



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:**

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April 15, 2021 1PM - 2PM

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





THANK YOU

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

STEP 1

VACCINATION PROGRESS (FIRST DOSE):
Vulnerable population substantially complete;
35–45% of all Vermonters; 45–55% of Vermonters 16+

Business Operations

4/9 **Group A Sectors:**
Move to required
universal guidance

Cross State Travel

4/9 No quarantine required with
negative test within 3 days of
arrival in or return to the state

Masks and Physical Distancing



Required when in the presence
of those outside your household.

APRIL

STEP 2

VACCINATION PROGRESS (FIRST DOSE):
50–60% of all Vermonters;
60–70% of Vermonters 16+

Business Operations

5/1 **Group B Sectors:**
Move to required
universal guidance

Gatherings and Events

5/1 **Indoor:** 1 unvaccinated
person per 100 sq ft up to
150, plus any number of
vaccinated people
Outdoor: 300, plus any
number of vaccinated people

Masks and Physical Distancing



Required when in the presence
of those outside your household.

MAY

STEP 3

VACCINATION PROGRESS (FIRST DOSE):
60–70% of all Vermonters;
70–85% of Vermonters 16+

Cross State Travel

6/1 No quarantine or
testing requirements

Gatherings and Events

6/1 **Indoor:** 1 unvaccinated
person per 50 sq ft up to
300, plus any number of
vaccinated people
Outdoor: 900, plus any
number of vaccinated people

Masks and Physical Distancing



Required when in the presence
of those outside your household.

JUNE

JULY 4

Business Operations

Universal guidance
encouraged for all sectors

Gatherings and Events

No capacity
restrictions

Masks and Physical Distancing.

Encouraged

JULY



Agenda



- Childcare guidance, *anticipated updates*
- Travel Update
- Vaccine Update
- Data overview cases in children
- Questions & Answer throughout

Childcare guidance

- **Stay home when you are sick**
- **Health screenings and temp checks- DECISION NEEDED**
 - ? Allow programs to choose home or program screening
- **Travel**
 - No longer a travel screening question
 - Programs who receive public pre K dollars must follow Vermont Forward ([Travel | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov))
 - Other programs have discretion at this point. You may chose to follow Vermont Forward or to adopt your own approach as a private providers.

Hygiene, Masks and Cleaning

- **Hand hygiene**

- Basic infection control practices

- **Masks**

- Required for staff and recommended for children pre July 4th
- Encouraged for children and adults after July 4th(in alignment with VT Forward)

- **Cleaning and disinfecting**

- Basic infection control practices
- Less attention to surfaces
- .

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Based on available epidemiological data and studies of environmental transmission factors, surface transmission is not the main route by which SARS-CoV-2 spreads, and the risk from surfaces is considered to be low. The principal mode by which people are infected with SARS-CoV-2 is through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus.
- Cleaning surfaces using soap or detergent, and not disinfecting, is enough to reduce risk in most situations. When focused on high touch surfaces, cleaning with soap or detergent should be enough to further reduce the relatively low transmission risk.

Distancing, Volunteers, Visitors and more

- **Physical Distancing**

- Required (3ft for children, 6ft for adults) pre July 4th
- Encouraged for children and adults post July 4th (in alignment with VT Forward)
- Other updates:
 - Limits based on Vermont Forward Plan
 - Cohorts/mixing ok
 - Encourage outside as much as possible

-

- **Volunteers, Visitors, Field Trips and Community Service**

- Vaccinated/ immune from prior infection (<90 days) visitors are ok (honor system)
- Special events allowed (in accordance with gathering guidance pre-July 4th)
- DECISION NEEDED
 - All volunteers/visitors ok after July 4th?
 - RECOMMENDATION from VDH policy- YES

Q & A: New guidance Timeline & VT Forward

Q: When will the new childcare guidance be ready ???

Also discuss expectations as related to the Governor's reopening timeline.

A: We anticipate the new childcare guidance that aligns with school guidance will be released by end of April

Health Checks - *anticipated guidance*

Q: Is there a potential for staff to not do health checks at the door since schools will be switching to 'at home' screenings as well? Is it safe to use common areas now if the children are masked, specifically indoor large motor rooms?

A: It needs to be decided that the revised childcare guidance will support at home health checks for fever & any covid symptoms.

It is safe to use common areas for large motor activities with masks.

Outdoors is safest.

Masks - *anticipated guidance*

Q: When can we stop wearing masks? Can we have visitors in the center if they've been vaccinated?

