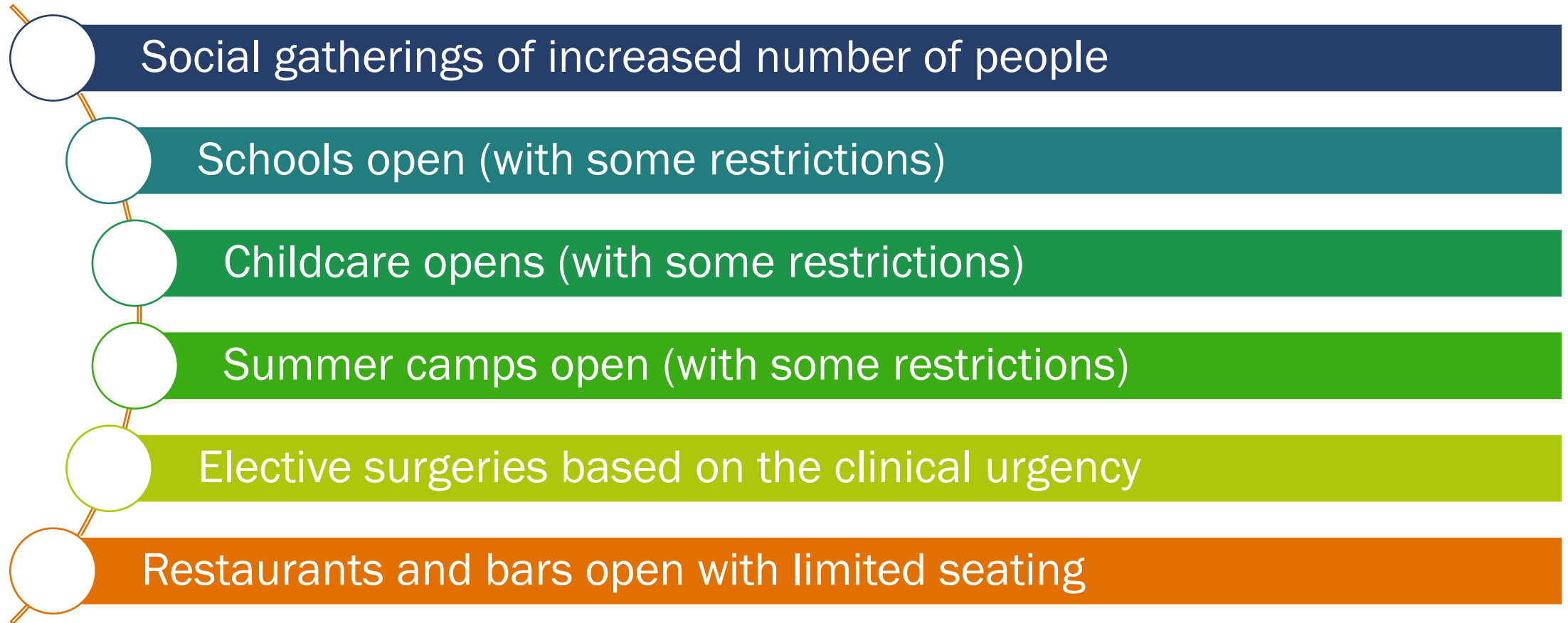
Goals

1. Lift strict physical distancing measures in a concerted and careful fashion,
2. Allow the vast majority of businesses and schools to open, and
3. Continue to control SARS-CoV-2 transmission so we do not revert back to Phase I.

Steps Required

1. Implement case-based interventions (isolation, contact tracing)
2. Begin to relax physical distancing measures (maintain telework, facial coverings, hand hygiene/disinfecting)
3. Special care for vulnerable populations (continued physical distancing)
4. Accelerate the development of therapeutics
5. Identify those who are immune

Phase II May Include..



Trigger for Moving into Phase III

Once a vaccine has been developed, has been tested for safety and efficacy, and receives FDA emergency use authorization, states can move to Phase III.

Children and COVID-19: Updated Guidance for Testing in Pediatric Populations

- With increased laboratory capacity for diagnostic testing, health care professionals are encouraged to **begin testing symptomatic children** (defined as those < 18 years of age) for whom infection with SARS-CoV-2 is a reasonable possibility, **even if symptoms are mild**
- Priority for testing symptomatic children with mild to moderate disease should be given to children:
 - a) Of health care providers
 - b) With chronic underlying medical conditions
 - c) In congregate housing
 - d) With exposure to a patient with COVID-19

Vermont's Current Testing Approach

Ramping up testing capabilities to conduct **1,000 tests a day**

As of now, expanded testing for:

- Long-term care facilities and other group living settings, including universal retesting
- Health care personnel: Testing for personnel with COVID-19 exposure, but asymptomatic
- Correctional facilities: regardless if there has been a positive test
- Expanded testing for health care and home health workers who have had direct contact with positive case
- Consider testing those in quarantine due to possible exposure
- Increase opportunities for childcare providers to be tested

Testing of Emergency Childcare Providers

- **Childcare provide care for essential personnel can get tested now**
- We are here to support childcare providers who wish to be tested for the coronavirus, even if you don't have any symptoms
- Coronavirus testing is **not required for re-opening** and is offered on voluntary basis
- A negative test represents **one moment in time** and **does not change any of the health guidance regarding infection prevention**
- If you test positive for coronavirus, the Health Department will contact the you, keep in close touch and determine the close contacts and assist with decisions about classroom closure

Testing of Asymptomatic Emergency Childcare Providers

Pop-up testing in Burlington (this past weekend), Bennington, Brattleboro and Hartford in the next two weeks. **Additional pop-up testing to be added soon.**

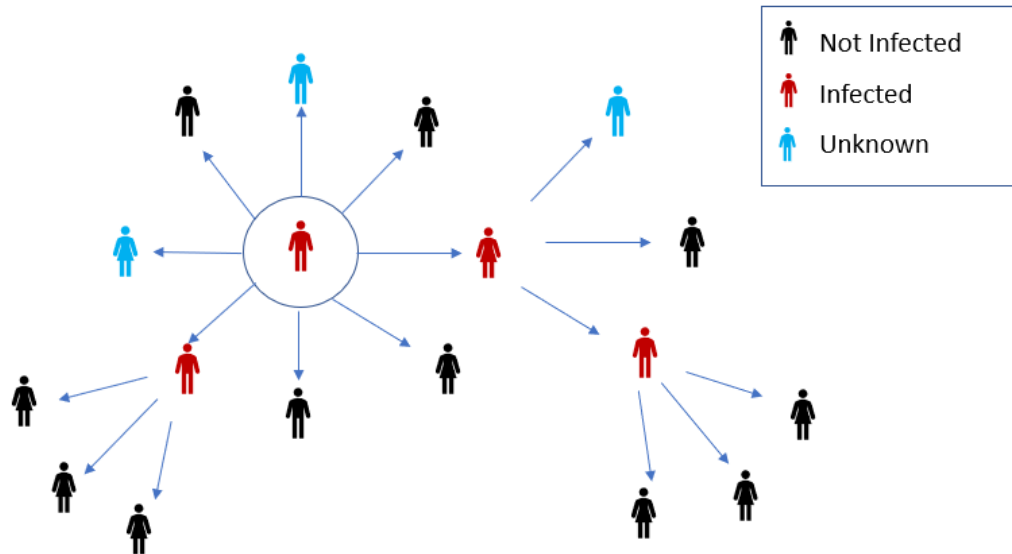
By appointment only.

To make an appointment go to: humanresources.vermont.gov/popups

If you have symptoms, testing should be ordered through your **primary care**.

If you do not have primary care, please call 2-1-1 to be connected.

Contact Tracing



Interview index patients

- Establish day 0 of infection
- Get contacts and places from two days prior to day zero to present
- Assesses level of risk for contacts

Identify contacts

- Contact Medium and High-risk contacts
- Promote Isolation and Quarantine
- Ask if they are symptomatic

Link symptomatic contacts to testing

Health Guidance for Childcare and Schools Providing Childcare for Essential Persons (Revised April 5, 2020)

For childcare facilities that remain open and for schools providing childcare, it is crucial to minimize the risks of spreading coronavirus. The following guidance is designed to help maintain health and safety standards and social distancing directives while providing a much needed childcare service.

