VCHIP / CHAMP / VDH COVID-19 UPDATES

Wendy Davis, MD FAAP - Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, UVM
Breena Holmes, MD FAAP – Director of Maternal & Child Health, Vermont Department of Health
June 17, 2020
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.
VCHIP – VDH COVID-19 Update Call Participation

June 17, 2020
Overview

- Celebrating the birthday of Venus Williams
- Celebrating Supreme Court ruling (6/15/20) that the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects gay and transgender Americans from workplace discrimination (6 – 3)
- Reminder: continuing our new call schedule: Mon/Wed/Friday
- Situation, VDH, AAP, and other updates
- Today’s Media Briefing
- Practice Issues: **COVID-19 Safe & Healthy School Guidance** (cont’d.) – Breena Holmes, MD FAAP
- 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

- No patients in ICU/on ventilators
- **Daily testing** in Burlington/Winooski this week for **asymptomatic** persons
- Ongoing opportunities for testing of asymptomatic persons at pop-up sites – find times/locations & register at: [https://humanresources.vermont.gov/popups](https://humanresources.vermont.gov/popups)

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Last Updated: 6/17/2020, 10:45 EDT

AAP Updates

- **Pediatrics Collections** (thank you, Lewis First!)
  - Curated groups of articles and policy statements that address important issues in pediatric medicine (including latest/best practices), child health, public health, & trending news/events.

- **COVID19**
  - [https://www.aappublications.org/cc/covid-19](https://www.aappublications.org/cc/covid-19)

- **Racism and Its Effects on Pediatric Health**
  - [https://www.aappublications.org/cc/racism-and-its-effects-on-pediatric-health](https://www.aappublications.org/cc/racism-and-its-effects-on-pediatric-health)

- Other topics: *(current)* vaping, ADHD evaluation and care, depression & suicide prevention; *(future)* autism, LGBTQ health.
AAP Request

Professionals supporting young children ages birth-5 and their families -- Sesame Street needs your help!

- Do you work directly with young children ages birth to 3 years old and/or their families in the areas of health or early childhood education?
- Have you been working in your role supporting young children and/or their families for at least 9 months?
- Are you comfortable using a computer and have high speed internet access?

If so, can you spend 1½ hours with us to talk online about health and nutrition materials Sesame Street would like to create for professionals like yourself and the families with young children you support? Participants will receive $200.

The discussion will take place in an online video discussion group during the weeks of June 22nd - July 19th (exact times and dates are still being confirmed).

If you are interested, please go to the link below to see if you qualify to participate:
https://youthproviders.questionnaire.com, or call Holly at 317-246-0481.

THANK YOU—we look forward to hearing from you!
AAP Updates

- Latest COVID-19 advice for parents/caregivers from HealthyChildren.org - recent articles include:
  - What to Look for In a Summer Camp During COVID-19
  - Should Your Child Be Tested for COVID-19?
  - Stress and Violence at Home During the Pandemic
  - Caring for Children with Asthma During COVID-19: Parent FAQs

- AAP National Conference & Exhibition to be virtual in 2020
  - October 2 – 6, 2020
  - Program updates to follow
Presentations of Interest

Monday, 6/15/20: Family Medicine Grand Rounds:
- Racial Disparities in Healthcare – Amalia Kane, MD, PGY3

Wednesday, 6/16/20: Pediatric Grand Rounds
- COVID-19 in Vermont – Drs. Levine, Kelso, Read and Holmes

Friday, 6/19/20: But Why: A Podcast For Curious Kids (VPR:
  - Episode will be about race and racism.
  - https://www.npr.org/podcasts/474377890/but-why-a-podcast-for-curious-kids
COVID-19 testing events in Burlington and Winooski, June 15 through June 19:

- **Who**: Anyone *without symptoms* who wants to get tested for COVID-19. People *with symptoms* should call their doctors.
- **Where**: Burlington and Winooski
- **How**: Register [https://humanresources.vermont.gov/burlington](https://humanresources.vermont.gov/burlington) (BTV) or [https://humanresources.vermont.gov/winooski](https://humanresources.vermont.gov/winooski)
- **Language help** available for registration: call 802-503-5402 or 802-355-0795.
- Interpreters available at select Burlington & all Winooski events.
AAP Updates (Vermont Chapter & National)

- **AAP-VT Task Force on Minority Health Equity**
  - First meeting June 19, 2020, 8 – 9:00 a.m.

- **Priorities:**
  - Optimizing Clinical Practice (resources/glossary)
  - Resources for Parents (raising anti-racist children, infographics, etc.)
  - Screenings in Offices
Governor Scott:

- AHS, VDH & DAIL have collaborated to ease restrictions for Long Term Care (LTC) facilities

- Phased-in approach:
  - Step 1: allow outdoor visitation with up to 2 visitors/resident/day (effective 6/22/20; hope to expedite for Father’s Day); track data trends to slowly increase safely.

AHS Secretary Mike Smith:

- Hospital visitation [Note: may choose more restrictive policies]
  - Inpatient/acute care/ED/UCCs: 1 visitor at a time. Exceptions: 2 parents or 1 parent + 1 other for pediatrics; 1 additional support person for pts. who need assistance in care. EOL managed by care team. ≤ 2 family members at EOL.
AHS Secretary Mike Smith (cont’d.):

- LTC guidance based on CDC & CMS guidance: must adopt the recommendations but may choose whether/when to lift restrictions.
- Screening for all visitors; maintain mitigation measures.
- Testing for residents and staff
- **Outdoor visits only**; cont. other creative strategies (e.g., video visits)
- Maintain contact log
- **No** group dining/activities within facilities. If these measures “successful,” may lift further restrictions (based on community level of virus)
AHS Secretary Mike Smith (cont’d.):

- Outpatient settings: previous “basic requirements” still in place
  - Screen all visitors upon entry
  - Masks/FCCs for entirety of visit
  - Visitors permitted for patients who require support
  - 2 parents or 1 parent + 1 other visitor for pediatric patients

- Restarting Senior Centers (not adult day)
  - TA to be published today by DAIL & ACCD

- Dept. of Corrections – will continue to review in weeks ahead
  - New case at Marble Valley (symptomatic new intake returning from FL; in quarantine and contact tracing under way)
Today’s Media Briefing

VDH Commissioner Levine

- Epi curve returning to stable trajectory
  - No additional cases over last 4 days associated with recent outbreak
  - 13 contacts became cases
  - 60% adults/40% children; no associated hospitalizations/deaths
  - Usually allow 2 incubation periods (14d.) to expire before “containment”

- Entering **Phase 3**: low controlled transmission; maintain physical distance.
- **Be aware of your surroundings** (preference for outdoor settings)
- **Choose activities that don’t require close contact**
- **Keep your social circle small** (trusted households)
- **Travel** – continue to follow evolving guidance
COVID-19 Safe & Healthy School Guidance – (cont’d.)

Breena Holmes, MD FAAP – Director of Maternal & Child Health, VDH

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

VERMONT AGENCY OF EDUCATION
School Health Guidance- a FEW of the Debated Areas

• Health Screenings including temperature checks
  • home or entering bus or entering school building
• Children with Special Health and/or Educational Needs
• Staff over 65 or with chronic conditions
• Staying home when sick
• Facial Coverings
• Group size, Integrity of the group, distancing, cohorting

June 17, 2020
School Health Guidance: Facial Coverings

• Current approach after much discussion
  • All staff are required to wear facial coverings
  • Facial coverings are required for middle and high school students
  • Facial coverings for elementary age students are required when developmentally appropriate based on child’s ability to wear without sucking, touching or pulling
Health Guidance: Cloth Facial Coverings for Children

Cloth facial coverings and children:

**No cloth facial coverings for children under 2-years-old**

No cloth facial coverings while sleeping, eating or swimming

Help children to understand the importance of wearing cloth facial coverings to prevent the spread of germs

Cloth facial coverings are developmentally appropriate for children when they can properly put on, take off, and not touch or suck on the coverage

Cloth facial coverings can be removed during outdoor activities where children and staff can maintain physical distancing and have ready access to put them back as needed when activity stops

**Children who have a medical reason for not wearing a cloth facial covering must not be required to wear one**
ALL ABOUT CHOICE

1. ALONE
2. WITH A BUDDY
   6 FEET APART
3. IN A FLOCK
   MASK
Childcare/Summer Program Resource

Face Coverings for Children

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, children ages 2 and older are required to wear face coverings in settings where they cannot keep a distance of 6 feet away from other individuals. Children need support in order to protect one another and make face covering regular behavior. Properly worn face coverings are effective for most people to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Pleated face coverings with elastic ear loops are the right size for your child’s face and adjust it for a secure fit.

Who Should Wear a Face Covering?

- Children ages 2 and older who can wear it properly
- Children under age 2
- Children with a medical or behavioral reason for not wearing a mask should not be required to wear one.

Pleated face coverings may not be effective for a child’s stage of development or facial covering difficulties.

Parents and any child care and school staff should discuss the need and consult with a health care provider if necessary (for example, for conditions such as asthma) to determine if they can safely cover.

When Should Face Coverings Be Worn?

Face coverings should be worn in settings where children and adults are within 6 feet of each other. This includes children attending other classes and other venues.

- Running errands, such as trips to the store
- In a health care setting for an appointment
- Visiting family members outside your household
- Riding public transportation or sharing a ride with people outside your household
- Walking on a busy or crowded street
- At home if someone in the household is sick.

What Parents Can Expect Child Care and School Age Camps/Care

The Vermont Department of Health recently released guidance for child care and school age camps/care that plan to operate in the summer of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance and other resources can be found on the Department’s website healthvermont.gov/covid.

The following is a brief description of what you can expect to see at your child care or school age program:

- Face coverings may be required for children.
- Hand hygiene and disinfecting practices are in place.
- Social distancing measures are in place.
- Common areas are cleaned regularly.
- Staff are frequently educated on COVID-19 prevention measures.

What Can Parents Expect?

- Regular communication with the program.
- Clear instructions on how to stay healthy.

Children Able to Attend

Healthy children and those with the following symptoms may attend child care and school age programs:

- Altered symptoms, without a fever that cause breathing difficulties or other COVID-like symptoms.
- Tested negative for COVID-19.

Children Who May Not Attend

Children may not attend when they:

- Have had a fever, chills, cough, runny nose, or other symptoms lasting 24 hours or more.
- Have symptoms, been tested for COVID, and are awaiting results.

Children also may not attend if they experience any of the following:

- A cough, fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell.
- Temperature greater than 100.4°F.
- Severe sore throat that lasts more than 48 hours.
- A significant rash, especially when other symptoms are present.
- Other signs of illness.

If symptoms begin while at the child care or school age camp, the child will be sent home immediately.

- Individuals with a temperature greater than 100.4°F will be sent home until they have no fever for 48 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- Due to the emergency, children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Sample Weekly COVID-19 Health Checklist

This is a sample weekly checklist for child care and school age camps/care for COVID-related health guidelines.

- Completed
- Incomplete

Ensure that all signs are placed at all points of entrance/exit. Signage must display information that no one may enter if they have symptoms of respiratory illness. Ensure all entry points are locked.

Make sure that all door handles and light switches are covered with plastic film that can be disinfected.

Ensure that all surfaces are disinfected frequently using products approved for use in child care and school age programs.

Check all phones, hard and soft, and all communications are used for daily information sharing for messages regarding child care, family, or staff. Follow the directions given by the program.

Ensure that all supplies are in the building in quantities to maintain proper hygiene.

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School Health Guidance: Pediatricians Needed

• COVID Task Force with school nurse leader - *need pediatrician involvement*
• Children with special health and education needs: *Team-based care with medical home*
• Social emotional health *in general also in age of COVID, supporting students and staff*
• Food service guidance - *advocacy for universal meals since many kids will be eating in classrooms. Let’s decrease stigma and feed everyone*
• Ventilation - *environment health leaders, including pediatricians needed*
• Communication (staff, students, families, community): 8 times, 8 ways- *please help*
The Department of Health has public health nurses available to childcare, afterschool, and summer programs to answer health related childcare questions 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday through Friday Call: 802-863-7240, select the option for “Childcare Services”

After hours there will be a childcare question mailbox to leave a message and VDH staff will return your call the following business days.
Upcoming Topics

- Final guidance for school re-opening, fall 2020
- AAP-VT Task Force on Minority Health Equity
- Immunization strategies/policy: catch-up, flu, COVID-19 (?)
- Refining guidance re: testing of HCWs in practices
- MIS-C (Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children)
- Health care “restart” details, incl. telehealth/telephone coverage
- Summer camps/other recreational activities
- OneCare Vermont all-payer model adjustments
Q & A Goal: monitor/respond in real time – record/disseminate later as needed (and/or revisit next day).

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: Friday, June 19, 12:15-12:45 (same webinar/call information – invitation to follow) – last call for this week.

Please tune in to VMS call with Commissioner Levine:

Tuesday, June 23, 12:15-12:45
Phone: 1-802-552-8456
Conference ID: 993815551