Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between March 5 – June 17, 2020

Date published: June 19, 2020. This summary will be updated every Friday.
This document contains information about people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Vermont. You will find data presented in a few different ways throughout this document:

- **Count**: the number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 (overall or in a particular group)
- **Rate**: the number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in a particular group, divided by the total number of people in that group. Using rates allows for more direct comparisons between groups.
- **Growth rate**: a measure of the percent change in COVID-19 cases over time; this tells us how quickly or slowly the disease is spreading in Vermont
- **Week**: for the purposes of this document, “this week” is defined as June 10 through June 17

For geographic information, please see the COVID-19 Data Dashboard or Town Map. For more information on data sources, please see our Data Notes document.
COVID-19 in Vermont

An overview of our number of cases and laboratory testing to date.
Total Number of Cases in Vermont: 1,135

The daily number of COVID-19 cases in Vermont peaked on April 3.
Most counties have reached a plateau in the number of new cases.

Growth over time by county (n=1030)

Cumulative cases are presented using a log scale to help compare the large number of cases in Chittenden County (n=574, roughly 50% of all cases) to other counties. Using a log scale also helps visualize percent change. For the number of cases by county, see the Data Dashboard.
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.

The highest percent of positive tests (11%) was on March 23, 28, and 30.

Vermont Department of Health

*Not a stable estimate due to small numbers. There were 9 total tests and 1 was positive.
Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?
Rates of COVID-19 are disproportionately high among Vermonters 80 years and older.
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.
Rates of COVID-19 by Age Group for Females and Males per 10,000 Vermonters

Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters
White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Non-Hispanic Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. Hispanic Vermonters have the higher rate.
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Note: Race is unknown in 3% of cases and ethnicity is unknown in 9% of cases.
Approximately 62% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition. *of the 864 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Liver Disease</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Kidney Disease</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current/Former Smoker</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunocompromised Condition</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Chronic Condition**</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

50% of people with a pre-existing condition have two or more conditions.

**Not mutually exclusive, includes things like arthritis, thyroid conditions, multiple free text entries.

The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 76% (864) of 1,135 total COVID-19 cases.
Prevalence of select conditions in COVID-19 patients and Vermont adults.

Prevalence of pre-existing conditions is approximately equal between female and male COVID-19 patients.

COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions tend to be older than those without pre-existing conditions.

A higher percentage of COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions have been hospitalized than those without pre-existing conditions.

Clinical Course

What symptoms have Vermonters experienced? How many have been hospitalized? How many have died?
The day symptoms start is important to know when people with COVID-19 become infectious.

Illnesses occurring in this window may not be reported yet; median reporting lag = 6 days

Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

14 days
Average illness duration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign or Symptom</th>
<th>Percent of Symptomatic Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle Pain</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are **not hospitalized**.

- Not hospitalized = 919
- Unknown = 89
- Hospitalized = 127

**17%**

Of those hospitalized were on a ventilator

**35%**

Of those hospitalized were in the ICU

**8 days**

Average hospital stay (range: 0-39 days)

Vermonters 80 years and older are more likely to be **hospitalized** for COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

- 0-9: 0.0
- 10-19: 0.0
- 20-29: 0.0
- 30-39: 0.4
- 40-49: 1.1
- 50-59: 2.3
- 60-69: 2.9
- 70-79: 6.1
- ≥80: 13.0

White Vermonters represent a majority of hospitalized COVID-19 cases. Hospitalization rates by race are similar.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

- White: 93%
- Black or African American: 2%
- Asian: 3%
- Other Race: 2%
- Other Race: 1.3%
- White: 1.9%
- Black or African American: 2.6%
- Asian: 3.4%

Please note 5 hospitalized persons are missing race information.

*The number of Asian, black, and persons in the other race category is less than 5.*
Vermonters 80 years and older have higher rates of COVID-19 death than other age groups.
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Males and females have similar rates of COVID-19 death.
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in an inpatient hospital setting or a long-term care facility.

