



## **Daily Update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)** **September 17, 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)

### **Working to Reduce COVID-19 Stigma**

While the rate of virus in Vermont remains low, we continue to see additional cases of COVID-19. As the state carefully reopens, it’s an important time to understand stigma, and how it has caused real, tangible harm to people’s health and safety.

Let’s start with a core fact: No single person or group of people are more likely than others to spread COVID-19.

This is key because stigma is associated with a lack of knowledge about how COVID-19 spreads, which fuels fears about disease and death, gossip that spreads rumors and false information, and a need to place blame. Certain groups may be more likely to experience stigma and discrimination, but stigma hurts everyone by creating fear or anger toward ordinary people – instead of focusing on the disease that is causing the problem.

Some ways we can help reduce stigma:

- Maintain the privacy and confidentiality of people seeking healthcare and those who may be part of any contact investigation.
- Quickly communicate the risk, or lack of risk, from contact with products, people, and places.
- Correct negative language by sharing accurate information about how the virus spreads.
- Speak out against negative behaviors and statements, including those on social media.

COVID-19 does not respect borders or prejudices. When we focus on supporting and respecting people in our actions and deeds, we can protect one another and help end this pandemic.

Learn more about [reducing stigma](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### COVID-19 Testing Data for PreK-12 Schools and Colleges/Universities

PreK-12 Schools: Starting tomorrow, a school-by-school listing will be presented weekly as part of the state’s modeling presentation. A table of the data will be available at [healthvermont.gov/covid19](http://healthvermont.gov/covid19).

Colleges/Universities: The [School Reopening web page](#) includes links to each Vermont college and university that is currently maintaining a public dashboard or otherwise publicly maintaining information regarding their COVID-19 testing results.

### Case Information

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

Description	Number
Total cases*	1,705 (3 new)
Currently hospitalized	2
Hospitalized under investigation	0
Total people recovered	1,533
Deaths+	58
People tested	153,195
Travelers monitored	453
Contacts monitored	30
People completed monitoring	8,465

\* 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](http://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.

Talk with your health care provider If you think you should be tested for COVID-19.

- If you don't have a provider, dial 2-1-1, or contact the nearest [federally qualified health center](#) or one of Vermont's [free & referral clinics](#).

[Visit our testing web page](#) for more guidance and where to get tested if you do need it.

## 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

Visit our [Travel to Vermont](#) web page 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](http://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](http://healthvermont.gov/covid19)
- Governor's actions: [governor.vermont.gov/covid19response](http://governor.vermont.gov/covid19response)
- The state's modeling: [dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling](http://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>.