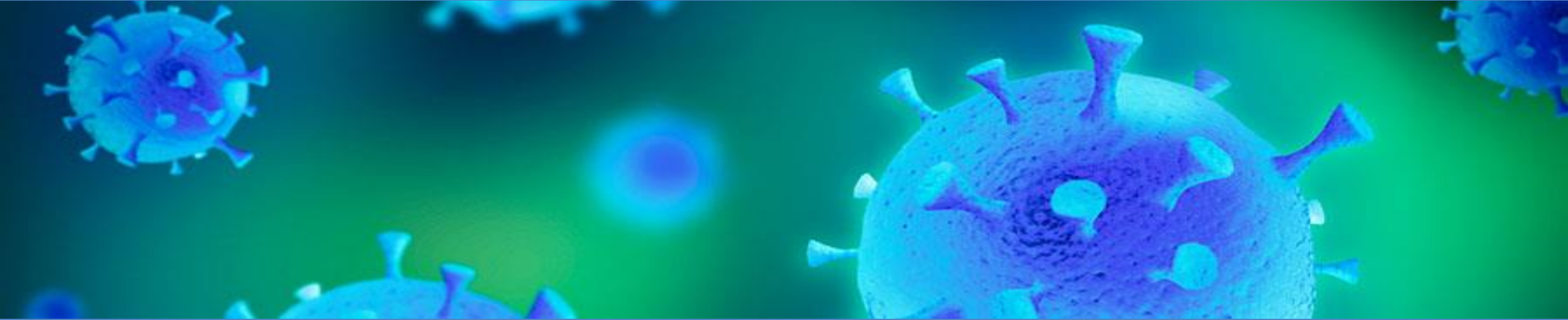


VCHIP / CHAMP / VDH COVID-19 UPDATES



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 30, 2020




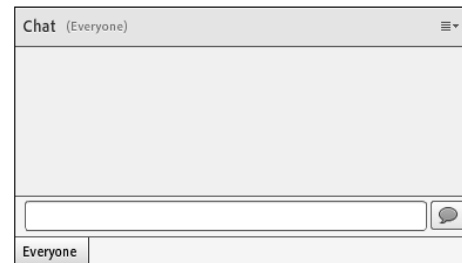
Technology Notes

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

- **Happy (Almost) New Year!**
 - ▣ Festival of Enormous Changes at the Last Minute
- Today's Google Doodle: celebrating **Elizabeth Jean Peratrovich**
 - ▣ Member of **Tlingit nation**; worked for equality for Alaska Natives
- *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 – NO call Friday**
- Situation, VDH, vaccine updates; Tuesday media briefing
- Practice Issues: **COVID-19 Vaccine Update** – VDH IZ Program
- Q & A, Discussion *[Please note: the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve very rapidly – so the information we're providing today may change quickly]*



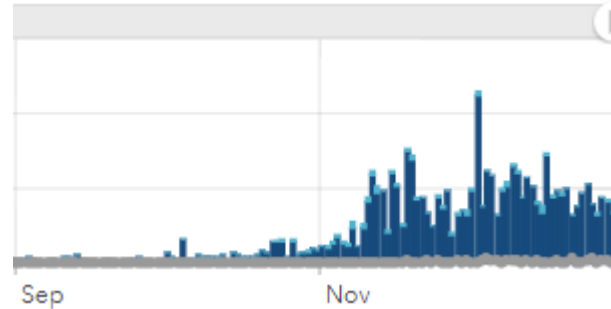
What to Expect this Week and Next

- 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.



Situation update

New Cases	69
7,276 Total	
Currently Hospitalized	24
Hospitalized In ICU	6
Hospitalized Under Investigation	9
Percent Positive 7-day Avg.	2.3%
People Tested	261,640
Total Tests	689,597
Recovered	4,883
67.1% of Cases	
Deaths	134
1.8% of Cases	
Travelers Monitored	258
Contacts Monitored	163
People Completed Monitoring	11,780
Last Updated: 12/30/2020, 11:06:44 AM	

