

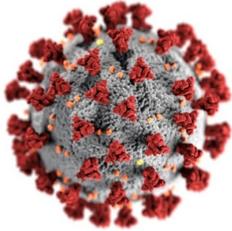
City of Burlington COVID-19 Update

Burlington COVID-19 Resource and Recovery Center (RRC)

January 2021

English

New Variants of COVID-19



A new mutation of the coronavirus has emerged. While it was first identified in the United Kingdom, it is now being found in many countries including our own. Officials expect the variant will be identified in Vermont soon. Virus mutations are common, such as with variants of the flu from year to year, but what makes this different is that it spreads much more quickly than the original strain of COVID-19. There are still many unknowns about the risks of this new variant of COVID-19 at this time. This means that our community members could be at an increased risk of contracting the virus, more people may end up in the hospital, and we could see Vermont deaths rise. Find more information and updates on the new variant of COVID-19 on the CDC's website.

Vaccine Distribution



As some of you may have heard, there are now two COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized for use in the United States, Moderna and Pfizer. Here are a few things to know:

- Vermont is in the early distribution phases of offering the vaccine to frontline healthcare workers and people in close contact long term healthcare settings. The next group will likely be for our oldest community members and people at increased risk for severe illness.
- Over 20,000 people in Vermont have received their first vaccine dose as of January 8th, and will continue to rise as the State continues to receive more doses of the vaccine.
- The current approved vaccines are given in two separate doses, three to four weeks apart.

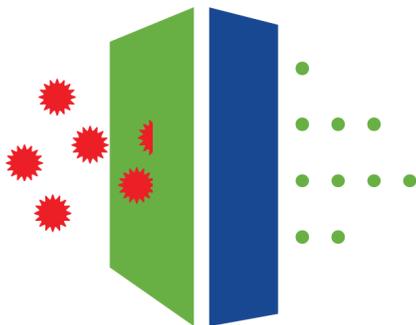
- We do not yet know when the vaccine will be widely available. National estimates for widespread vaccine availability for the general public range from April to mid-summer 2021. For children under the age of 16, vaccine availability may take even longer as studies are still being conducted on younger age groups.
- These specific vaccines are mRNA (Messenger RNA) vaccines, which teach and send instructions to our cells on how to fight off infection. mRNA never enters the center (nucleus) of the cell, which is where genetic material is stored; it will not affect or change your DNA. This vaccine also is not a live virus and therefore cannot give you COVID-19.

If you have questions about the vaccine, a healthcare provider that works with your family may be able to help answer them. If you cannot reach a healthcare provider, you may contact the City's Resource and Recovery Center and we will do our best to connect you to the information you need from a professional medical source.



The best thing we can all do at this time is to remain vigilant and protect family and neighbors by continuing to wear multi-layer quality masks, wash your hands often, physically distance, and avoid social gatherings. If you have attended any social gatherings, the Vermont Department of Health recommends getting tested immediately after as well as 7 days after the event. If you are in need of masks, please contact the RRC. We're all in this together.

Ventilation Grant



Air purifiers have been shown to remove some virus particles from the air and help reduce – but not eliminate! – the risk of transmission in indoor settings. The City of Burlington will be launching a new ventilation grant program in an effort to provide air filter units for free to Burlington-based businesses and non-profit spaces where multiple households may come into contact. Recipients of the grant will receive assistance in purchasing and installing of an air filtration device. The application will be open for one week, from Monday January 11th to January 18th, 2021. Late applications will be accepted, but supplies may run

out. For questions or translation assistance, please contact BTVEmployer@burlingtonvt.gov. If you prefer language assistance by phone, you may call the RRC at 802-755-7239.

Grant Website: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/covid-19/ventilation-grant> (English)

Testing



Testing availability has increased and is available daily in Burlington (405 Pine St.) and Winooski (32 Mallets Bay Ave), with additional pop-ups throughout the month. If you are having difficulties with registering, you may call your case manager at AALV or USCRI, or contact the RRC, and we will work to best assist you. Below is a list of current testing options:

Daily - Burlington City Arts Studio - 405 Pine St, Burlington VT, 05401

The test site is in the space next to the Burlington City Arts studio at 405 Pine Street
Operates daily: 12:00pm-8:00pm every day
In-person interpreter services available at all times daily
Pre-registration is preferred

Daily - O'Brien Community Center - 32 Mallets Bay Ave, Winooski VT, 05404

In-person interpreter services available
Testing operates daily, Mon - 5:00pm-8:00pm, Tue-Sun 9:00am-3:00pm
Pre-registration is preferred

Burlington North End Studios – 294 North Winooski Ave, Burlington VT, 05401

Pop-ups will be operating 9:00am-3:00pm
In-person interpreter services available
January 15th – pre-register or walk in
January 22nd – pre-register or walk in
January 29th – pre-register or walk in

Colchester Mallets Bay Congregational Church - 1672 W Lakeshore Dr, Colchester, VT 05446



Pop-ups will be operating 9:00am-3:00pm
Telephonic interpreter services available
January 14th – pre-register or walk in
January 21st – pre-register or walk in
January 28th – pre-register or walk in

Williston National Guard Armory - 7846 Williston Rd, Williston VT, 05495

Pop-ups will be operating 9:00am-3:00pm
Telephonic interpreter services available
January 13th – pre-register or walk in
January 27th – pre-register or walk in

Questions? Need Assistance?

Burlington's **COVID-19 Resource and Recovery Center (RRC)** is here to help, contact us at 802-755-7239 or recovery@burlingtonvt.gov and leave a message with your name, preferred language, and contact information and we will assist you as soon as possible. Our call center has phone interpretation services available. Our operation hours are Monday to Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

Credits:
CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

Vermont Department of Health

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/media/translation/covid-19-translations> (find translated information on COVID-19)

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine>

City of Burlington

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/covid-19/ventilation-grant>

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/covid-19/testing>

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/resources>

Images from the CDC & City of Burlington