

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

## **Widespread Testing of All Mildly Symptomatic Patients Needed**

**Updated May 8, 2020:** *This message has been updated to correct contact information and include additional specimen collection sites in the table on page 2.*

Governor Phil Scott [announced on April 29](#) 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.*

## 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. **These phone numbers are for providers only and are not for use by patients or the general public.** The most up-to-date list is available [here](#).

| 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) 847-5440 (UVMHN Fanny Allen)  |
| Chittenden | ClearChoiceMD (So. Burlington)                           | Call (802) 448-8205  |
| 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                          | Call (802) 747-1771<br>Fax referral to (802) 747-6200                            |
| Rutland    | ClearChoiceMD (Rutland)                                  | Call (802) 772-4165  |
| 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  |
| Windham    | ClearChoiceMD (Brattleboro)                              | Call (802) 490-2100  |
| Windsor    | Springfield Hospital                                     | Call (802) 886-8915  |
| Windsor    | VA Hospital<br>– White River Junction                    | Call (802) 295-9363<br>Currently only testing Veterans                           |
| Windsor    | Mt. Ascutney Hospital                                    | Call (802) 674-7300  |

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or [vthan@vermont.gov](mailto:vthan@vermont.gov).

**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.