



## Daily Update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) November 17, 2020

New or updated information is in red and bold.

This update is available online at [healthvermont.gov/covid19](https://healthvermont.gov/covid19)  
Click the “See the Latest Update” button.

Please visit the Vermont Department of Health’s COVID-19 web and data pages  
[healthvermont.gov/covid19](https://healthvermont.gov/covid19)

### **State Officials Call to Vermonters: ACT NOW to Stop the Spread of COVID-19**

Governor Phil Scott called on Vermonters to prioritize “needs” over “wants” during the surge in COVID-19 cases the state is experiencing.

“In my view, in-person education, protecting our healthcare system and keeping people working — as long as we can do it safely — are things we need,” he said, at Tuesday’s press conference.

We may want to have social gatherings, which are now prohibited by the latest executive order, but they put a lot of people at risk, he said.

Gov. Scott also had a message for the “skeptics,” who may ignore the science or choose not to believe it.

“Please don’t call it patriotic or pretend it’s about freedom. Because *real* patriots serve and sacrifice for all, whether they agree with them or not,” he said. “Patriots also stand up and fight when our nation’s health and security is threatened. And right now, our country and way of life is being attacked by this virus — not the protections we put in place.”

Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD added that the most important thing we’ve learned about this virus is that it will take advantage of us, but only if we give it the chance.

“Asking Vermonters to give up spending time with friends and family outside of their own household is not easy,” Dr. Levine said. “But based on what we’ve seen driving transmission — it is necessary. I know we can change our behaviors in time to make a difference.”

[Read the transcript of Governor Scott's remarks.](#)

### **Social gatherings among households now prohibited**

Vermont is seeing a surge in new COVID-19 cases. Because of this, Governor Phil Scott has temporarily prohibited social gatherings with people from other households. People who live alone may get together with members of their immediate family living in a different household. [Learn more in our FAQ.](#)

### **New on healthvermont.gov**

Learn more about the percentage of COVID-19 cases who reported travel to or from Vermont up to 14 days before symptoms started (or if they had no symptoms, the date they were tested) in the latest [Weekly Data Summary Spotlight](#).

Get the latest news and updates on Health's COVID-19 response. Sign up for our new [Weekly COVID-19 Update Email](#). It will be sent every Friday starting Nov. 20.

### **Case Information**

**Current COVID-19 Activity in Vermont**  
**As of 12 p.m. on November 17, 2020**

Description	Number
New cases*	95 (3,104 total)
Currently hospitalized	17
Hospitalized in ICU	1
Hospitalized under investigation	0
Percent Positive (7-day average)	1.8%
People tested	202,177
Total tests	479,705
Total people recovered	2,107
Deaths+	59
Travelers monitored	204
Contacts monitored	178
People completed monitoring	10,732

\* Includes testing conducted at the Health Department Laboratory, commercial labs and other public health labs.

+ Death occurring in persons known to have COVID-19. Death certificate may be pending.

Hospitalization data is provided by the Vermont Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition and is based on hospitals updating this information.

Find more data at: [healthvermont.gov/currentactivity](https://healthvermont.gov/currentactivity).

## **Get Your Flu Shot!**

Flu season in Vermont will soon start to hit its stride. And it's especially important for everyone to get their flu shot this year, and soon – when flu viruses and the new coronavirus may be spreading at the same time.

We encourage everyone older than 6 months old (with rare exceptions) – and especially people in a high-risk group or who have underlying health conditions – to get their flu vaccine.

Help keep flu out of the picture! [Learn more about the flu and how to get your flu shot.](#)

## **Guidance for Vermonters and Businesses**

- Health information, guidance and data: [healthvermont.gov/covid19](https://healthvermont.gov/covid19)
- By sector guidance: [accd.vermont.gov/covid-19](https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19)
- Travel map and modeling: [dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling](https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling)
- Governor's actions: [governor.vermont.gov/covid19response](https://governor.vermont.gov/covid19response)

Get the information you need at our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

## **School & Child Care Guidance**

- **Strong and Healthy Start:** [Safety and Health Guidance for Vermont Schools](#)
- **Mental Health:** [A Strong and Healthy Start: Social, Emotional and Mental Health Supports During COVID-19](#)
- **Child care:** [Health Guidance for Child Care and Out of School Care](#)

More resources on the [Your Community web page](#).

## **Traveler Information**

All non-essential travel to or from Vermont now requires quarantine. Visit our [Travel & Quarantine](#) web page for more information and to [sign up with Sara Alert for symptom check reminders](#). The Health Department strongly advises against non-essential travel, even within Vermont.

## **Getting Tested for COVID-19**

[Visit our testing web page](#) to learn about who should get tested and where to get tested.

## **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](https://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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**Media Contact:** [CV19media@vermont.gov](mailto:CV19media@vermont.gov)

Information for the public can be found at <https://healthvermont.gov/covid19>.