

# Agency of Commerce & Department of Health Webinar Series

February 24, 2021



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Vermont Department of Health

# OVERVIEW AND UPDATE OF STATE'S VACCINATION POLICY

# COVID-19 Vaccination Update

February 24, 2021

OVERVIEW OF STRATEGY

## “Age Banding”

- Vermont has worked hard to take a data-driven approach in our vaccination delivery strategy.
- Our primary strategy with vaccinations is to prevent deaths among Vermonters and we are honing our strategy to prioritize saving lives, and ensure the next phases are easy to implement, communicate, and understand.
- **Based on data and our goal to prevent deaths – Vermont is taking an approach in delivery that is based on age group and chronic conditions at this time.**

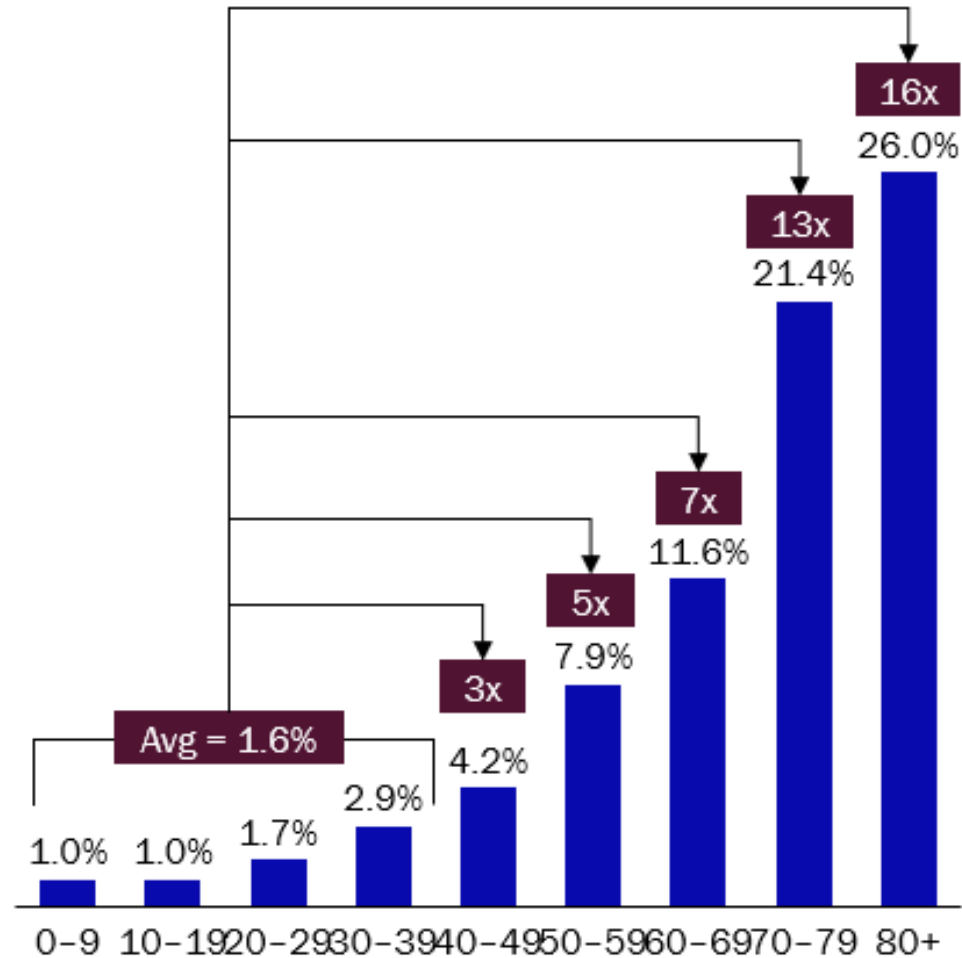
Vermonters who are **70+** can sign up for a vaccine appointment here:

