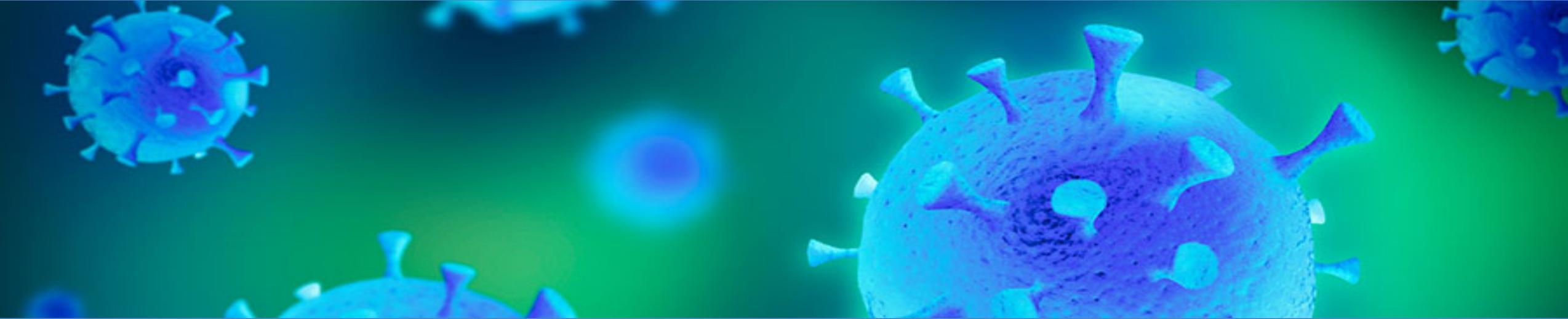


VCHIP / CHAMP / VDH COVID-19 UPDATES



Wendy Davis, MD FAAP - Senior Faculty, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, UVM
Breena Holmes, MD FAAP – VCHIP Senior Faculty & Physician Advisor, MCH Division, VDH
November 25, 2020



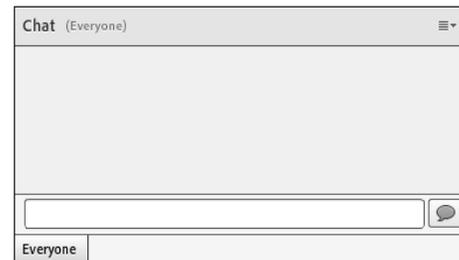
Technology Notes

1) All participants will be muted upon joining the call.

If you dialed in or out, unmute by pressing #6 to ask a question (and press *6 to mute).

Presenters: Please avoid the use of speakerphone and make sure your computer speaker is muted if you dialed in via phone.

2) To ask or respond to a question using the *Chat* box, type your question and click the  icon or press Enter to send.



Overview

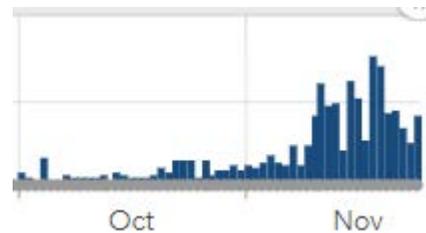
- **Land Acknowledgement:** honoring with **gratitude** the indigenous people who have stewarded the land & waterways for generations
 - *“Vermont Humanities acknowledges that we do our work on Abenaki land. We recognize the indigenous culture & people that existed in N’dakinna (Homeland) long before Europeans arrived in North America. We commit to policies and practices of cultural equity to benefit current and future generations.”*
- **Reminder:** weekly event schedule
 - **VCHIP/CHAMP/VDH calls: Mon/Wed/Fridays, but NO Friday call this week**; Gov. Media Briefings Tues/Fri; VMS call with Comm. Levine **Thursday (but not this week!)**
- Situation, VDH, CDC updates; Tuesday media briefing
- Practice Issues: **Collaboration to Keep Schools Open (Newport)**
- Q & A, Discussion



[Please note: the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve very rapidly – so the information we’re providing today may change quickly]

Situation update

New Cases	81
3,827 Total	
Currently Hospitalized	20
Hospitalized In ICU	5
Hospitalized Under Investigation	4
Percent Positive 7-day Avg.	1.4%
People Tested	218,607
Total Tests	533,135
Recovered	2,374
62% of Cases	
Deaths	64
1.7% of Cases	
Travelers Monitored	197
Contacts Monitored	97
People Completed Monitoring	11,000
Last Updated: 11/24/2020, 10:49:01 AM	



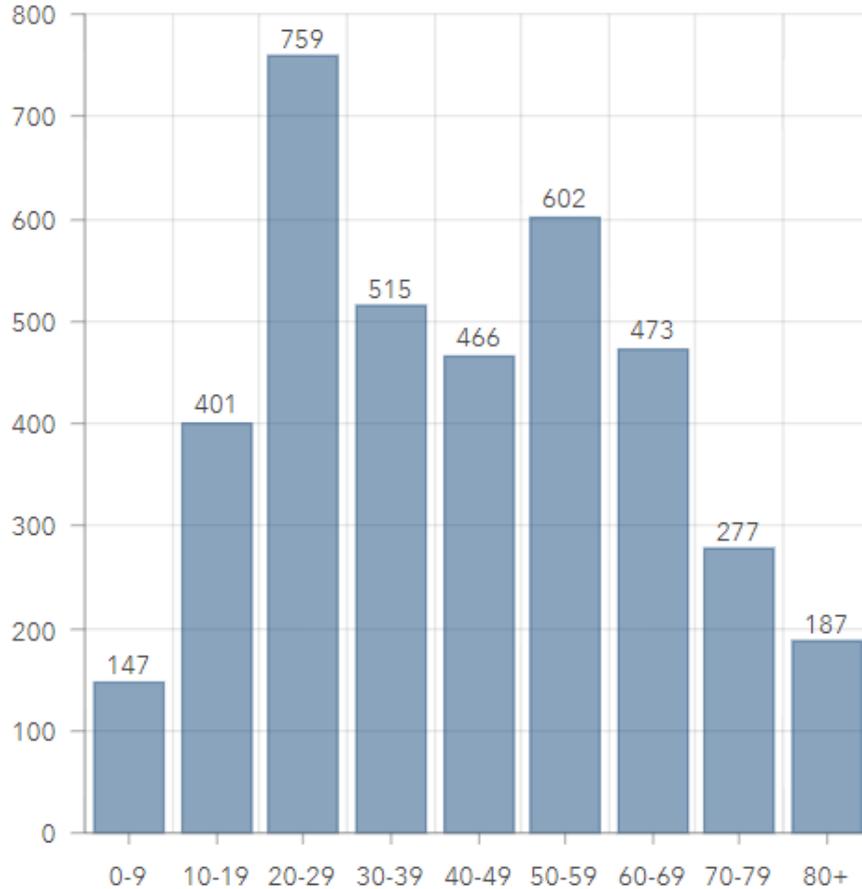
VT New Cases/Deaths

- U.S. 12.6 million+ cases; 259,832 deaths
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html> (updated 11/25/20)
 - 11/24/20: **176,439 new cases; 2,203 deaths; 88,080 hospitalized**
 - Past week: average 175, 270 cases/day (increase of 42% from average 2 weeks ago)
 - **1.4 million+ deaths worldwide** (59.9 million+ cases)
- **VDH Weekly Data Summary (11/20/20):**
 - <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/weekly-data-summary>
 - **Weekly Spotlight – No Spotlight topic this week**

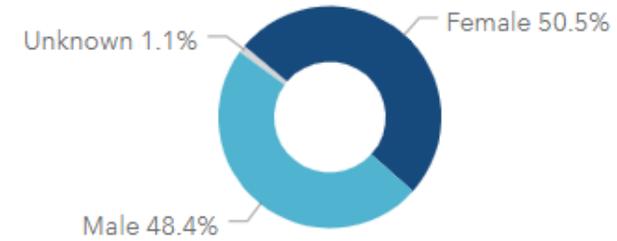
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/vermont-dashboard>