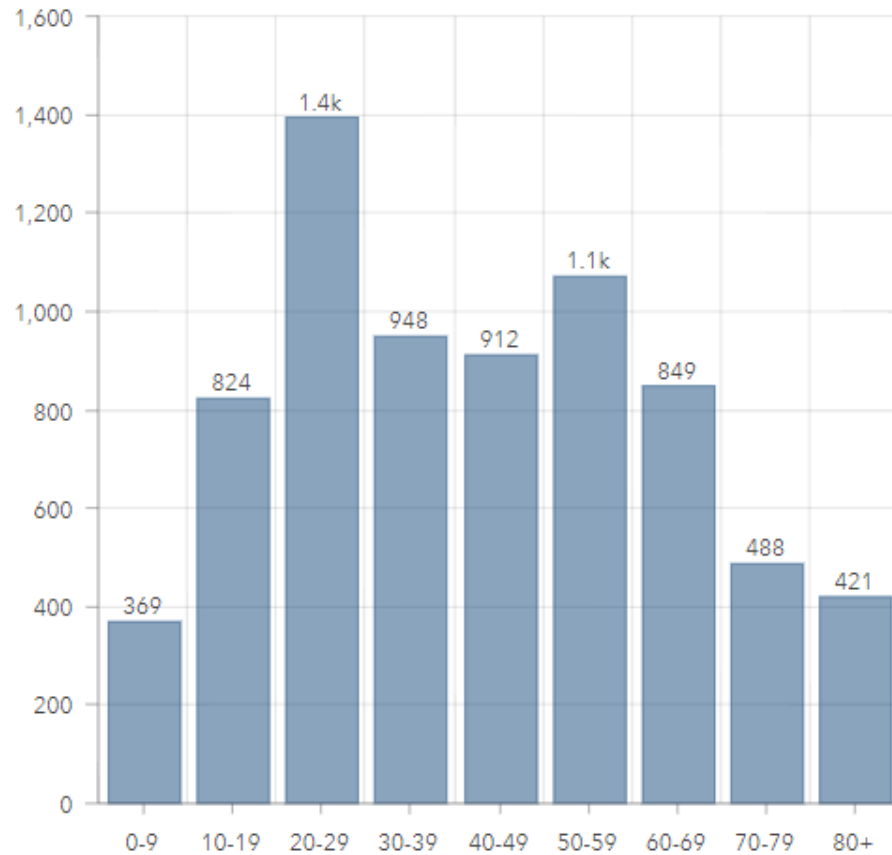


VT New Cases, Probables, Deaths

- U.S. 19.5 million+ cases; **338,769 deaths**
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html> (updated 12/30/20)
 - 12/27/20: **201,106 new cases; 3,628 d.; 124,686 hosp.**
 - Past week: average 183,059 cases/day (decrease of 11% from average 2 weeks earlier)
 - 1.7 million+ deaths worldwide** (82 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/current-activity/weekly-data-summary>

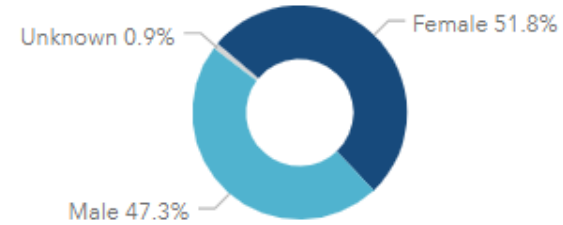
Situation update

Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

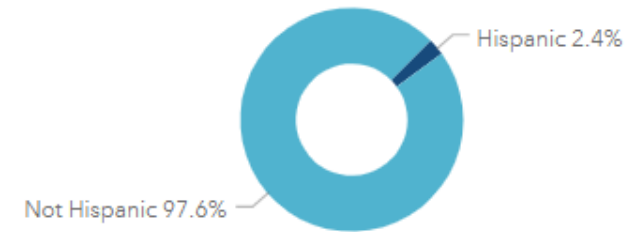


Case Demographics

Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Sex



Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Ethnicity if Known



Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Race if Known



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 & Friday** w/data through previous Sunday & Wednesday. As posted **12/27/20: 265** total cases; 33 cases reported in preceding 7 days.

December 27, 2020

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	33	265

December 22, 2020

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	27	242

VT College & University dashboards:

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

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-sports-programs-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-holiday-message-to-educators-and-school-staff_0.pdf
- VTDigger: Four towns set votes on seceding from their unified school districts
 - <https://vtdigger.org/2020/12/27/four-towns-set-votes-on-seceding-from-their-unified-school-districts>

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 posted w/data through 12/27/20

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

Reminders

- **Testing info:** <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing>
- **All testing sites will be closed December 31** (some test results from last week may be delayed).
- **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

- Find VDH's "**Daily Update**" at:
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Covid-19-Daily-Update.pdf>
- Sign up for **Weekly COVID-19 Email**: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19>
- **REVISED** (12/21/20) – chart on **COVID-19: What is isolation, quarantine and self-observation?**
 - https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID-19-chart-observation-isolation-quarantine_final.pdf
- **NEW**: **VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard** – w/metrics on doses & demographics of vaccinated population:
 - <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>

