

TO: Vermont Health Care Professionals and Health Care Facilities
FROM: Mark Levine, MD, Commissioner of Health

Widespread Testing of All Mildly Symptomatic Patients Needed

Governor Phil Scott [announced last week](#) that the state is working to significantly increase and strengthen its testing and contact tracing programs in order to quickly identify, contain and suppress cases and outbreaks of COVID-19. As health care professionals, you are on the front lines in this work, and a vital force in achieving these public health goals.

We are now urging all providers to **refer patients with even mild symptoms for testing**. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has [expanded its list of COVID-19 symptoms](#). In addition to **fever, cough and shortness of breath**, symptoms may include:

- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

We also urge you to **test symptomatic children** (defined as those younger than 18 years) for whom infection with SARS-CoV-2 is a reasonable possibility, even if symptoms are mild. As always, health care professionals should use their clinical judgment, using the expanded list of symptoms, to determine which patients should undergo diagnostic testing. Patients should continue to consult their provider to be considered for testing.

Vermont has expanded its testing supplies and capabilities. We have built a strong program and supply chain. The Health Department's contact tracing program will also be enhanced to accommodate this new level of testing. Tracing will be expanded to include the 14 days prior to symptoms for COVID-19-positive individuals, to try to identify their source of infection.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Refer for testing symptomatic adults and children, irrespective of severity.
- To conserve personal protective equipment (PPE), continue to refer patients to hospitals and associated test centers and centralized testing sites such as local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), rather than collecting samples in your practice setting. Exceptions to this can be made on a case-by-case basis. *See a list of testing facilities on the next page. This resource is intended for providers and should not be shared with patients.*

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or vthan@vermont.gov.

COVID-19 Specimen Collection Sites

A Resource for Health Care Professionals

The table below lists the COVID-19 specimen collection locations in Vermont and provides instructions for making patient referrals.

County	Collection Facility Name	Instructions to Refer Patient for Specimen Collection
Addison	Porter Hospital	Fax referral to (802) 388-8866 or call (802) 388-8865; Porter providers via Epic
Bennington	Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	Call (802) 440-8844
Caledonia	Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital	Fax referral to (802) 748-7383 or call (802) 748-7401
Chittenden	University of Vermont Medical Center (Essex Fairgrounds)	Call (802) 847-1170 (UVMHN Fanny Allen)
Essex	Northern Counties Health Centers - Island Pond	Fax referral to (802) 723-4544 or call (802) 723-4300
Franklin	Northwestern Medical Center	Call (802) 527-3670
Grand Isle	Champlain Islands Health Center - South Hero	Call (802) 540-8940
Lamoille	Copley Hospital	Call (802) 888-8298
Orange	Gifford Medical Center	Call (802) 728-7000
Orange	Little Rivers Health Care - Wells River	Call (802) 222-3000 ext. 324
Orleans	North Country Hospital	Fax referral to (802) 334-4163
Rutland	Rutland Regional Medical Center	Fax referral to (802) 747-6200
Washington	Central Vermont Medical Center	Call (802) 371-5310
Windham	Brattleboro Memorial Hospital	Call (802) 257-0341 ext. 8200
Windham	Grace Cottage Hospital	Call (802) 365-4331
Windsor	Springfield Hospital	Call (802) 886-8915
Windsor	VA Hospital – White River Junction	Call (802) 295-9363 Currently only testing Veterans
Windsor	Mt. Ascutney Hospital	Call (802) 674-7300

HAN Message Type Definitions

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.