Situation update

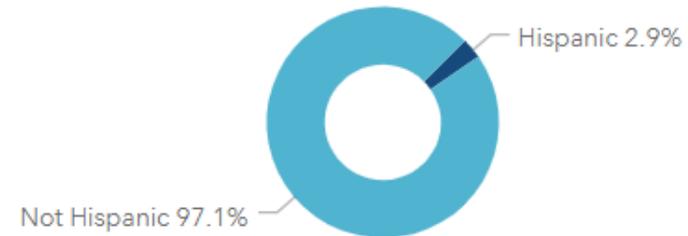
Vermont COVID-19 **Cases** by Age Group



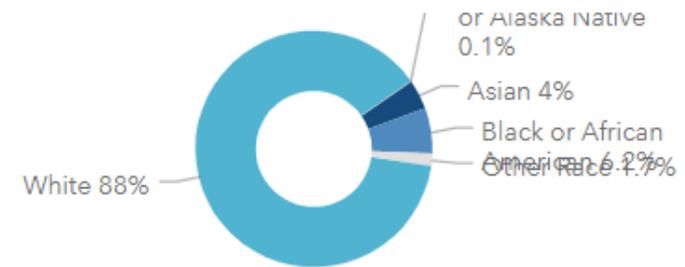
Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Sex



Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Ethnicity if Known



Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Race if Known



Case Demographics

COVID-19 Cases in VT K-12 Learning Communities (While Infectious)

- COVID-19 Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious (dashboard)
 - ▣ <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Transmission-Schools.pdf>
 - ▣ Table updated **Tuesday** w/data through previous Sunday: as posted 11/24/20: **110** total cases; 35 cases reported in preceding 7 days (up from 74 total & 19 previous week)

Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious

Learning Community	Cases Reported In the Past 7 Days	Total Cases
Schools with less than 25 students are reported in the "Total for all Suppressed Schools" row at the end of the table.		
TOTAL FOR ALL SCHOOLS	35	110

Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious

Learning Community	Cases Reported In the Past 7 Days	Total Cases
Schools with less than 25 students are reported in the "Total for all Suppressed Schools" row at the end of the table.		
TOTAL FOR ALL SCHOOLS	19	74

- VT College & University dashboards:
 - ▣ <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/school-reopening>
 - ▣ St. Michael's College: **79 total cases** as of 11/24/20; UVM **107** cumulative total cases (11/24/20)

New 11/23/20 from the CDC

Posted following our call:

- **ACIP's Ethical Principles for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, 2020**
 - ▣ While U.S. supply of COVID-19 vaccines is limited, ACIP will make vaccine allocation recommendations.
 - ▣ Based upon scientific data, implementation feasibility, & **four ethical principles**: 1) maximizing benefits and minimizing harms; 2) promoting justice; 3) mitigating health inequities; and 4) promoting transparency.
 - ▣ Ethical principles will aid ACIP in making these recommendations and state, tribal, local, and territorial public health authorities in developing **vaccine implementation strategies** based on recommendations.

In the News

- ***New from the CDC:*** Prioritizing Case Investigations and Contact Tracing for COVID-19 in High Burden Jurisdictions
 - ▣ Focus on patients who tested pos. in preceding 6 days & those at greatest risk of infecting others (do not trace pts. infected >14d.)
- But **Vermont** has recently increased contact tracing capacity and had “caught up” this week; we are not hearing about contact tracing policy changes here.
- From the NYT (*Those We’ve Lost*):
 - ▣ ***Honestie Hodges, Handcuffed by the Police at 11, Is Dead at 14***
 - ▣ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/24/obituaries/honestie-hodges-dead-coronavirus.html>

Tuesday Media Briefing (11/24/20)

- Governor Phil Scott opened with a family's personal story – death of Mary Pat Brown, mother of six.
 - ▣ *“These deaths need to have names attached to them – maybe will spark one person to do better, try harder.”*
- Schools requested assistance with holiday concerns: per **new guidance**, AOE adding re: whether part of multi-family gathering.
health screening question
 - ▣ If yes to this or travel, student will be remote X14d. or 7d. w/test.
 - ▣ Strongly advising businesses to do same – should not be seen as a way to circumvent travel ban.
- Also new: based on current data, **postponing school winter sports**; paused (like rec sports) until further notice; plan weekly review.



Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



Commissioner Mike Pieciak – modeling:

- ❑ U.S. added latest 1m. cases in just 6d. (November: more cases in U.S. than Mar/April/May/June combined).
- ❑ VT: >40% total to date in November (vs. March through July)
- ❑ Mobility data (2019): VT rec'd visitors from all states in U.S. >100K, w/just slightly < VTers visiting elsewhere.
- ❑ 3 key questions: how many will come w/COVID, how many will likely spread to others; how many gatherings?
- ❑ If VTers follow national poll data (38% still plan to travel), could see 3200-3800 **new** addtl. cases just from TG gatherings; 40-50 hosps.

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



Modeling – Commissioner Pieciak:

- Top 10 VT areas by active cases: Washington Co. – higher than NYC metro, Boston, any co. in NH or ME. Be mindful of how significant case growth is there.
- VT map: sustained growth Washington & Orange Cos. wk/wk.
- Some reasons for optimism: cases up only ~12% across the region (vs. almost 50% last wk). Case growth slowed 1st time in a few weeks.
- Hospital capacity remains sufficient
- Cases in LTC facilities: 6 active outbreaks (100 cases)

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



VDH Commissioner Mark Levine

- Total school situations = 43 (“cases of concern,” not outbreaks)
- Hospitalizations: few have been in ICU or on vents – testimony to improved knowledge/care (incl. pos., hi-flow, humid. nasal/CPAP O2).
- Remdesivir: WHO update 4d. ago – suggested against using it regardless of disease severity. No impact on mortality, need for mech. vent., time to clin. improvement. VT MDs “now evaluating its use.”
- Monoclonal Ab – unfavorable reviews IDSA. NIH: insufficient data to recommend either for/against use of bamlanivimab for the treatment of outpatients with mild to moderate COVID-19; **should not be considered** std. of care for the treatment of patients with COVID-19.

□ **If possible exposure: get tested ASAP after gathering & again day 7.**

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



VDH Commissioner Levine

- Gratitude – keep those in mind affected by job loss, food insecurity, consider donation of goods/time.
- Health benefits of gratitude
- Willie Nelson: “*when I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.*”
- Q & A: NYT ***Small Gatherings Spread the Virus, but Are They Causing the Surge?***
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/23/health/coronavirus-holiday-gatherings.html>
- Q & A: school surveillance test results?
 - Preliminary: rate well <0.5%, maybe ~0.25%. Less than couple dozen cases/9K+ tested.

Tuesday Media Briefing: Q & A

- **Metal** highway signs – what do you know as far as time frame that hasn't been shared with the general public? Governor Scott: don't take it as a "sign": Practical reason: electric signs rely on solar power – less sun now vs. summer; power affected by cold weather.
- Are we asking students to "tattle on parents?"
 - ▣ Governor Scott: Fair warning to those planning to have gatherings – if you don't want your kids to have to transition to remote learning & quarantine for at least 7d., make other plans.
 - ▣ We're asking people to tell the truth to protect others – not just the kids but parents.
 - ▣ AOE Secyretar French: we put it in the daily health check, completed by parents. ***"Schools operate on trust with their parents and students."***

VCHIP-CHAMP Email Update

- ❑ Had received inquiries re: post-call emails were not received last week (unclear if related to cyber attack)
- ❑ Worked with LCOM Information Systems (COMIS) to removed (automatic) block due to large percentage of messages marked as spam by many recipients originating from our VCHIP-CHAMP mailbox
- ❑ Test email sent this morning to those who had notified us – please continue to let us know if you are NOT receiving emails.
- ❑ Please note: postings to VCHIP COVID web pages this week will be delayed until next week due to holiday.
 - ❑ *Thank you, Avery Rasmussen!*



Strengthening Vermont's System of High-Performing Medical Homes

- **Please join our CHAMP QI project: Strengthening VT's High-Performing Medical Homes**
 - Provide reliable, comprehensive, family-centered preventive services & well child visits based on Bright Futures. Use a 2-generation approach with families.
 - Provide care coordination & case management at appropriate levels.
 - Use community services & supports for healthy development.
 - Use QI to constantly adapt and improve.
- 2 measurement/improvement options to choose from (12/24 month or 3/6 year)
- Monthly collaborative call topics include: Promoting Family Strengths; Screening and Coordination in Early Childhood; Clinician Wellness; Developmental Assessments
- ***It's not too late to enroll – please let us know by December 8, 2020!***



Contact the VCHIP CHAMP Team at vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu with questions about participation.

