



Incident Name:
COVID-19 Response

Reporting Period:
03/16/2020 08:00 AM - 03/16/2020 04:00 PM

Situation Report Number:
4

EOC Activation Level:
Partial Activation



Vermont State Emergency Operations Center

Situation Report

Phil Scott, Governor

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Background / Current Situation

On March 16, 2020 the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was partially activated from 0800 to 1600. Starting tomorrow, the SEOC will be transitioning to a hybrid EOC structure (physical/virtual) with limited in-person staffing at Public Safety Headquarters and State partner representatives working remotely from 0800 to 1600 going forward.

Key Updates from 3/16/20:

- Burlington has declared a State of Emergency, bars will be closed and restaurants will only be serving take-out.
- Governor Phil Scott has ordered the dismissal of all schools in Vermont and the cancellation of all school related activities by no later than Wednesday, 3/18/20. The Agency of Human Services (AHS) is working with the Agency of Education (AOE) to create guidance for childcare facilities.
- Gov. Phil Scott amended his emergency declaration to limit public gatherings to either 50 people or 50% occupancy, whichever is less. This was based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to cancel all public gatherings of over 50 people for the next 8 weeks.
- Wednesday, 3/18/20 will be the first of a weekly call with law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical services, and medical examiners to provide an overview of the State's response to COVID-19 and to answer questions.
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is now allowing state labs testing results to be assumed positive without CDC verification.
- All 50 states have now declared a State of Emergency.

Current status in Vermont, last updated by the Health Department at 1300 on 3/16/20:

Vermont residents tested positive for COVID-19	8
Non-Vermont residents tested positive for COVID-19	4
Vermonters tested negative for COVID-19	421
Vermonters being monitored	274
Vermonters who have completed monitoring	143

Number of calls regarding COVID-19 received by 2-1-1 from 3/14 – 3/16: 266 calls

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 1 Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) activated on March 16 to a partial activation in Maynard, MA to coordinate requests for federal resources and capabilities across the six New England States.

- FEMA Stafford Act declaration FEMA-3437-EM issued March 13, 2020 for the State of Vermont
- Reimbursement for emergency protective measures such as the activation of State Emergency Operations Centers, National Guard costs, law enforcement and other measures necessary to protect public health and safety.
- Does NOT duplicate assistance available through the Public Health Emergency

Public Information

- Inquired with the Vermont Department of Health about guidance for an upcoming outdoor dairy auction – a recommendation has been made to cancel.
- Advised Department of Labor / Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) on H-2A Visa changes at Jamaican embassy impacting possible immigrant workers in Vermont and beyond.
- Advised Vermont National Guard about fake texts advising people to stock up because a national lock down was imminent and military would be called out to enforce.
- Posted Governor's press conference live to Vermont Emergency Management facebook page.
- Posted Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) business awareness post to Vermont Emergency Management facebook page.
- A press release was drafted for Governor's Office and Health on updated gathering guidance associated with the Executive Order.
- Discussed volunteer and donation messaging story with VTDigger – inquired if they had vetted all links to donation and volunteer sites.

External Resources Unit

Vermont Department of Health placed a Health External Resource Request:

- EMAC submitted to request healthcare providers who are licensed, certified, or registered in [NH, MA, NY] to practice in Vermont so they may care for Vermont patients via telemedicine services. Such services shall be limited to triage, diagnosis or treatment directly related to identifying or treating a patient for COVID-19.
- Working with Agency of Human Services (AHS) on a potential EMAC need for correction officers.

Resource and Capabilities Unit

The Resources and Capabilities Unit's agencies have been focused on coordinating information requirements and continuity of operations plans with Law Enforcement, Fire Service, and Emergency Medical Services, and coordinating support for the Department of Health lab.

- MARS is working with the Department of Health (VDH) for assistance from other state agencies to provide lab technicians to assist in Health Lab.
- MARS is working with SerVermont to provide Volunteers to VT 211, Health Department call center and Strategic National Stockpile warehouse.
- MARS is working with Vermont State Police (VSP) and other state agencies to deliver Strategic National Stockpile supplies on Tuesday and Thursday.