From the CDC & DHHS

- COCA CALL TODAY: **COVID-19 Vaccines: Update on Allergic Reactions, Contraindications, and Precautions** (2-3 pm Eastern)
 - https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_123020.asp
- Vsafe web site – some have had issues with registration (using QR code seems to work well). web page at which to start:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>
- USDA & DHHS dietary guidelines updated
 - Under 2 no added sugar; address food allergies earlier – e.g., introduce peanut products as early as 4 mos.
- Rejected proposal to decrease **adult** sugar/alcohol consumption (“not enough evidence”)

In the News

- Macy's Burlington being retrofitted for Burlington High School
 - ▣ Expect occupancy (?) March 2021
- Pandemic impact on Vermont's child care system – WCAX series
 - ▣ VT capacity down ~450 spots vs. last yr. due to closures. 37/40 of those closed were registered home care providers.
 - ▣ Yet some child care providers unable to fill open spots.
- New strain in U.S. (CO) – evening update (after our call): **two** CO VNG members positive; this strain also found in southern CA.
- NYT Opinion by (internal medicine resident & niece of RFK, Jr.) Kerry Kennedy Meltzer: Vaccines Are Safe, No Matter What Bobby Kennedy Says: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/30/opinion/covid-vaccine-bobby-kennedy.html?referringSource=articleShare> (**thank you, Val Rooney**)

In the News (cont'd.)

- U.K. authorizes Astra Zeneca/Oxford vaccine
 - ▣ Administration in U.K. to begin Monday, 1/4/21 62-90% efficacy depending upon dosing (requires refrigerator storage)
 - ▣ Dr. Andrew Pollard, Dir Oxford Vaccine Group: anticipates worldwide distribution.
- Senator Bernie Sanders says he will filibuster an override of President Donald Trump's defense bill veto unless the Senate holds a vote on providing \$2,000 direct payments to Americans.
- Congressman-elect Luke Letlow (R-LA) dies from complications of COVID-19
 - ▣ 41 y.o.; reportedly no underlying medical conditions.



AAP Updates

- **NEW** (12/23/20): latest (7th ed.) AAP **COVID-19 Response Advocacy Report**
 - <https://downloads.aap.org/DOFA/COVID-19%20Advocacy%20Report%207.0.pdf>
 - Includes summary of COVID-related provisions of the **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act**
- AAP News (12/29/20): **COVID-19 cases in children surpass 2 million**
 - <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/12/29/covid-2million-children-122920>
- AAP (& CHA) **Children and COVID-19: State-Level Data Report**
 - <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/>
- **AAP COVID-19 Town Hall series** resumes Thursday, 1/7/21, 8 pm Eastern

Tuesday Media Briefing (12/29/20)



Governor Phil Scott

- 2nd straight week of decrease case/positivity rates; too early to see impact of holiday travel/gatherings.
- Vaccine progress: almost 10K Vermonter vaccinated – always looking for ways to do it better.
- ***Primary goal is saving lives.***
- Working w/federal government to increase flexibility in distribution to long-term care facilities (LTCFs).
- Top priority remains protecting the most vulnerable.

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



AHS Secretary Mike Smith

- Vaccine Task Force: AHS, VDH, DPS, VNG, Agency Digital Svcs. Team meets & apprises Governor frequently (w/established metrics)
- Vaccine administered to ~9,800 Vermonters:
 - 8,000 health care workers; 900 EMS; 900 in LTCFs 900 (note: pharmacies have 72 hrs. to report so latter # may be larger)
- To date: 19/37 SNFs rec'd. 1st dose vaccine; expect 2nd dose in all but one by end Jan.
 - Working w/feds to increase flexibility: focus on other LTCFs (residential care & assisted living); discussing “acceleration” w/Kinney’s & Walgreen’s
 - Have allocated nearly 32K doses – 24.2% shipped to hospitals/depots

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)

