



Daily Update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) December 1, 2020

New or updated information is in red and bold.

This update is available online at 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

Health Department to Begin Reporting “Probable” COVID-19 Cases

Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, said the Health Department will begin including probable cases in the total number of COVID-19 cases reported in Vermont starting tomorrow, Dec. 2.

The number of cases of COVID-19 the Health Department currently reports includes only cases confirmed by a PCR test.

A case is considered “probable” if the person:

- tested positive on an antigen test AND has symptoms of COVID-19 OR epidemiologic evidence, OR...
- has symptoms of COVID-19 AND is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case of COVID-19

For all probable cases, Health Department teams take the same public health actions as if the person was a confirmed case (by PCR test). This means that contact tracers conduct interviews with probable cases, provide isolation guidance, and their close contacts are notified to quarantine.

Reporting probable cases as part of our total counts will more fully capture COVID-19 activity in Vermont, at a time when antigen testing is increasing, particularly in places like in nursing homes, Dr. Levine said.

The impact on the data right now is minimal – about 120 cases that are considered probable will be included in the total cases.

Shipping Error Results in Need for Retesting

The Health Department is asking people who were tested for COVID-19 on November 27, 2020 at Barre Auditorium to get retested. This action is needed because a delay by the company responsible for shipping the original samples to Broad Laboratories in Massachusetts rendered the samples useless. Approximately 249 samples were affected.

The Health Department late Monday sent emails to notify people of the shipping error and the need for retesting if desired. The state is investigating the cause of the shipping delay.

“This shouldn’t have happened, and I personally apologize to the Vermonters who were doing the right thing to protect themselves and their communities by getting tested,” said Dr. Levine. Nearly a quarter of a million people in the state have been tested to date.

Anyone affected can get retested Wednesday or later this week, and their samples will be expedited. While there are plenty of regular and pop-up testing options available in the Central Vermont area, Health officials are recommending that people go to the nearby sites in Northfield, Berlin or Waterbury.

To help speed up the process, people are encouraged to preregister. However, walk-ins are welcome.

To find the sites and to register, go to healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing

What You Need to Know Now

As Vermont sees a surge in cases of COVID-19, know how you can help stop the spread:

- Do not get together or socialize with anyone you don’t live with (see more details and allowances [here](#)).
- Avoid traveling when possible, even within Vermont. Anyone who travels to or from Vermont must [quarantine](#). The only exception is for [essential travel](#).
- Wear a mask and keep a 6-foot distance from anyone outside your household.
- If you’re sick, stay home.
- Not everyone with COVID-19 has a fever. Even mild symptoms (like a headache or dry cough) could be signs of COVID-19. Talk to your health care provider about getting tested and stay home while waiting for your result.
- Also [seek testing](#) if you are a close contact of a case. If you gathered with others outside your household, [quarantine](#) and get tested right away, and on Day 7 or later.

Case Information

Current COVID-19 Activity in Vermont

As of 12 p.m. on December 1, 2020

Description	Number
New cases*	63

	(4,239 total)
Currently hospitalized	28
Hospitalized in ICU	2
Hospitalized under investigation	4
Percent Positive (7-day average)	1.7%
People tested	225,228
Total tests	555,633
Total people recovered	2,564
Deaths+	72
Travelers monitored	205
Contacts monitored	130
People completed monitoring	11,120

* 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.

Guidance for Vermonters and Businesses

- Health information, guidance and data: healthvermont.gov/covid19
- Sector guidance: accd.vermont.gov/covid-19
- Modeling: dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling
- Governor's actions: 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](#).

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.

For more tips and resources visit our [Coping With Stress](#) web page.

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](#).

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