Out of state facility 5%
At Home 2%
Inpatient 41%
Long Term Care Facility 52%

White Vermonters represent a majority of COVID-19 deaths.
Death rates by race are similar.
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Note: No deaths have identified as Hispanic or Latino.
Outbreaks

How is COVID-19 impacting group settings?
What is an outbreak?

1. For congregate care facilities (long term care facility or skilled nursing facility):
   - A single resident with a positive COVID-19 laboratory test and one or more additional residents with respiratory illness
     OR
   - Two or more residents with at least two of the following symptoms: fever (temp $\geq 100.4^\circ F$), cough, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath

2. For other settings (residential communities, businesses):
   - Two or more epidemiologically-linked confirmed COVID-19 cases where there’s an opportunity to stop transmission
31% of COVID-19 cases are associated with an outbreak

258 cases among residents

90 cases among facility staff

Outbreaks

1 Active
10 Resolved*

*Outbreaks where it has been >28 days since the last known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case, with no new cases OR 2 rounds of negative facility-wide testing one week apart.
The daily number of cases associated with an outbreak peaked on April 9.
9 of 11 outbreaks have occurred within facilities.

In facilities with outbreaks, 95% of residents have been tested.

Values in these charts are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not always add to 100%. Percentages by testing status are rounded to the whole number, but combined totals take into account the full percentages.

*One facility is excluded from this analysis due to missing information.

Examples of facilities include long-term care and other skilled nursing facilities, correctional facilities, and workplaces. Community outbreaks, including those occurring in senior independent living communities, are not represented on this slide.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 6/17/2020.
While only 31% of all COVID-19 cases are associated with outbreaks, more than half of COVID-19-related deaths occur in outbreak settings.

Note: Examples of a health setting include long term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not experienced an outbreak in all health and non-health settings.
The percentage of females and males with COVID-19 that are associated with an outbreak is about even.

29% of females with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

31% of males with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

But in outbreak settings, females with COVID-19 are more likely to be associated with a health setting than non-health settings.

Values in these charts are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not always add to 100% due to error introduced in rounding.

Percentages by outbreak type are rounded to the whole number, but combined totals take into account the full percentages.

Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not experienced an outbreak in all health and non-health settings.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 6/17/20
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not experienced an outbreak in all health and non-health settings.
Syndromic Surveillance

What we can learn from emergency room and urgent care centers?
The percent of emergent care visits for COVID-19-like illness is decreasing.
Syndromic surveillance from 13 of 14 Vermont hospitals and 2 urgent care centers. Monitoring this data acts as an early indicator of potential spikes of COVID-19 in the community.

Interpret with caution, there is a chance for over or underestimation given the lag in reporting.
COVID-19-like illness diagnosis is determined using the patient’s chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis.
COVID-19-like illness is the presence of a fever with the addition of shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or cough.
COVID-19-like illness excludes patients with an influenza discharge diagnosis.

*Please note: the query used to identify COVID-19-like illness in syndromic surveillance data changed on 5/28. This was to be consistent with the most up-to-date national definition provided by the CDC.
Weekly Spotlight: Health Care Workers

The Health Department has information about whether a positive case is a health care worker or not in 85% (964) of 1,135 total cases. This section focuses on the 181 health care workers with COVID-19.
Number of New Health Care Worker and All Cases by Day

Health care worker cases peaked on April 4.

7 in 10 health care workers with COVID-19 are female.

35% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

1 in 5 Vermonters with COVID-19 are health care workers.

Health care workers with COVID-19 tend to be younger than non-health care workers with COVID-19.
White Vermonters represent the majority of health care workers with COVID-19.

Most health care workers with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.

There are no reported deaths among health care workers.

Most health care workers with COVID-19 have symptoms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19</th>
<th>Percent of Symptomatic Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of Smell or Taste</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle Pain</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runny nose</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19
Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov