

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC RE-OPENING STEPS

01 MAY 2020

Montpelier, Vt. – As [modeling indicates continued progress](#) in slowing the spread of COVID-19, Governor Phil Scott today announced a third incremental, evidence-based step forward to put Vermonters back to work.

If able to comply with outlined safety measures, the Governor's [latest order](#) expands on [Addendum 10](#) and [Addendum 11](#) to allow the following operations to operate:

- Crews of 10 or fewer employees per location/job to perform outdoor work and construction work in unoccupied job sites. (Effective May 4)
- Manufacturing and distribution operations may resume with a maximum of 10 employees in any location if they are low-density and ensure employees are always six feet apart. (Effective May 4)
- Manufacturing, construction and distribution operations may restart with as few employees as necessary to permit full operations if they can meet all health and safety requirements, comply with ACCD guidance and develop enhanced training programs that expand on the [Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Agency \(VOSHA\) training](#). (Effective May 11)

This latest restart phase includes additional health and safety requirements that build on those in previous addendums, including:

- Required pre-screening before each work shift, including temperature checks and survey to verify each employee has no symptoms of respiratory illness.

- On April 27, VOSHA developed [a minimum level of health and safety training](#) to be completed no later than May 4 by all employees and documented by businesses and non-profit and government entities in operation.
- Employers operating with 10 or more employees must now adopt a training program – which can be developed independently, or through industries, trade associations, chambers of commerce or other representative organizations – which must be made available upon request. In most cases, these plans should augment the VOSHA training standards to reflect the unique nature of various workplaces.
- Businesses and non-profit and government entities may require customers or clients to wear masks, and all commuters are required to wear a mask while using mass transit.

Governor Scott continues to highlight the importance of limiting the spread of the virus as the state plans subsequent restart measures: “There is no playbook on what we can expect so we’ve focused on sectors like manufacturing and construction that have controlled environments, open space and built-in mechanisms and expertise in the areas of health and safety training. They’ll be able to set an example for others as we look to do more in other sectors.”

“We also have to recognize that states like Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York – states right on our borders and just a few hours away – are still confronting massive outbreaks and it only takes one spark, or one unhelpful decision, to reignite this fire. We all need to continue to be smart, cautious and disciplined to preserve our hard-earned gains,” he added.

For a full list of health and safety requirements for all businesses and specifications for each newly opened operation, [click here to view Addendum 12](#).

To view ACCD’s [memo](#) to business for specific safety guidelines and protocols, as well as additional resources, visit accd.vermont.gov.

For more information on:

- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data, visit www.healthvermont.gov/covid19.
- The Governor's actions, visit governor.vermont.gov/covid19response.
- The state's modeling, visit <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling>.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT ANNOUNCES RE-OPENING OF SOME OUTDOOR RECREATION AND LIMITED SOCIAL INTERACTIONS IN LATEST RESTART PHASE

06 MAY 2020

Montpelier, Vt. – Governor Phil Scott today announced that outdoor recreation and limited social interactions may resume under strict health and safety precautions, as [state modeling](#) continues to indicate a slow in the spread of COVID-19.

While the [Stay Home, Stay Safe order](#) remains in effect, if able to comply with outlined safety measures, the Governor's [latest order](#) allows the following social activities to resume:

- Gatherings of 10 or fewer. Vermonters may now leave home for outdoor recreation and fitness activities with low or no direct physical contact and to resume limited social interactions and gatherings of 10 or fewer, preferably in outdoor settings that allow for greater physical distancing protocols.
- Inter-household socializing. Members of one household may gather – and allow children to play – with members of another trusted household, provided health and safety precautions are followed as much as possible.

The Governor's order, [Addendum 13](#), includes additional health and safety guidelines for these interactions, including following safety and hygiene protocols, limiting non-essential travel, and protecting those in at-risk categories, who should continue to stay home. It also directs the Commissioner of Health to provide [additional recommendations](#).