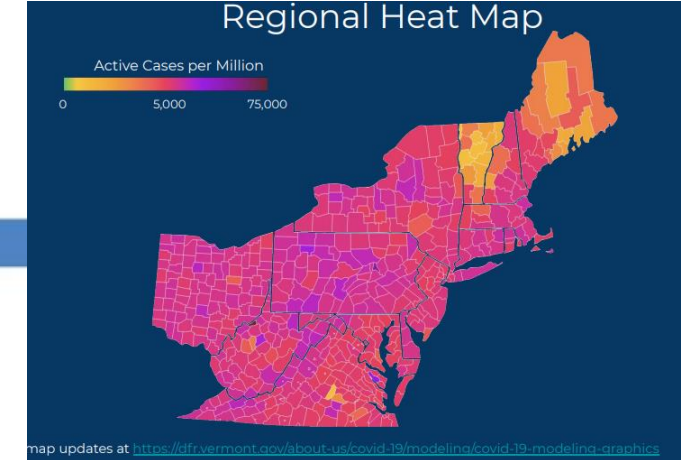
AHS Secretary Mike Smith

□ Preview of *what's next*:

- Mass vaccination program to begin when phase 1a complete at four proposed locations: PCPs; pharmacies; VDH District Health Office sites (capacity for 300/site 2X/wk.); “mass vax sites” – set up/in conjunction w/testing sites (up to 19 here in VT). “All will be in service when vax avail.”
- Prioritize by age-based by “bands”: e.g. 75+; 70+; 65+, etc.; those w/underlying conditions (“well-defined”) prioritized in each band (using national guidelines w/VT adaptation).
- Mitigation of inequities among disadvantaged populations is at “top of our list, top of mind” (specifics not available at this time)



Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



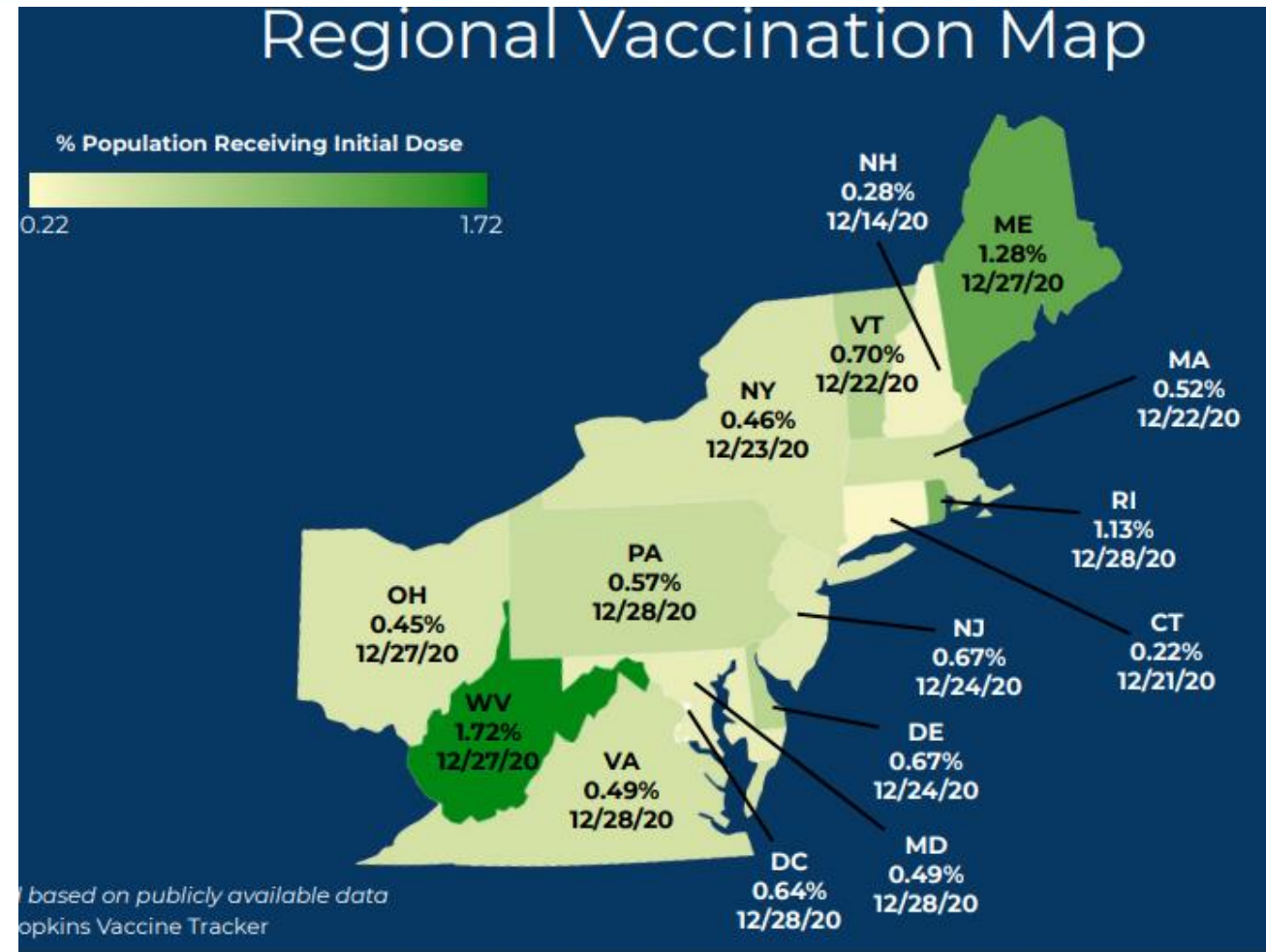
Modeling – Commissioner Pieciak:

- Opportunity to remember those lost, appreciate our special state – resiliency, compassion, willingness to make near-term sacrifices for long-term success.
- VT reached 7K cases past week; but ME had > in just past 3 wks. & NH in past 2 wks.
 - Dec. = VTs deadliest month since pandemic onset (52d. as of 12/29/20); 85% of deaths this month connected to LTCFs (but fewest new cases)
- VT forecast: flattening of new cases over next 4 wks.
- Regional heat map: VT has 8/10 lowest cos. in region (active cases/m.)
- Regional case growth: 2nd week of slight decrease (0.58%)

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)

Commissioner Pieciak

- Mobility data by air travel: 58% decrease TSA nationwide scr.; 85% decrease BTV Intl. Airport passengers
- Vax: CDC says >2m. Americans have received 1st dose COVID-19 vaccine
- DFR will now publish regional vaccination map; data will improve as reporting becomes more timely/uniform
- VTers getting flu vax 10% ahead of last year & 82% to goal



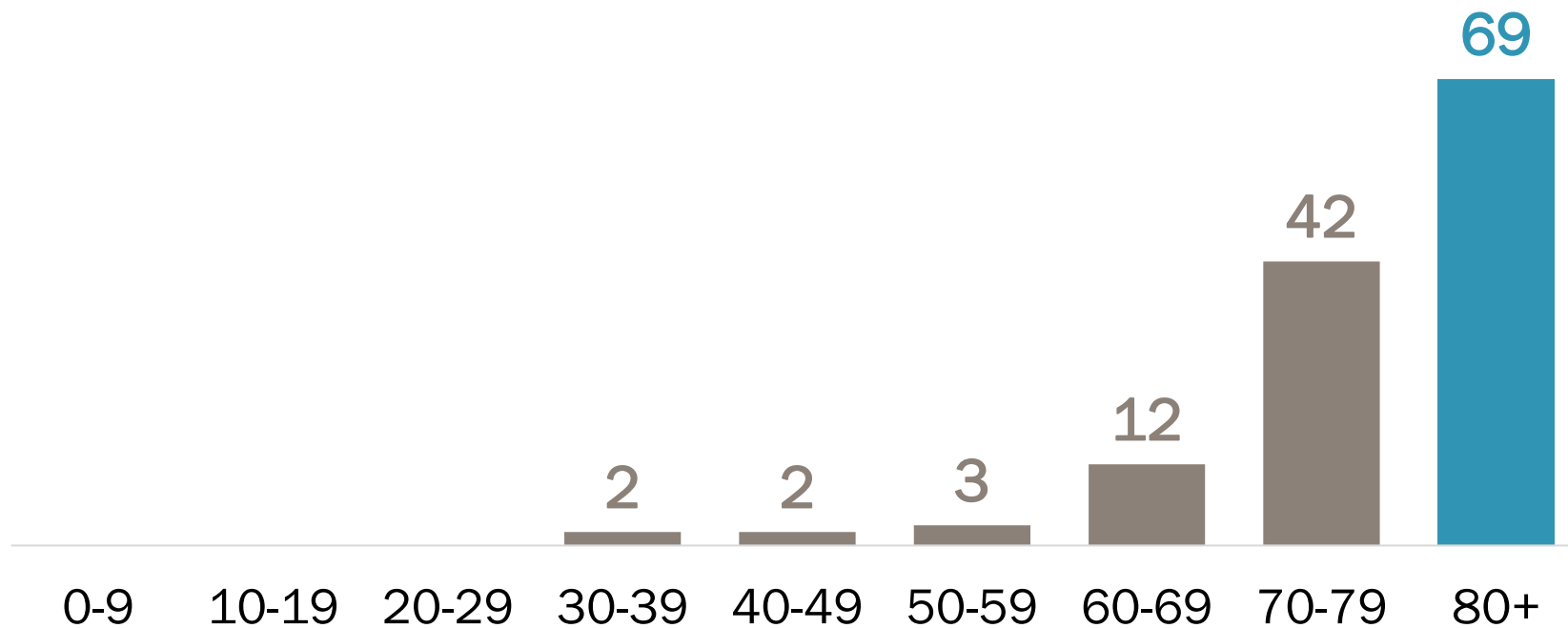
Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