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

# COVID-19 Vaccination Update

February 24, 2021

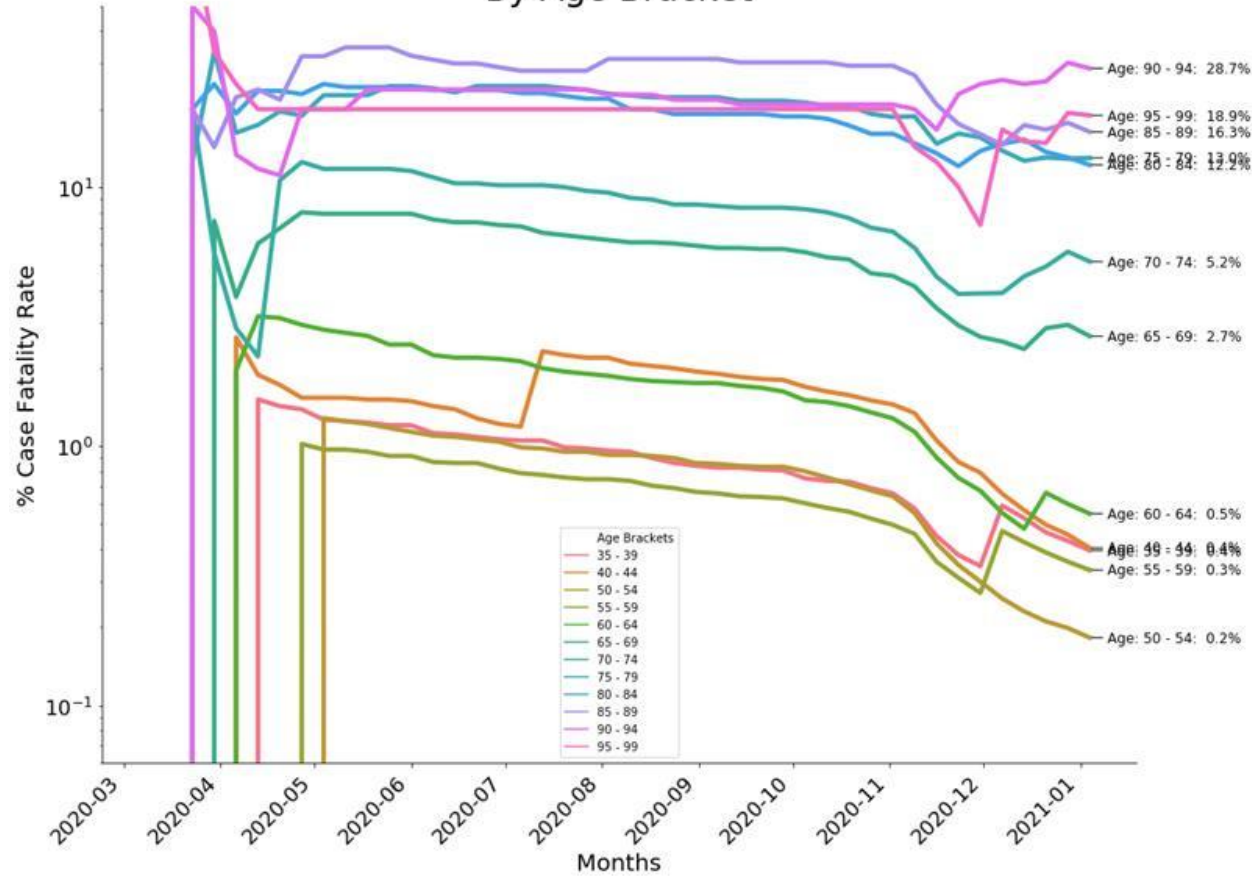
COVID Case Hospitalization Rate by age group  
Estimated based on CDC data