This document serves as a supplement to Agency of Education guidance: [Supporting the Childcare Needs of Essential Persons During a Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Guidance to Schools and Childcare Programs](#)

Exclude children, staff, parents and guardians from sites if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19, have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or are at high risk due to underlying health conditions.


NEW It is recommended that all staff wear cloth face coverings while providing care. CDC recommends cloth face coverings in settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. Adults doing drop-off and pick-up are also encouraged to wear cloth face coverings. Instructions for wearing and making cloth face coverings can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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Updated Guidance: Health Guidance for Childcare Programs, Summer programs and Afterschool programs

:: coming this week ::

	SELF-ISOLATION	SELF-QUARANTINE
For Whom?	People with symptoms of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For people with COVID-19 who aren't sick enough to be hospitalized, or • For people who are waiting for test results 	People with no symptoms of COVID19 • Close contacts of people with COVID19
For How Long? 	Until recovery, which happens when all three have happened: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It's been 3 full days of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, and 2) Other symptoms have improved, and 3) At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared 	For 14 days since the date of possible exposure. The day of the exposure is Day 0.
What does it mean?	Staying in a separate room in the house, using a separate bathroom, avoiding contact with others.	Staying home 24/7, monitoring for symptoms, and practicing social distancing. If possible, using a separate room and bathroom. If you become symptomatic, your close contacts should also self-quarantine.

Health Guidance: HEALTH SCREENING

Conduct a Daily Health Check for the **child(ren) attending childcare**, and your **staff**:

1. Have they been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19?
2. Have they felt unwell with respiratory symptoms in the last few days? Do they feel unwell with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 ? *For example, have they had a cough, high temperature, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?*



New

Temperature check protocol: Health screening should occur upon entrance and near sink.

- Perform hand hygiene
- Put on a cloth facial masks or coverings, eye protection, and a single pair of disposable gloves
- Check individual's temperature
- If performing a temperature check on multiple individuals, ensure that a clean pair of gloves is used for each individual and that the thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned in between each check. If disposable or non-contact thermometers are used and the screener did not have physical contact with an individual, gloves do not need to be changed before the next check. If non-contact thermometers are used, they should be cleaned routinely
- Remove and discard gloves in between children

Health Guidance: CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

It is recommended that **all staff wear cloth face coverings while providing care.**

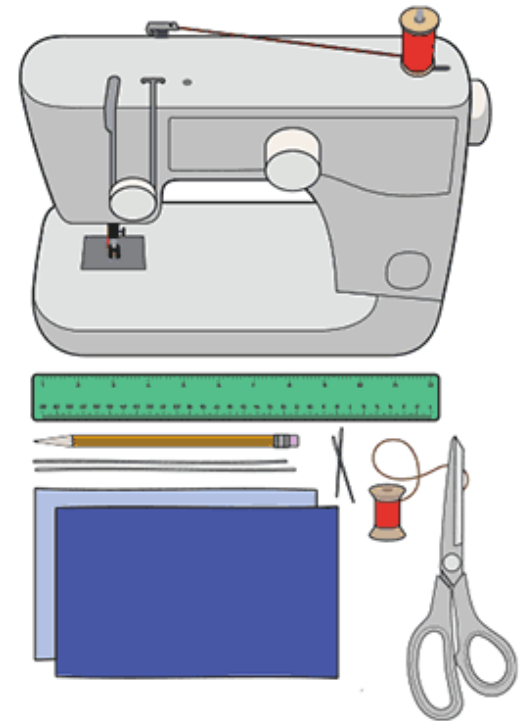


Cloth face coverings should—

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html)



Providers and staff may take off their facial covering in very select instances, such as when a parent/caregiver is hearing impaired and reads lips in order to communicate.