“These small gatherings will give Vermonters a chance to reunite and enjoy each other’s company. But we must do so carefully,” said Governor Scott. “There is no specific set of rules, or enforcement measures that we can put in place here. We need Vermonters to be smart and thoughtful during these visits. We have to remain vigilant, so we don’t lose ground as we continue, slowly and safely, reopening Vermont in a way that puts public health first.”

Addendum 13 also authorizes businesses, non-profit and government entities that support or offer outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness activities with low or no direct physical contact to begin operations on May 7. These include but are not limited to state and municipal parks, recreation associations, trail networks, golf courses, big game check stations and guided expeditions. Campgrounds, marinas and beaches are not permitted to open at this time.

Guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness, including “arrive, play and leave” requirements, signage and registration to limit facility use to Vermonters and those who have met the 14-day quarantine requirement, elimination of non-essential touch points and/or staff-customer interactions, reduction of high contact surfaces and common areas and limiting rental equipment and restroom facilities to those which can be thoroughly disinfected, are included in the order and in [additional guidance from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#). These operations are also subject to all health and safety precautions set in [Addendum 12](#).

“As we continue to take modest steps to reopen our economy, there are also equally important steps related to how we spend our down time – our play time,” said Julie Moore, secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources. “As Vermont’s winter transforms to a bright and green spring, many of us are itching to get outside and go a bit further afield and no longer are Vermonters being asked to limit outings to within 10 miles of their homes. Now, more than ever, we need to rekindle this relationship with the outdoors, but we must do

so in a way that respects physical distancing and helps keep all of us healthy.”

For a full list of health and safety requirements for all newly opened operations, [click here to view Addendum 13](#).

To view the ACCD’s specific safety guidelines and protocols for businesses, as well as additional resources, visit accd.vermont.gov.

For more information on:

- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data, visit www.healthvermont.gov/covid19.
- The Governor’s actions, visit governor.vermont.gov/covid19response.
- The state’s modeling, visit dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY AS DATA-DRIVEN RESTART CONTINUES

15 MAY 2020

Montpelier, Vt. – Governor Phil Scott today signed [Addendum 14, a Be Smart, Stay Safe order](#) to extend the State of Emergency to June 15 and update previous emergency orders to reflect re-openings and eased restrictions [announced in recent weeks](#).

[State data and modeling](#) indicate the spread of COVID-19 continues to slow and Vermont now has one of the lowest 3-day and 7-day growth rates in the country. The Governor and Department of Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, however, continue to caution that the state must also consider neighboring states where the virus is much more prevalent and outbreaks are still occurring.

“Vermonters have stepped up in a time of crisis, following guidance from the beginning to quickly slow the spread and keep our health care system from being overwhelmed. These efforts have saved hundreds and hundreds of lives and given us time to build the testing and tracing capacity we need to contain future outbreaks,” said Governor Scott. “The important thing to remember is that the smarter we are about our individual actions, and the more disciplined everyone can be during each step forward, the more steps we’ll be able to take to safely restart Vermont.”

At a press briefing Friday, Governor Scott outlined four metrics the Administration is monitoring as it continues restarting Vermont’s economy. They are:

- **Syndromic surveillance:** The percentage of visits to emergency care with either COVID-19-like illness or flu diagnosis.
- **Viral growth and reproductive rates:** Case growth measured by daily, 3-day, 7-day, and effective reproductive rate.

- Percentage of new positive tests: Percent of tests resulting in a new positive case.
- ICU and critical care beds: Number of occupied and unoccupied medical surgical and ICU beds.

The new Be Smart, Stay Safe order extends the expiration of all previous addendums to June 15, applies the health and safety protocols implemented in restart addendums 10-13, and encourages continued vigilance in physical distancing, staying close to home, mask use in public settings where physical distancing is not possible, washing hands and more. The addendum also asks adults 65 and older and those with underlying medical conditions to continue to shelter in place to avoid serious illness.

As the key restart metrics continue to support incremental openings, the Be Smart, Stay Safe order also allows the limited resumption of campgrounds, marinas and lodging facilities, including hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, inns, short term rentals, parks for recreational vehicles and campgrounds, including those managed by the Vermont Department of Parks and Recreation. These facilities can open May 22 for Vermont residents only, or those who have met the 14-day quarantine requirement, and will be subject to strict health and safety standards and [guidance from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#).

