VT Early Childhood Programs Leaders, Vermont Department of Health and Let's Grow Kids
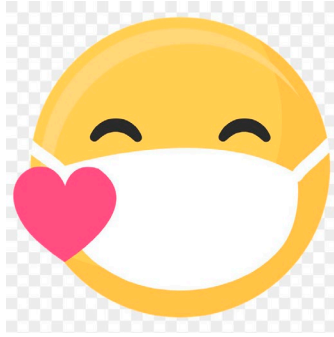
COVID -19 Updates

Vermont Department of Health,

Division of Maternal and Child Health:

Sally Kerschner & Margaret Tarmy

February 18, 2021   1PM - 2PM

Agenda

- **Covid-19 updates**
- **Childcare Data update**
- **Questions and Discussion**

Housekeeping Details

For best sound quality, all participants are muted

Your questions are welcome.
Please use the Q&A Box to add questions for the panel

Many thanks
for all you are doing on
behalf of children
and families in these
complex and uncertain
times.

Vaccines

Vermont is using **age groupings** to determine who can receive the vaccine next based on our primary goal with vaccination efforts – **to save lives**

**COVID-19 VACCINES IN VERMONT:
ELIGIBILITY STATUS**

VERMONT

Phase	Description	Status
PHASE 1	Long-term care residents and staff, health care workers, and first responders	All eligible
PHASE 2	Individuals aged 75+	All eligible
PHASE 3	Individuals aged 70+	All eligible
PHASE 4	Individuals aged 65+	est. early March*
PHASE 5	People with certain high-risk health conditions	est. late March*

*Projected time estimates are subject to change based on federal vaccine allocations.

Updated 2.16.21

Vaccines

[Vaccine Dashboard:](#)

- 78,000 people have had one shot

- Even if your age group is not yet eligible, get a head start on creating an account to be vaccinate so you are ready when its your turn to make an appointment for your first dose.   Learn more at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine

- If you have registered for testing through VDH, you are already registered.

Vermont is following the CDC's new guidance for vaccinated people who have been exposed to someone with covid-19:

The CDC says these people do not need to quarantine, as long as they:

- Are fully vaccinated (had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and two weeks have passed)

- Are within 3 months of receiving the second dose of the vaccine

- Have not had any COVID-19 symptoms since the exposure.

Questions & Answers about vaccines

1) I am concerned about the state's prioritization of vaccines…. Are some school faculty being prioritized?

2) Why aren't Childcare & ECE teachers who are essential workers getting the vaccine? We are essential infrastructure to the economy.

3) When will ECE be vaccinated? Is there an anticipated timeline ? Have they assigned our tier level in VT?

4) If vaccine distribution changes and school faculty are considered, is there advocacy for early childhood professionals to be considered ?

Questions & Answers on Vaccines

Question

Is it safe to breastfeed after receiving the vaccine?

Answer
There are no data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in people who are breastfeeding or the effects of mRNA vaccines on milk production/excretion or on the breastfed baby. mRNA vaccines are not thought to be a risk to the breastfed baby. A person who is breastfeeding and is part of a group recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine (for example, health care personnel) may choose to be vaccinated.

Questions & Answers on Vaccines

Question

Has there been more research around if you can still be an asymptomatic carrier of the virus even after being vaccinated?

Question

When will these drugs no longer be considered as 'experimental'?

CDC double masks

New Information and Resources on Masks from CDC.

Double Masking is official.

Surgical (disposable) plus a cloth masks over, fit of the mask is important

- MMWR Early Release - Maximizing Fit for Cloth and Medical Procedure Masks to Improve Performance and Reduce SARS-CoV-2 Transmission and Exposure, 2021
- Types of Masks
- Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19
- Improve How Your Mask Protects You

Variant Detected

Lab Results Indicate Likely Presence of COVID-19 Variant in the State

- The City of Burlington's testing of wastewater has detected the presence of two COVID-19 virus mutations that are associated with the B.1.1.7 variant, first detected in the United Kingdom. Detection of these two mutations is a strong indicator that the B.1.1.7 variant is present in the community.