Health Guidance: CLOTH FACE COVERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Cloth Facial Coverings and children: **recommended not required**

- No cloth facial coverings for children under 2-years-old.
- Encourage children to join all of the adults around them to prevent spread of germs
- It is developmentally appropriate for children when children can properly put on, take off, and not touch or suck on the covering.
- Children who have a medical reason for not wearing a cloth facial covering must not be required to wear one.
- Good resource from American Academy of Pediatrics: [Healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org)

Health Guidance: DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

- Stagger arrival and drop off times and/or plan to limit direct contact with parents/caregivers.
- Same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day.
- Older people such as grandparents should not pick up their children, because they are more at risk for serious illness.
- Hand hygiene stations could be set up at the entrance of the facility or the entrance process could be rerouted through a different entrance nearest the sink.
- Parents and caregivers who are self-quarantining due to close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual should NOT do drop-off or pick-up.

Health Guidance: COVID CASES IN CARE



Updated

When there is a confirmed case of COVID in the childcare program, consult with the Vermont Department of Health, and do the following:

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
 - Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before you clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
 - Communicate with staff and parents/caregivers.
 - *Dismiss children and most staff for 2-5 days*
 - If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
 - *Work with Health Department and CDD around decisions about extending closure*
- ➔ **If there is a reduction in childcare capacity, notify CDD**

Health Guidance

SOCIAL DISTANCING STRATEGIES

- Wherever possible, the same childcare providers should remain with the **same group each day**.
- At nap time, place **resting children head to toe** in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread. Programs with sufficient space should place children **6 feet apart at naptime** as much as possible.

TOYS & BEDDING

- Clean **playground equipment** to the best of your ability
- **Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used**, including items such as soft toys, dress-up clothes, and puppets.
- **Use bedding that can be washed** (1x/week). Per childcare licensing regulations, children's bedding is required to be stored separately.

Health Guidance: ADDITIONAL ITEMS



Additional guidance

- Updated Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior
- Cleaning & Disinfecting
- Caring for Infants and Toddlers
- Food Preparation and Meal Service



New VOSHA regulations: All common spaces and equipment, including bathrooms, frequently touched surfaces and doors, tools and equipment, and vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected at the beginning, middle and end of each shift and, when possible, prior to transfer from one person to another.

New

Heath Guidance: CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

The following individuals **should not provide childcare**:

- Adults 65 years of age and older
- People who have serious underlying medical conditions:
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Lung disease
 - Underlying immune disorders/compromised immune systems/ taking immune suppressant medications
 - Pregnant individuals
 - People with HIV

Health Department and Child Development Division are considering a case by case exemption approach

For home-based childcare:
If a household member has any of the conditions described above, **providers should ensure social distancing** (a minimum of 6 feet) between the childcare children and the household member, ideally the household member would remain in rooms separate from the children. Cleaning/ disinfecting guidance should also be followed

Health Guidance: REQUIRED VOSHA SIGNAGE



Signs **must** be posted at **all entrances** clearly indicating that **no one may enter** if they have **symptoms of respiratory illness**.



Heath Guidance: GENERAL GUIDANCE REMINDER



1. Small groups, **classroom size will be determined by Epidemiology and Data—working to get you this information soon**
2. Absolutely **no large group activities**
3. Frequent **handwashing** with soap and water for **at least 20 seconds**
4. **Frequent thorough cleaning each day**
5. **No outside visitors and volunteers**

Guidance: We Hear You and a Few Examples

- **Keep the Questions Coming!** It is all in the details.
- **Facilities**
 - Big spaces with half-walls, room dividers
 - Air circulation, as summer rolls in
 - Hallways and rooms with no doors

Summer Programming for Children and Youth

Health guidance will be the same as for childcare. Additionally, there are unique features to some summer programming that may need consideration and guidance

Where can I get needed supplies?

Getting programs access to cleaning supplies, such as gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer is currently being coordinated by CDD and Let's Grow Kids, in partnership with the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).



