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
March 26, 2021
1) All participants will be muted upon joining the call.
2) If you dialed in or out, unmute by pressing #6 to ask a question (and press *6 to mute).
   If you are having audio difficulties and are using your computer speakers, you may wish to dial in:
   
   Call in number – 1-866-814-9555
   Participant Code – 6266787790

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

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

Observing Purple Day/International Epilepsy Day

- Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont: https://epilepsyvt.org/; recent appt. of Barbara Rachelson as Interim Executive Director (former ED Lund Family Center); VT Representative Chittenden 6-6 (D)

Reminder – weekly event schedule:

- VCHIP/CHAMP/VDH calls: M/W/F; Gov. Media Briefings Tues/Fri; VMS call with VDH Comm. Levine Thursday
- Situation, VDH, federal AAP updates; Friday Media Briefing
- Practice Issues: Friday Potpourri
- Q & A/Discussion

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

March 26, 2021
U.S. 30.1 million+ cases; 546,340 deaths
- Past week: average 58,579 cases/day (decrease of 3% from average 2 weeks earlier)
- 2.7 million+ deaths worldwide; 125.5 million+ cases

VDH Weekly Data Summary (3/26/21)
- Spotlight Topic: Close Contacts in Vermont (60,559)
  - Household members most likely to be ID’d as close contact & the type most likely to become a case; F = M
  - Younger people more likely than older to be ID’d contact

https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/vermont-dashboard
March 26, 2021
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

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

March 26, 2021
COVID-19 Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious

- Table updated **Tuesday & Friday** w/data through previous Sunday & Wednesday.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Community</th>
<th>Cases Reported In the Past 7 Days</th>
<th>Total Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOR ALL SCHOOLS</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UVM update:
- **69 new cases** off campus; **24 on campus**; **2 staff** (incl. B.1.1.7 variant found in 4/5 random UVM samples)
- Currently no changes to safety protocols or enforcement.
Winter Sports Wrap-Up!

- Boys D-1 hockey final between BFA St. Albans & Essex played as scheduled (all Essex player rapid PCR tests neg.) 3/24/21: **Bobwhites defeat Hornets 3-2**

- Girls basketball: announced last night: Rice & Danville teams withdrawing from state championship games sched. for Sat. in Barre.
  - Rice girls will not play in the Division One state final against BFA-St. Albans.
  - Danville will not play in the Division Four title game versus Proctor.

- **This morning:** VPA statement crowning BFA the Division One state champions and Proctor state champions in Division Four.
  - Rice AD email: Rice contacted by VDH re: close contact with case of COVID-19. Thus entire team unable to play in the Championship Game.

Week of March 14; updated 3/24/21

Daily updates Tuesday thru Saturday

Data = counts reported by end previous day; subject to change.

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

NOTE (2/17/21): to align w/CDC reporting, # of doses rec’d. for VA & VNG were removed from # doses rec’d.; accounted for ~8,300 doses.
Daily updates Tuesday thru Saturday

Data = counts reported by end previous day; subject to change.

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

NOTE (2/17/21): to align w/CDC reporting, # of doses rec’d. for VA & VNG were removed from # doses rec’d.; accounted for ~8,300 doses.
GETTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Blue button above is for appointments at state-run clinics, Costco and Walmart. You can also get an appointment at Kinney Drugs, CVS or Walgreens.

See information on appointments, or set up an account now.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

People 65 years and older
Make an appointment anywhere. No passcode is needed.

People 16 years or older with high-risk health conditions
Make an appointment anywhere EXCEPT Walgreens. No passcode is needed. See high-risk health conditions.

› School staff and child care workers
› People who work in the public safety system
› Health care personnel
› English language learners and people in immigrant/refugee communities
› Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC)

Kinney Drugs

COVID-19 Vaccination Scheduling at Kinney Drugs in Vermont

Currently, the State of Vermont allows

› Vermont residents 65+ with a passcode

Now offering the FREE COVID-19 vaccine in select stores

We’re administering the vaccine by appointment only based on local eligibility guidelines.
No cost with insurance or through federal program for the uninsured.

March 26, 2021
Vermont Vaccine Eligibility (updated 3/25/21)

When can Vermonters sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Long-term care residents and staff, health care, first responders: Registration open now
- Ages 65+: Registration open now
- Ages 16+ with certain high-risk health conditions: Registration open now
- K-12 teachers and staff, child care, public safety: Registration open now
- Ages 60+: Registration open now
- Ages 50+: Registration opens March 29
- Ages 40+: Registration opens April 5
- Ages 30+: Registration opens April 12
- Ages 16+: Registration opens April 19

Most Vermonters should expect the entire process, from registration to when the vaccine is most effective, to take about two months.

Goal to have Vermonters fully vaccinated by July 2021

Updated 3.25.21

March 26, 2021
Appointments from 3/26/21 – 6/29/21

- **213,038 total appointments clinics** (health care, VDH (Local/District Health Office POD, and some pharmacies – e.g., Costco, Walmart)

Online (preferred) for most and phone appointment scheduling:

- 1-855-722-7878
- If you need to speak with someone in a language other than English, call this number, and then press 1.

Call Center Hours:

- Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Systems issue 3/25/21: ~2,100 impacted (reg. online for testing vs. vaccine); VDH corrected issue quickly & cancelled test appt. errors. Those affected should get cancellation email & **must book new vax appt.**
From the CDC Vaccine Tracker

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations

March 26, 2021
From the CDC: U.S. COVID-19 Cases Caused by Variants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variant</th>
<th>Reported Cases in US</th>
<th>Number of Jurisdictions Reporting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.1.1.7</td>
<td>8337</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.1.351</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.1</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cases of Variants of Concern in the United States*†


[Map showing cases of variants in the United States]
AAP Updates

New child COVID-19 cases reported in the prior week, by region

Data through 3.18.21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Cases Reported in Prior Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AAP Chapter Chat 3/24/21:
https://collaborate.aap.org/cdl/WebinarArchive/Pages/ChapterChats.aspx

March 26, 2021

Source: Analysis of publicly available data from state health departments
Note: Analysis excludes data from Alabama and Missouri due to change in definition of 'child' case.
AAP: COVID-19 Vaccinations

- Tentatively projecting authorization of COVID-19 vaccine for 12 years and up by summer 2021.
- AAP COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ updated regularly
- Getting pediatricians ready:
  - Signing up as COVID-19 Vaccine Providers
  - Catching up on missed doses
Catch Up on Routine Vaccines


CDC Call to Action: Help Kids' Safe Return to School: Get Caught Up on Recommended Vaccines


AAP Chapter Chat 3/24/21: https://collaborate.aap.org/cdl/WebinarArchive/Pages/ChapterChats.aspx
Recently Updated: Guidance for Families and Pediatricians on Camp Attendance During the COVID-19 Pandemic (updated 3/24)

Posted today: COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools

- Revision to incorporate CDC guidance update and new MMWRs

AAP Chapter Chat 3/24/21: https://collaborate.aap.org/cdl/WebinarArchive/Pages/ChapterChats.aspx
COVID-19 Town Hall Series

- Bi-weekly live video conferences – learn more about COVID-19 from AAP experts
- Access past session recordings with time stamps and register for future sessions

Next conference topic TBD
- Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 8:00 pm ET
AAP Information for Families

New at https://healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx:

- What to Look for In a Summer Camp During COVID-19
- Childproofing Home Gym Equipment
- **Ask the Pediatrician**: When will it be safe for my kids to hug their grandparents once they get the COVID-19 vaccine?
- **Ask the Pediatrician**: helping kids cope with sports cancellations

Updated:

- Face Masks for Children During COVID-19
- Should Your Child Be Tested for COVID-19?
- Unproven COVID-19 Products, Supplements & Medicines
- Mental Health During COVID-19: Signs Your Child May Need More Support
Issue updates include:

- American Rescue Plan
- Vaccines
- School safety
- Mental health

Find on the website:

- aap.org > COVID > Advocacy
AAP partnered with the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) to produce a series of state-specific fact sheets on pediatric subspecialty shortages.

