

# VCHIP / CHAMP / VDH COVID-19 UPDATES



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*July 24, 2020*




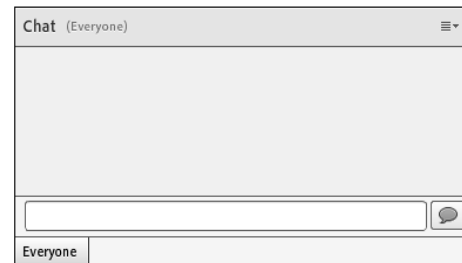
# Technology Notes

**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

- Celebrating the return of MLB (*maybe...*)
  - ▣ Dr. Fauci's first pitch – the embodiment of physical distance?
  - ▣ Juan Soto tests positive – misses Nats' opener against NYY
- *Reminder:* weekly event schedule
  - ▣ **VCHIP/CHAMP/VDH calls: Monday/Wednesday/Friday**
  - ▣ Governor's Media Briefings Tuesday/Friday
  - ▣ VMS call with Commissioner Levine now **Thursdays**
- Situation, VDH, AAP-VT, media briefing updates
- Practice Issues: Vermont K-12 School Reopening
- 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

Total Cases <b>1,385</b> 8 New
Currently Hospitalized <b>3</b>
Hospitalized Under Investigation <b>9</b>
Total People Recovered <b>1,177</b>
Deaths <b>56</b>
People Tested <b>87,692</b>
Travelers Monitored <b>1,087</b>
Contacts Monitored <b>60</b>
People Completed Monitoring <b>4,682</b>
Last Updated: 7/24/2020, 11:56:27 AM

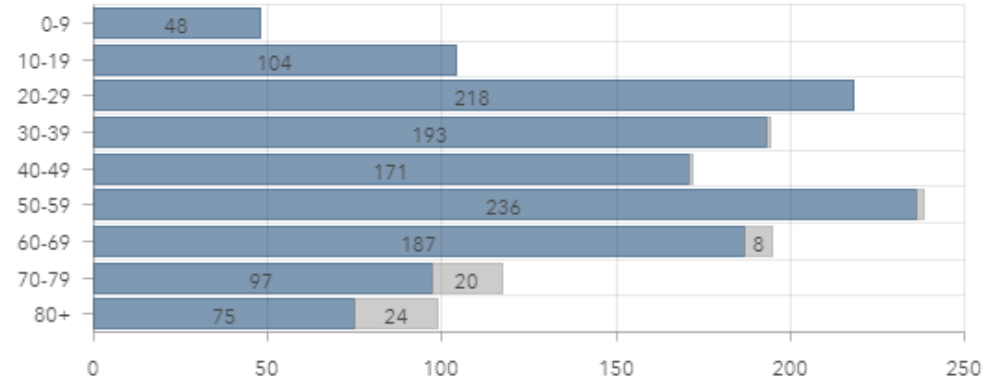
## □ Weekly data summary (7/24/20):

- Weekly Spotlight – **COVID-19 Source of Exposure**
- <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Weekly-Data-Summary-7-24-2020.pdf>

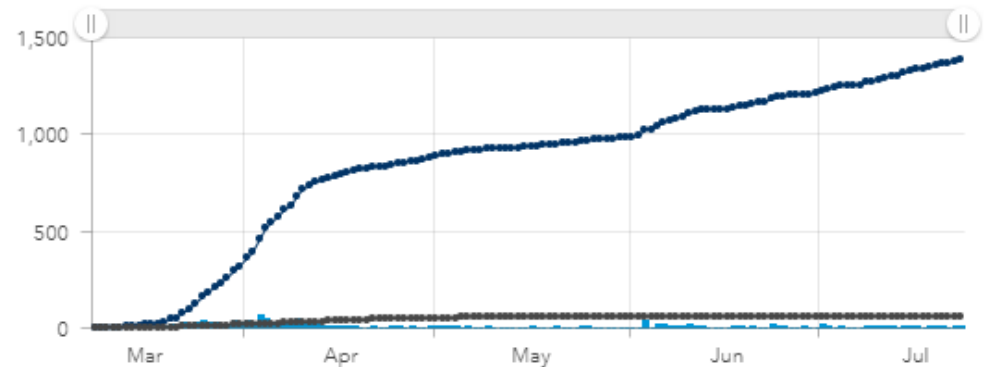
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/current-activity-vermont#dashboard>

