#### 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 December 28, 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 *p* icon or press Enter to send.

Chat (Everyone)	≣∗
Everyone	



2



#### Overview

- Celebrating the December Full Moon (12/29/20)
  Cold Moon, Long Nights Moon, Moon Before Yule
- Continuing our celebration of Kwanzaa
- □ *Reminder* weekly event schedule:
  - VCHIP/CHAMP/VDH calls: Mon/Wed/Fridays; Gov. Media Briefings Tues/Fri; NO VMS call with Comm. Levine this week!
  - This week: VCHIP-VDH calls Mon/Wed ONLY (12/28, 30)
- □ Situation, VDH, vaccine updates; Thurs. media briefing
- Practice Issues: *The Ethics of Vaccine Allocation & Distribution* Tim Lahey MD, UVM Medical Center





#### What to Expect this Week and Next

- Technology: Wendy and Breena remain in charge please bear with us!
- □ We WILL send an email to listserv this evening.
- We will NOT post call recordings and documents until the week of January 4, 2021.
- □ We WILL monitor the CHAMP mailbox.
- **Coming Attractions**:
  - Wednesday, 12/30: Chris Finley, vaccine update







### Situation update

Nov

VT New Cases, Probables, Deaths



#### U.S. 19.1 million+ cases; 333,242 deaths

- https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus -us-cases.html (updated 12/28/20)
- 12/27/20: 152,102 new cases; 1,230 d.; 118,720 hosp.
- Past week: average 184,951 cases/day (decrease of 12% from average 2 weeks earlier)
- **1.7 million+ deaths worldwide** (80.8 million+ cases)
- □ VDH Weekly Data Summary(12/18/20)
  - Weekly Spotlight Topic: Percent Positivity by County
- □ Find previous summaries at:
  - https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/currentactivity/weekly-data-summary



5

December 28, 2020

### Situation update





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

December 28, 2020

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6

#### 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 12/15/20: 195 total cases;
    34 cases reported in preceding 7 days (up from 20 reported previous week).

December 22, 2020

#### Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious

Learning Community Schools with less than 25 students are reported in the "Total for all Suppressed Schools" row at the end of the table.	Cases Reported In the Past 7 Days	Total Cases
TOTAL FOR ALL SCHOOLS	27	242

#### VT College & University dashboards:

Now on break from on-campus learning: <u>https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/school-reopening</u>



December 28, 2020

#### Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious

• •	Cases Reported In the Past 7 Days	Total Cases
TOTAL FOR ALL SCHOOLS	34	195

7



### VDH: What to Expect This Week

- VDH teams will continue to work, including: laboratory staff, contact tracing & other critical response teams.
- NO update to VDH COVID-19 dashboard 1/1/21; will resume next day
  - Cases by town (map) will be published 12/31 (Thurs. instead of Fri.)
- □ **NO** Weekly Data Summary 12/25/20
- Possible COVID-19 Cases in VT K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious Update on 12/31/20 – please stay tuned







#### VDH: What to Expect this Week (cont'd.)

#### Reminders

- Testing info: <u>https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing</u>
- All testing sites will be closed December 31. If tested on December 23, results may not be available until December 29.
- Some laboratories will be closed for Christmas and New Year's, so results may be delayed. During this time expect results within 5 business days.

#### Vaccine info:

https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/about-covid-19-vaccines-vermont





### **VDH Updates**

- VDH Weekly COVID-19 Update Email: latest news on VDH COVID-19 response: <u>https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19</u>
- □ Find VDH's "**Daily Update**" at:

https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Covid-19-Daily-Update.pdf

- NEW: VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard includes:
  - Overall progress (>1 dose); vaccines administered (total # doses); total people started (1st dose); total people completed (both doses); total people vaccinated (>1 dose over time).
  - Also includes the percent of vaccinated population by age, sex, race & ethnicity; county-level data.

https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard





### VDH Update (Note: this slide inserted *after* today's call)

[Related to our discussion of COVID-19 Vaccine for Community Providers]

- Health Advisory (HAN: 12/24/20): Initial Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19
  Vaccine Recommendations Updated (update to HAN 12/18/20)
- Includes: Background, Prioritization of Vaccination Vaccine Distribution, Efficacy, Safety, Contraindication and Precaution, Additional Information
- □ NOTE: only ONE *change* under "Prioritization of Vaccination":
  - All 14 Vermont hospitals have been asked to provide vaccination to health care workers in their hospital-service area identified in this initial phase. Individual hospitals will be reaching out to staff and health care workers in their area to schedule appointments. Health care providers and staff who have not heard from their local hospital by January 11, 2021 should reach out to the hospital (previous version stated "January 4").



December 28, 2020



#### Vermont School Updates

- Reminder/now available: "Winter Sports Programs for the 2020-2021 School Year – Limited Team-Based Activities"
  - https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-anr-winter-sportsprograms-for-2020-2021-school-year-updated-12-22.pdf
- Holiday letter from AOE Secretary French to VT educators: reflection on "incredible work" throughout the pandemic – meals, special ed., facilities
  - "Our school nurses have shone, working hard to apply state health guidance to keep your school communities strong and healthy and implement a statewide surveillance testing effort."
  - https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-sec-french-holidaymessage-to-educators-and-school-staff\_0.pdf
- □ VTDigger: Four towns set votes on seceding from their unified school districts

<u>https://vtdigger.org/2020/12/27/four-towns-set-votes-on-seceding-from-their-unified-</u>

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### Vermont Schools Updates (cont'd.)

- School nurses & COVID-19 Vaccine VDH HAN (12/18/20): hospitals tasked with vaccinating every health care worker in their service area, including school nurses & assigned designated health assistive personnel if direct patient care in reg. duties.
  - Pictured here: Terry Shaw, Georgia Elementary & MS all SNs in her Franklin West SU received vaccine last week.
- VDH Outbreak Prevention & Response team following school situations – some districts may change learning mode (e.g., from hybrid or in-person to remote) as we approach Jan. 4, 2021.
  - E.g., Winooski has community outbreak; also, many cases in school but to date, VDH has NOT determined any school transmission (strong evidence of household/community contacts to school cases and transmission).







#### Governor Phil Scott (Christmas Eve)

- Continuing to highlight acts of kindness, service, good will
- Mary Hogan School (Middlebury): students/staff (pre-K gr. 6) inspired by VT Lights the Way & Rays of Kindness; made art projects w/messages of hope & worked w/Better Middlebury Partnership/local businesses to post in storefront windows/doors. Video to highlight work: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Nq0wLS8I68</u>
- Student quote: "When the sun goes down, the stars come out" importance of having hope & spreading kindness...& for everyone to stay strong and know that we will get through this together."





### Thursday Media Briefing (cont'd.)

**VDH** Commissioner Levine

- □ As physician, aware that holidays don't always bring good tidings to all
- Epi Teams following 43 active outbreaks & 250 situations.
- "Over the past 10 mos. wow, 10 months I've been reporting numbers of tests, hospitalizations, lives lost. We're nearing end of exceedingly tough year – we're all weary... having difficulty finding joy in this season."
- Hope Vermonters take some solace that VT still enjoys lowest rates of # new cases, test positivity, deaths in continental U.S.
- "I take hope in the effort by Vermonters to take in & take to heart what we each need to do – truly inspiring – keep it up & keep in mind:
  - Mask on faces, 6 foot spaces, uncrowded places it's that simple."





### Thursday Media Briefing (cont'd.)

**VDH** Commissioner Levine

etc.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- 12/23: VT rec'd. 11,400 doses Moderna COVID-19 vaccine; w/doses anticipated from Pfizer, on track for 34K doses by New Year's.
- Total VT allocation of both: 21,725 weeks 1 & 2; 6,382 doses have been administered to VT residents: ~30% vs. natl. about 10% out of 10m. doses
- Launch of VT COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard race, co. anticipate future enhancements. For now update q. Wed. by noon – more frequently in future. Thanks to VDH Immunization & data teams.
- Vermont COVID-19 vaccination effort has begun LTCFs, HCWs & others in phase 1a group.
- □ Expect VT final recs for next phases week of 12/28 from VT committee.
- □ Be patient, will take time related to production/distribution rate; # platforms,





### VT Vaccine Implementation Advisory Committee

Met 12/23/20 and will meet again 12/30/20

- □ Vaccine rollout per Chris Finley, "bumpy" (but understandably!)
- Hospitals have rec'd. vaccine; SNFs holding clinics (only 13/64 vaccine jurisdictions began this early); data system didn't work; VDH getting data)
  - Dashboard going live
- VAHHS communicating, advocating; press release
  - Asked to not reach out to hospitals right now (goal by Jan. 11)
- (Dr. Tim Lahey): vaccine allocation that seems "out of order" groups being prioritized properly, but exceptions can occur. "Don't sweat the details" – doesn't mean entire process unfair.
- □ Per Dr. Chen: happening fast; large data files, etc.