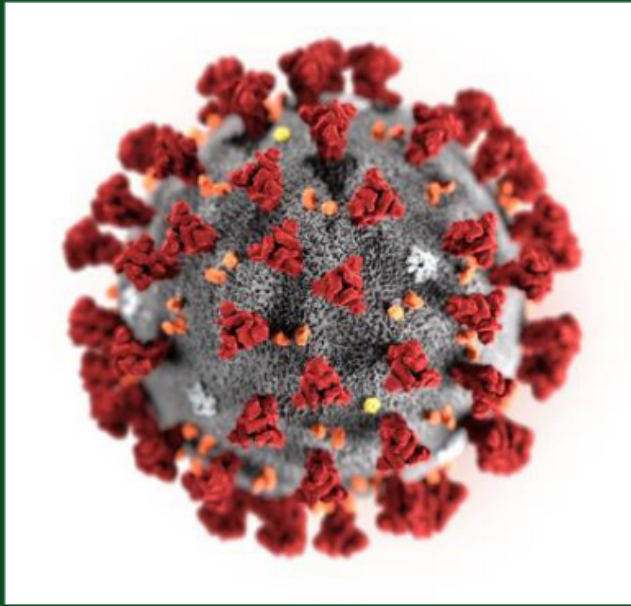


Illustration: CDC / Alissa Eckert & Dan Higgins

Protecting the Safety and Health of Workers

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Using OSHA/CDC Guidance to protect workers as we bring workplaces online

VOSHA Training

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

Health Questions Resource for Childcare Services

The Department of Health has **public health nurses available to childcare, afterschool, and summer programs** to answer health related childcare questions

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday through Friday

Call: **802-863-7240**, select the option for “**Childcare Services**”

After hours there will be a childcare question mailbox to leave a message and VDH staff will return your call the following business days.

Help Me Grow Creates a Reliable Grid of Resources

- Help Me Grow offers a resource hub that helps connect children and their families to local resources and services
- Providers wanting to refer a family directly to resources themselves can call HMG staff to get the latest information on food resources, mental health services and support groups, and more

Dial **2-1-1 ext. 6**, text **HMGVT** to **898211**, or refer at helpmegrowvt.org/form/referral-form



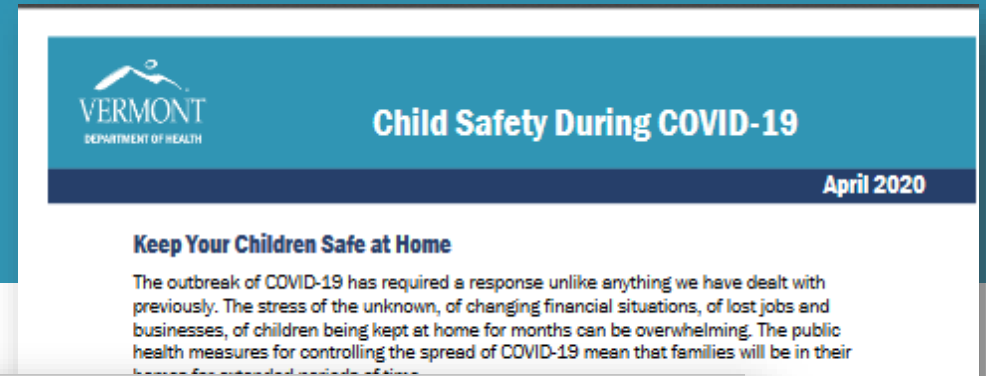
Recommendations to support and protect children's emotional well-being during the pandemic

- Understand that reactions to the pandemic may vary.
- Ensure the presence of a sensitive and responsive caregiver.
- Social distancing should not mean social isolation.
- Provide age-appropriate information.
- Create a safe physical and emotional environment by practicing the 3 R's: Reassurance, Routines, and Regulation.
- Keep children busy.
- Increase children's self-efficacy.
- Create opportunities for caregivers (which may mean yourself!) to take care of themselves.
- Seek professional help if children show signs of trauma that do not resolve relatively quickly.
- Emphasize strengths, hope, and positivity.

childtrends.org/publications/resources-for-supporting-childrens-emotional-well-being-during-the-covid-19-pandemic

Health Department Resources for Children and Families

- Coping with Family Stress
- Child Safety
- Suicide Prevention
- Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention



Child Safety during COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has quickly changed our lives, and the resulting uncertainty is stressful for all families. Parents worry about unstable finances, lost jobs and lower income. Everyone is worried about their health and we are all working hard to change behavior to avoid catching the virus.