To view Addendum 14 (Be Smart, Stay Safe), visit <https://governor.vermont.gov/content/addendum-14-executive-order-01-20>.

To view ACCD's memo for lodging safety guidelines and protocols, as well as additional resources, visit accd.vermont.gov.

For more information on:

- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data, visit www.healthvermont.gov/covid19.

- The Governor's actions, visit governor.vermont.gov/covid19response.
- The state's modeling, visit <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling>.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT ANNOUNCES FIRST ECONOMIC RELIEF AND RECOVERY PACKAGE

20 MAY 2020

Montpelier, Vt. – Governor Phil Scott [today announced](#) a \$400 million economic relief and recovery package, using funds from the \$1.25 billion the state received from the Federal CARES Act.

The two-phase proposal, which is expected to be the first of multiple packages necessary to fully recover, will start with \$310 million for immediate emergency relief to the most impacted sectors and businesses to be followed by \$90 million in long-term recovery investments.

“The relief and recovery package we are proposing today, takes bold action to bring support to Vermonters in need, as we continue to manage this public health crisis and open the economy back up,” said Governor Scott. “We are looking to address the immediate cash needs of businesses so they can survive, while also laying the foundation for our economy to emerge stronger and thrive over the long term. These local businesses and their employees drive our economy, put food on the tables of Vermonters and help fund critical needs for families, public schools and so much more. We must step up and act quickly to help them survive this emergency and go on to thrive in the future.”

The Phase 1 relief package will involve four areas of distinct action to support businesses and Vermonters as they resume their operations. They include:

- Financial assistance - Emergency Action Grants for food and accommodation services, retail, and agriculture, Vermont Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Grant program, and small business focused Vermont Restart loans and grants. (\$250 million)

- Housing assistance - Rental Housing Stabilization Fund for property owners and a Re-Housing Recovery Fund to address homeless need. (\$50 million)
- Technical assistance - Restart Vermont Recovery Guides created through a network of business and community assistance providers, and Employee Assistance Program to support the mental health and wellbeing of business owners and their families. (\$5 million)
- Marketing support - Promotional marketing campaign to promote Vermont to Vermonters and deliver a toolkit of creative assets to be used by local communities, and regional marketing and consumer stimulus grants to encourage local spending, with implementation strategies to be proposed by local entities. (\$5 million)

“These ideas are the result of talking to many local employers over the last two months to identify what they need now, and what they will need on the other side of this,” said Agency of Commerce Secretary Lindsay Kurrle. “What we heard in those conversations was that there are gaps in federal programs and these initiatives announced today work to address those gaps for our most vulnerable sectors. We know this recovery will be long and that steps announced today will not solve every problem we face, but they will help businesses return to operation, work towards new innovative business practices, and engage all Vermonters in supporting their local communities.”

“I look forward to working with the Legislature to pass these initiatives so we can get this money in the hands of Vermonters quickly,” Governor Scott added. “I want to thank our congressional delegation, Senators Leahy and Sanders and Congressman Welch, for their leadership and support to secure CARES Act funding for Vermont. We could not do any of this without their efforts.”

For additional detail on this relief and recovery package, visit <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/vermont-economic-recovery-and-relief-p...>

For more information on:

- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data, visit www.healthvermont.gov/covid19.
- The Governor's actions, visit governor.vermont.gov/covid19response.
- The state's modeling, visit <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling>.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT ANNOUNCES LIMITED REOPENING OF RESTAURANTS, HAIR SALONS, ADDITIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

22 MAY 2020

Montpelier, Vt. – Governor Phil Scott today announced the resumption of additional business operations, including outdoor seating at restaurants and bars, hair salons and barber shops and some additional health services.

“I believe these steps forward will be welcome news for many and because Vermonters are being smart to stay safe, our data continues to show we’re still moving in the right direction,” said Governor Scott. “As more Vermonters get back to work and there are more places to visit and meet with others, it is more important than ever to stay vigilant about your health and the health of others.”