December 28, 2020





□ New York Times Magazine (12/24/20):

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/24/magazine/who-should-get-thecovid-vaccine-next.html

# People Are Dying. Whom Do We Save First With the Vaccine?

With limited doses available, and a pandemic claiming more lives every day, a complex moral calculus has begun. Five thinkers weigh the choices ahead."





## Practice Issues

#### **Ethics of COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation & Distribution**

Tim Lahey, MD MMSC, Infectious Disease Physician & Director of Clinical Ethics, UVM Medical Center

Professor, UVM Larner College of Medicine











December 28, 2020

Ethical Values in Vaccine Allocation

- Maximize benefits
  - mortality, morbidity, societal function
- Fairness and equal concern for every person
  - Everyone considered using same criteria
  - Prioritization not equated with valuation
- Mitigation of health inequities
- Transparency
- Evidence-based

### Four criteria for vaccine prioritization

- 1. Likelihood of exposure to SARS-CoV-2
- 2. Likelihood of developing severe COVID-19 if exposed
- 3. Likelihood of transmitting SARS-CoV-2
- 4. Importance to life-saving societal functions

# COVID-19-associated hospitalization rates are highest in older adults

COVID-19-Associated Hospitalization Rates per 100,000 population Preliminary Weekly Rates as of Dec 5, 2020



## **Comorbidities predict severe COVID-19**



### More comorbidities, more risk

		Unadjusted Rate Ratio (95%CI)	Adjusted Rate Ratio* (95%CI)
Number of conditions†			
	1	2.8 (2.7, 3.1)	2.5 (2.1, 3.0)
	2	5.6 (5.2, 6.1)	4.5 (3.7, 5.5)
	3+	7.2 (6.6, 7.9)	5.0 (3.9, 6.3)
Age 45-64 years‡			1.8 (1.5, 2.2)
Age 65+ years‡		2.6 (2.1, 3.1)	
Male§		1.2 (1.1, 1.	
Non-Hispanic Black		3.9 (3.3, 4.7)	
Other race/ethnicity		3.3 (2.8, 3.9)	

CI: Confidence Interval; COVID-NET: Coronavirus Disease 2019-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network

\*Model for number of conditions (variable) is adjusted for age, sex, and race/ethnicity

\*Reference group is no underlying medical condition; Number of conditions is a sum of underlying medical conditions excluding hypertension; the most recent year of available BRFSS data for hypertension was 2017.

‡Reference group is 18-44 years

§Reference group is female

||Reference group is non-Hispanic white





### Percent seropositive for SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibody, by occupation among workers in public service agencies — New York City, May–July 2020



Other includes Dietary Service Staff, Environmental Service Staff and participants who selected Other and were not reassigned existing category Other Health includes Student/Trainee, Respiratory Therapist, Occupational/Speech/Physical Therapist, Therapy Aide/Assistant, Pharmacist, Diagnostic Imaging Technician, Phlebotomist, Medical Registrar, Orderly, Dietician, Dentist, Clinical Technician, Medical Assistant, Sami *et al*. Manuscript in preparation.

## A few examples

Group	Exposure risk	Transmission risk	Severe disease risk	Essential to acute ability to keep people alive
High risk health care workers	High	High	Medium	High
LTCF residents	High	Medium	High	Low
Adults >65 yo	Low	Low	High	Low
College students	Medium	High	Low	Low
Schoolteachers	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
General public	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Children	Medium	Low/medium	Low	Low

# HIGH RISK and shades of gray

- $COVID-19 \oplus > COVID-19? > COVID-19 \ominus$
- Many patients full time > few part-time
- Airway instrumentation > face-toface/lengthy contacts > video
- Congregational living vs living alone
- Socioeconomic marginalization
- Etc.



### Key points

- Save the most lives possible
- Prioritization by (1) exposure risk, (2) transmission risk, (3) severe disease risk, and (4) lifesaving work
- How is harder than what
  - Organizational affiliations and distribution dynamics determine a lot
- Community partnerships are critical, especially to marginalized groups
- It's not a single-file line it's multiple lines

### VDH Child Development Clinic (CDC) Update

- (Effective 12/18/20): all referrals for CDC, UVM Hospital's Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics Program, and the Autism Assessment Clinic at the Vermont Center for Children, Youth, and Families now occur through a single, central intake process. (Phone: 802-847-2007; Fax: 802-847-3358); services that have been provided by CDC will change.
- Reason for change: VDH pandemic response; impacts ability to provide developmental evaluations through CDC across the state and is resulting in long wait times for children already enrolled and on the wait list.
- VDH offices are becoming COVID-19 vaccination & testing sites, limiting ability to resume CDC in those locations – more outreach forthcoming.
- For assistance, please contact: <u>Nora.Sabo@vermont.gov</u> (Central Intake); <u>Carol.Hassler@vermont.gov</u>, and <u>Ilisa.Stalberg@vermont.gov</u>.





### VCHIP-CHAMP Email Update

- LCOM Information Systems (COMIS) removed the (automatic) block due to large percentage of messages marked as spam by many recipients originating from our VCHIP-CHAMP mailbox
- Created a UVM LISTSERV & minimized spam triggers in email content to hopefully resolve the issue. Replies to the LISTSERV will still go to vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu.
- If you do NOT receive tonight's email from the listserv, follow these steps:
  - 1) Check your junk/spam folders
  - 2) Reach out to your IT department or email server support and ask for emails from VCHIPCHAMPVDHCOVID19UPDATES@list.uvm.edu to be white listed.
  - 3) Email VCHIP.CHAMP@med.uvm.edu to let us know if steps 1&2 do not resolve the issue.







VMS Panel (12/22/20): COVID-19 Vaccine: Safety, Distribution & Considerations for Patients

COVID-19 vaccines – Dr. Beth Kirkpatrick; Ethics of vaccine prioritization & distribution planning – Dr. Tim Lahey; Talking to patients re: vaccine considerations in pregnant and lactating women with Dr. William Raszka

https://vtmd.org/covid-19-vaccine-information

- UVM MC OB Grand Rounds (12/22/20): Marjorie Meyer, MD (Director MFM) – COVID Vaccine in Prepregnancy, Pregnancy, and Lactation
- DHMC Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds Wed., Jan. 20, 2021 (12-1)
  - Critical Child Abuse Literature: Seminal Articles on Sentinel Injuries
  - Amy Doolan Roy, MD, Med. Director Ped ED, Elliot Hosp. (LCOM grad!)





#### VDH Updates: Honoring Sharonlee Trefry, MSN, RN, NCSN

- □ VT State School Nurse Consultant: retiring from state service
- □ Honored today by Governor Scott & VDH/state colleagues!
  - A key reason for the success of Vermont's COVID 19 response successes has been the front-line work of school nurses and childcare directors. These professionals have been charged with protecting our vulnerable children and youth during a time of pandemic.
  - "Sharonlee, as a dedicated nurse, has truly demonstrated what mastery of a profession can look like. It is clear that being a school nurse and a State School Nurse Consultant is not just a job. It's Sharonlee's career & calling, & Vermont is fortunate to have Sharonlee in the right place at the right time during this pandemic to make in difference in the health and safety of our children and youth. We, as Sharonlee's colleagues, salute her tireless efforts knowing her leadership has made a difference for a full generation of young





#ESSAinV1

#### Request to Complete Survey (thank you, Michelle Shepard)

- Following up on survey (original 2017) to PCPs re: community resources for opioid-exposed newborns
  - Delayed through spring/summer due to COVID; now some time sensitivity.
  - Distributed to nurse managers, ICON listserv, & VT NP Assoc. Association
  - Current outreach to Pediatric and Family Medicine PCPs
  - SurveyMonkey: short & anonymous.

□ Please look for email to CHAMP participants – thank you!





#### **Questions/Discussion**

- □ Q & A Goal: monitor/respond in real time; record/disseminate/revisit later as needed.
- □ For additional questions, please e-mail: <u>vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu</u>
  - What do <u>you</u> 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: Wednesday, December 30, 12:15-12:45
- □ This week: calls will be Monday and Wednesday ONLY; NO CALL 1/1/21
- □ Please tune in to VMS call with VDH Commissioner Levine:

*<u>Thursday, January 7, 2021</u> - 12:30-1:00 p.m. – Zoom platform & call information:* 

□ Join *Zoom* Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJ1ZFQ2R3diSVdqdlJ2ZG4yQT09

- Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Password: 540684
- One tap mobile +1 646 876 9923,,86726253105#,,,,0#,,540684#