Pediatricians Continue School Advocacy

- **Rebecca Bell, MD FAAP – Making Sense of Pandemic Restrictions (Or Why Thanksgiving Dinner is Cancelled But Schools Are Not)**
 - <https://rebeccabell-md.medium.com/making-sense-of-pandemic-restrictions-a45888ca7bfb>
- Vermont Edition (11/24/20): VDH Deputy Commissioner Tracy Dolan and **Leah Costello, MD FAAP** (volunteer CVSD Reopening Committee): translating letter to Op-Ed to radio:
 - Prompted by my own children’s love of school; hearing (in practice) misunderstanding of risk re: social gatherings & COVID-19; **heroic efforts of schools (& child care) to keep our children safe**. Holding ourselves to the same standards as schools – very positive response (appreciation from teachers, bus driver).
 - <https://www.vpr.org/programs/vermont-edition#stream/0>
- **Josh Kantrowitz, MD FAAP** – met with Cabot & Twinfield school communities; collaboration with Cabot School Principal Rebecca Tatistcheff

School News

- ❑ **VDH Updated Holiday Toolkit for Schools** (November 24, 2020)
- ❑ Teacher testing – misleading email (being corrected):
 - ❑ Subject line (email to So. Burlington) indicated some Broad tests were “false positives.” NOT TRUE – these were INVALID and people will be retested.
 - ❑ 18 of the Vermont specimens affected: read as positive but INVALID (contaminated)
 - ❑ 3 of the 18 were school staff
- ❑ SEE also: template letters for school communication if exposed students/teachers/staff in a pod or class require quarantine (will attach to today’s email).

Practice Issues



(<https://vtdigger.org/2020/11/22/if-students-go-to-a-party-can-they-then-go-to-school-state-mulls-a-policy-decision/>; photo by Glenn Russell)

Collaborating to Keep Schools Open

Alexandra Bannach MD FAAP – North Country Pediatrics, Newport

From the VDH Newport District Office:

Christine Connor, MSN, MPH, RN – Public Health Nurse Supervisor

Thomas Harvey, RN BSN – PHN VDH Newport District Office

VDH Update: Testing

- VDH Testing Information for Health Care Professionals
 - ▣ <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/health-care-professionals/testing-information-health-care-professionals>
- VDH COVID-19 Testing Plan (July 27, 2020)
 - ▣ <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID-19-Testing-Plan.pdf>
 - ▣ Anticipate possible new HAN this week
- VDH continues to conduct “Pop-Up” testing sites
- Testing through CIC partnership (tests sent to Broad at MIT) expanding rapidly (see next 2 slides)

VDH Update: Testing

Date	Site
11/23/2020	Barre
	Bennington
	Burlington
	Middlebury
	OD - Bennington Rescue Squad Mornings
	OD - Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Evenings
	OD - Burlington District Office Evenings
	OD - Carlos Otis Stratton Mountain Clinic Mornings
	OD - CIC Health in Middlebury Midday
	OD - North Country Hospital
	OD - Northern Counties Health Care, Inc. Mornings
	OD - Northfield Ambulance Service Mornings
	OD - Rutland Regional Medical Center Evenings
	OD - Upper Valley Ambulance Mornings
	OD - Waterbury Ambulance Service Mornings
	Springfield
	White River Junction
	Winooski

NOTE: on-demand (CIC) testing events are indicated with “OD”. All other events are Pop-Ups.

11/24/2020	Barre
	OD - Bennington Rescue Squad Mornings
	OD - Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Evenings
	OD - Burlington District Office Evenings
	OD - Carlos Otis Stratton Mountain Clinic Evenings
	OD - CIC Health in Barre
	OD - North Country Hospital
	OD - Northern Counties Health Care, Inc. Evenings
	OD - Northfield Ambulance Service Evenings
	OD - Rutland Regional Medical Center Evenings
	OD - Upper Valley Ambulance Mornings
	OD - Waterbury Ambulance Service Mornings

VDH Update: Testing (cont'd.)

