



Vaccine Distribution for Responders

Rosters for those eligible need to be submitted to VEM

From Department of Public Safety Commissioner
Michael Schirling on January 6, 2021:

The definition of “Emergency Medical Services personnel and responders” has now been fully established as a function of our statewide vaccination strategy. The updated definition was approved earlier this morning and is as follows:

“Emergency medical service personnel and responders include staff within ambulance or rescue squads, fire or police departments, who respond to emergency calls to provide or assist with care or transport for; or access to sick or injured persons.”

Please note that only front-line responders who are assisting with the care and transport of sick and injured persons will be eligible for vaccine at this stage. This means those with no direct

response or contact are not to be vaccinated under this definition, and will be covered in the community-wide vaccination program by AGE band.

We are very aware of the importance of all staff in public safety operations. However, the statewide priority and strategy is to save lives.

More information about scheduling vaccination for eligible staff will be forthcoming from area hospitals, which will have a roster of eligible personnel and reach out to them. Additional correspondence from Emergency Management may follow.

Thanks for your patience and continued dedication as we continue to navigate the pandemic.

COVID-19 State Web Resources

Department of Health: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19>

Be Smart, Stay Safe Guidance: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order>

Interstate Travel Guidance: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>

VEM Resources: <https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19>

Spring Flood Seminars

Now that winter has begun, it's time to start thinking about spring flooding. Vermont Emergency Management and its partners will host Vermont's annual Spring Flood Seminars in February. These events are an opportunity for emergency managers and community leaders to hear the latest forecast for spring flooding and ice jams, learn more about emergency response assistance available from state agencies, emergency planning, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation opportunities, and other topics.

All are welcome to attend the Spring Flood Seminars, especially community leaders who may be involved in disaster response or recovery.

These virtual Spring Flood Seminars will be held live through Microsoft Teams on:

- **February 9th, 12:30-3pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only): 1-802-828-7667

Conference ID: 311 005 837#

- **February 10th, 10-12:30pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only): 1-802-828-7667

Conference ID: 784 774 137#

There is no need to RSVP in advance for these events. A recording of the event will be available through our website the following week for those unable to attend the live events.

Each Spring Flood Seminar will be identical and follow the same agenda:

- **National Weather Service:** National Weather Service will be on hand to provide a spring flood outlook, and inform decision makers about flooding causes and potential mitigation efforts.
- **Vermont Emergency Management:**



February, 2020

Engagement Section staff will discuss planning, training, and exercise services available in your community, and Recovery & Mitigation staff will discuss their interface with FEMA to deliver federal disaster recovery and mitigation programs to Vermont Communities.

- **Agency of Transportation:** District Project Managers and their technical staff act as a technical resource for local town officials. They administer State and Federal town grants helping municipalities maintain their infrastructure. They assess town damages in disaster events to verify the event qualifies for federal assistance. Towns rely on their experience, VTrans resource connections and overall technical advice.
- **Agency of Natural Resources:** The Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation will discuss who to call and what permits are needed when working in streams or floodplains.
- **Vermont National Guard:** From airlifting to sandbags and everything in between, the Vermont National Guard is a state partner in disaster preparedness and response. Please join representatives from the Vermont National Guard Office of Military Support and

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VEM Training Schedule

Registration via the Learning Management System is required to receive the classroom link:

<https://vermont.csod.com/>

February 2021

L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

February 2, 12:30–4:30 p.m.

February 3, 12:30–4:30 p.m.

February 4, 12:30–4:30 p.m.

February 5, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Virtual Learning Event

State Emergency Operations Center Orientation (SEOC Staff ONLY)

February 11, 9:00–11:30 a.m.

Virtual Learning Event

April 2021

L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

April 26, 3:00–7:00 p.m.

April 27, 3:00–7:00 p.m.

April 28, 3:00–7:00 p.m.

April 29, 3:00–7:00 p.m.

Virtual Learning Event

View all upcoming training options on the Training Calendar

Online Training Resource

FEMA Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study online courses are always available at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

VEM Emergency Management Director's Certification Program. Find out more at:

<https://vem.vermont.gov/programs/emd/certification>

Spring Flood Seminars (continued from page 2)

understand our organizational capabilities. We will also describe the established procedures for requesting Guard resources and how town officials can access Guard resources through Vermont Emergency Management.

- **Division of Fire Safety:** The Division of Fire Safety will convey to our Municipal partners and first responders, the variety of resources we have to offer; Fire/Building Inspectors, Electrical Inspectors, Plumbing Inspectors and Community risk reduction outreach programs. We'll review how each municipality can request our services, review how we intermesh with the local incident command system and provide an overview of what the municipality can expect as a result of our response. We'll

touch briefly of the USAR and HazMat Teams. We'll also emphasize that we are simply a tool in the local Municipalities toolbox, prepared to assist in any way we can.

- **Regional Planning Commissions:** Representatives from Regional Planning Commissions will be on hand to discuss the assistance they provide to municipalities in updating their Local Emergency Management Plans, coordinating emergency management trainings and exercises, and providing technical assistance on grant programs and the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund.

If you have any questions, please email

DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov

Public Assistance Updates

DR4532 Public Assistance still available for Emergency Protective Measures

The incident period remains open for FEMA Public Assistance to communities at 75% federal share for eligible emergency response expenses related to COVID-19. Information about eligible expenses is available at <https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19/disaster/>. If you have specific questions about eligibility or how to submit them via the FEMA Grants Portal, contact VEM Public Assistance Officer Kim Canarecci at kim.canarecci@vermont.gov.

VEM Public Assistance Team Staffing Update

VEM now has a full team of Public Assistance Coordinators (PACs) on board and ready to assist communities the FEMA Public Assistance program. If your community has one or more

disaster recovery projects, please keep your assigned PAC updated on any correspondence to/from FEMA. VEM's PACs are: Dan Peterson, Jim Tonkovich, Ross Nagy, Richard Hosking, Penelope Doherty and our newest member Lisa Kolb. Penelope and Lisa are assigned to assist the DPS Finance Team up with subgrants and payments.

Procurement Guidance for all federal grants from the Department of Public Safety

A new "[DPS Affirmative Steps Job Aid](#)" developed by the DPS Finance Team. It is less than 2 pages, designed to spell out and demystify the steps communities can take to demonstrate compliance with federal procurement laws. Read it! It can save your community from a federal "claw back" for any future federal funding award!

New VEM staff: Caroline Massa, State Hazard Mitigation Planner.

Caroline is coming to us from a Regional Planning Commission in western Massachusetts, where she developed Local Hazard Mitigation Plans and supported her communities with mitigation projects and other resilience initiatives. Prior to that, she was employed with FEMA Region II in a variety of positions within Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination and Environmental and Historic Preservation and provided support during response and recovery in New York following Hurricane Sandy and Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. She holds a Master's in Urban Planning from Columbia University and a Bachelor's in Environmental Studies from State University of New York.

If you have a question about Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) development or need to submit an LHMP into State review, you can reach Caroline at: Caroline.Massa@vermont.gov or (802) 585-5246.

