

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

### NEW IN VERMONT

The CDC has updated recommendations for non-essential mass gatherings. As of March 15, Gov. Phil Scott has amended his emergency declaration to prohibit gatherings of more than 50 people or 50% of a location's capacity, whichever number is lower.

Gov. Phil Scott has announced a Continuity of Education Plan for the orderly dismissal of all schools, and cancellation of all school related activities, no later than Wednesday, March 18. [Read more](#). The Governor is also now ordering the closing of all bars and restaurants statewide. Food service establishments can continue to offer takeout and delivery service. This measure is effective beginning 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 17 and is in effect until April 6, though this could be extended.

On March 16, health officials reported another four cases of the new coronavirus COVID-19. [Read more](#). Details of other cases announced in recent days can be found in news releases available on the [2020 News Releases](#) page

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#### [Hepatitis A and B](#)

Vermont is experiencing a statewide increase of hepatitis A, and Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD declared an outbreak in mid-January 2020. The Health Department has been offering free hepatitis A vaccine clinics in places that serve high-risk individuals, such as shelters, syringe services programs, and meal sites.

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#### [Lung Injury Associated with E-cigarette Use](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and state and local health departments, including the Vermont Department of Health, are investigating a multistate outbreak of severe lung injury associated with e-cigarette use.

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