Available at services.aap.org/subspecialtyfactsheet
AAP and Gun Violence Prevention

- Sad inflection point of two mass shootings in less than a week
- AAP continues to support an array of reforms
  - Research success, prospects, and thanks!
  - Background checks
  - Assault weapons ban
- “Precarious politics”

AAP Chapter Chat 3/24/21: https://collaborate.aap.org/cdl/WebinarArchive/Pages/ChapterChats.aspx
COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

Biden-Harris Administration Increases Medicare Payment for Life-Saving COVID-19 Vaccine

Mar 15, 2021 | Billing & payments

Share

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is increasing the Medicare payment amount for administering the COVID-19 vaccine. This new and higher payment rate will support important actions taken by providers that are designed to increase the number of vaccines they can furnish each day, including establishing new or growing existing vaccination sites, conducting patient outreach and education, and hiring additional staff. At a time when vaccine supply is growing, CMS is supporting provider efforts to expand capacity and ensure that all Americans can be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Effective for COVID-19 vaccines administered on or after March 15, 2021, the national average payment rate for physicians, hospitals, pharmacies and many other immunizers will be $40 to administer each dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This represents an increase from approximately $28 to $40 for the administration of single-dose vaccines, and an increase from approximately $45 to $80 for the

- Medicare: $40/administration beginning 3/15/21
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): 100% Medicaid and CHIP FMAP beginning 4/1/21 for vaccines and treatment
- CMS guidance forthcoming

AAP Chapter Chat 3/24/21: https://collaborate.aap.org/cdl/WebinarArchive/Pages/ChapterChats.aspx
Advocacy Action Guide for AAP Chapters

- Coverage and Payment
  - Maintaining Centrality of the Medical Home
    - Licensure
  - Reducing Disparities
  - Audio-only Services
- Establishment of the Physician/Patient Relationship
  - Originating and Distant Site Restrictions
    - Geographic Restrictions
    - HIPAA Compliance

AAP Chapter Chat 3/24/21:
https://collaborate.aap.org/cdl/WebinarArchive/Pages/ChapterChats.aspx

March 26, 2021
Vermont State School Nurses Association Awards

Virtual Presentation – 3/25/21

- 2021 J. Ward Stackpole MD Recognition Award Recipients
  - Jeanne Collins, MA, CAS
  - William V. Raszka, MD FAAP
  - Benjamin Lee, MD FAAP

- (Inaugural) 2021 Dr. Breena Holmes School Nurse Champion Award
  - Surprise: Breena W. Holmes, MD FAAP
  - https://youtu.be/GXI_UFAG1F4
Governor Phil Scott

- Vaccine: opening 50+ age band Monday, 3/29/21; all elig. 4/19
- We believe July 4 will mark a new phase
- Hosted virtual Youth Summit yesterday with 24 incredible young Vermonters: hosted by Vermont Afterschool
- Our kids are struggling; student survey ~70% VT teens reporting more anxiety/MH concerns; important for S-E well-being to be in school
- Advice for adults: don’t forget our S-E well-being; listen, talk, help us grieve – don’t sweep it under the rug. Importance of afterschool programs
- View Summit on line: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFZkKr_Qnws
Holly Morehouse, Executive Director Vermont Afterschool

- Recognize irony of someone my age representing youth voice; encourage you to watch the forum online
- Thanks to 24 youth: gathered data, arr. attendance, worked on pieces.
- Reviewed data; youth summit offered another way to understand experiences, ideas & needs. Pause, be quiet, listen to their voices.
- Opportunities to connect: spoke about activities of all types; flexibility.
- Two open surveys: Sen. Sanders for HS youth asking what they’re looking for [www.sanders.senate.gov](http://www.sanders.senate.gov)
- VT Afterschool Survey: [www.vermontafterschool.org/summersurvey](http://www.vermontafterschool.org/summersurvey)
- Young people make a better VT; they’re problem-solvers – eager to help in making VT stronger, healthier, happier; they want what we all want and need.

