



Daily Update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) January 15, 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

Please visit the Vermont Department of Health’s COVID-19 web and data pages
healthvermont.gov/covid19

COVID-19 vaccine registration for people 75 and older will begin Jan. 25

State officials announced at Friday’s press conference that registration for the COVID-19 vaccine for people who are 75 years and older will begin on January 25.

Vaccine clinics will start on January 27. People will register online, or by calling a phone number. The website and phone number will be announced on or before January 25, in addition to other details.

“Now that Vermonters know more about our plans, we are anticipating plenty of interest and questions,” said Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD. “This will be good news for many people, but I again need to ask for your patience and help as we finalize our systems so they can be rolled out as smoothly as possible.”

You will not be able to make an appointment by calling any other Health Department phone number. Please do not call your health care provider or hospital for vaccine appointments.

“By waiting until we have more details to share, you’ll be helping our staff focus on the difficult and complex work to prepare for this next phase,” Dr. Levine said.

Dr. Levine also announced that people who have certain high-risk health conditions will be able to receive the vaccine once vaccinations of the 65+ age groups are complete. These are medical conditions that put people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 as identified by the CDC. Severe illness is defined as hospitalization, admission to the ICU, intubation or mechanical ventilation, or death.

These are:

- Current cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD, also called emphysema
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system)
- Severe obesity
- Pregnancy
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- Down Syndrome
- Sickle cell disease

Dr. Levine also emphasized the state's commitment to addressing the historical and current factors that contribute to health disparities.

"There is no question that members of certain demographic groups have been disproportionately overrepresented in Vermont's COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and death rates," he said. "This means we must prioritize these groups to reach our goal of preserving life and protecting those most at risk."

"We have been working with community leaders, we have listened, and we are committed to continuing to right past wrongs. We will ensure that this community gets the support they need, in the language they need, in the locations they need, to make informed choices and to get scheduled for vaccinations," Dr. Levine said.

Get COVID-19 vaccination info

Stay up to date about [COVID-19 vaccination in Vermont](#), including who can get the vaccine now and who will be eligible next. Check back often, we update this page regularly. Get more data about vaccinations by race, ethnicity, age and sex on our [Vaccine Dashboard](#).

While we wait for vaccine to become more widely available to Vermonters, we must keep up our [prevention practices](#), including physical distancing, mask-wearing, handwashing and staying home when we're sick.

You can also help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by getting tested. If you want to get tested for COVID-19 and have no symptoms, you can visit a location near you. There are now more than 15 regular locations throughout the state, and more of them are now open daily. Many sites now allow you to take a sample yourself, using a short swab in your nose. It's quick, easy and free.

Register for a test by visiting healthvermont.gov/covid19testing. (You will need to create an account to register.)

If you have [symptoms](#) 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

Recently, the percent of people with COVID-19 who are associated with an outbreak has been lower than average, while the percent of people who had contact with another case has been higher than average. Learn more about how people are getting COVID-19 and what it means in the latest [Weekly Data Summary Spotlight](#).

Case Information

Current COVID-19 Activity in Vermont

As of 12 p.m. on January 15, 2021

Description	Number
New cases*	142 (9,734 total)
Currently hospitalized	44
Hospitalized in ICU	6
Hospitalized under investigation	1
Percent Positive (7-day average)	2.7%
People tested	284,215
Total tests	788,759
Total people recovered	6,506
Deaths+	163
Travelers monitored	188
Contacts monitored	203
People completed monitoring	12,258

* 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](#).
- Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the [Crisis Text Line](#).
- Call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at 1-800-273-8255.
- For more information visit healthvermont.gov/suicide.
- Visit our [Coping With Stress](#) web page.
- Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at [VT Helplink](#).
- Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at [COVID Support VT](#).

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Media Contact: CV19media@vermont.gov

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