



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

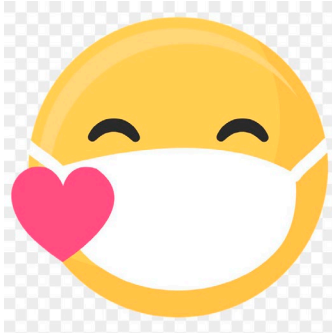
COVID -19 Updates

**Vermont Department of Health,
Division of Maternal and Child
Health:**

**Sally Kerschner, Margaret Tarmy &
Breena Holmes**

January 21, 2021 1PM - 2PM





Agenda



- **Vaccine Update**
- **General updates & current guidance**
- **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





A great 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

Currently Vaccinating:

- 1A: Health care professionals & residents at long term care facilities
- Finished 1st dose LTC facilities

Up Next:

- 1/25/21: VT residents 75 years and older can register online or by phone for vaccine, details forthcoming
- 1/25/21: VDH standing up a vaccine call center and registration process
- There are approx. 49,000 Vermonters in the 75+ age group
- Next in line will be those over 70, then >65 years as vaccine supply allows.
- Vermonters with certain high-risk conditions



COVID-19 VACCINE
BREAKTHROUGH

Vaccines

Vaccine Dashboard:

- VT ranks 2nd in the northeast for rate of covid vaccine administration, top 10 in US
- Vaccine approved for ages 16 years and up
- Indicated for pregnant and lactating women

“Currently, there is no Federal or CDC or science driven guidance to indicate that we should be giving one shot to a large population, and then hit-or-miss on the second shot depending if there’s still vaccine leftover at a later time. So we are subscribing currently to honoring the promise we made, we will have a dose reserved for you for your second shot.” - Vermont Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine

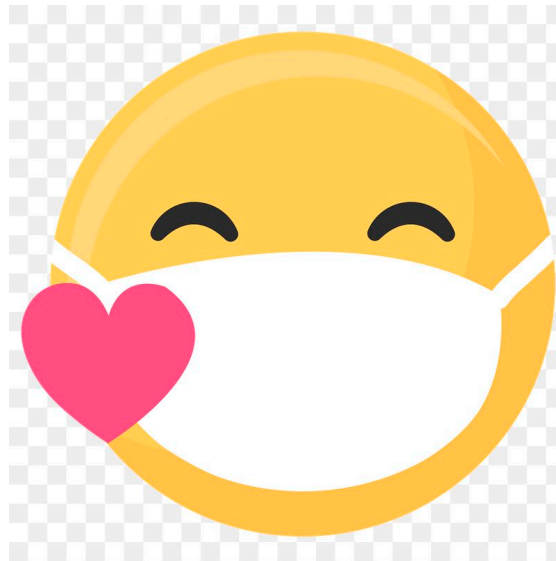
Latest Guidance and Resources

- Strong & Healthy Start –updated 11/16
- Child Care guidance -8/31 updated
- Executive Order: Multi Household Gatherings are Suspended
- [Sports/organized sports & recreation](#)
- [Winter Sports Phase 2 AOE](#) 1/15/21
- COVID VDH [Daily Update](#)
- [Community positivity rate risk of transmission schools](#)
- [Advised against any travel](#)
- [Sara Alert](#)

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)	<p>If your child has ANY ONE of these symptoms, they likely need a COVID-19 test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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°)	<p>If your child has TWO OR MORE of these symptoms, they MIGHT need a COVID-19 test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
Chills	
Muscle or body aches	
Headache	
Sore throat	
Fatigue	
Congestion or runny nose (new)	
Nausea or vomiting	<p>If your child has ONLY ONE of these symptoms, keep your child at home until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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).
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).

