

**Bristol Town Administrator**

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**From:** Vermont Department of Economic Development <shelley.pembroke@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 2:50 PM  
**To:** Bristol Town Administrator  
**Subject:** COVID-19 UPDATE

Guidance for Vermont Businesses

View this email in your browser (<https://mailchi.mp/cd1f7417c870/covid-19-update?e=9153dba883>)  
COVID-19 UPDATE

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Vermont Employers and Business Community  
**FROM:** Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Guidance for Vermont Businesses  
**DATE:** 3/6/20

As the Vermont Department of Health continues to closely monitor and respond to the new strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development is urging all employers to review new guidance issued by the Vermont Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to help businesses plan and respond to this growing public health risk.

This CDC guidance includes:

- \* Actively encouraging sick employees to stay home or go home if showing signs of acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath, fever) in the workplace.
- \* Encourage extra hygiene measures and ensure frequent environmental cleaning of all work areas, including frequently touched workstations, conference and break rooms, counter tops, and doorknobs.
- \* Review and adjust all crisis preparedness and action plans. Establish essential business functions and employee roles and responsibilities in case of higher than usual absenteeism.
- \* Coordinate with other businesses, chambers of commerce, and local business organizations in your community to share resources and strategies as needed.

To review the full list of employer and business guidelines from the CDC, please visit:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>

The Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 website is the resource to find the full response to COVID-19 in Vermont. Please visit [healthvermont.gov/covid19](https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19) (<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>) for up-to-the-minute information, FAQs, business guidance, and other resources.

Although there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Vermont at this time, we expect there will be. The CDC now recommends that individuals who have traveled to Italy, Iran, South Korea, or China should stay home for 14 days after leaving those countries. If you or your employees have traveled to any of these countries, we ask you to contact the Department of Health at 802-863-7240. The Department of Health will let you know what to look for and guide you on what to do if you develop symptoms.

The Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development will continue to monitor the situation as it develops and provide further guidance and updates as needed. The Department of

Tourism and Marketing is also in communication with federal officials and the US Travel Association for updates on the outbreak as it relates to tourism and visitation.

At the direction of Governor Phil Scott, an interagency task force to support the overall public health response has been created.

Again, the full list of employer and business guidelines from the CDC, please visit:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>

The Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 website is the resource to find the full response to COVID-19 in Vermont. Please visit [healthvermont.gov/covid19](https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19) (<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>) for up-to-the-minute information, FAQs, business guidance, and other resources.

We strongly encourage you to use these websites to stay informed.

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