NOTE: on-demand (CIC) testing events are indicated with “OD”. All other events are Pop-Ups.

11/25/2020	Barre
	Brattleboro
	Morrisville
	Rutland
	St. Albans
	St. Johnsbury
	Williston
11/26/2020	OD - Carlos Otis Stratton Mountain Clinic Evenings
	OD - CIC Health in Barre
	OD - CIC Health in Middlebury Evenings
	OD - Northfield Ambulance Service Evenings
	OD - Upper Valley Ambulance Mornings
	OD - Waterbury Ambulance Service Mornings

11/27/2020	Barre
	OD - Bennington Rescue Squad Mornings
	OD - Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Evenings
	OD - Burlington District Office Evenings
	OD - Carlos Otis Stratton Mountain Clinic Mornings
	OD - CIC Health in Middlebury Midday
	OD - North Country Hospital
	OD - Northern Counties Health Care, Inc. Mornings
	OD - Northfield Ambulance Service Mornings
	OD - Rutland Regional Medical Center Evenings
	OD - Upper Valley Ambulance Evenings
	OD - Waterbury Ambulance Service Mornings
11/28/2020	Barre
11/30/2020	Winooski
12/1/2020	Springfield
12/2/2020	Williston
12/3/2020	White River Junction

BCBS VT Connectivity Care Packages Pilot Program

- Coordinated by VPQHC (50+ organizations participating)
- Support equitable access to telehealth services, esp. for those who are digitally & medically underserved.
- 20 iPads to distribute to BCBSVT members by mid-December
 - ▣ Must have access to service connect
 - ▣ iPad may be kept; may add other apps.
- To refer, email Julie Zack (Director, Integrated Health):
zackj@bcbsvt.com
- *Thank you, Erica Gibson, MD*

Updates from VDH Immunization Program (cont'd.)

COVID-19 Vaccine:

- **What are your concerns?**
- **What are you hearing about COVID-19 vaccine?**

CHAMP Learning Session (10/13/20) Materials Now Posted!

- ***Thank you, Avery Rasmussen and Angela Zinno!***
- Learning session website with recordings and slide decks: http://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/champ/champ_2020_learning_session
- Link directly to Dr. Berwick's keynote recording: <https://uvm-vchip.adobeconnect.com/champ2020learningsessionmoraldeterminantsofthealth/event/registration.html>
- Link directly to Dr. Berwick's keynote slide deck (NOTE – this will be removed from the website 30 days from the date posted): http://contentmanager.med.uvm.edu/docs/keynote_berwick/vchip-documents/keynote_berwick.pdf?sfvrsn=5b9b1922_2

VDH Update: Opening for State School Nurse Consultant

Announcing with mixed feelings . . .

- Position currently held by Sharonlee Trefry, MSN RN NCSN (MCH/VDH)
- **Nurse Program Coordinator I: State School Nurse Consultant**
- Link to the job posting: <https://careers.vermont.gov/job/Burlington-Nurse-Program-Coordinator-I-Limited-Service-State-School-Nurse-Consultant-VT-05401/691168800/>
- Support Vermont's School Nursing community of practice; provide nursing leadership to ensure effective school health services within the state; act as liaison to Vermont's School Nurse (SN) community; develop/promote quality standards for school health services programs.

Questions/Discussion

- Q & A Goal: monitor/respond in real time; record/disseminate/revisit later as needed.
- **For additional questions, please e-mail: vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu**
 - ▣ **What do you need** – how can we be helpful (specific guidance)?
- **VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19 website:**
https://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/projects/vchip_champ_vdh_covid-19_updates
- Next CHAMP call: **Monday, November 30, 12:15-12:45** (current schedule: M-W-F)
 - ▣ **This Week: Monday and Wednesday only – no call Friday, November 27.**
- Please tune in to VMS call with VDH Commissioner Levine:
Thursday, December 3, 12:30-1:00 p.m. – Zoom platform & call information:
- **Join Zoom Meeting:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJlZFQ2R3diSVdqdJlJ2ZG4yQT09>
 - ▣ Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Password: 540684
- One tap mobile - +1 646 876 9923,,86726253105#,,,,0#,,540684#