Vermont Department of Health

HOC Public Information Officer:

- Over 47,000 visits to the web on Sunday, March 15.
- Vermont Department of Health (VDH) Website reflects latest guidance – in the process of updating school guidance.
- HANs sent out today: Conservation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Friday evening; Lab testing procedures on Saturday.
- Media:
 - Press release to go out after Governor's press release which will capture the four new positive cases from yesterday.
 - Working on additional press release around contact tracing for people who visited a specific establishment.
 - Media requests asking for test numbers run by date.
 - Media asking about drive through/pop-up sites.
 - Seven Days VT – working on restaurant week (April) adaptation. Working on how to message in support of food workers.
 - Continue to successfully coordinate with hospitals to announce cases.
- Staff have been in contact regarding SEOC taking over communication with 211 and daily e-mail updates to state employees. SEOC taking lead on Governor press conferences and executive orders.

HOC Operations:

- University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCMC) is standing up internal facing provider hotline
- Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) is distilling HANs and sharing with primary care networks.
- Working to establish testing centers outside of hospitals. Creating a plan to release if/when decision is made to implement.
 - Commercial labs will be on board this week - symptomatic testing can also go to them.
- Epi:
 - Cases showing more widespread activity in communities:
 - Seeing more cases in their 30s
 - Increase in activity among out of state residents leaving larger urban areas
 - Healthcare contact investigations – at least 130 identified as exposed, especially at the Veterans Affairs Hospital. There is an immediate contact tracing need.
- Health Communications Director:
 - Passed along 1135 CMS waiver to Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) if needed, for altered standards of care.
 - Compiling resource requests - 108 requests for PPE and healthcare supplies
 - Epi has assigned someone to work with UVMCMC on an ongoing basis.

- ◊ Healthcare supply email will be removed from website. Directing resource requests to survey gizmo link and call center.
- Office of Local Health: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program applied for a federal waiver to extend food packages for 30 days and working to implementing teleWIC.
- School Branch: Closure guidance going up on website. Mostly getting calls about specific circumstances on Monday/Tuesday. Have sent childcare guidance to DCF for edits.
- Office of Chief Medical Examiner:
 - ◊ Investigators are scheduled to be fit tested – should be complete by the end of a week
 - ◊ Plan to work with response partners on communication/clarification at death scenes (law enforcement, fire, states attorney, etc.)

HOC Logistics: Strategic National Stockpile shipment should arrive. Will prioritize requests that have already come in.

HOC Planning:

- Guidance on social distancing within HOC and virtual HOC by the end of the day
- Request for command staff and chiefs to identify at least 2 backups for positions by end of week
- Filling requested positions/scheduling (including increased need for health care-associated contact tracing)

Agency of Education

- The Governor has directed that all schools dismiss by the end of day on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.
- Messaging Sent Out:
 - ◊ Working on Update to Superintendents / Independent School Heads including the following:
 - Child Nutrition Non-Congregate Feeding Guidance
 - Guidance on Establishing Childcare Services for Healthcare / Essential workers

Closed, Active or Pending Missions:

- Active:
 - ◊ **Continuity of Education:** Releasing guidance on non-congregate feeding to supervisory units and supervisory districts - cleared Vermont Department of Health review, under Agency of Education (AOE) leadership review
 - ◊ **Continuity of Education:** Developing Special Education Guidance (interim ASAP, full, as soon as possible) - interim update under AOE review
 - ◊ **Continuity of Education:** Distance / Remote Learning:
 - Creating external / internal information capture forms (in Cognito) - Complete, internal distributed, external distribution pending
- Pending: developing additional fiscal and operational guidance

Agency of Human Services

- Secretary's Office is working on an all Agency of Human Services (AHS) email with common

Q&A that may help reduce questions and calls.

- Department for Children and Families (DCF):
 - ◊ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is developing a guidance document in coordination with Vermont Department of Health (VDH) that recommends private childcare programs remain open, with consideration of the size of program and social distancing, and around informal care (where an older family member cares for a younger family member). We are also developing guidance on education fund payments that are made to private childcare programs, coordination with the Agency of Education (AOE).
 - ◊ Establishing a tracking system to keep running numbers on program closures and impacts on programs. We are ensuring continuity of financial support with respect to state-controlled funding.
 - ◊ DCF, working with Vermont Department of Health (VDH), responded to a media inquiry from the Burlington Free Press.
 - ◊ Mobilized Community Homeless Response Teams at the local level to liaison and coordinate with state efforts.
 - ◊ Guidance to Homeless Shelter Providers are currently under VDH review.
 - ◊ Implement General Assistance Hotel Voucher Motel Access Statewide
 - ◊ Mobilize resources needed to stand up congregate recovery centers by the end of the week in highest need areas. (Likely in order: Burlington, Barre, Brattleboro, and Rutland). May require assistance from the National Guard.
 - ◊ Request for Medical Reserve Corps and Americorps support.
- Department of Corrections (DOC): looking for possible staffing support for correctional facilities.
- Department of Mental Health (DMH): developing documents on how Vermonters can access behavioral health services should they be needed.
- Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL):
 - ◊ Looking to fulfill a call center staffing request from the Health Operations Center (HOC).
 - ◊ Working to identify potential future gaps and available resources for home delivered meals for homebound older and disabled Vermonters for the duration of this incident.
 - ◊ Working to deliver guidance to network partners regarding ordering of supplies.
 - ◊ Working on providing guidance outlining temporary suspension of certain requirements.
 - ◊ Messaging to partners regarding the closure of congregate day sites.

Agency of Commerce & Community Development

- Connected with Vermont Grocers Association today:
 - ◊ Shaw's, Price Chopper, and Hannaford have entered allocation agreements, not to increase orders.
Smaller stores are now being depleted as larger stores sell out. Dollar Stores are not members, so no information on their supply chain. Convenience stores are offering to be sites for drive in testing.
 - ◊ Industry stress points:
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations to keep certain items stocked.
 - Agency of Transportation - full trucks getting to stores may be over local road weight limits.
 - Bottle Redemption - ability to suspend operations, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is on board.
 - Looking for guidance on not allowing reusable bags.
 - In demand items seeing shortages: toilet paper, canned goods, cleaners, sanitizers, cereal, pasta, chicken and beef.

- Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)/Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans:
 - Dedicated email account that launched Friday saw more than 150 businesses contact ACCD over the weekend looking for support.
 - ACCD is currently going through emails and having businesses fill out declaration forms.
 - SBA Loan Submission will hopefully on 3/17/20
- Essential Elements of Information/Areas of Concern:
 - There is growing concern and calls for more aggressive guidance from ACCD, VEM, Governor on what non-essential retail and service sector businesses should be doing. White River Junction is circulating a petition. The business community is looking for direction.
- Reminder that all business inquiries can be driven to commerce.covid19@vermont.gov, ACCD has set up a team to ensure all inquiries coming through that email are addressed.
- ACCD convened a group of business leaders and organizations today to make sure coordination, work flow, and community support are all working in tandem. Participants included: VEDA/RDCs/SBA/SBDC/ACCD/Labor. The group will continue to connect multiple times a week.
- Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is convening the VT Housing Council via Conf. call tomorrow 3/17/20 at 1pm:
 - To assess the needs of tenants and property owners (both within our network and generally) in response to the pandemic
 - To discuss any potential emergency administrative actions requested
 - To discuss suggestions for legislative responses
 - To establishing ongoing communication channels
- DHCD is participating in a conference call with US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to discuss using existing Vermont Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to support COVID-19 recovery needs.
- DHCD is working on a communication plan for Municipal Planners, Downtown organizations and other seeking information.

Vermont State Police

- Potential deployed assets:
 - The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) lab asked all state agencies if they had microbiologists on staff that were available to assist in the lab. VSP is working to identify potential personnel that are qualified and/or able to assist. Fish and Game does not have anyone who could assist with this need.
- Pending missions:
 - The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) requested VSP assist with the delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) currently being stored in their warehouse in Colchester, VT to area hospitals, medical centers and fire departments around the state. VSP is currently working with state agency partners and VDH to accomplish this mission. The VDH advised the orders will be ready to be delivered on Wednesday.
- Potential resource needs:
 - The VSP requested appropriate PPE for our Troopers through the VDH online survey monkey.
- Security & Crime Issues: none
- National Operations Center Incident Reports: none
- Missing Persons: none
- Status of access control points/closed roadways: none

- General status of motor vehicle accident impacts: none

Division of Fire Safety

- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) will be assisting Vermont State Police (VSP) with moving the Strategic National Stockpile supply reserve.
- A Survey Monkey has been developed by the Vermont Fire Academy to go out to all the county fire mutual aids in the state to check on manpower and any gaps in resources.
- Status of fires and/or affected buildings/structures: None
- Sites requiring life safety debris removal and emergency access issues: None
- Requested inspections of damaged structures: None
- Requested inspections of warming centers and overnight shelters: None
- Deployed DFS assets, missions and resource needs: None