# Situation update

COVID-19 **Cases** and Deaths by Age Group



Vermont COVID-19 **New** and **Cumulative** Cases, **Cumulative** Deaths

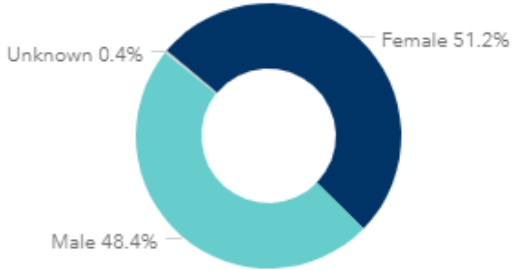


Hover over chart to see values, and drag scrollbar at top of chart to zoom into date range

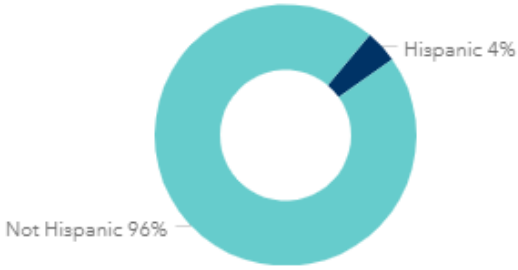
Cases and Deaths by Date and Age

# Situation update

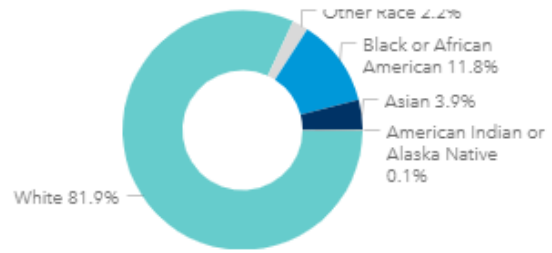
COVID-19 Positive Cases by Sex



COVID-19 Positive Cases by Ethnicity if Known



COVID-19 Positive Cases by Race if Known



Hover over charts to see values

◀ Cases by Sex, Ethnicity and Race ▶

# VDH Updates – Immunization Registry Improvements

- ❑ Vermont IMR (7/27/20): new tool via web service for forecasting.
- ❑ Provides **clinical decision support** for immunization; supports all routinely administered vaccine groups from birth-adulthood.
- ❑ Based on the ACIP (CDC) schedule
- ❑ Provides the clinician with 3 critical pieces of information:
  - ❑ **Assessment** of what has already been given.
  - ❑ **Recommendations** for what vaccines are due today.
  - ❑ **Conditional Recommendations** for which vaccine might be called for if the patient has special health conditions.
- ❑ Corrects shortcomings of previous forecaster (e.g., flu & HPV).
  - ❑ Provides specific reasons why a previously administered dose may be invalid, and adds forecasting for adult patients. When a vaccine for Covid-19 becomes available, we expect to be able to quick avail ourselves of vaccine scheduling guidance through this tool.
- ❑ Includes **Quick Guide**



## IMR How To: Using the New Forecaster

July 2020

It is one thing to know which immunizations a person has received, and quite another to know what other immunizations are called for, and when the next dose is due. We are happy to announce the Vermont Immunization Registry (IMR) has implemented a new forecaster that will help us to quickly incorporate new vaccine schedule recommendations issued by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Enhanced vaccine clinical decision support via the Immunization Calculation Engine webservice is now available in the Vermont Immunization Registry.

Vermont's new forecaster uses the Immunization Calculation Engine (ICE) webservice – a state-of-the-art open-source software system that provides clinical decision support for immunization. The forecaster supports all routinely administered vaccine groups, including the child, teen, and now even adult immunization schedules. It provides clinicians with guidance for recommended immunizations as well as conditionally recommended doses for people with health conditions that might call for additional protection.

