

# 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*

*July 29, 2020*




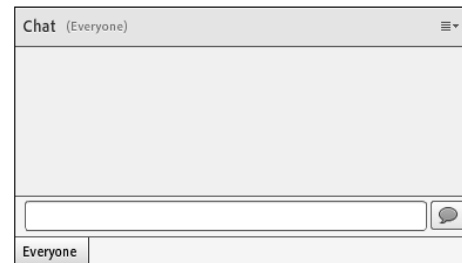
# Technology Notes

**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.**



- Celebrating the publication of the AAP's Policy Statement on **Truth, Reconciliation and Transformation: Continuing on the Path to Equity**
  - ▣ One-year anniversary of PS on The Impact of Racism on Child & Adolescent Health
  - ▣ Rep. John Lewis departs Washington DC for the last time
- *Reminder: weekly event schedule*
  - ▣ **VCHIP/CHAMP/VDH calls: Monday/Wednesday/Friday**; Governor's Media Briefings Tuesday/Friday; VMS call with Commissioner Levine **Thursday**
- 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]*

July 29, 2020

# Implementing the AAP's Equity Agenda



- Jan. 2020: inaugural meeting AAP Board **Committee on Equity**
  - ▣ 2020-2021 work plan: focus on anti-Black racism
- Spring 2020: heightened urgency for racial justice action
  - ▣ Health disparities highly visible in COVID-19 pandemic; deaths of George Floyd and others
- Strengthening our collaboration with the **National Medical Association** (125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary): leadership development, mentorship
- July 29, 2020: publication of the **Truth, Reconciliation and Transformation Policy Statement** (1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Racism Policy Statement)
- August 2020: Virtual Annual Leadership Forum – large grp./District Meeting content – Bylaws non-discrimination referendum to be discussed.

# AAP PS – Truth, Reconciliation and Transformation: Continuing on the Path to Equity

- AAP acknowledges its mistakes as it pursues equity for all children
- AAP apologizes for its treatment of first Black members
- AAP apologizes for mistakes as it confronts all forms of racism
- AAP apologizes for past injustices as it seeks more pathways to equity
- **AAP apologizes for past racism and seeks more pathways to equity**

# AAP References (Racism and Equity)

- Policy Statement: **The Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health**  
<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/144/2/e20191765>
- Policy Statement: **Truth, Reconciliation and Transformation: Continuing on the Path to Equity**  
<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2020/07/27/peds.2020-019794>
- **AAP** News article (President Sally Goza)  
<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/07/29/letter072920>
- **CNN** coverage: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/29/health/american-academy-pediatrics-apology-racist/index.html>

# Situation update

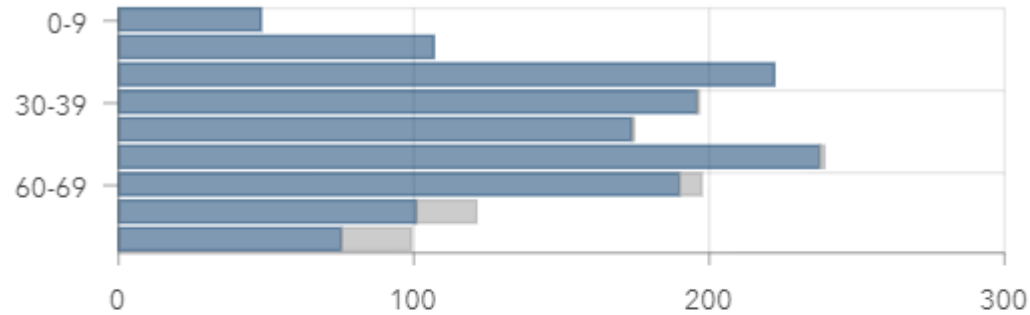
Total Cases <b>1,406</b> 1 New
Currently Hospitalized <b>1</b>
Hospitalized Under Investigation <b>17</b>
Total People Recovered <b>1,199</b>
Deaths <b>56</b>
People Tested <b>92,461</b>
Travelers Monitored <b>1,044</b>
Contacts Monitored <b>36</b>
People Completed Monitoring <b>5,149</b>
Last Updated: 7/29/2020, 10:58:02 AM