A: Masks are currently required for staff & parents and recommended for children pre July 4th. Masks will be encouraged for children and adults after July 4th (in alignment with VT Forward). Visitors being permitted needs to be decided.

Q: What does the Governor's announcement that masks will be encouraged after 7/4 mean for early childhood programs? If early childhood educators are fully vaccinated, but children cannot be, will we continue with our protocols? It seems like the best way to protect them.

A: This is will be an adjustment to universal practices: stay home when sick, masks encouraged, good handwashing/hygiene, uncrowded spaced, think before your travel.

Masks - *anticipated guidance*

Q: mask guidelines for ECE Centers when the mask mandate is lifted. Can we continue to require masks on our property even after July 4th?

A: Masks will be encouraged after July 4th.

Q: Once we are fully vaccinated is there anything we can drop from our intensive cleaning routines? Does everyone (Adults) still have to wear masks? If all adults of children have been vaccinated do we have to wear masks during drop off and pickup? Is anything changing that will lighten our load?

A: It's anticipated that the revised guidance will have basic infection control practices, less attention to surfaces. Masks will be required for adults and strongly encouraged for children until the VT Forward universal guidance will apply to this sector.

POD/Group size

Q: Are we anticipating a change to the number of contacts/people in a pod or classroom can have?

A: There is currently no limit to pod size or mixing of pods in the current guidance. Based on Vermont's experience to date, mixing of groups of children is permissible. Ensure careful attendance records are kept.

Cleaning and Disinfecting- *anticipated guidance*

Q: We currently are sanitizing all toys at the end of each day. Based on the CDC's most recent guidance, can we end this practice, and only do it for toys that get mouthed? Also, we'd love to bring back doll cloths and blankets? Is it ok to bring them back?

- Its likely that the new guidance will default to cleaning and disinfections policies in [Caring for our Children.](#)
- Its likely blankets and doll clothes that are brought back in and cleaned in accordance to [Caring for our Children.](#)
- Based on available epidemiological data and studies of environmental transmission factors, surface transmission is not the main route by which SARS-CoV-2 spreads, and the risk from surfaces is considered to be low. The principal mode by which people are infected with SARS-CoV-2 is through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus.

Travel and Quarantine

Q: Will there be updated guidance now that travel restrictions are being lifted? Why is the Governor lifting those restrictions when case numbers are still high? Children still cannot be vaccinated, so doesn't it make sense for programs to continue requiring travel restrictions as part of their health screenings?

- **A: Unvaccinated Vermonters** who have traveled outside the state must be tested within 3 days of returning to Vermont. No longer a travel screening question in health screening
 - Programs who receive public pre K dollars must follow Vermont Forward ([Travel | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](#))
 - [CDD's statement other private programs \(w no pre-K funding\) have discretion for stricter policies](#). You may chose to follow Vermont Forward or to adopt your own approach as a private providers.

Vaccine Update

- J & J on Pause
- Next age group

VACCINATION TIMELINE:

Age	Registration Opens
30+	APRIL 12
16+	APRIL 19

#OurShotVT

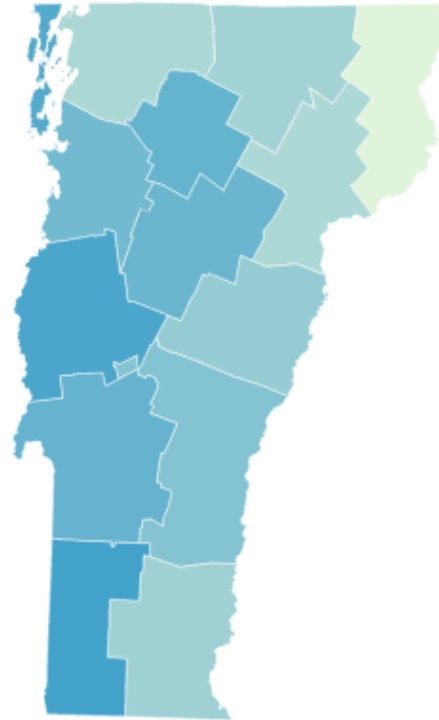
Vermont Vaccination Data

Vaccination by County

The percent of the county population that has received at least one dose of the vaccine

+ Show Race Detail

County	Overall progress
Addison	53.3%
Bennington	54.0%
Caledonia	43.2%
Chittenden	49.2%
Essex	37.9%
Franklin	43.4%
Grand Isle	52.4%
Lamoille	50.5%
Orange	45.6%
Orleans	44.2%
Rutland	50.6%
Washington	50.0%
Windham	44.6%
Windsor	47.4%
Vermont	48.3%



37.9% 54.0%

Summary

By Age, Sex, Race, Ethnicity

Doses Received

 497.5K

Doses Administered

 421.5K

Overall progress (age 16+)
People who have received at least one dose of the vaccine

48.3%

Completed
People who have completed vaccination

31.8%

Total People Started

 90.1K

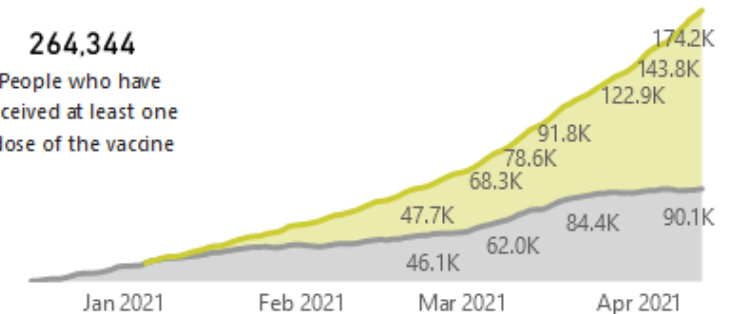
Total People Completed

 174.2K

Total People Vaccinated

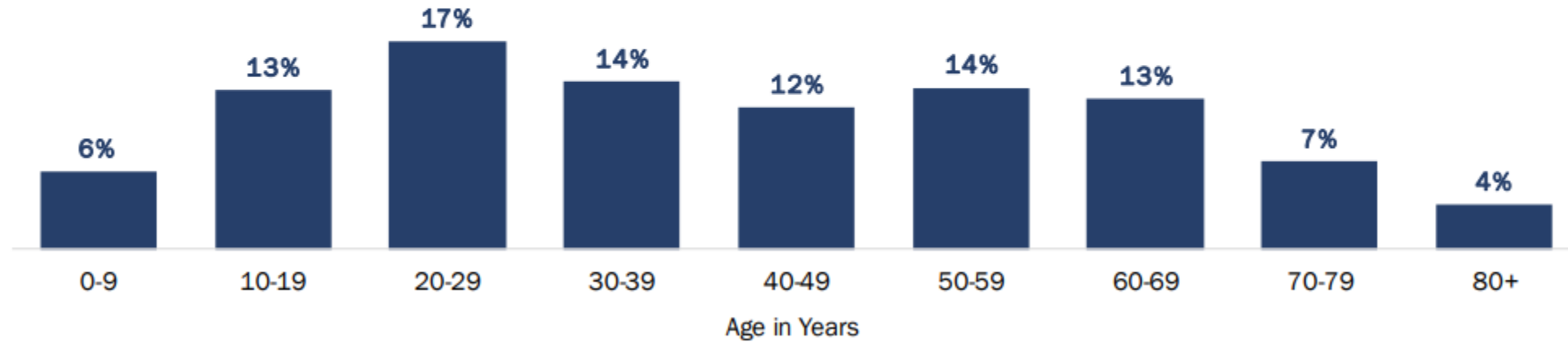
Started Completed

264,344
People who have received at least one dose of the vaccine



Updated 4/13/2021 8:42:05 AM

The distribution of people tested for COVID-19 in Vermont varies by age group.



More **females** are tested than **males** for COVID-19.



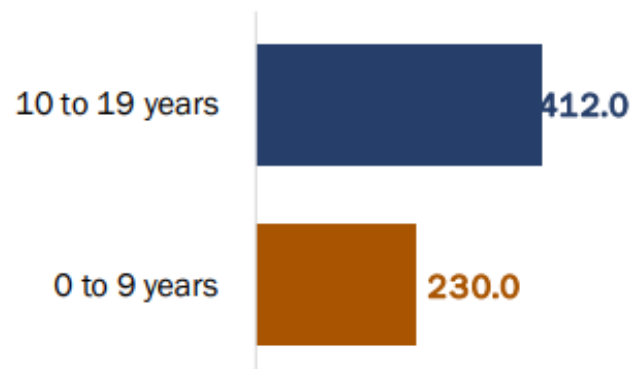
54% of people tested for COVID-19 are **female**.



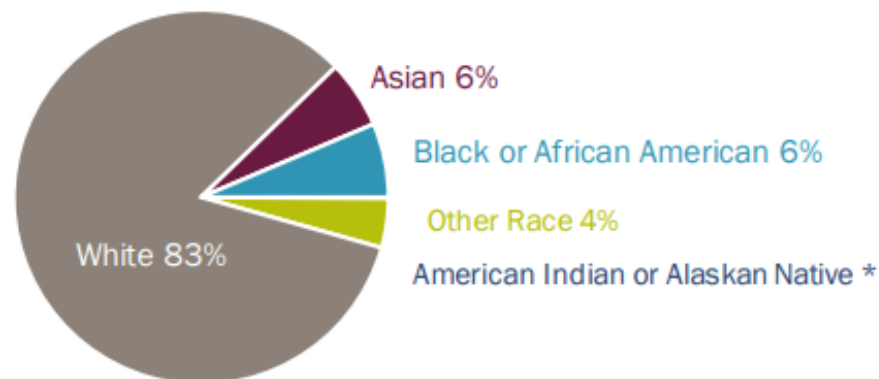
46% of people tested for COVID-19 are **male**.

Older children have a higher rate of COVID-19 compared to younger children.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0-19 years old

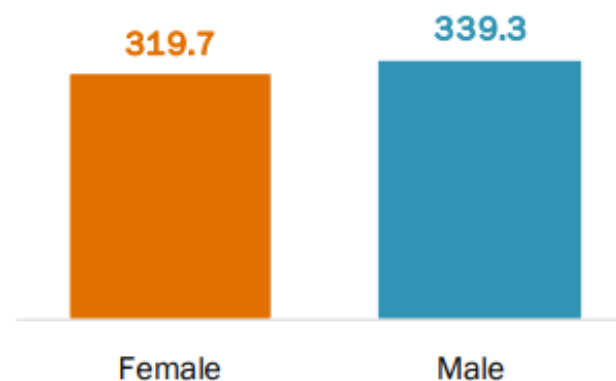


Among children with COVID-19, Black, Indigenous and people of color represent 19% of cases.



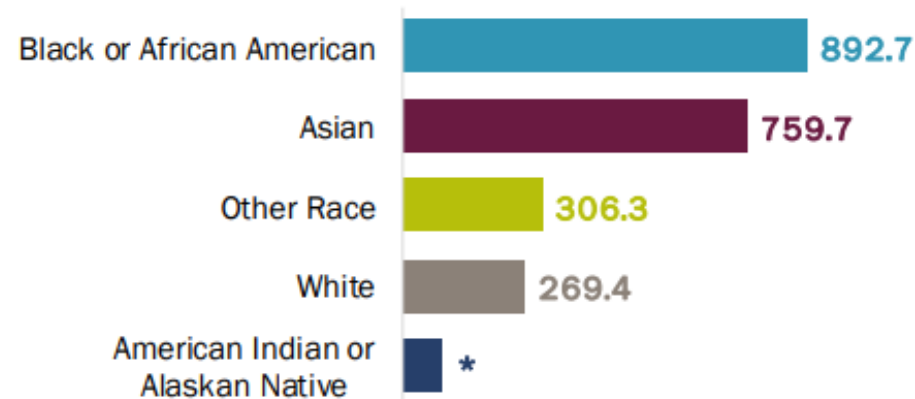
Female and male children have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years old



Among children with COVID-19, Black or African Americans have the highest rate.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years



Other Questions

Q: If a parent who is a 6 grade teacher has to quarantine should she come pick up her child from daycare or she send someone else? As she has now exposed her own children?

A: This teacher should send someone else to pick up her son. Quarantine =stay home, wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from others in your household,

Q: I'm hearing that people who test positive can retest in 7 days and results can be negative which means they are no longer contagious. Is this true? I thought you could still test positive for 3 months after a positive test or symptoms begin. Should childcare providers and children test again after 7 days prior to coming back to a child care center?

A: The Vermont Department of health will stand by a confirmed test, will not end isolation if there are subsequent negative tests. Yes, you can still test + for 3 months. Staff and children need to meet recovery definition to return to care/work.

Other Questions

Q: What guidance do you have for programs with the state opening up and children not be vaccinated? We still feel very vulnerable and one Covid person could close down an entire program.

A: The guidance will still have a variety of mitigation polices in place: health screenings, stay home if sick, masking encouraged after the 4th , handwashing, cleaning & disinfecting, physical distancing as safeguards. The prevalence of covid in this age group is small. It will be a process to get comfortable as we emerge from peak pandemic practices to the VT Forward practices eventually.

Q: We run an overnight residential camp in addition to day camps. Will there be additional guidance for residential camps and if so when can we expect that?

A: It is coming VERY soon!

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