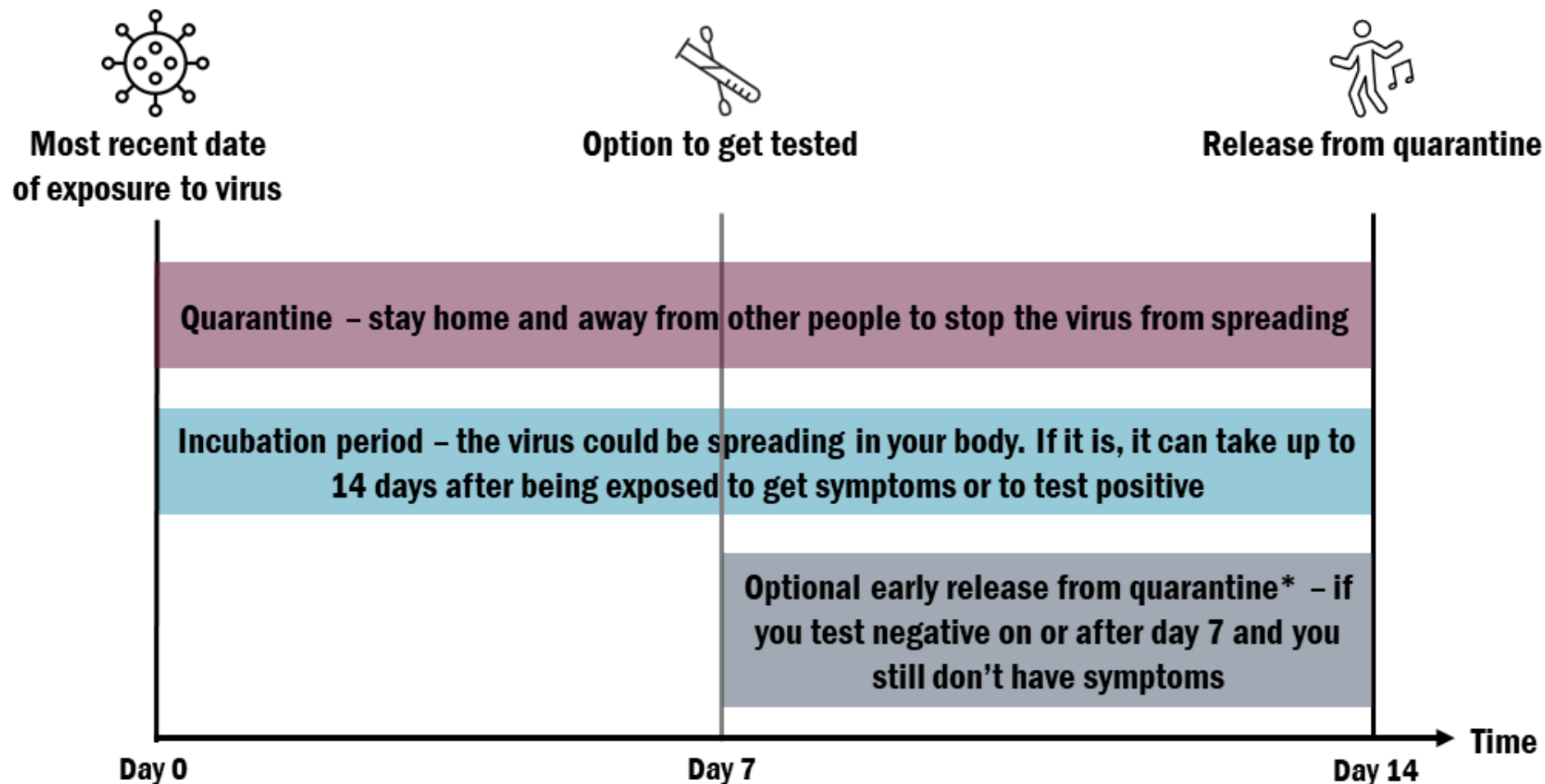
School/Childcare Branch

- 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



*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

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:

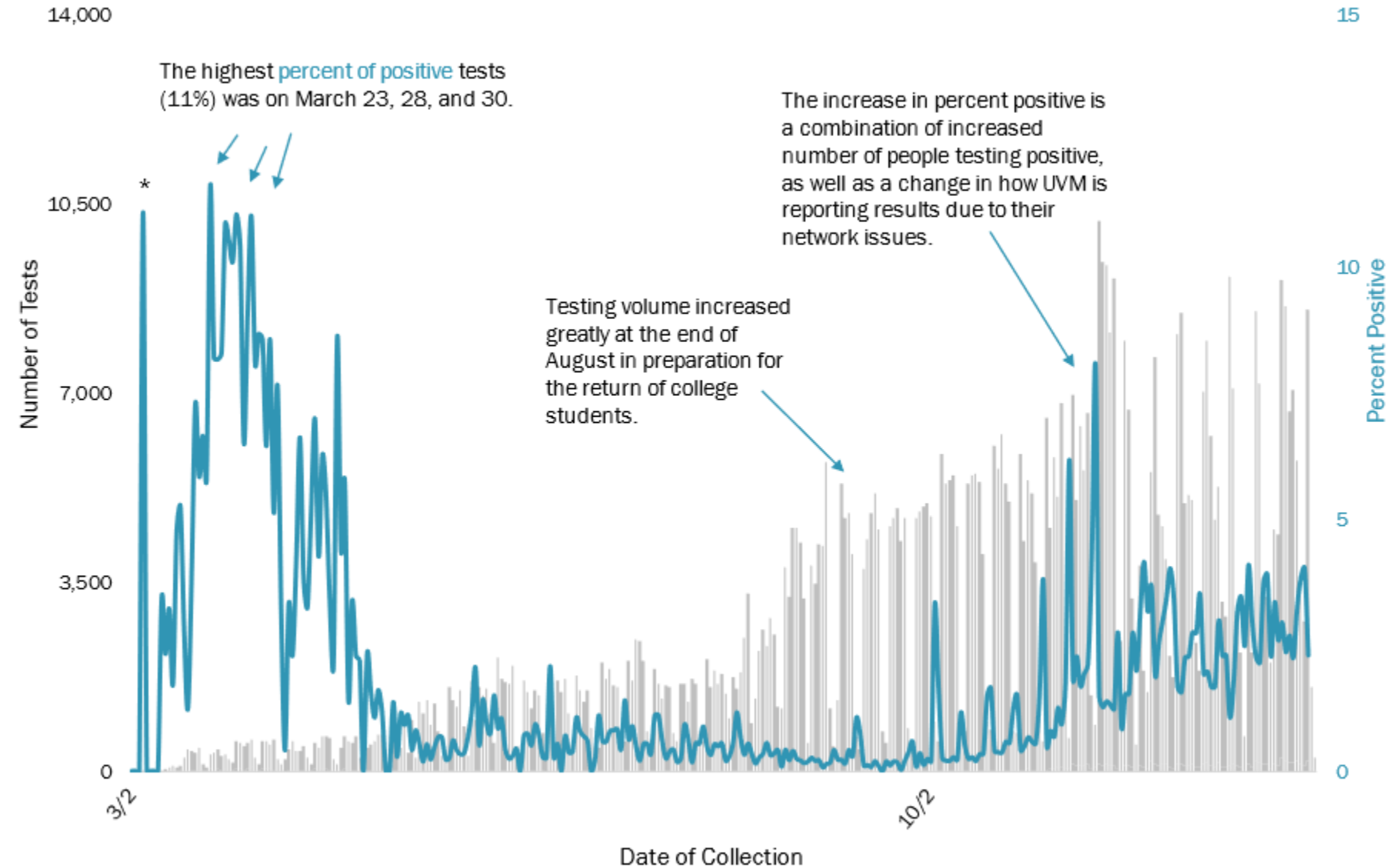
[Timeline for people who test positive and have symptoms](#)

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

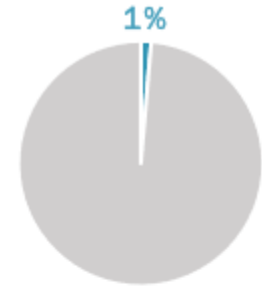
[Timeline for people who are close contacts with someone who has tested positive](#)



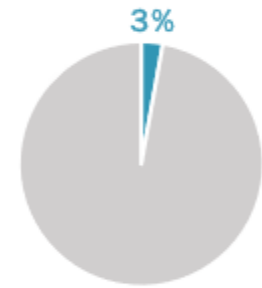
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



Percent Positive to Date



Percent Positive This Week (January 6 – January 13)



13,702
People Tested
this Week

35,973
Tests
this Week

282,517
People Tested
to Date

779,141
Tests
to Date

Vermont Department of Health

*Not a stable estimate due to small numbers. There were 8 total tests and 1 was positive.

The **number of people tested** reflects the number of individual people who have had confirmatory testing for COVID-19 in Vermont. Each person is only counted once. The **number of tests** reflects the number of specimens that have had confirmatory tests for COVID-19 in Vermont. This number may include multiple specimens for one person, the same person tested multiple times, etc. **Percent positive** is the number of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 specimens divided by the total number of specimens (updated 11/6/20). None of these numbers include serology or antigen testing.

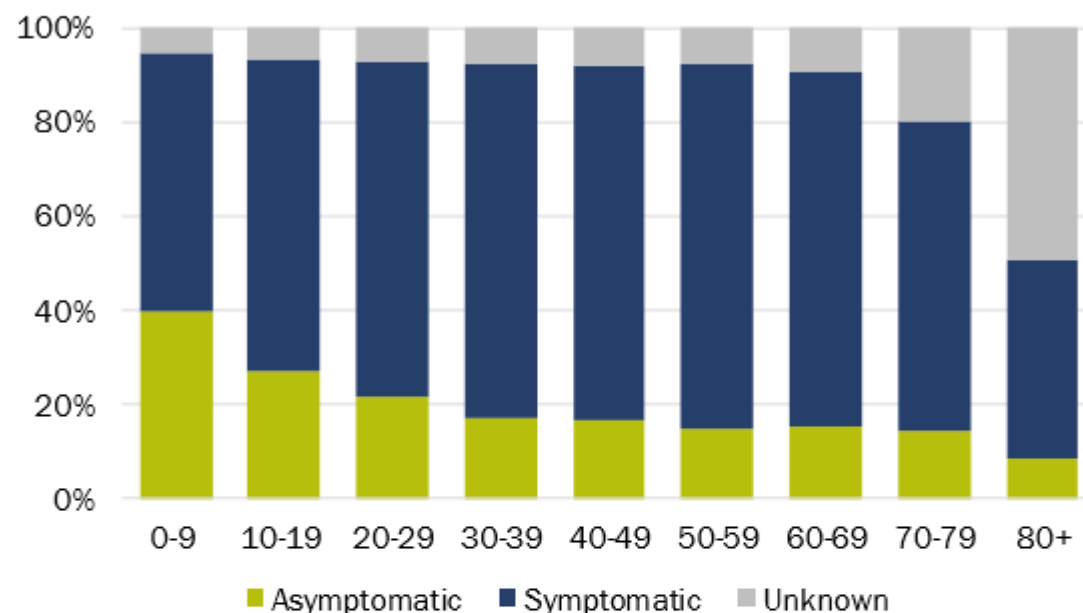
Sign or Symptom	Percent of Children with Symptom
Runny nose	51%
Headache	46%
Cough	41%
Fatigue	38%
Sore Throat	36%
Loss of smell or taste	27%
Muscle pain	25%
Fever	21%

5 days

Average illness duration among children

Among Vermont's children with COVID-19, there are currently no reported cases of multi-system inflammatory syndrome or deaths, and there are fewer than six hospitalizations.

The percent of COVID-19 cases with **no symptoms is higher among children. Less than half (31%) of cases among children had **no symptoms** reported.**



71% of children with COVID-19 had known contact with somebody else who had COVID-19.

16% of children with COVID-19 were part of an outbreak.



MMWR Studies on COVID



December MMWR

Among children and adolescents aged <18 years in Mississippi, close contact with persons with COVID-19 and gatherings with persons outside the household and lack of consistent mask use in school were associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection, ***whereas attending school or childcare was not associated with receiving positive SARS-CoV-2 test results.***

August MMWR:

Limited secondary transmission in childcare in RI with Public Health Measures

The apparent absence of secondary transmission within the other 662 child care programs was likely the result of RIDOH response efforts to contain transmission and childcare programs' adherence to RIDHS requirements, in particular maximum **class sizes and use of face masks for adults**

MMWR January

To enable safer in-person learning, schools and communities should fully implement and strictly adhere to multiple mitigation strategies, especially **universal and proper mask wearing**, to reduce both school and community COVID-19 incidence to help protect students, teachers, and staff members from COVID-19.

Since May, Vermont has allowed people without COVID-19 symptoms to end quarantine on or after day 7 with a negative test result. In [an article published Thursday in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality weekly report](#), testing data showed that the policy has been effective and has not led to significant spread of COVID-19 in Vermont.

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