SerVermont

- SerVermont continues to work with AmeriCorps members and Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers to fill rosters for volunteer requests.
- Current Requests: Vermont Department of Health (VDH) Call Center (this week) and 211 Call Center. 211 Call Center would like to move up the volunteer start date from March 23 to this week.
- SerVermont is designing a database to collect offers from volunteers and requests for services. We will track these offers but do not want to encourage folks to reach out in this way. Our message to volunteers is that we do not currently have any formal opportunities for volunteers and encourage them to reach out to local communities and affiliate with an ongoing volunteer effort or organization.
- SerVermont is still seeking guidance on how to best prioritize volunteer resources given the limited number of volunteers in our pool and the increase in requests. If either call center transitions to a remote setting we will likely be able to provide more coverage. We are also seeking health guidance to provide with volunteers to ensure that we are not making requests that jeopardize anyone's safety.

Military Support

- Non-state (EMAC, IEMAC, federal) resource status: No EMAC resources at this time. National All-Hazards Coordination Workshop, originally scheduled to start today in New Orleans, was cancelled. This annual event includes representation from the fifty states and four territories and serves as the major coordination opportunity for EMAC resources short of actual requests.
- Deployed special state assets: None at this time
- Pending missions: No resource requests from any State partners.
 - ◊ One Air National Guard planning officer on 5-day Annual Training orders.
 - ◊ One Army National Guard planning officer on 14-day Annual Training orders.
 - ◊ Pending mission is actual request from State Partner, received and verified by the Director of Military Support and sent to the VT National Guard for actual unit sourcing.
- Potential resource needs:

- ◊ Guard-sourced Microbiologist for possible support to the Department of Health.
- ◊ Potential support to the Department of Corrections.

Department of Labor

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published guidance on preparing workplaces for COVID-19 found at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>. The link is available on the Department of Labor website, as well as the VOSHA and Project WorkSAFE web pages.
- For updated information on resources pertaining to the Vermont Department of Labor programs including, Workers Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation Insurance, Workforce Development, and work rules the website should be used as a reference at <https://labor.vermont.gov/>.

Buildings & General Services

- Lab Support for Vermont Department of Health (VDH): Buildings and General Services (BGS)- Office of Purchasing (OPC) does not have any microbiologists on contract but is willing to work to establish an emergency contract, if needed.
- BGS Barre VDH Building Issues: BGS and building supervisor are looking into disinfection protocols and other resource preservation.
- Coordinate HVAC with Lease Agents: BGS leasing agents reaching out to landlords to verify if fresh air can be brought into leased buildings.
- Buildings and General Services Building/tenant risk assessment tool: *Draft under review for distribution.*
- State College facility inventory: received report from Vermont Technical College. *Received inventories from all state colleges and will post in Dlan ASAP.*
- Pending missions: Identify supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (face masks):
 - ◊ N95 - 225 (62 available to share)
 - ◊ N100 - 20
 - ◊ Full face Respirators: 6 (w/ 3 sets of P100 HEPA cartridges & filters) *Complete*
- Call Center Request: Reaching out to Purchasing & Contracts to find options for full service call center assistance for VDH
- Status of state buildings: Fully operational
- Status of emergency contracts: None deployed at this time
- Donations coordination status: None
- Deployed special state assets: None
- Potential resource needs: None

Agency of Transportation

- Agency of Transportation (AOT)/Vermont State Police (VSP) Actively Coordinating on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) deliveries with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH).
- COVID-19 messages running on 67 message boards.
- Partial activation of the Transportation Incident Command Center (TICC) started on 3/16.

- Assisting with Vermont Public Transportation Association (VPTA)/Agency of Human Services (AHS) COOP Planning.
- Offers and donations made to support state response and/or recovery actions: Offered GIS Analyst to Health Operations Center (HOC), but it was not required at this time.
- No mobility issues identified.
- Pending missions: None
- Potential resource needs: None

Agency of Digital Services

- Provided guidance to Fire Safety staff on how to forward their VOiP phones to cell phones.
- Vermont Department of Health (VDH) put a request in for a long-term solution to the call center that was set up this past weekend to assist with the call volume they are getting. Request was sent to Agency of Digital Services (ADS) leadership.
- Voice and data networks appear to be operating normally, i.e. no outages have been reported.
- Resource offer: Laptops may be requested to support remote operations. ADS has a limited inventory, but may be able to expedite an equipment order if necessary.
- Deployed ADS assets: none
- Pending missions tasked to ADS: none
- Potential ADS resource needs: none

NOTE: a malicious website pretending to be a live map for Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins University is circulating on the internet. Users should be warned that the internet is full of websites that are fake and fraudulent.






