



Vermont Forward Plan

Governor Phil Scott and other officials have outlined the State's stepped plan to methodically and safely ease mitigation measures as more Vermonters are vaccinated. The roadmap – which is subject to change based on real time circumstances – offers Vermonters, municipalities, non-profits, and businesses the ability to plan with greater certainty for the months ahead.

The Vermont Forward Plan uses vaccination rates as the key milestones for transitioning Vermont businesses to more general, universal guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19; modifying travel guidance; and when gathering size can increase between now and July 4.

Vermont has substantially completed vaccination of its most at-risk residents, including those over the age of 65 and those with certain high-risk health conditions, as well as school employees, and workers in childcare, health care, long term care and public safety sectors.

Universal guidance also transitions away from sector-specific measures, and towards general mitigation measures across most sectors. This will make it easier for organizations and individuals to understand, implement and follow preventive and

protective measures. Some sectors, like health care and education, will retain individual guidance.

Universal guidance has five main tenets: Stay home if you're sick, wear a mask, ensure six-foot spaces and uncrowded places, practice good hygiene, and know the travel restrictions.

Simplifying the guidance across sectors allows for more consistency, adaptation with current science and public health recommendations, and greater adherence to these measures and precautions.

The steps in the roadmap offer dates for projected guidance changes and easing of certain restrictions. Three steps lead to July 4, when the State expects to transition universal guidance mandates into recommendations, and at which point things begin to feel much closer to how they did pre-pandemic.

The timeline is subject to change, but given current vaccination uptake and supply projections, the State feels confident the milestones can be met.

See page 4 for plan details.

Save-the-Date! Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held virtually September 14-16, 12:30-4:30 each day. Details, including registration, will open up this summer. If you have any questions, please contact dps.emhstraining@vermont.gov

New Online Anytime Courses

New online anytime courses available through the Learning Management System:

Vermont Emergency Management has several online classes available “anytime” through the Learning Management System (<https://vermont.csod.com/>).

New this month:

- Local Emergency Management Plans Seminar (1 hour)
- Emergency Management Director Seminar (2 hours)

These video trainings can be accessed in the Learning Management System by typing their name in the search bar in the upper right portion of the screen, or by browsing the most recent online classes available under Learning.

If you have any questions, or are experiencing issues accessing either training, please contact: DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov

Federal Funeral Assistance Available

Beginning April 13th, those who have lost loved ones due to COVID can apply for assistance that will help with or reimburse for funeral expenses incurred.

As of April 9th, 230 Vermonters have died of COVID-related complications. The loss of these individuals has no doubt been devastating to family and friends. For many, this loss has been accompanied by the additional hardship of paying for a funeral for their loved ones.

There is now help for those families from the federal Funeral Assistance Program. Under this program, those who have paid funeral expenses for a loved one whose death was attributed to COVID-19 can qualify for up to a \$9-thousand-dollar reimbursement for those costs.

If you lost more than one family member to COVID, you are eligible for multiple \$9,000 grants, up to a maximum of \$35,500. These deaths need not have happened in Vermont or to Vermonters, those who paid funeral expenses for anyone

whose death was attributed to a COVID-19 infection anywhere in the United States after January 20, 2020 are eligible to apply.

Funeral Assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and internment or cremation, such as:

- Costs for a burial plot or cremation niche;
- Casket or urn;
- Officiant services;
- Use of funeral home equipment or staff;
- Transfer of remains;
- Expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances.

To apply for a grant, or for more information you must call the Federal Emergency Management Agency hotline at 844-684-6333. As of now, there is no on-line registration for this grant.

VEM Training Schedule

Registration via the Learning Management System is required to receive the classroom link:
<https://vermont.csod.com/>

April 2021

MGT 346: EOC Operations & Planning
 April 7 & 8, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each day
 Registration and details:
<https://vem.vermont.gov/training/links>

MGT 346: EOC Operations & Planning
 April 14 & 15, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each day
 Registration and details:
<https://vem.vermont.gov/training/links>

AWR 147: Rail Car Incident Response
 April 20 & 21, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day
 Registration and details:
<https://vem.vermont.gov/training/links>

L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
 April 26-29, 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. each day
 Registration required via the State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

May 2021

ICS 200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
 May 15-16, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day
 Registration required via the State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

K0210 Recovery from Disaster: Local Community Roles
 May 17-21, 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. each day

Registration required through National Emergency Training Center. Registration and details:
<https://vem.vermont.gov/training/links>

Weather and National Weather Service Alerts Seminar

May 25, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Registration required via the State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

Effective Facilitation

May 26-28, 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. each day
 Registration required via the State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>
 Note: The deadline to register for this course is May 5th. All individuals registering for this course will be placed on a waitlist, and priority will be given to Local Emergency Management Officials and Regional/State Emergency Management Officials. All other individuals will be considered if the course is not filled by the registration deadline.

June 2021

G0191 – ICS/EOC Interface
 June 22, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Registration required via the State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>



Vermont Forward Plan

For the purposes of transitioning business operations to universal guidance in a phased-in approach, tied to increasing vaccinations, sectors have been placed into two groups:

- Group A: Low contact, short duration, outdoor and controlled environment
- Group B: Long duration or close contact environments

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development will lay out full guidance as each step forward is taken. All guidance updates will now be made available in a central location, at:

<https://www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward>



Please refer to [vermont.gov](https://www.vermont.gov) for complete guidance and additional details. Education and health care retain specialized guidance.
Note: All dates are subject to change.



STEP 1

VACCINATION PROGRESS (FIRST DOSE): Vulnerable population substantially complete; 35–45% of all Vermonters; 45–55% of Vermonters 16+

<p>Business Operations</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Group A Sectors:</p> <p>4/9 Move to required universal guidance</p> </div>	<p>Cross State Travel</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>4/9 No quarantine required with negative test within 3 days of arrival in or return to the state</p> </div>
<p> Masks and Physical Distancing Required when in the presence of those outside your household.</p>	

STEP 2

VACCINATION PROGRESS (FIRST DOSE): 50–60% of all Vermonters; 60–70% of Vermonters 16+

<p>Business Operations</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Group B Sectors:</p> <p>5/1 Move to required universal guidance</p> </div>	<p>Gathering and Events</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>5/1 Indoor: 1 unvaccinated person per 100 sq ft up to 150, plus any number of vaccinated people Outdoor: 300, plus any number of vaccinated people</p> </div>
<p> Masks and Physical Distancing Required when in the presence of those outside your household.</p>	

STEP 3

VACCINATION PROGRESS (FIRST DOSE): 60–70% of all Vermonters; 70–85% of Vermonters 16+

<p>Cross State Travel</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>6/1 No quarantine or testing requirements</p> </div>	<p>Gathering and Events</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>6/1 Indoor: 1 unvaccinated person per 50 sq ft up to 300, plus any number of vaccinated people Outdoor: 900, plus any number of vaccinated people</p> </div>
<p> Masks and Physical Distancing Required when in the presence of those outside your household.</p>	