VDH Commissioner Levine

- Thank you to VDH staff who worked over holidays: Epi, lab techs, PHNs, support staff, CTs – ***“Public Health never sleeps.”***
- Past 5 days: 41 outbreaks (14 in LTCFs); 224 active situations
 - ▣ 12 involve schools/child care; 5 work sites; 6 health/home care; 3 private/social; 1 = other.
- Observations re: private/social gatherings:
 - ▣ VT Police Academy – not closed yet
 - ▣ Funeral gathering
 - ▣ Bennington social gathering: several families – exceeded guidelines.

Vermonters 80 years and older have the highest number of COVID-19 deaths.



70% of all COVID-19 deaths in Vermont are among residents of long-term care facilities.

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



- Commissioner Levine
- Q & A: We may embarking on our own study of long-haulers
- Will take lots of interviewing & time – I treat them very seriously & regard as very imp. Natl/intl can be tendency to underestimate impact of COVID.
- Tomorrow (12/30/2) VT Vaccine Implementation Advisory Group will address recommendations for next phase – submit to Governor & IZ leadership team for consideration.
- ***“Our guiding north star is to prevent he most deaths.”***
- Careful consideration to assure equitable/systematic access as amount of vaccine coming into VT increases.

ACIP Recommendation for COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation

- MMWR (early release 12/22/20): ***The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Updated Interim Recommendation for Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, December 2020***
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm695152e2.htm>
 - Fed/statelocal jurisdictions advised to use guidance for vax planning/impl.
- 12/1/20: ACIP recommended that HC personnel & LTCF residents be offered COVID-19 vaccination first (Phase 1a).
- 12/20/20: ACIP updated interim vaccine allocation recs:
 - Phase 1b: persons aged ≥ 75 yo & non-HC frontline essential workers
 - Phase 1c: persons aged 65–74 yo, 16–64 yo with high-risk medical conditions, and essential workers not included in Phase 1b.

Vermont Vaccine Implementation Advisory Committee

Meeting *today* (12/30/20)

- Current implementation update (Chris Finley)
- Review feedback on draft 1b and 1c prioritization
- Discuss revised recommendation options for 1b and 1c

COVID-19 Vaccine *FOR & BY* Community Providers

- VDH HAN 12/24/20: **Initial Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations – Updated** (update to HAN 12/18/20)
 - ▣ Reach out to local hosp. if haven't heard from local hosp. by **1/11/21** (prev. 1/4).
- SEE Stephanie Winters email (12/29/20) on behalf of CVMC, Porter, UVM MC re: **non-hospital-employed community health care workers in their Hospital Service Areas (HSAs)**; spreadsheet attached to be completed/returned to contact w/practice staff prioritization
- Seeking (informal) feedback from VMS/AAP/AAFP (board) members re: PCP involvement in vaccination for general population
 - ▣ Preferred location? (mass vax site, pharmacies, PCP offices); may use all
 - ▣ Best way to have people attest to conditions? Self-attest; screening form, list a PCP/clinician who could verify if needed & give permission to contact clinician

Practice Issues

COVID-19 Vaccine Update – VDH Immunization Program

Christine Finley, APRN MPH – VDH Immunization Program Mgr.

Merideth Plumpton, RN – Nurse Program Coordinator



April 2, 2021

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: Nora.Sabo@vermont.gov (Central Intake); Carol.Hassler@vermont.gov, and Ilisa.Stalberg@vermont.gov.

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.

In Case You Missed It/Coming Attraction



- **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 Vermonters.*



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: 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, January 4, 2021 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:
Thursday, January 7, 2021 - 12:30-1:00 p.m. – Zoom platform & call information:
- ❑ **Join Zoom Meeting:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJlZFQ2R3diSVdqdlJ2ZG4yQT09>
 - ❑ Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Password: 540684
- ❑ One tap mobile - +1 646 876 9923,,86726253105#,,,,0#,,540684#