Department of Human Resources

- The Department of Human Resources (DHR) is continually reviewing relevant Personnel Policies, contracts and statutes in response to the changing status of the COVID-19 outbreak. These documents are available at:
https://humanresources.vermont.gov/covid_19_resource_page.
- The following guidance documents are currently posted:
 - Telework Guidelines - COVID-19 - 03-15-20
 - State of Vermont facilities open and operational memo-3-15-20
 - State of Vermont Workforce Guidance 3-13-20
 - State of Vermont Employee Travel Directive 3-13-20
 - Memo on The COVID-19 Coronavirus from Secretary of Administration Susanne Young 3-10-20
 - Coronavirus Preparedness 3-4-20

Weather

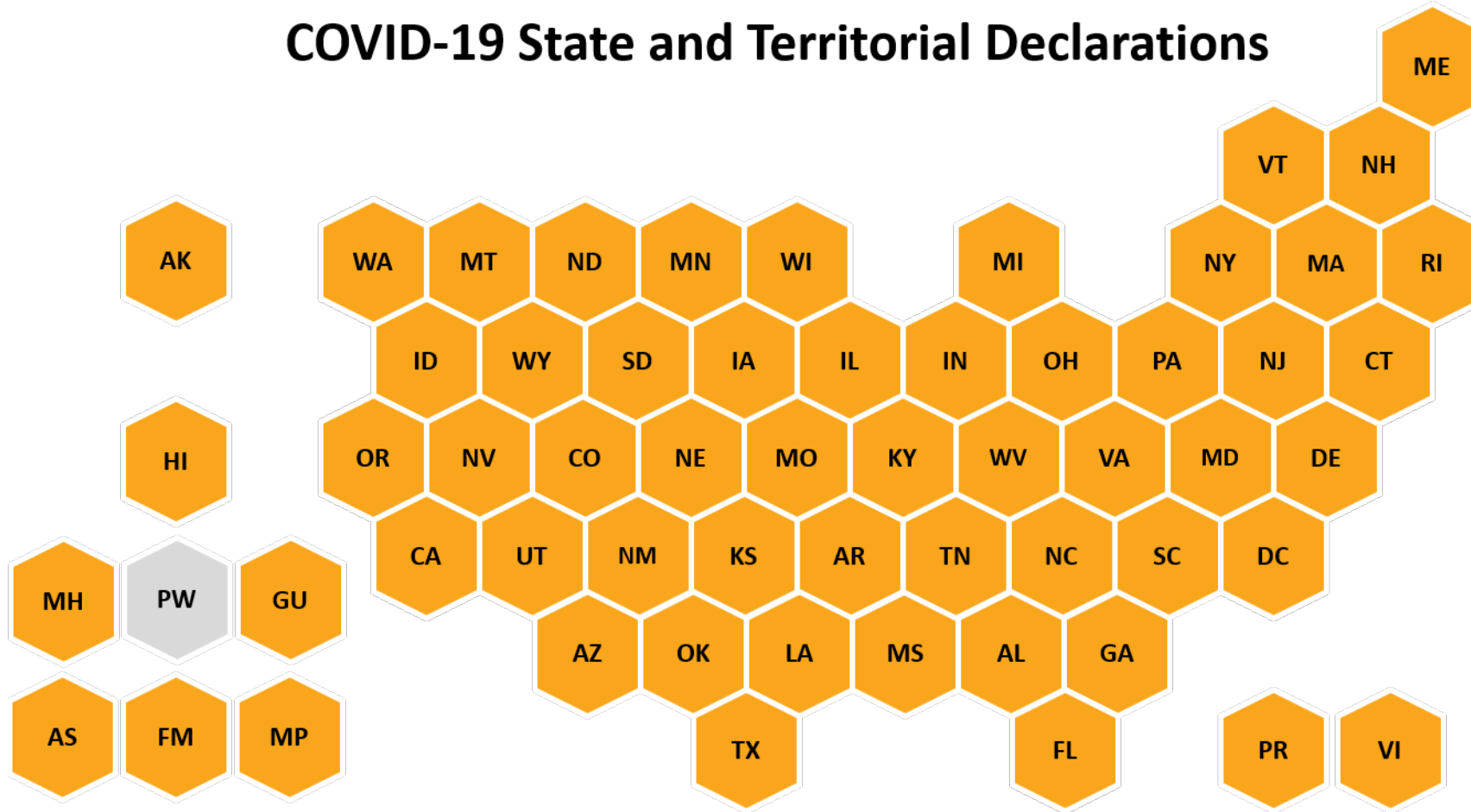
Five Day Forecast: Vermont - Washington (KCXX)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				

