

May/June 2021 Volume 15, Issue 5/6



Vaccinating Vermont—We Need Your Help

Vaccines are the most important tool we have in slowing the spread of the COVID-19, opening back up, and getting back to life. While Vermont's vaccination rate leads the country, there are several Vermonters who are still on the fence about whether to receive a dose.

Those who are waiting are largely doing so because they want to see if there are any issues with the vaccine. Those who will ultimately influence them will not be Dr. Levine or Dr. Fauci, but family, friends, neighbors, and local responders/officials.

In many towns the most trusted people are the Fire, Police, EMS Chief, or another responder who is known to most people there. Those people can make a difference leading by example and getting vaccinated. If you are vaccinated, share your experience and help educate your constituents. Posters and other printed materials for high traffic areas of town are available at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aMpblJZ2wxbe2DQotw7ALIsYpF6TOYOM or contact Mark Bosma at VEM at mark.bosma@vermont.gov to request some.

Local officials can also help by sharing their ideas on where to host clinics. You know where people (especially those 18-29 years of age) congregate and when, so your input into the process is critical. The state and local EMTs have the ability to host a walk-in clinic almost anywhere, so if you have an idea pass it along to mark.bosma@vermont.gov.

The vaccines used in Vermont are proven to be safe and effective. They use technologies that have been many years in the making and included tens of thousands of participants in their clinical trials. Most importantly, these vaccines were all found to be 100% effective in preventing hospitalizations and death from COVID-19. And we are seeing this impact in Vermont, with dramatically lower hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 since vaccinating many of our highest-risk residents. The best vaccine you can get is the one you can get right now.

While some people have side effects after getting vaccinated, this means your body is working to build protection against the virus. The most common side effects include pain where you got the shot, headache, tiredness, fever, and chills—and these are temporary and usually mild.

While Vermont's goalpost for ending restrictions is 80% of eligible people receiving a first dose, it is not the end of this effort, the more people vaccinated the safer the state will be.

It's never been easier to get vaccinated with vaccine clinics conveniently located throughout Vermont, many that don't require having an appointment ahead of time.

To learn more, find a walk-in vaccine clinic, or to make an appointment, visit HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine. VEM News May/June 2021

VT Emergency Preparedness Conference—Call for Speakers

The Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held September 14-16 from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. each day. The event will once again be held virtually.

Vermont Emergency Management is seeking presenters for this year's event. Do you have something important to share with the emergency management community? Consider submitting a speaker proposal for this year's conference. All proposals are due by noon on July 1st to:

DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov

Over 100 people participated in our 2020 conference, taking part in eight presentations and training sessions over the two-day event. Topics included floodplain management, critical

infrastructure, and myths around psychological readiness and mental health in first responders, among others.

Those who missed the conference can view the presentations on the Vermont Emergency Management YouTube page (https://www.youtube.com/user/VTDEMHS/playlists) and selecting the 2020 Emergency Preparedness Conference playlist.

Registration information for the 2021 conference will be available in the coming months. Watch this space and the VEM website (www.vem.vermont.gov) for more information.

New State Training Administrator—Hillarie Scott

Effective May 24th, Hillarie Scott joined Vermont Emergency Management as the State Training Administrator. In this role, Hillarie is responsible for coordinating emergency management training statewide and serving as the Department of Public Safety Learning Management System Administrator.

Hillarie was born and raised in Barre,. She graduated from Spaulding High School and continued her education at Nichols College earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Hillarie is coming from a nonprofit 501c (3) job where she was the Director of Speedway Children's Charities which was the official charity of New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Hillarie is excited to be part of the VEM team and back in the beautiful state of Vermont.



If you need assistance, please reach out to her at <u>Hillarie.Scott@vermont.gov</u>, <u>DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov</u> or 1-800-347-0488

VEM News May/June 2021

VEM Training Schedule

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

https://vermont.csod.com/

June 2021

G0191 – ICS/EOC Interface - virtual June 22, 8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m. Registration required via the State Learning

August 2021

Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/

LO146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) - In person St. Michaels College, Colchester August 3 & 4, 8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m. Each day Registration required via the State Learning

ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
- In person

Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/

Camp Johnson, Colchester

August 6-8, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day Registration required via the State Learning Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/

September 2021

Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference – virtual

September 14-16, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. each day Registration required via the State Learning Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/

October 2021

MGT 323 – Instructor Development Workshop – virtual
October 4, 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.

October 5-8, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Must attend all to receive credit.

Registration required via the State Learning

Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/

G0191 - ICS/EOC Interface - In person

St. Michaels College, Colchester

October 9, 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Registration required via the State Learning

Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/

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



For COVID-19 vaccination information and locations and times of clinics visit:

Healthvermont.gov/myvaccine

"Every time a Vermonter gets vaccinated we all benefit."

- Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine