VCHIP / CHAMP / VDH COVID-19 UPDATES



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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)	≣∗
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Overview

- □ Happy New Year!
 - To ponder: When do decades begin? How about centuries?
- Also: Dimpled Chad Day
- □ *Reminder* weekly event schedule:
 - VCHIP/CHAMP/VDH calls: Mon/Wed/Fridays; Gov. Media Briefings Tues/Fri; VMS call with VDH Commissioner Levine Thursday.
 - **This week: back to Mon/Wed/Friday call VCHIP-VDH call schedule**
- □ Situation, VDH, vaccine updates; Thursday (12/31/20) media briefing
- Practice Issues: New Year Potpourri
- \square 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



- □ The VCHIP "A" Team is BACK!!!
- Evening emails will continue please let us know if you are not receiving these!
- Call recordings and documents will be posted to our web site:

https://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/projects/vchip_champ_vdh_ covid-19_updates

□ We continue to monitor the CHAMP mailbox.

Considering NO call January 20 – celebrate the Inauguration!





Situation update



U.S. 20.6 million+ cases; 351,682 deaths

- <u>https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus</u> <u>-us-cases.html</u> (updated 1/4/21)
- **1/3/21: 201,980 new cases; 1,353 d.; 125,544 hosp.**
- Past week: average 212,965 cases/day (decrease of 1% from average 2 weeks earlier)
- **1.8 million+ deaths worldwide** (85 million+ cases)
- □ VDH Weekly Data Summary(12/18/20)
 - Weekly Spotlight Topic: Percent Positivity by County
 - Expect resumption this Friday, 1/8/21.
- □ Find previous summaries at:
 - https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/currentactivity/weekly-data-summary

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



Situation update



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 12/29/20: 270 total cases; 27 cases reported in preceding 7 days.

December 29, 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	270

□ VT College & University dashboards:

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



December 27, 2020

Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious

• •	Cases Reported In the Past 7 Days	Total Cases
TOTAL FOR ALL SCHOOLS	33	265



VDH Updates: Testing

Testing capacity:

□ ~257 sites (246 CIC on-demand; 11 pop-ups) posted 1/4/21 – 1/31/21

Same-day testing slots now posted all day; many slots currently open.

- NOTE: VDH posted testing sites are intended for asymptomatic pts.; prefer symptomatic pts. to seek connection to PCP/medical home.
- □ CIC locations include:
 - Bennington, Berlin, Brattleboro Mem. Hosp, Burlington, Fairlee, Hardwick, Island Pond, Middlebury, Morrisville, N. Country Hosp, Northfield, Springfield, RRMC, St. J, Stratton, Waitsfield, Waterbury, Williamstown, Williston, Winooski

Days of the week/hours vary by site

Pop-up locations listed: Burlington, Colchester, St. Albans, Williston





VDH Updates

- This just in Health Advisory (HAN): Guidance on Prioritization in Phase 1A and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations (dated 12/31/20; distributed today, 1/4/21)
 - Vermont-specific phase 1A recs; "next groups to be communicated in wks. ahead"
 - Moderna: efficacy, safety, storage/handling; contraind./precautions mRNA vaccines
- □ 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: <u>https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19</u>

□ **NEW:** VDH **COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard** – doses/demographics:

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





Topics We Are Following

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding, and Caring for Newborns (updated 12/28/20)

- Based on what we know at this time, pregnant people are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 & death, compared to non-pregnant people. Additionally, pregnant people with COVID-19 might be at increased risk for other adverse outcomes, such as preterm birth (delivering the baby earlier than 37 weeks).
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extraprecautions/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html

Believe it or not: it's time to start thinking about summer camp, 2021!





In the News

□ 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.
- Burlington Free Press (1/2/21): Good Books for Bad Times (UVM MC Child Psychiatrist Andy Rosenfeld, MD)
- NYT Opinion by (internal medicine resident & niece of RFK, Jr.) Kerry Kennedy Meltzer: Vaccines Are Safe, No Matter What Bobby Kennedy Says: <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/30/opinion/covid-vaccine-bobby-kennedy.html?referringSource=articleShare</u> (*thank you, Val Rooney*)





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-19infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/
- □ AAP COVID-19 Town Hall series resumes Thursday, 1/7/21, 8 pm Eastern:
 - Topic announced today: COVID-19 and Safe Return to School Q & A





Governor Phil Scott – New Year's Eve:

- 100th media briefing since declaration of State of Emergency thank you to media who cover & to all those who tune in to help understand what you can do to keep yourself & neighbors safe.
- Teachers, administrators, parents, kids probably feeling mixed emotions re: return to school next week; schools advised *not required* to include health screening question re: multi-household holiday gatherings.
- □ Regular school employee testing continues at ~25%/week.
 - Positivity rate <0.26% vs. general population 2-2.5% same time period</p>
- Risk of transmission lower in schools than community; very little transmission in school buildings.







Governor Phil Scott – New Year's Eve:

Looking ahead, need to plan to address impact on other needs.



- No specific date for when all schools will be back fully in-person; working now to "plan to hit the ground running."
- □ Hope you celebrate end of 2020 safely/responsibly; adhere to our guidance.
- As we move forward into new year remember 136 Vermonters who lost their lives – could have been much higher without our collective action.
- As this continues to attack our LTCFs . . . as you celebrate, please remember to make right choices to protect loved ones/family/neighbors.

□ So grateful for all that you've done.





AOE Secretary Dan French



- Good news that case counts have leveled off; consistently heard from medical experts ("pediatric community") – conditions conducive to in-person instruction.
- □ Goal remains to provide as much IP as possible & as conditions allow.
 - Conditions were positive before holiday period & appears will remain so. Seeing confirmation of conditions thru testing [only statewide testing in U.S. focused on school staff]. Seeing about 40% participation rate (about 6K/week).
- Staff testing positivity rate declining: thru mid-Nov. was <u>0.26%</u>. Has dropped weekly to <u>0.04%</u> week of Dec 13.
- Starting point for contemplating next steps: focus on IP instruction, safe operations but also <u>educational</u> definition of "mitigation" – limit impact of pandemic on healthy development of students.





AHS Secretary Mike Smith

- Nearly 14K Vermonters vaccinated as of last night 21% of phase 1a and 2% of overall eligible population.
- □ Next week will update vaccine dashboard Tues/Fire; then next wk. M-F daily.
- Federal vaccine allocation for this week from cut: to get 3900 Pfizer (vs. 5800 expected) & 3900 Moderna (decr. from 4K prev. wk.). Expected 11K and getting 7800 doses weekly. Reaching out to federal government to see how these can be increased.
- □ Today (Thursday(21/37 SNFs rec'd. 1st dose all by Jan 8 & 2nd by end Jan.
- Bennington VT Veterans Home situation; 6 pos. staff; VDH Rapid Response Team responded; facility-wide testing planned (& vaccine clinic).









VDH Commissioner Levine

 \Box Active cases in LTCFs = 539.



- We've seen cases associated w/wide range settings LTCF, health care, workplaces, gatherings, K-12 – but latter "not the rule." Teacher testing has quantified "extraordinarily low rate among them." Risk of transmission in schools is very low.
- □ Almost end of 2020 acknowledge difficult year, eager to put it behind us.
- Celebrate heroes: able to carefully open schools/bus; adjusted to mask wearing; planned/conducted outdoor activities safely.We have the strength to persevere.
- Turn of calendar page doesn't necessarily mean immediate change. As a symbol, it helps us look forward to 2021 w/optimism.





VDH Commissioner Levine

- Will take a while for all to get vaccinated. Hospitals cont. to schedule clinics for HCWs. Also working to accelerate LTCF vaccinations.
- "Each person vaccinated moves us closer to life as it once was" hope this gives us a boost to keep doing what we need to do to suppress virus.
- New Year's Resolutions: in public health we prefer sustainable habits.
 Consider personal goals re: how you can take care of your own MH
- Stay socially connected; create daily routines; exercise, eat healthy, get enough sleep. Seek support if anxious/depressed/just need to talk. Talk & listen to your kids. Eng w/community: helping others can counteract stress.
- If you do celebrate New Year's Eve, do so safely w/those you live with or one other trusted household – & get tested 7 days later.

April 2, 2021









Practice Issues

New Year Potpourri







April 2, 2021

Updates/Scenarios

- Scott administration adhering to the end date of 12/31/20 for all (not just HUBS) 2020 COVID Relief Funds funded projects; will then access any leftover 2020 CRF as well as newly allocated 2021 CRF to determine funded projects.
- Schools: ongoing efforts from Governor & AOE Secretary French to message safety of in-person instruction. Anecdotally hearing that several schools plan to increase in-person time – what are YOU hearing?
- □ Testing seems to be going well *what issues are YOU seeing*?





Updates/Scenarios

Vaccines update

Clinical scenarios:

- Should a school nurse who had her first dose of vaccine still participate in teacher/staff surveillance testing? YES!
- A family requested antibody testing on their child (wondered if child had COVID-19 many months ago). Ben Lee and Bill Raszka advised NO to antibody testing in that scenario.
 - Bill Raszka: There are very few indications for antibody testing for COVID essentially only MIS-C.
 - Ben Lee: few clinical indications for antibody testing this should be distinguished from doing population-based testing for research/public health





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.





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





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!)





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, January 6, 2021 12:15-12:45
- **This week: returning to our Monday, Wednesday & Friday schedule**
- □ 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#