- According to the CDC, studies so far show the current vaccines are largely effective against this variant. Nonetheless, health experts warn the faster spreading variants can lead to more cases of COVID-19, as well as increased hospitalizations and deaths.

Latest Guidance and Resources

- Developing Summer Camp guidance - planned by March

- Strong & Healthy Start –updated 11/16, revision in process

- Child Care guidance -8/31 updated, revision to follow school

- Executive Order: Multi Household Gatherings are Suspended

- Sports/organized sports & recreation

- Winter Sports Interscholastic play, AOE 2/9/21

- COVID VDH Daily Update

- Community positivity rate risk of transmission schools

- Advised against any travel

- Sara Alert

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People with COVID-19 in Childcare Settings While Infectious

67

people with COVID-19 were in a childcare setting while infectious.

55

Childcare settings have been impacted.

There are over 1,100 registered programs (childcare centers, pre-K, registered in-home providers and afterschool programs) in the State of Vermont. This analysis includes people who report working or attending a childcare setting, which could include any of these types of programs.

Someone who was at childcare while infectious means there were opportunities for the virus to spread to others in the childcare setting. Read more about the infectious period.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 1/24/2021   37

Weekly Spotlight

Outbreaks in Childcare Settings

Of the over 1,100 childcare programs, there have been **6** outbreaks impacting **6** childcare settings.

This includes a total of **21** cases.

On average, there are **3.5** cases per childcare facility outbreak.

What is an outbreak in a childcare setting?

An outbreak is when there are two or more COVID-19 cases among children/students or teachers/staff with known connections in the educational setting, and the cases:
- have an illness start date or a positive test collection date within 14 days, **and**
- do not live together or have close contact with each other in another setting, **and**
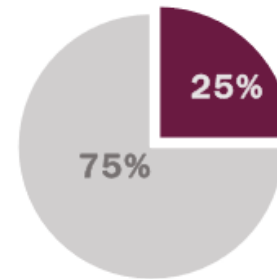- there is no other more likely source of exposure.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 1/24/2021   38

Weekly Spotlight

How much childcare-based transmission is occurring?

- Childcare facility-based transmission is occurring in a limited capacity, since the outbreaks are usually small and there have not been many outbreaks overall. Less than 1% of childcares in Vermont have had an outbreak.

- Transmission within childcare settings has happened too infrequently to draw any conclusion about the risk of spread.

- However, most people with COVID-19 who were at a childcare setting while infectious do not spread to others while there (75%).

25% of cases present in a childcare setting were likely a result of **transmission within childcare settings.**

25%

75%

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 1/24/2021   39

Weekly Spotlight

Recovered from COVID-19

- Governor's executive orders do not exempt people who have recovered from COVID-19 or have received a positive antibody test. This means you must quarantine when you travel or return to Vermont under the [current travel guidelines](#).

- This also means that you are not allowed to gather with people you don't live with under the [current social gathering guidelines](#).

- If you have had COVID-19 in past 3 months, and are exposed/close contact again, call us to sort out if quarantine applies or not.

Recovered from COVID-19

I have recovered from COVID-19 but I am sick with a new illness and symptoms. When can I return to work, school or childcare?

• If you develop new illness symptoms within the first 3 months of recovering from a COVID-19 infection, we do not recommend retesting. Data to date show that a person who has had and recovered from COVID-19 may have low levels of virus in their bodies for up to 3 months after diagnosis. This means that if the person who has recovered from COVID-19 is retested within 3 months of their initial infection, they may continue to have a positive test result, even though they are not spreading COVID-19.

• You should still stay home when you are sick to prevent spreading illness to others. You should remain home until your symptoms have improved or are gone. If you have a fever, you should stay home until you are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) for at least 24 hours. Contact your health care provider if you have questions or concerns.

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Our Armor
Keep up the what works!

- Exclude/stay home when sick
- Mask up
- Physically distance
- Handwashing
- Clean & disinfect

Exclude When Sick & Return to care

Algorithm – [Return to Care](#)

Cough (new)	If your child has **ANY ONE** of these symptoms, they likely **need a COVID-19 test.** • Call your child's healthcare provider for medical advice and possible office visit or referral to be tested. • Communicate the plan with your child's program director or family child care provider.
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	
Loss of taste (new)	
Loss of smell (new)	
Fever alone that persists > 24 hours (temperature higher than 100.4°)	
Fever (temperature higher than 100.4°)	If your child has **TWO OR MORE** of these symptoms, they **MIGHT need a COVID-19 test**. • Call your child's healthcare provider for medical advice and possible office visit to determine what to do next. • Communicate the plan with your child's program director or family child care provider. If your child has **ONLY ONE** of these symptoms, keep your child at home until: • They have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine. • They have felt better for at least 24 hours (symptoms are improved or gone).
Chills	
Muscle or body aches	
Headache	
Sore throat	
Fatigue	
Congestion or runny nose (new)	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	

Reporting a positive case

Call Health Department's COVID **School/Childcare Branch** 802-863-7240 (Mon - Fri 8 a.m. – 3pm, outside those hours, choose Option 7).

School/Childcare Branch

Collects pertinent information, provides initial guidance on steps to take to identify and inform close contacts and quarantine as appropriate.

The situation will be assigned to **Outbreak, Prevention & Response team** for additional follow up with to assure all close contacts have been notified and all necessary public health guidance is shared, and questions are answered.

- [Template for notifying about a case in your care community](#)

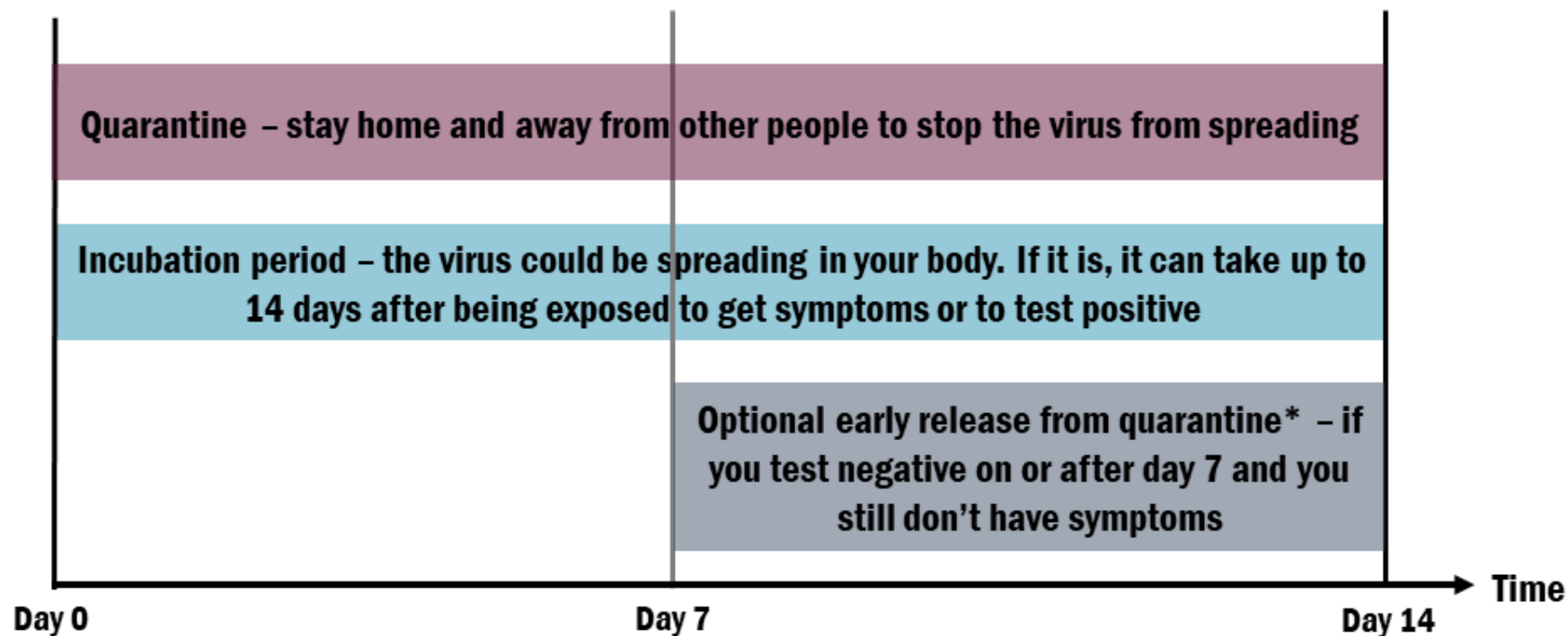# Timeline for Close Contacts of People with COVID-19

Most recent date of exposure to virus

Option to get tested

Release from quarantine

Quarantine – stay home and away from other people to stop the virus from spreading

Incubation period – the virus could be spreading in your body. If it is, it can take up to 14 days after being exposed to get symptoms or to test positive

Optional early release from quarantine* – if you test negative on or after day 7 and you still don't have symptoms

Day 0 **Day 7** **Day 14** **Time**

*Some people are not eligible for this option, such as staff and residents in certain group living settings.

Learn more at healthvermont.gov/contact-tracing

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August 2020

More on Contact Tracing

Here are three different visual timelines to the [contact tracing section of our website](#) that show important dates for cases and close contacts:

[Timeline for people who test positive and have symptoms](#)

[Timeline for people who test positive but do not have symptoms](#)

[Timeline for people who are close contacts with someone who has tested positive](#)

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Questions & Answers

Question:

Susie's cousin lives with her family and she works in NH and one of her colleagues was exposed to COVID - should Susie quarantine?

Answer: People who are exposed to people with covid during their infectious period need to quarantine. The rest of the household members who we not exposed do not have to quarantine. Entire households quarantine when the is a case in the household.

Questions & Answers

Question: When should I have a covid test?

>If you have symptoms

>If you have had known exposure

- We recommend you get tested twice — as soon as 2 days after the exposure or gathering and again 7 days after the exposure or gathering if you:

- think you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19

- are a close contact

- have gathered with people you don't live with

Questions & Answers

Question:

When will we know more about vaccine long-term infertility effects on women?

Answer:

There is no "plausible biological mechanism" by which the vaccine could affect your fertility

- https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56012529

- https://www.webmd.com/vaccines/covid-19-vaccine/news/20210112/why-covid-vaccines-are-falsely-linked-to-infertility

-

Questions & Answers

Question:

Once I've received the vaccine will I be able to travel without a mandated quarantine?

Answer:

Current executive order does not exclude one from quarantine when traveling if vaccinated

Governor is expected to announce new travel guidance for vaccinated Vermonter on Friday 2.19.21

Questions & Answers

Question:

If grandparents from out of town have received both vaccinations more than 2 weeks ago and come for a visit, can the grandchild attend care? What will be the protocols around those who have received both vaccinations?

Answer: Even if you are fully vaccinated:

- **You must quarantine** when you travel or return to Vermont under the [current travel guidelines](#).

- **You are not allowed to gather** with people you don't live with under the [current social gathering guidelines](#).

Take Care of Your Emotional and Mental Health

If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs emotional support, help is available 24/7:

- Call your local mental health crisis line.

- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

- Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the Crisis Text Line.

- For more information visit healthvermont.gov/suicide.

Visit VT Helplink to get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services.

Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at COVID Support VT.

See ways for Coping with Stress.

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Contact Us

https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/schools-colleges-child-care-programs

School and Child Care Warm Line

802-863-7240 **x 5 leave message any time**

Responding M-F 8am – 3 pm

Toll Free 800-464-4343