

3/5/2021

Good Afternoon Parents,

I hope this finds you well. We do not have an enormous amount of news for you due to the shortened week. With that, there are a few important items that I must highlight.

First and foremost, I would like to thank all those that participated in the voting process for our annual budgets. Both the Vernon and WSESD budgets passed. The level of community support for our students, staff, and schools is admirable. The budgets passed were the product of a several month long process between our central office, school administration, teachers, Board, community members, and other stakeholders and reflective of our priorities for student learning. The favorable votes on these budgets is greatly appreciated.

It was announced earlier this week that school staff would be vaccinated starting next week. While WSESU and all of Windham county is not in the first round, I anticipate that we will be notified shortly as to our vaccination schedule. This is tremendous news and has a large impact on our planning for the coming school year. Because we do not yet know the timeline to the vaccination clinics, we will need your patience and flexibility with any potential impacts on the schools.

We are currently waiting for the final recovery planning guidance from the Agency of Education but our teams have already started initial planning on what we do know. The larger framework to this revolves around three categories: student mental health and well being, academic success, and student engagement. More information will be shared in the coming months as we turn our attention to the summer and approaching school year. As conditions improve, I do expect to see a deconstruction in some of the restrictions and requirements related to the COVID mitigation efforts. With that, I do not see us moving away from the use of masks any time soon.

I have shared with our faculty and staff that we are entering a phase where there may be rapid changes as well as information being released more frequently. Unlike last year when we were uncertain what was in store for us, this is the result of improving conditions and a reduction in case counts. This operates in context with many of the typical school year functions such as course selections, schedule development, conferences, and report cards. Please be mindful to check your email regularly so that you are aware of any possible changes or new information.

From the Vermont Department of Health

Eligible for vaccination? More appointments are available as soon as tomorrow!

What a great way to celebrate Vermont's statehood, 230 years ago today – We've now passed an important milestone: 20% of Vermonters over age 16 have now

received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine! Next week, Phase 5 begins, expanding eligibility to more than 75,000 people in Vermont.

We want to vaccinate as many Vermonters as we can as quickly as possible. People who are eligible can help by signing up for an appointment as soon as they are able!

If you are 65 or older and looking for a vaccine appointment in the Burlington area, there are lots of open first-dose appointments at Vermont National Guard-run clinics on March 5, 6 and 7 in South Burlington.

If you want to schedule your appointment for those dates, or already have one set for later and want to reschedule, go to healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine to find those clinics, or call 855-722-7878.

If you're in the Barre area, and age 65 and older, you can sign up to get vaccinated this Sunday, March 7 at a large-scale vaccination event held by Kinney Drugs at Spaulding High School in Barre. You must register for the event by visiting: <https://kinneydrugs.as.me/BarrePopup>.

If you have already made an appointment at another clinic but would like to get vaccinated sooner, you can still register for either event — *but please* CANCEL your original appointment in the system where you made it. Cancellations and unplanned no-shows could result in spoiled vaccine doses.

If you need to cancel your appointment, please do as soon as possible. If it was made on the Health Department website, you'll need to log in to your account and cancel it there. If you have trouble canceling, call 855-722-7878.

More COVID-19 testing added in Stowe, Franklin County

Knowing if you carry the virus means you can act to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community from COVID-19. If you got together with anyone outside your household, think you might have been exposed to the virus, or have any symptoms (no matter how mild) — get tested!

In Stowe, testing will be held this weekend at Stowe High School, 413 Barrows Road.

- Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Sunday, March 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Register online at healthvermont.gov/testing or walk-in.

The Missisquoi Valley Rescue is also holding COVID-19 testing in response to the increase in COVID-19 cases seen across Franklin County. The tests are free and there is no registration.

Tests will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Hours for all locations and days are 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- **Monday, March 8: Franklin – Franklin Fire Station, 5154 Main St.**
- **Tuesday, March 9: Alburgh – Alburgh Fire Department Bingo Hall, 60 Firehouse Rd.**

Visit healthvermont.gov/testing to find test sites throughout the state. Testing is free to all, and many sites now let you [take your own sample](#) using a short swab in your nose.

If you're a close contact of someone with COVID-19, you can use [this timeline](#) to help guide when to get tested.

If you have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, please contact your health care provider so they can refer you for testing. If you don't have a provider, you can call 2-1-1.

New on healthvermont.gov

One in 7 cases of COVID-19 are among Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). Rates of COVID-19 are two times higher for BIPOC compared with white non-Hispanic residents. View our latest [Weekly Data Summary Spotlight](#) to learn more about the 1,742 Vermont resident cases who are Asian, African American or Black, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Hispanic or race other than white.

COVID-19 Activity in Vermont

As of 12 p.m. on March 4, 2021

Data is updated daily.

Description	Number
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New cases*	112 (15,686 total)
Currently hospitalized	27
Hospitalized in ICU	5
Hospitalized under investigation	0
Percent Positive (7-day average)	1.4%
People tested	333,331
Total tests	1,094,855
Total people recovered	12,990
Deaths+	207

Find more data on COVID-19 Activity at: healthvermont.gov/currentactivity.

COVID-19 Vaccine Data

As of 12 p.m. on March 4, 2021

Data is updated Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Description	Number
Total people who have received least one dose of vaccine	110,661 (20% of population)
Total people who have received two doses of vaccine (completed)	60,020

Find more vaccine data on the COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard:

healthvermont.gov/covid19-vaccine-data.

Additional Resources About Vaccination and More

- Find answers to your questions about the COVID-19 vaccine from the CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html.

- **Get Vermont-specific information in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).**
- **Sign up for [the COVID-19 Weekly Email Update](#).**
- **Find information sheets, posters and toolkits, as well as translated materials on our [Resources web page](#).**

Have a great weekend,

Andy

Andrew Skarzynski
Superintendent of Schools
Windham Southeast Supervisory Union