- **NEW** VDH Health Update: **Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19 (7/24/20)**
- **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>

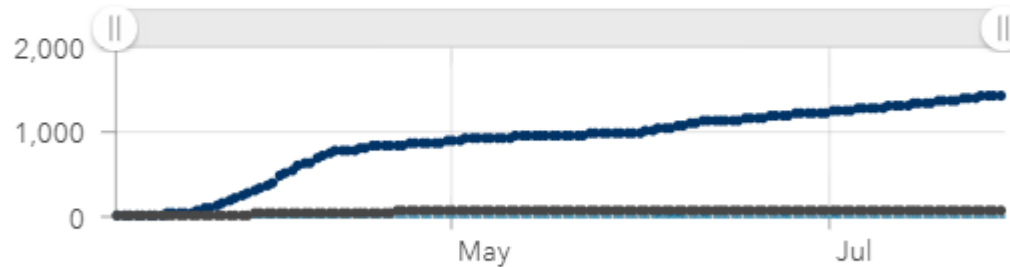


# Situation update

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



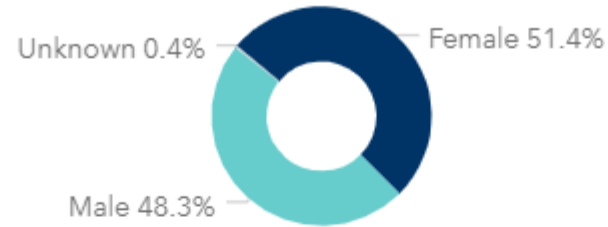
Cases and Deaths by Date and Age



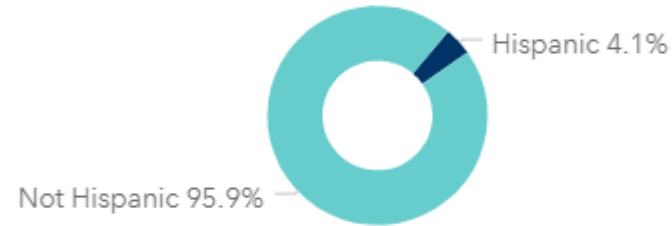


# Situation update

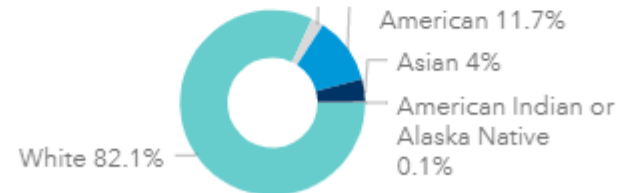
COVID-19 Positive Cases by Sex



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



# AAP/Other Updates

- **(7/27/20) AAP-VT press release** – “AAP Vermont Chapter Calls on Schools To Prioritize In-Person Attendance for Preschool Through Grade 5 and For Students with Special Needs”
  - ▣ Includes supporting data & describes educational/social/emotional needs
  - ▣ Outlines risks/benefits – especially for younger children
  - ▣ Thanks: S. Winters, R. Bell, B. Forbes, B. Lee, J. Rinehart, W. Raszka
- Media attention (and more to come!):
  - ▣ <https://www.mynbc5.com/article/back-to-school-students-with-special-needs-face-added-obstacle/33451594>
  - ▣ <https://www.wcax.com/2020/07/28/vermont-leaders-to-provide-update-on-states-covid-19-response/>
  - ▣ <https://www.benningtonbanner.com/stories/rebecca-bell-md-prioritize-in-person-instruction-for-those-who-most-need-it,610086>

# Tuesday Media Briefing (7/28/20)



## Commissioner Levine

- ❑ No new cases in majority of outbreaks we're following
- ❑ Continue to believe that we're at a point in our response that we can open schools in a carefully considered and safe way.
- ❑ Referenced earlier briefing with Dr. Raszka's review of child transmission data
- ❑ Doesn't mean we won't have cases/clusters in schools – if so, will implement public health protocols: test, track, interview, advise those in close contact or possibly exposed.
- ❑ PLEASE this year – more than ever – take advantage of early flu vaccine for you and your family!
- ❑ Introduced AAPVT Chapter President Rebecca Bell!

# Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



## Rebecca Bell, MD FAAP (AAPVT Chapter President)

- ❑ Kids are less likely to contract, get seriously sick from, and transmit the virus than adults. Younger kids even more so than adolescents. This is the same population that most benefits from in-person learning.
- ❑ Schools are where our children are educated but also where they receive nutrition, developmental and mental health support, and community connection. Kids are not doing okay without those things. Schools also play a critical role in addressing racial and social inequity.
- ❑ VT's low rates of community transmission is why we are talking about in-person learning...keeping rates low is the key to keeping our schools safe.
- ❑ Addressed confusion/distrust from mixed messages (including national)

# Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



## Governor Scott:

- Goal (7 weeks ago): return to in-person education for our kids in the fall – “as good or better than before the pandemic.”
- 3 primary options: full remote, hybrid, full in-person learning.
- Many Districts plan to start w/hybrid; others offering full in-person.
- “I understand the need for caution – to ease in, gain confidence.”
- Expect Executive Order later this week: **Tuesday, September 8** as universal start date.
- AOE Secy. French: plans to minimize publication of new guidance in favor of implementing existing.

# Practice Issues

## Back to “Back to School” (Vermont K-12 Reopening)



# Re-opening Schools – Process to Date

- 5/22/20: AOE Secretary Dan French convenes “Advisory Group to the Secretary on COVID” (education partners)
- 5/29/20: formal collaboration w/VDH: Breena Holmes (MCH Director), Patsy Kelso (VT State Epi); Commissioner Levine
  - ▣ This group continues to meet
- Week of 6/8/20: Safe & Healthy Schools Task Force
  - ▣ Convened by Breena: health & education partners
- 6/17/20: A Strong and Healthy Start guidance released
  - ▣ Always intended to be iterative
  - ▣ Task Force reconvened – meeting last week and this week



# VT School Re-opening Task Force/Guidance

## ***DRAFT Considerations – NOT FINAL: PLEASE do not disseminate***

- **Introductory language:** “The unique and critical role that schools play makes them a priority for opening and remaining open, enabling students to receive both academic instruction and support as well as critical services. Early reports suggest the number of COVID-19 cases among children may vary by age and other factors. Adolescents aged 10-17 may be more likely to become infected with COVID-19 than children younger than age 10, but adolescents do not appear to be at higher risk of developing severe illness. For this reason, the Safe and Healthy Schools Task Force recommends in-person instruction, to the best extent possible, and especially for children PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.”
- **Physical distancing: consider** 3-6 feet for PreK – grade 5
- **Health screenings** – new CDC guidance does NOT recommend for schools
  - ▣ **Task Force** recommends doing health screenings but considering symptom screening **at home** (with parent sign-off) and temp checks on bus/at school.

# School Re-opening: Resources

## For education & health professionals:

- VDH & VT Agency of Education: guidance:  
<https://education.vermont.gov/documents/guidance-strong-healthy-start-health-guidance>
- PowerPoint presentation (for **your** use)  
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Safe-Healthy-Schools-Guidance-Summer-Slides.pdf>
- 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)

# VT Principals' Association – Fall Sports

From **Jay Nichols**, VPA Executive Director

- 7/2/20: HS fall sports preseason practice start date ***delayed*** (previously Aug. 10) due to coronavirus health/safety concerns
- VPA Activities Standards Committee/COVID-19 task force recommended fall season to start on the first student day for a school (e.g., end August/early September).
- Group hopes to forward **final recommendations** to Governor, Secretary French & Commissioner Levine shortly – then anticipate announcement (soon!) once final approval obtained.

# Safe and Healthy Schools

## ***Hot topic:***

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

# 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: pedsgrr
  - ▣ 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: **Friday, July 31, 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