Effective today, May 22, restaurants and bars may reopen for limited outdoor seating, including for the sale and consumption of alcohol. In addition to [existing health and safety requirements](#) for all businesses, outlined by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), reservations or call ahead seating is required with strict limits on table distance and occupancy. Additional safety measures are strongly encouraged, including phone or electronic ordering, takeout service rather than table side delivery of food and cashless or touchless transactions. Operators must also maintain a log of customers and their contact information for 30 days in the event contact tracing is required by the Vermont Department of Health. Establishments serving alcohol will need to [file a notice](#) with the Department of Liquor and Lottery prior to reopening for outdoor service.

Effective May 29, hair salons and barber shops may reopen by appointment with limits on occupancy. Again, in addition to existing health and safety requirements for all businesses, ACCD has issued [safety measures for hair salons and barbershops](#), including strict distance between customers, cashless or touchless transactions and curbside pickup for retail sales. As with other businesses, salons and barbershops must maintain a customer log in case contact tracing is required. To view the ACCD's specific [safety guidelines and protocols](#) for all newly opened operations businesses, as well as additional resources, visit accd.vermont.gov.

The Governor also authorized additional medical procedures and health services to resume, [under the guidance of the Health Department](#). This includes inpatient surgeries and procedures; outpatient services, including clinic visits, diagnostic imaging and limited outpatient surgeries and procedures; and elective dental services. Each service area must follow stringent mitigation strategies and a phased implementation timeline, developed in consultation with industry associations and experts. To view the Health Department's specific safety guidance and protocols for the restarted health services, visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/novel-coronavi...>.

For the Governor's full order, [click here to view Addendum 15](#).

For more information on:

- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data, visit www.healthvermont.gov/covid19.
- The Governor's actions, visit governor.vermont.gov/covid19response.
- The Agency of Commerce and Community Development's business and sector guidance, visit <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business>.

- The state's modeling, visit dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT ANNOUNCES OPENING OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS, INCREASED SOCIAL GATHERING SIZES

29 MAY 2020

Montpelier, Vt. - Governor Phil Scott today announced the resumption of additional close contact businesses, dental procedures, businesses that require work in the home, and of limited overnight youth summer camp programming. As [state modeling](#) continues to indicate a low number of COVID-19 cases, he also increased the size of social gatherings.

“We’re able to take these steps because Vermonters have been smart and safe. We continue to see very low case numbers because Vermonters are using common sense and making good choices,” said Governor Scott. “This must continue if we want to open things further and, so far, Vermonters are doing just that.”

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) has [issued health and safety requirements and procedures](#) for the resumption of close contact businesses such as gyms, fitness centers, nail salons, spas and tattoo parlors, as well as cleaning services and other businesses that require home visits, beginning on June 1. Additionally, overnight youth summer camp programming can resume in a limited capacity and with strict safety and travel procedures, beginning June 7. Reopening of these businesses is dependent on established occupancy limits and physical distancing requirements, as well as health, sanitation and training measures, which can be found at accd.vermont.gov.

[Addendum 16](#), signed by Governor Scott today, also allows social gatherings of 25 people or less, effective June 1, though existing occupancy limits for operations including retail, recreation, dining, worship and event spaces remain in place.

And the Vermont Department of Health has [issued guidance](#) allowing for some additional dental procedures, allowing for aerosol-generating procedures in compliance with CDC and Health Department safety standards and precautions.

To view the ACCD's [specific safety guidelines and protocols](#) for businesses, as well as additional resources, visit accd.vermont.gov.

To view the Health Department's latest dental procedure guidance, visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/novel-coronavi...>

To view the Addendum 16 to Executive Order 01-20, visit <https://governor.vermont.gov/content/addendum-16-executive-order-01-20>.

For more information on:

- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data, visit www.healthvermont.gov/covid19.
- The Governor's actions, visit governor.vermont.gov/covid19response.
- The state's modeling, visit dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling.