



## **Daily Update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)** **September 15, 2020**

New 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)

### **Dr. Fauci: Vermont ‘Should be the Model of the Country’**

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, joined Governor Phil Scott and Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, at a press conference Tuesday, praising Vermont’s successes in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Appearing by video, Dr. Fauci said he has been working hard to communicate to the nation about how to open up the economy, get our children back to school and get people back to work in a safe, prudent, measured way.

“There were certain parameters that would make that easy. And I was sitting here listening to the numbers that (Gov. Scott) said, and I would wonder if I could bottle that and take it with me when I go around talking to other parts of the country,” Dr. Fauci said.

“I believe strongly that if we do what you’ve been doing in Vermont in the rest of the country... that we cannot only get through the fall and the winter, but we can come out on the other end better off than we went in,” he said.

Dr. Fauci answered questions from reporters, and from Dr. Levine, who asked Dr. Fauci to explain to Vermonters the process to develop a COVID-19 vaccine and why they can trust it. Dr. Fauci explained the multiple layers of checkpoints, including an independent data and safety monitoring board, a safety pledge by the Food and Drug Administration, and the scientific community, that is watching and “are not shy about giving our scientific opinions.”

“So I can tell you, based on my experience and what I’m seeing, if there’s a vaccine – which I’m fairly certain there will be – that’s safe and effective, I, for one, would not hesitate to

take it, nor would I hesitate to recommend that my entire family do it,” Dr. Fauci said. “So I feel good about it.”

### **Health Department Working on First COVID-19 Cases Reported in Schools**

Dr. Levine said Tuesday the Health Department was notified this week of a small number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 associated with two schools in Vermont.

At this time, there are fewer than six confirmed cases associated with the two schools, Crossett Brook Middle School in Duxbury, and Hartford High School.

“While we obviously hoped to avoid cases once schools reopened, as we have said all along, this is not unexpected,” Dr. Levine said.

The department’s contact tracing team has been reaching out to close contacts, to provide the guidance they need, and to identify anyone who may need to quarantine.

As of this morning, 23 people had been identified as close contacts at Crossett Brook, and we have reached out to all of them. The investigation at Hartford is continuing, but thus far there have been no associated close contacts.

“This is a key part of protecting Vermonters and containing spread of the virus. And I again ask people that if you get a call from us, please answer the call,” Dr. Levine said.

In addition, Health Department and the Agency of Education are actively working on sharing school data in a manner that is both transparent and protects the privacy of individual students, teachers and staff. School level data will be made available in the coming days.

“As I have said before, this is the work of public health,” Dr. Levine said. “In any situation, especially involving our schools and our children, we will ensure everyone has the information they need, with the goal of keeping schools healthy and open.”

### **Case Information**

Current COVID-19 Activity in Vermont  
As of 12 p.m. on September 15, 2020

Description	Number
Total cases*	1,702 (7 new)
Currently hospitalized	2
Hospitalized under investigation	5
Total people recovered	1,524
Deaths+	58
People tested	151,592

Travelers monitored	449
Contacts monitored	38
People completed monitoring	8,391

\* 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 at the data dashboard: [healthvermont.gov/currentactivity](https://healthvermont.gov/currentactivity).

## Guidance for Vermonters

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

- If you are having a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 or go to the hospital.
- If you think you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#), call your health care provider.
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet and [wear a mask when near others](#).

## Getting Tested for COVID-19

Anyone can get tested, but not everyone *needs* to get tested.

[Visit our testing web page](#) for more information. You can also find testing locations and guidelines.

Talk with your health care provider if you think you should be tested for COVID-19. If you don't have a doctor, dial 2-1-1 for help, or contact the nearest [federally qualified health center](#) or one of Vermont's [free & referral clinics](#).

## Return to School Guidance

**Schools:** [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](#)

**Sports:** [Fall Sports Programs for the 2020-2021 School Year](#)

**Child care:** [Health Guidance for Child Care and Out of School Care](#)

Find additional resources on our [Schools, Colleges and Child Care Programs web page](#).

## Traveler Information

What you need to know about traveling to or from Vermont is all found at our [Traveler Information web page](#). Check back regularly for continually updated information and guidance, including about quarantine requirements, testing, and to [sign up with Sara Alert](#) for symptom check reminders.

## **Business Guidance**

Visit the [Agency of Commerce and Community Development's website](#) for "Work Safe" guidance.

## **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).

Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at [COVID Support VT](#).

See ways for [Coping with Stress](#).

## **For more information:**

- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data: [healthvermont.gov/covid19](https://healthvermont.gov/covid19)
- Governor's actions: [governor.vermont.gov/covid19response](https://governor.vermont.gov/covid19response)
- The state's modeling: [dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling](https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling)

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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>.