



Department of Health  
Agency of Human Services



## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New Health Department Laboratory



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BURLINGTON – Gov. Peter Shumlin will cut the ribbon at 11 a.m. on Oct. 22 to mark completed construction of the Health Department's new state-of-the-art laboratory at the Colchester Business and Technology Park (359-360 South Park Drive).

The new lab will be open for business in November.

The 47,844 square-foot facility replaces the Health Department's current 32,695 square-foot laboratory in Burlington. Built in 1952, it was the oldest in the nation and had to be replaced due to a lack of space and the structure is outdated.

"We're proud to be able to provide a new facility for Vermonters at a time when the ability to quickly and effectively respond to both existing and emerging health threats has never been more important," said Gov. Shumlin.

The new facility was designed in affiliation with – and is physically connected to – the University of Vermont Colchester Research Facility. Co-location allows the Health Department to work together with UVM faculty to investigate patterns of disease and research new diagnostics and treatments to improve public health.

The Health Department laboratory routinely performs a wide range of analyses to detect biological, toxicological, chemical and radiological threats to the health of the population – from testing for blood lead levels, rabies, flu, pertussis and salmonella, to drinking water contaminants and toxins.

Planning for the new facility has been in process for more than 10 years.

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