March 26, 2021
AOE Secretary Dan French

- Surveillance testing: 1,408 staff: 3 cases; 0.21% pos. rate.
- Considering ending surveillance after next several weeks.
- Vaccination program working very well
- CDC announced shift in distance recs.: 6’ to 3’. Will help return to more IP education – review in process by VDH/Levine, UVM ID experts.
- Considering revising guidance to make it more responsive to remainder of school year (last revision Oct 2020).
- On track to publish revision *early April*.
- Schools actively developing Recovery Plans.
AOE Secretary Dan French

- Federal $$ through ESSER (3 rounds): 31m. (spring); round 2 = 127m.; round 3 = 285m.; 443m. in total for pre-K through 12.
- Districts may decide how to spend 90% (formula-based pop. & poverty; AOE 10% on statewide. One-time funds only.
- Districts receiving largest amounts: Bennington = 26m; Burlington = 22m; Windham NE 20m. (complete list on AOE web site)
- Several years to use, but can incorporate into Recovery Plans.
- Also addressing summer plans – expect more info in coming weeks.

March 26, 2021
AHS Secretary Mike Smith

- Vaccine update: 55% 60+ registered or already vaccinated.
- Addressed registration technical issue (3/25/21)
- VT = 1st in U.S. for vax 65+ per CDC data
- Educators: >77% teachers/school staff vaccinated.
- Today: educators, elig. child care providers, HCWs in 1a may register for J & J vaccine online or by calling call center.
- Educator clinics will be phased out when all adults become eligible.
Friday Media Briefing (cont’d.)

VDH Commissioner Levine

- 251 new cases; pos. rate 1.8%; 7d. Varies 1.2-1.8% range.
- Concerning, but not the entire picture – why seeing this high # now?
- Answer is simple/complex: vaccine effort is race against variants; increased circulation (incl. B.1.1.7 here). CDC preaching caution & gradual, deliberate pace of reopening.
- Half of these new cases <30; highest 20-29 yo.
- Yesterday’s cases: largest # Chitt. Co. – only 4 were age 65+.
- Spring holidays: Passover, Easter, Ramadan – fully vaccinated may gather freely. But follow current guidance: if not vaccinated, only one other non-vax household at one time; have the “COVID talk.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_9SfttSFwo
VDH Commissioner Levine

- If travel & not vaccinated, quarantine X 14d. or 7d. w/negative test.
- Testing is a key tool to limiting spread.
- >68K tests past week, almost 1900 tests 3/24/21.
- Will be articulating reasons for accessing different types of vaccine – examples of ideal populations for J & J (but not relevant yet).
VCHIP ICON Statewide Teleconference

- **What:** Adaptations and Innovations: Providing Care for Opioid-Exposed Newborns and Their Families in a Pandemic
  - Agenda topics include: Updates on Care; Healing for Healers; Building Resilience to Navigate Through Stressful Times; UVM Center on Rural Addiction; Providers’ Experience; Supporting Families – Adapting Home Health Services in Lamoille County

- **When:** April 13, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

- **How:** register at [https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV_cTK9jFgdHNkXwVM](https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV_cTK9jFgdHNkXwVM)

- **More:** VCHIP’s ICON project partners with the Vermont Department of Health and the University of Vermont Children’s Hospital to improve health outcomes for opioid-exposed newborns.

  - To learn more about our project, visit: [https://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/icon](https://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/icon)
Happening Now

- Big Change Roundup: bigchangeroundup.org
  - Largest fundraiser for the UVMCH; funds raised support patients and families
- Please help promote personally & through your practices / orgs.
- NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE!!!
- 3/26/2021: Big Change Roundup Final Total Announcement (counted off air/off-site)
Opportunity to Benefit Camp Ta-Kum-Ta

- **Who:** Mount Mansfield Maple Products, Generosity Brings Joy, & Jen Ellis (crafter, who made Bernie Sanders’ Inauguration Day Mittens)

- **What:** commemorative bottle of **pure Vermont maple syrup** to benefit **Camp Ta-Kum-Ta**.
  - Limited-edition bottle featuring custom label inspired by Bernie’s mittens to celebrate the movement spurred by Jen Ellis’ creation of Generosity Brings Joy – bringing awareness/funding for VT non-profits (100% profits to Generosity Brings Joy)

- **How:** visit [https://vermontpuremaple.com/](https://vermontpuremaple.com/)

*Thank you, Chelsea Cordner!*
Summer 2021 programs and operational details

Hello! Vermont Afterschool is excited to be partnering with key state partners to expand summer program opportunities for children and youth. While there are many benefits to enrichment opportunities year round, we know that there are academic, social, and emotional needs of our children coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic which make this summer and the coming year especially crucial. To support getting as many kids in to summer programs and enrichment activities as possible, we are hoping to collect the information you have available on your program’s 2021 summer plans. With your permission, we will use the information you provide to help populate a searchable resource page for families, which the Governor’s Office and other state and local partners will be promoting. Additionally, this information will help us identify the best ways to support the field in creating supportive and safe summer spaces.

After you submit your form, you will receive an email with your responses and a link to go back and edit responses if any plans should change.

Should you have questions about this effort, please contact info@vermontafterschool.org

March 26, 2021
Save the Date: Health Equity Interactive Session

- Program of Northern Vermont Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
- Stacie L. Walton, MD, MPH, clinical/academic pediatrician; medical consultant for HCPs/institutions for >25 years; recently retired from Kaiser Permanente (Diversity Champion)
- Details in tonight’s email

(Thank you, Melissa Kaufold)
Save the Date!

- What? Child maltreatment conference
- Who? James Metz, MD MPH & other expert speakers
- When? April 29, 8 am – 12:15 pm via live stream
- How? Register at: http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=3cdb8290-cfe5-4dbb-b73b-29ecabed13f0&preview=true&m=1130384660698&id=preview

Recognizing and Responding to Child Maltreatment
Promoting Child Abuse Awareness in VT Conference

Thursday, April 29, 2021
8:00am -12:15pm
LIVE STREAM

This conference will help the professional to recognize sentinel injuries, sexual abuse and neglect. Participants will learn about the mental health implications of trauma and abuse and will learn strategies for effective reporting.

James Metz, MD, MPH - Course Director
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics
Division Chief, Child Abuse Medicine
UVM Larner College of Medicine

"Recognizing Sentinel Injuries" and "Child Neglect"
Save the Date: Friday, June 4, 2021

Join us virtually for the 14th Annual Child Psychiatry in Primary Care Conference, featuring faculty from UVM and the community.

Topics this year include:

- Assessing Risks After School Violence Threats
- Mental Health Care Needs in Primary Care
- Child Psychiatry in the Emergency Department
- Integrated Care Forum
- Praising and Overpraising
- Post COVID Mental Health
- Anxiety Disorders
- Motivational Interviewing Techniques
- Social Media Use and Mental Health

Course Director
David C. Rettew, M.D.
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:**
- **Next CHAMP call – Monday, March 29, 2021 – 12:15 – 12:45 pm**
- **Generally back to Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule**
- **Please tune in to VMS call with VDH Commissioner Levine:**
  *Thursday, April 1, 2021* – 12:30-1:00 p.m. – Zoom platform & call information:
  - **Join Zoom Meeting:**
    [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJ1ZFQ2R3diSVdqdlJ2ZG4yQT09](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#