 <p>60%</p> <p>Chance of Snow Showers</p> <p>36 F / 2 C</p> <p>27 F / -2 C</p>	 <p>80%</p> <p>Definitely Snow</p> <p>44 F / 6 C</p> <p>25 F / -3 C</p>	 <p>70%</p> <p>Slight Chance of Snow</p> <p>42 F / 5 C</p> <p>27 F / -2 C</p>	 <p>80%</p> <p>Definitely Rain Showers</p> <p>45 F / 7 C</p> <p>37 F / 2 C</p>	 <p>90%</p> <p>Definitely Rain Showers</p> <p>62 F / 16 C</p> <p>27 F / -2 C</p>
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As of March 16, 2020, 50 states, 7 territories, and the District of Columbia have taken some type of formal executive action in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Through one form or another, these jurisdictions have declared, proclaimed, or ordered a state of emergency, public health emergency, or other preparedness and response activity for the outbreak.*

COVID-19 State and Territorial Declarations

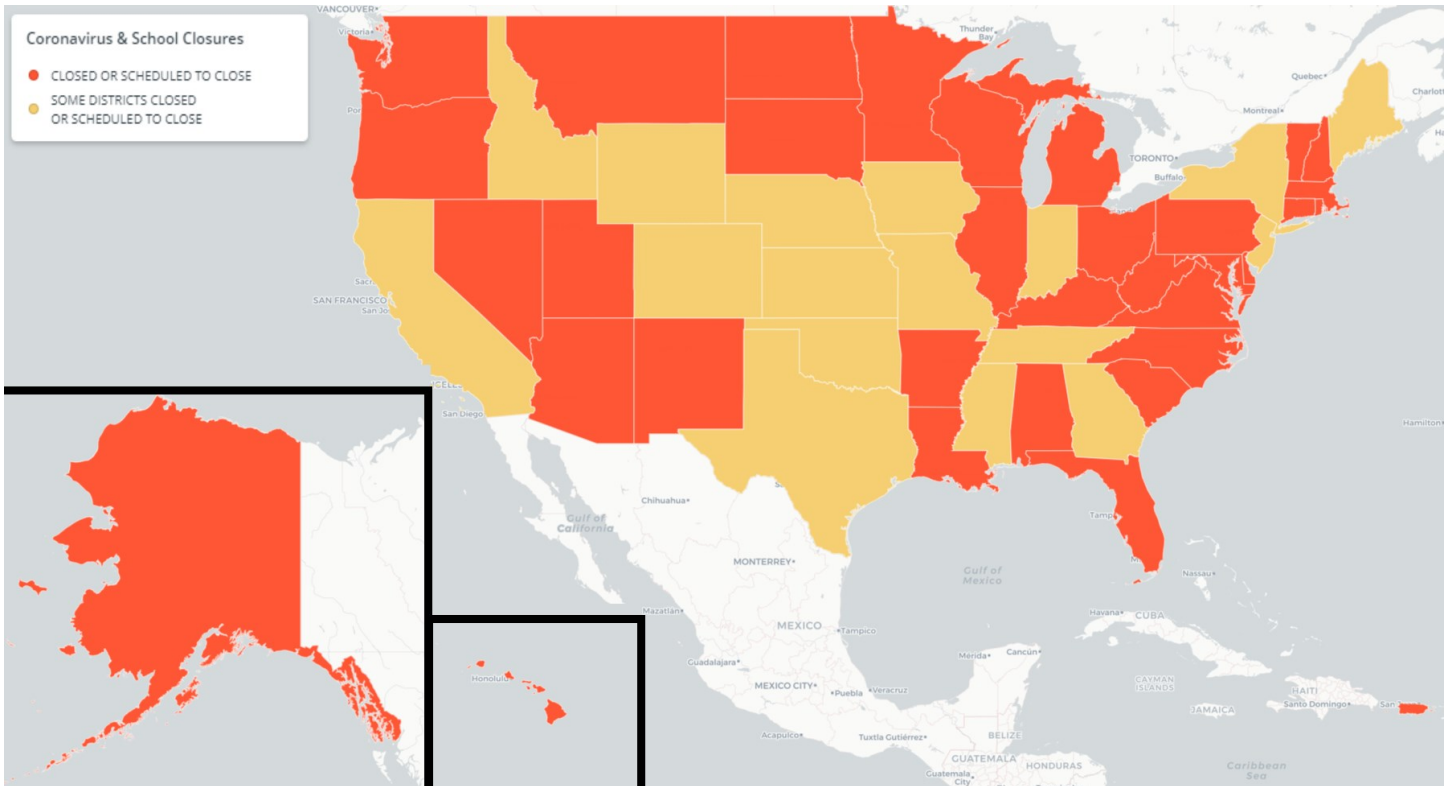


■ Jurisdictions with COVID-19 declarations, proclamations, orders, etc. (March 16, 2020)