This means that schools and many childcares are closed, and families are together for long periods of time in a way that is very different from their usual schedules. While family time can be fun and enjoyable, the stress can overcome parents and caregivers, and relationships can become strained.

During this time, children may show signs of increased stress, which can impact the entire family. Research has found that when families are stressed, children are at an increased risk of being abused. Research also shows that just being in the presence of a compassionate, safe adult can help kids calm down. Managing your own stress will help your child manage their stress.

To get support for yourself and your family dial 2-1-1 ext. 8 or text HMQVT to 888211. Child development specialists at [Help Me Grow](#) can connect your family to critical resources and help you support your child's development and resiliency, especially now.

If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, please contact the Vermont Department for Children and Families at 1-800-848-5285. If a child is in immediate danger, call 911 or the local police first.

Tips for Families at Home

The Governor issued a "Stay Home Stay Safe Executive Order," which means that Vermonters are directed to stay at home and leave only for essential reasons such as: personal safety; groceries, medicine or medical care; exercise and work. Here are some tips and resources for managing the stress.

Outline Daily Routines in Writing

- Create a realistic schedule for yourself and children. Routine and structure are calming during times of stress.

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Health Department Resources & Tools:


healthvermont.gov/covid




PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE




ALERTS




CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)




DISEASE OUTBREAKS




ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION



OPIOIDS




SAFE NEEDLE DISPOSAL IN VERMONT




PLANS & REPORTS

CONTACT:


Department of Health
108 Cherry Street
Burlington, VT 05402



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Feedback




QUICK LINKS

ALERTS

GET HELP NOW

HOW HEALTHY ARE WE?

SEARCH



In response to the #COVID19 pandemic, @GovPHV announced a plan for the orderly dismissal of all & can... <https://t.co/ALWvrt08>
Read More

HOME / PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE / CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) /


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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SEE ALL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ASK THE CHAT BOT


Type your question about COVID-19 in Vermont in the space below. This will start an automated search to find an answer.




Type your message

Your question is not answered by a person. The response is from an automated chat bot.


CALL US



PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE




ALERTS



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SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS



All Vermont schools are closed through the end of the 2019-2020 school year and have put plans in place for remote learning. Child care programs also will remain closed, except for those that provide services to essential workers. The Health Department continues to work with partner agencies in supporting the health and wellness of children and their families during this time.

• Health Guidance for Emergency Programs Providing Childcare for Essential Persons

• Supplemental Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open (CDC)

• COVID-19 Guidance for Emergency Child Care Service (Webinar with Dr. Breena Holmes, MCH Director - 3/24/20)

• Health & Safety in Child Care (Frequently Asked Questions)

• Supporting the Childcare Needs of Essential Persons During a Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Guidance to Schools and Child Care Programs (Agency of Education)

• Children's Development Division COVID-19 (Information for Child Care Programs, Children's Integrated Services Providers and CDD Grantees and Contractors)

• Coronavirus Resources (Let's Grow Kids)

• COVID-19 Guidance for Vermont Schools (Agency of Education)

• Guidance for Schools and Childcare Programs (CDC)

• Resources for Institutes of Higher Education (CDC)

Useful Posters

Social Distancing (smaller version)

Social Distancing (larger version)

Keep Germs from Spreading

Proper Handwashing

COVID-19 "Stop the Spread of Germs" Poster (CDC)

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RETURN



**Maternal and Child Health (MCH)
is here to support the health and
safety of your program, your staff
and the families you serve.**



Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

Email: Breena.Holmes@vermont.gov

Web: www.healthvermont.gov

Social: [@healthvermont](https://twitter.com/healthvermont)