

COVID-19 Daily Update February 11, 2021

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

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.

Wastewater sampling is a pooled sample of many different community members, and only looks for the presence of two specific mutations, so this should not be considered definitive finding of that variant, but it does indicate the variant is most likely present in Vermont. The Health Department will work to confirm the presence of the variant through genetic sequencing of individual samples from COVID-19 positive individuals.

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Many emerge and disappear, but others can persist and even become the predominant strain. Some experts anticipate the more easily transmissible B.1.1.7 variant will become widespread throughout the country. 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.

Read the press release.

Prepare for your vaccination by creating an online account

Good news! Even if your age group is not yet eligible to be vaccinated, you can still get a head start on the process now by creating your account in our system. That way, it'll be smooth sailing when it's your turn to make an appointment for your first dose. Learn more at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine.

Help curb spread of COVID-19 by getting tested

Getting tested for COVID-19 is a critical tool to slowing the spread of the virus. The sooner you know if you have the virus, the sooner you can protect yourself, your loved ones and your community.

There are now even more sites available around the state to get tested, with more open daily. Make an appointment for a test by visiting healthvermont.gov/testing. (You will need to create an account first.)

Many test sites now allow Vermonters to take their own samples using a short swab in your nose. Watch a new video to learn how easy it is to do!

If you have <u>symptoms</u> of COVID-19, please contact your health care provider so they can refer you for testing. If you don't have a provider, you can call 2-1-1.

New on healthvermont.gov

One of the best ways to stop the spread of COVID-19 is by getting tested as soon as you start to feel sick. See the latest <u>Weekly Data Summary Spotlight</u> and learn more about the average amount of time between symptom onset and when the Health Department receives a person's test result — so that public health response can begin.

COVID-19 Activity in Vermont

As of 12 p.m. on February 11, 2021 Data is updated daily.

Description	Number
New cases*	122
	(13,249 total)
Currently hospitalized	48
Hospitalized in ICU	10
Hospitalized under investigation	6
Percent Positive (7-day average)	1.8%
People tested	314,805
Total tests	951,720
Total people recovered	10,154
Deaths+	188
Travelers monitored	207
Contacts monitored	178
People completed monitoring	12,980

Find more data on COVID-19 Activity at: healthvermont.gov/currentactivity.

COVID-19 Vaccine Data

As of 12 p.m. on February 11, 2021 Data is updated Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Description	Number
Total people who have received least one dose of vaccine	68,118 (11.9% of population)
Total people who have received two doses of vaccine (completed)	31,639

Find more vaccine data on the COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard: healthvermont.gov/covid19-vaccine-data.

Additional Resources About Vaccination and More

- Find answers to your questions about the COVID-19 vaccine from the CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html.
- Get Vermont-specific information in our <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u>.
- Sign up for the COVID-19 Weekly Email Update.
- Find information sheets, posters and toolkits, as well as translated materials on our Resources 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.
- Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the Crisis Text Line.
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

You can also get more information and resources:

- Visit our Coping with Stress web page.
- Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at <u>VT Helplink</u>.
- 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.