**Typical Immunization Records Look Like This**

This is the Immunizations Grid in the IMR. It is clear what vaccines have been administered and when. But what vaccines might be due today? And, have the previously administered doses been given in line with the schedule guidance?

Patient: Isaacson, Danane    Date of Birth: 1/24/2010    Patient Age: 2 years 5 months and 13 days  
 Practice Name: Stratfieldboro (Paq) Primary Care  
The Vermont Immunization Registry is a tool to assist in tracking and forecasting immunizations normally due and overdue, based on date of birth. It is not intended to replace medical expertise.

**Immunizations**

Enter Immunizations as:  
 Current     Historical

Status	Vaccine	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3	Dose 4	Dose 5
	DTaP-Hep B-IPV	3/24/2018	5/24/2018	7/24/2018		
	Hib (PRP-T)	3/24/2018	5/24/2018	7/24/2018	1/24/2019	
	DTaP-Hib-IPV					
	pneumococcal conjugate PCV 13	3/24/2018	5/24/2018	7/24/2018	1/24/2019	
	pneumococcal conjugate PCV 7					
	DTaP	4/24/2019				
	DTaP-IPV					
	IPV					
	Hep A, ped/adol, 2-dose	1/24/2019	7/24/2019			
	Hep A, adult					
	Hep B, adolescent or pediatric	1/24/2018				
	Hep A-Hep B					
	Hep B, adult					
	Hep B, adult/adjuvanted					
	influenza, nontrivalent	3/24/2018	5/24/2018			



# Today's Media Briefing



## Governor Scott:

- VT trends continue to hold steady/support move toward school reopening in fall. Outbreaks may be spreading back toward us.
- With low #s, waited to implement mask mandate – continued to focus on education.
- But looking at situation in southern & western U.S., visitors & Vermonters moving inside, “need to act now to protect our gains.”
- Signed order today, effective August 1, 2020, to strengthen mask mandates. Will be required of all (**over age 2 y.o.**) in indoor public places & outdoors when physical distancing not possible.



# Today's Media Briefing (cont'd.)



## Governor Scott: mask mandate (cont'd.)

- ❑ Exceptions: eating drinking, vigorous exercise, any child or adult w/condition that precludes wearing.
- ❑ Difficult to enforce – will not require documentation of health condition (avoid violation of health care rights).
- ❑ Businesses required to inform customers – can refuse to serve individuals not wearing masks

# Today's Media Briefing



## Governor Scott: mask mandate (cont'd.)

- Still worried that mandate will create conflicts – take a moment to speak to both sides. Acknowledge that some can't wear – and times when mask not necessary under this mandate.
- “For those who've resisted: I'm asking you to look at the real data – realize the science is real.”
- CDC says surge in Sun Belt could be controlled if citizens disciplined enough to follow mitigation strategies.
- “Please help . . . not b/c it's mandated, but b/c it's the right thing to do.”
- “For those already wearing masks & concerned re: those who aren't – please give them the benefit of the doubt.”

# Today's Media Briefing (cont'd.)



## Commissioner Pieciak – VT modeling:

- ❑ Yesterday: 4m. reported cases in U.S. – “staggering number and pace.” Rate of rise: 99 days to 1m. (when testing very limited); “alarming pace” to reach to 2m. in 43d. Reached 3m. in another 28d. Most recently reached 4m. in just 15 days.
- ❑ Daily growth rates across U.S. census regions – South & West with high daily numbers (some areas w/improvement)
- ❑ U.S. 7-day rolling average highest ever, w/incr. hosps. & deaths. (yesterday 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive day with >1100 deaths).
- ❑ VT lowest per capita past 7d.; regional (NE) week over week just >8%.

# Today's Media Briefing (cont'd.)



## Commissioner Pieciak (cont'd.)

- ❑ Regional forecast: 4 models project growth in coming weeks
- ❑ Vermont data/metrics:
  - ❑ Cases: 52 new this week (vs. 55 previous week)
  - ❑ Syndromic surveillance – flat/well below 4% guardrail
  - ❑ Viral growth rate ~0.5%
  - ❑ Test positivity rate rolling average <1% this week (one of lowest in U.S.)
  - ❑ Hospital/critical care bed has been ~30% buffer; slightly over this week, but w/other metrics performing well, “not concerning.” **No COVID patients in ICU** at present.
- ❑ **Travel map** changes reflect case growth across U.S. & in Northeast.

# Today's Media Briefing (cont'd.)



## Commissioner Levine

- ❑ Vermont fortunate w/low levels of virus, but not “none.” No new news about outbreaks/non-outbreaks; “containment working.”
- ❑ Possible explanations for VT’s lowest pos. rate, new cases, no recent d.
  - ▣ Vermonters’ cooperation & compliance; prioritization of health (natl. rankings)
  - ▣ Vermonters’ belief in policy of protecting the most vulnerable
  - ▣ Vermont did not reopen until sufficient level of virus suppression statewide
  - ▣ Phased/gradual reopening meant less active cases/hosps./serious illness
- ❑ Mask decision not taken lightly – but government takes responsibility to protect citizens; PH uses data/science to make recommendations.
- ❑ Mask mandate reasonable – esp. given increased “red zones” around us.



# VDH Updates: calling all Tweetiatricians!

- VDH leading Governor's new statewide **#MasksOnVT** campaign
  - ▣ Encourages Vermonters to wear masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Goal: collective impact to normalize/sustain mask wearing in VT.
- One-stop **digital toolkit** to assist state agencies, departments and partners in sharing message: use or adapt campaign materials as appropriate for audience.
  - ▣ Sample social media posts and content, sample newsletter blurbs or articles, key talking points and posters. Use as is OR fully customizable for more advanced users.





# AAP/Other Updates

- AAP Daily Briefing: article on how lack of pediatric data is complicating school reopening plans.
- AAP-VT: press release in development to encourage prioritization of **in person attendance for preschool through grade 5 and for *all* students with special needs.**
  - ▣ Anticipate release Monday, 7/27/20.
  - ▣ Please continue discussions with their schools/districts about how models can evolve over time and be re-evaluated even if initial plans have been released.
- CDC Updated Guidance: **Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020** (updated July 23, 2020)

# Practice Issues

## Vermont K-12 School Reopening

*Stories from the Field*



# School Re-opening: Resources

## For education & health professionals:

- VDH & VT Agency of Education: guidance, PowerPoint presentation available
- Additional VT AOE documents:
  - ▣ FAQ: <https://education.vermont.gov/strong-healthy-start-safety-and-health-guidance-faq-1>
  - ▣ Hybrid Learning: [https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-hybrid-learning-during-the-2020-2021-school-year\\_0.pdf](https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-hybrid-learning-during-the-2020-2021-school-year_0.pdf)

## For parents & caregivers:

- What Parents can Expect at Childcare and Summer Camps:
  - ▣ <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Resources4Families-Childcare-Summer-Programs.pdf>
- Facial Cloth Coverings and Children
  - ▣ <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-childfacecovering.pdf>

# Two Comprehensive Resources

- Jones E, Young A, Clevenger K, Salimifard P, Wu E, Lahaie Luna M, Lahvis M, Lang J, Bliss M, Azimi P, Cedeno-Laurent J, Wilson C, Allen J. ***Healthy Schools: Risk Reduction Strategies for Reopening Schools.*** Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Healthy Buildings program. June, 2020.
  - <https://schools.forhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/06/Harvard-Healthy-Buildings-Program-Schools-For-Health-Reopening-Covid19-June2020.pdf>
- COVID-19 School and Community Resource Library: Resources for clinicians advising schools and community groups on strategies to prevent and manage COVID-19
  - [https://www.massgeneral.org/assets/MGH/pdf/medicine/infectious-diseases/COVID-19%20School%20and%20Community%20Resource%20Library\\_July%206%202020.pdf](https://www.massgeneral.org/assets/MGH/pdf/medicine/infectious-diseases/COVID-19%20School%20and%20Community%20Resource%20Library_July%206%202020.pdf)

# Reconvening *Safe and Healthy Schools Task Force*: Current Issues

- Guidance Revisions
  - ▣ Have solicited feedback on guidance to be added/revised/discussed
- More specific guidance needed:
  - ▣ Implementing health screening prior to boarding buses or entering schools, including recommendations on devices for taking temps, uniform protocols, etc.
- Clarification re: when to close
- Challenges with seating on buses
- Physical distancing (implementation “6 ft.”)
- Interns/Learners
- Children with special education needs (subgroup meeting on this topic)
- Social-emotional health of staff and students



# Safe and Healthy Schools

## ***Hot topic:***

- Return to school after illness: working on an algorithm
  - ▣ Symptom-based return pathways
  - ▣ When to test
  - ▣ Medical clearance
- *We need your help to disseminate/explain guidelines and inform school & district-specific implementation in your communities!*



# School Reopening

- Communities are moving forward – where is **yours** in this process?
- What are **your** thoughts/concerns to safely re-open?
- What are you hearing from families and what are communication gaps?
  - ▣ We are addressing topics raised on 7/20/20 call – thank you!
- **Volunteers needed** for PSAs and videos
- Continuing to seek cases for analysis and to inform guidance revisions.

# Reminder: Special Pediatric Grand Rounds

- **Wednesday, July 29, 8 – 9 a.m.: Dr. Lee Beers, M.D., FAAP, President-elect, American Academy of Pediatrics**
  - ▣ ***Early Childhood Brain Development—Aligning for Impact***
  - ▣ Dr. Beers is Professor of Pediatrics & Medical Director for Community Health and Advocacy, Goldberg Ctr. for Community Pediatric Health & Child Health Advocacy Institute at Children’s National Hospital, Washington, DC
  - ▣ Early childhood partners also invited!
- The session will be held by Zoom meeting only at this link:
  - ▣ <https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/123552961> - Password: pedsg
  - ▣ To access by phone: +1646-876-9923, meeting ID 123552961#.

# Reminder: HCP Stabilization Grants *(from 7/14/20)*

AHS Secretary Mike Smith:



- **Opened Friday, July 17, 2020** (application, FAQs)
  - **Who:** VT-based health care/human service (***billing***) providers operating on/before February 1, 2020
  - **When: Cycle One** online application process open until August 15, 2020, to cover lost revenue/expenses from 3/1/20-6/15/20. **Cycle Two:** applications starting in October to cover losses from 6/16/20-9/30/20.
  - **What:** submit 2019 & 2020 revenue information, COVID-19 related expenses, data on any financial relief received and org. tax info.
  - **Where:** <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/help-and-resources/covid-19-information>
  - **What else:** NOT first-come, first-served; AHS may need to prioritize 1<sup>st</sup> cycle.
- ***HCPs encouraged to apply even if uncertain re: eligibility***

# Topics We Are Following

- ❑ School (K-12), college/university reopening, **return to sports** guidance
- ❑ AAP-VT Task Force on Race and Health Equity
- ❑ Immunization strategies/policy: catch-up, flu, COVID-19 (?)
- ❑ Pediatric health care “restart”: how to safely reopen your practices (Ideas? Questions?) – please email: [vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu](mailto:vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu)
  - ❑ Federal and state COVID-19 financial relief
- ❑ MIS-C (Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children)
- ❑ Summer camps/other recreational activities
- ❑ OneCare Vermont all-payer model adjustments

# 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](mailto: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](https://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/projects/vchip_champ_vdh_covid-19_updates)
- Next CHAMP call: **Monday, July 27, 12:15-12:45** (current schedule: Mon/Wed/Friday)
- Please tune in to VMS call with Commissioner Levine:  
**Thursday, July 30, 12:30-1:00 p.m. – NEW (Zoom) platform & call information:**
- **Join Zoom Meeting:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJlZFQ2R3diSVdqdJlJ2ZG4yQT09>
  - ▣ Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Password: 540684
  - ▣ One tap mobile - +1 646 876 9923, 86726253105#, 0#, 540684# Dial In- +1 646 876 9923 / Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Password: 540684