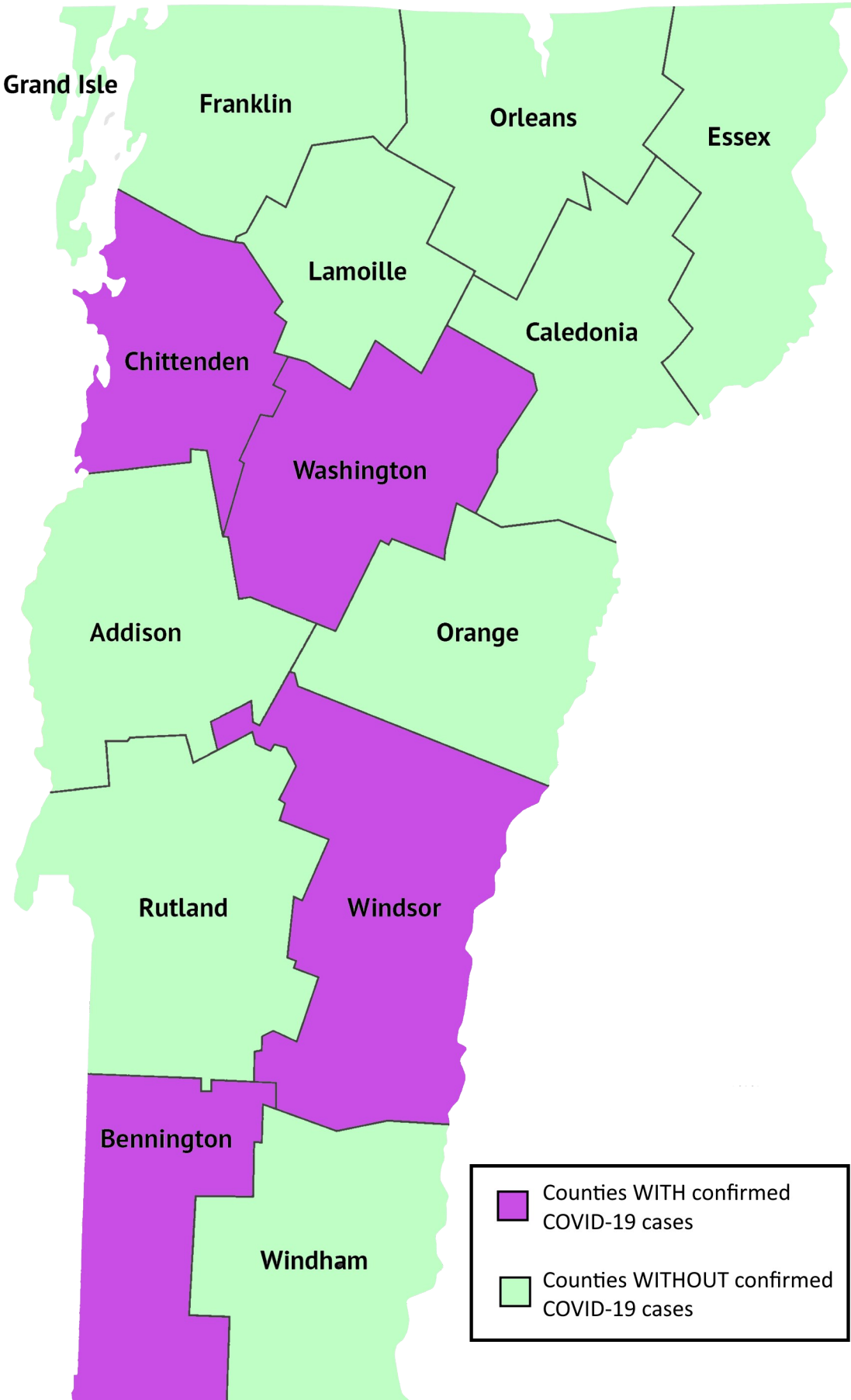
1. Alabama ([state of emergency](#))
2. Alaska ([public health disaster emergency](#))
3. Arizona ([emergency declaration](#), [price gouging](#), [insurance waivers](#), and [nursing home visits](#))
4. Arkansas ([emergency declaration](#))
5. American Samoa ([continuation of public health emergency](#))
6. California ([emergency proclamation](#) and [executive order](#))
7. Colorado ([state of emergency](#))
8. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ([state of significant emergency](#))
9. Connecticut ([public health and civil preparedness emergencies](#) and [executive order](#))
10. Delaware ([state of emergency](#), [mass gatherings](#), [nursing homes](#), [price gouging](#))
11. District of Columbia ([public emergency](#) and [public health emergency](#))
12. Federated States of Micronesia ([state of emergency](#), [travel restrictions decree](#), and [travel restrictions amendment](#))
13. Florida ([response protocol](#), [public health emergency](#), and [state of emergency](#))
14. Georgia ([state of emergency](#))
15. Guam ([state of emergency](#))
16. Hawai'i ([emergency proclamation](#))
17. Idaho ([state of emergency](#))
18. Illinois ([disaster proclamation](#))
19. Indiana ([public health emergency declaration](#))
20. Iowa ([disaster emergency proclamation](#))
21. Kansas ([emergency declaration](#))
22. Kentucky ([state of emergency](#), [price gouging](#), and [insurance waivers](#))
23. Louisiana ([public health emergency](#))
24. Maine ([civil emergency](#))
25. Maryland ([state of emergency and existence of a catastrophic health emergency](#))
26. Massachusetts ([state of emergency](#))
27. Michigan ([state of emergency](#))
28. Minnesota ([peacetime emergency](#))
29. Mississippi ([emergency response steering committee](#) and [state of emergency](#))
30. Missouri ([state of emergency](#))
31. Montana ([state of emergency](#))
32. Nebraska ([state of emergency](#) and [executive order](#))
33. Nevada ([state of emergency](#))
34. New Hampshire ([state of emergency](#))
35. New Jersey ([state of emergency and public health emergency](#))
36. New Mexico ([public health emergency](#))
37. New York ([declaration of disaster emergency](#))
38. North Dakota ([state of emergency](#))
39. North Carolina ([state of emergency](#))
40. Ohio ([state of emergency](#))
41. Oklahoma ([state of emergency](#))
42. Oregon ([emergency declaration](#))
43. Pennsylvania ([disaster emergency proclamation](#))
44. Puerto Rico ([state of emergency](#))
45. Republic of the Marshall Islands ([state of health emergency](#))
46. Rhode Island ([declaration of disaster emergency](#))
47. South Carolina ([state of emergency](#))
48. South Dakota ([state of emergency](#))
49. Tennessee ([state of emergency](#))
50. Texas ([state of disaster](#))
51. Utah ([state of emergency](#))
52. Vermont ([state of emergency](#))
53. Virgin Islands ([state of emergency](#))
54. Virginia ([state of emergency](#))
55. Washington ([state of emergency](#), [nursing home visits](#), and [large gatherings](#))
56. West Virginia ([state of preparedness](#))
57. Wisconsin ([public health emergency](#))
58. Wyoming ([state of emergency](#))

*Source: <https://www.astho.org/COVID-19/>

SITREP ATTACHMENT: School Closure Map 16MAR



COUNTIES WITH CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES



Counties WITH confirmed COVID-19 cases

Counties WITHOUT confirmed COVID-19 cases

