Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between March 5 – August 26, 2020

Date published: August 28, 2020. This summary will be updated every Friday.
Common Terms and Data Sources

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 August 19 through August 26.

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: 1,586

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=1,5586)

Cumulative cases are presented using a log scale to help compare the large number of cases in Chittenden County (n=779, 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.

Vermont Department of Health

Cumulative cases are presented using a log scale to help compare the large number of cases in Chittenden County (n=779, 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.

Vermont Department of Health
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.

Percent Positive to Date

Percent Positive This Week (August 19–August 26)

The number of people tested reflects the number of individual people who have had confirmatory testing for COVID-19 in Vermont. Each person is only counted once. The number of tests reflects the number of specimens that have had confirmatory testing for COVID-19 in Vermont. This number may include multiple specimens for one person, the same person tested multiple times, etc. Percent positive is the number of people with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 divided by the total number of people tested. None of these numbers include serology or antigen testing.
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

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

- White: 80.4%
- Black or African American: 10.9%
- Other Race: 2.3%
- American Indian or Alaskan Native: 0.1%
- Asian: 3.5%

Other Race includes people who identify as two or more races, or a race other than White, Asian, African American or Black, and American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Note: Race is unknown in 3% of cases (n = 45) and ethnicity is unknown in 7% of cases (n = 110).

Non-Hispanic Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. Hispanic Vermonters have the higher rate.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

- Non-Hispanic: 89.4%
- Hispanic: 3.7%

Hispanic includes people who identify as Hispanic or who identify as a race other than White.

Note: Race is unknown in 3% of cases (n = 45) and ethnicity is unknown in 7% of cases (n = 110).
Approximately 55% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

*of the 1,273 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>148</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Liver Disease</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Kidney Disease</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current/Former Smoker</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunocompromised Condition</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Chronic Condition**</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

45% 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 81% (1,273) of 1,586 total COVID-19 cases.
Prevalence of select conditions in COVID-19 patients and Vermont adults.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>COVID-19 Patients</th>
<th>Vermont Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Disease</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Lung Disease</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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.

Vermont Department of Health
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.

32% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

1 in 6 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>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of Smell or Taste</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle Pain</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runny nose</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American Indian or Alaska Native 0.5%
Black or African American 5%
Other Race 1%
Asian 2%

Symptomatic 81%
Asymptomatic 18%
Unknown 2%
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.

**Clinical Course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign or Symptom</th>
<th>Percent of Symptomatic Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle Pain</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13 days
Average illness duration

73%
Cases with symptoms

Vermont Department of Health
**Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.**

- Not hospitalized = 1,359
- Hospitalized = 141
- Unknown = 86

Of those hospitalized were on a ventilator: 15%

Of those hospitalized were in the ICU: 35%

Average hospital stay (range: 0-43 days): 9 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: 0.5
- 40-49: 1.2
- 50-59: 2.6
- 60-69: 3.6
- 70-79: 6.5
- ≥80: 13.8

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters:

- White: 93%
- Asian: 3%
- Black or African American: 2%
- Other Race: 2%

Other Race: 2%

White: 93%

Black or African American: 3.9%

Asian: 3.4%

White: 2.2%

Other Race: 1.3%

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.

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?
Outbreaks can occur in many types of places. Here is what outbreak means in these places:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Settings</th>
<th>Educational Settings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3 or more COVID-19 cases involving more than one family or household where the cases:  
  • have an illness start date or positive test within 14 days, and  
  • are linked through contact or location, and  
  • are not linked to another outbreak, and  
  • there is no other more likely source of exposure. | 2 or more COVID-19 cases among students or teachers/staff with known connections in the educational setting, where the cases are connected by:  
  • having an illness start date or a positive test within 14 days, and  
  • not living together or having close contact with each other in another setting, and  
  • there is no other more likely source of exposure. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congregate Care or Living Settings*</th>
<th>Workplaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| One resident or staff member with COVID-19, and one or more residents or staff with whom they had contact with respiratory illness.  
  or  
  Two or more facility residents and/or staff with an illness start date or positive test within 14 days. | 2 or more COVID-19 cases among employees at the same workplace, where the cases are connected by:  
  • having contact with each other, and  
  • an illness start date or positive test within 14 days, and  
  • not living together or having close contact with each other in another setting, and  
  • there is no other more likely source of exposure. |

*Examples include long-term care and other residential care facilities, correctional facilities and homeless shelters.
27% of COVID-19 cases are associated with an outbreak

Outbreaks

6 Active
19 Resolved*

*Resolved outbreaks are those where it has been >28 days since the last known case of COVID-19.

Congregate Care & Living

159 cases among residents
82 cases among facility staff

Workplace

37 cases among employees

Community/Other

153 cases
Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

The daily number of cases associated with an outbreak peaked on April 9.

Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

There have been no COVID-19-related deaths in Vermont for 29 days.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 8/19/2020.
While only 27% of all COVID-19 cases are associated with outbreaks, more than half of COVID-19-related deaths occur in outbreak 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.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 8/26/2020.

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 percentages of females and males with COVID-19 that are associated with an outbreak is about even.

26% of females with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

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

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

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 8/25/20

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.
### Percent of Cases by Outbreak Status and Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in Years</th>
<th>Not associated with an outbreak</th>
<th>Associated with an outbreak in a health setting</th>
<th>Associated with an outbreak in a non-health setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

### Median Age

- 46 years old
- 70 years old
- 31 years old

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 8/26/20
Syndromic Surveillance

What we can learn from emergency room and urgent care centers?
The percent of emergent care visits for COVID-19-like illness remains steady.

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: COVID-19 Source of Exposure, Part 2

This section focuses on how people with COVID-19 may have been exposed to the virus.

Click here for Source of Exposure, Part 1
How are people getting COVID-19?

We categorize how someone with COVID-19 may have gotten it in three main ways: known source of exposure, potential source of exposure, or the source of their exposure is unknown.

**Known source**
- Associated with an outbreak
- Contact with a confirmed case

**Potential source (examples)**
- Travel
- Mass gathering
- Type of job

**Unknown source**
- No source was identified
Known Sources

Cases with a known source of exposure include those associated with an outbreak or those who had contact with a confirmed case.
Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak by Setting Type and Week of Report to Public Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congregate care settings (e.g. LTCFs)</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community/Other</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Facility</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplaces</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Vermont Department of Health, 2020

Includes data through August 26, 2020.

For more data on outbreaks, see pages 19-26.
### Number of Vermont COVID-19 Outbreaks by Setting by the Month the Outbreak Began

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congregate care settings (e.g. LTCFs)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community/Other</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Facility</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplaces</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Vermont Department of Health, 2020

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1 Includes data through August 26, 2020.
When contact tracers interview a person who tests positive for COVID-19, they ask questions about who they may have been in close contact with. Those close contacts have a known exposure to the virus. 198 cases have been identified as close contacts of one or more Vermont cases.*

64% of the relationships between cases and their close contacts were immediate family or roommates.

### Household: Immediate Family and Roommates 63.9%

- **Extended Family** 16.7%
- **Friend** 5.9%
- **Co-worker** 4.5%
- **Partner** 4.2%
- **Acquaintance/Neighbor** 2.1%
- **Childcare Providers** 1.0%
- **Classmate** 0.7%
- **Healthcare Contact** 0.7%
- **Co-passanger** 0.3%

*A contact who became a case could have been named by multiple cases prior to infection (usually in household situations). The data above includes all types of contact a person may have had prior to becoming a case. Categories are not mutually exclusive.
Potential Sources

A history of travel is one potential source of exposure that epidemiologists investigate and use to connect the dots among cases.
There has not been a significant shift in the proportion of non-Vermont resident cases and Vermont resident cases over time.

*Interpret with caution, based on small numbers

1 Includes data through August 26, 2020.
Among COVID-19 cases, a history of travel in the 14 days before symptoms started has increased over time.

Percent of COVID-19 Cases that traveled among Vermont and Non-Vermont Residents

1 Includes data through August 26, 2020.

*Current week. Actual percent may be underestimated due to ongoing case investigation.

**Unstable estimate due to small numbers. There were 7 cases during week 11, 2 of which had indication of travel.
Unknown Sources

Cases with an unknown source of exposure are those whom epidemiologists were unable to identify either a known or potential source of exposure.
The percent of cases with an unknown source of exposure has decreased over time. These are cases that are not associated with an outbreak, have no known contact with a case, and have no history of travel.

*Interpret with caution, based on small numbers

1 Includes data through August 26, 2020.
People with **unknown source** of exposure are more likely to work in essential jobs, like markets, hospitality, retail, and travel.

**Distribution of COVID-19 Cases with an Unknown Source of Exposure by Occupation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality/Service non-restaurant</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grocery or Food Retail</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail non-food</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works from home not enough</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative/Professional</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed or Not Currently Working</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Worker</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer/Agriculture</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Healthcare Worker in Medical/LTC/Dental/Treatment Facility</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing Facility</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Manufacturing Facility</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Worker</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=193, adults only
Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

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