# COVID-19 Vaccination Update

February 24, 2021

Case Fatality Rate of COVID-19 Deaths in Vermont  
By Age Bracket



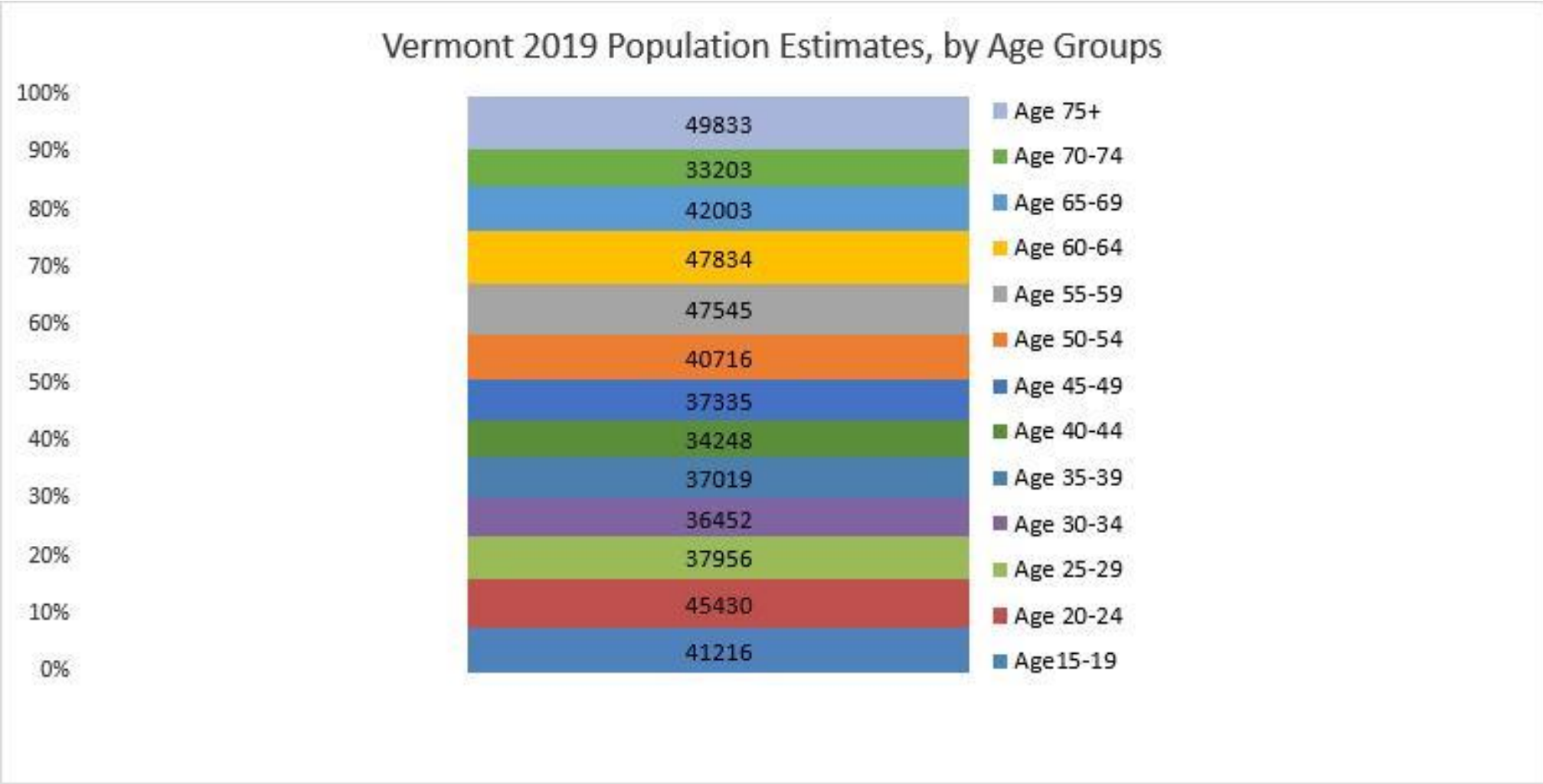
**VT CFR 1.9%**

- Age 95-99: 18.9%
- Age 90-94: 28.7%
- Age 85-89: 16.3%
- Age 80-84: 12.2%
- Age 75-79: 13.0%
- Age 70-74: 5.2%
- Age 65-69: 2.7%
- Age 60-64: .5%
- Age 55-59: .4%
- Age 50-54: .2%
- Age 45-49: .4%
- Age 40-44: .4%

# COVID-19 Vaccination Update

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## Demographics by Age-bands



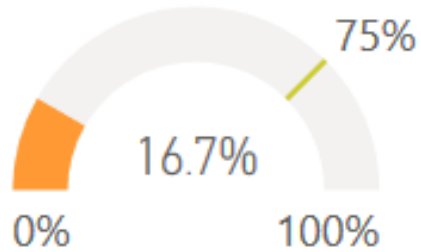
# COVID-19 Vaccination Update

February 24, 2021

People Reported Immunized through 2/23/2021

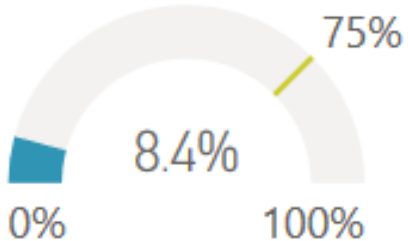
## Overall progress (age 16+)

**VT residents** who have received **at least one dose** of the vaccine



**87.3K**  
VT residents

**VT residents** who have received **two doses** of the vaccine



**44.1K**  
VT residents

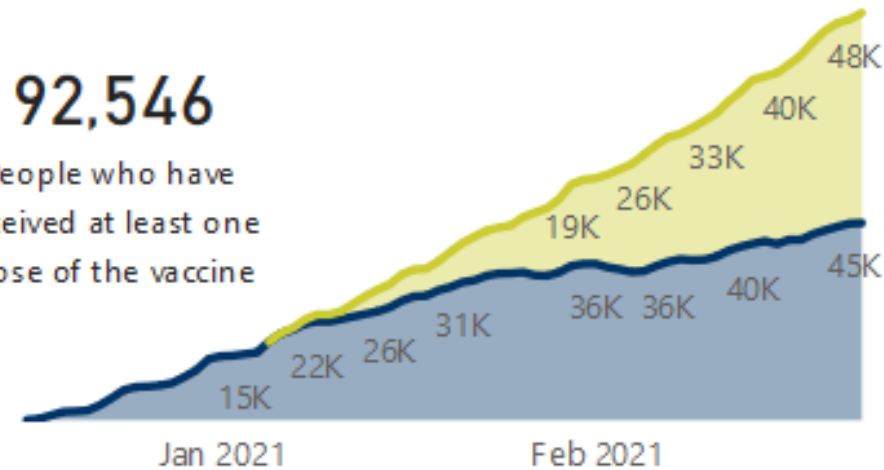
Includes people with an address in VT, including people who receive vaccinations in other states. Does not include people from outside VT vaccinated at VT sites.

## Total People Vaccinated

● Started ● Completed

**92,546**

People who have received at least one dose of the vaccine



People who have received only one dose (started)

**44,824**

People who have received 2 doses (completed)

**47,722**

Includes all vaccinations reported into IMR. 4,666 doses were administered by out of state facilities.

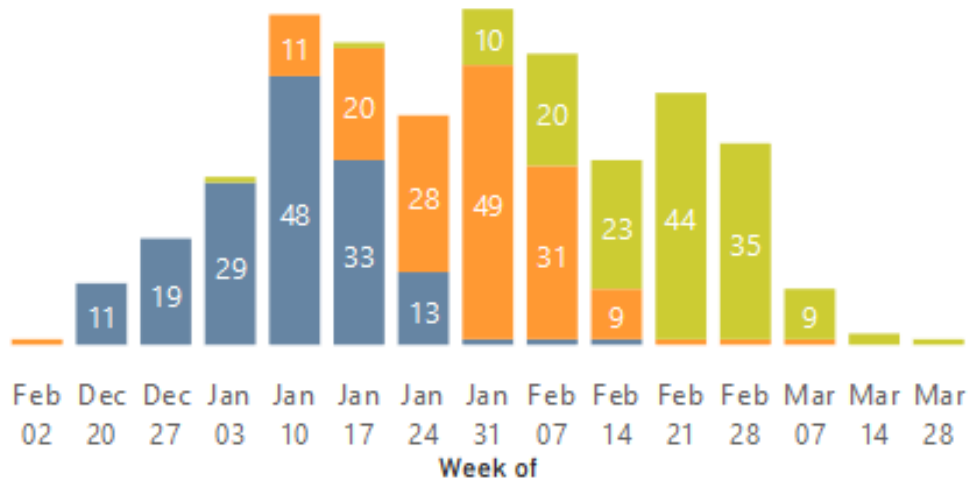
# COVID-19 Vaccination Update

February 24, 2021

## Long-term Care Vaccination Progress

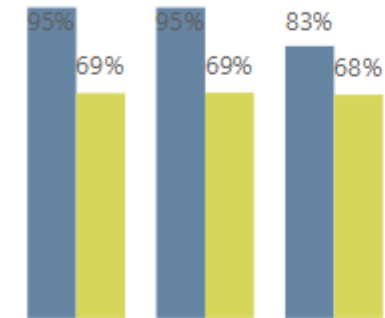
### Clinics by Week

Clinic Number ● 1 ● 2 ● 3



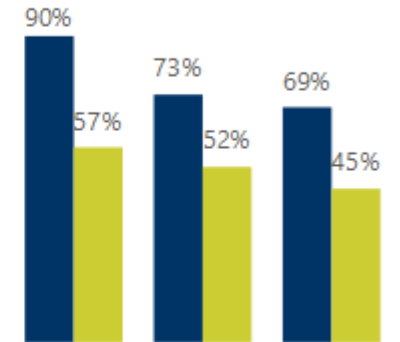
### % People Receiving At Least One Dose\*

● Residents ● Staff



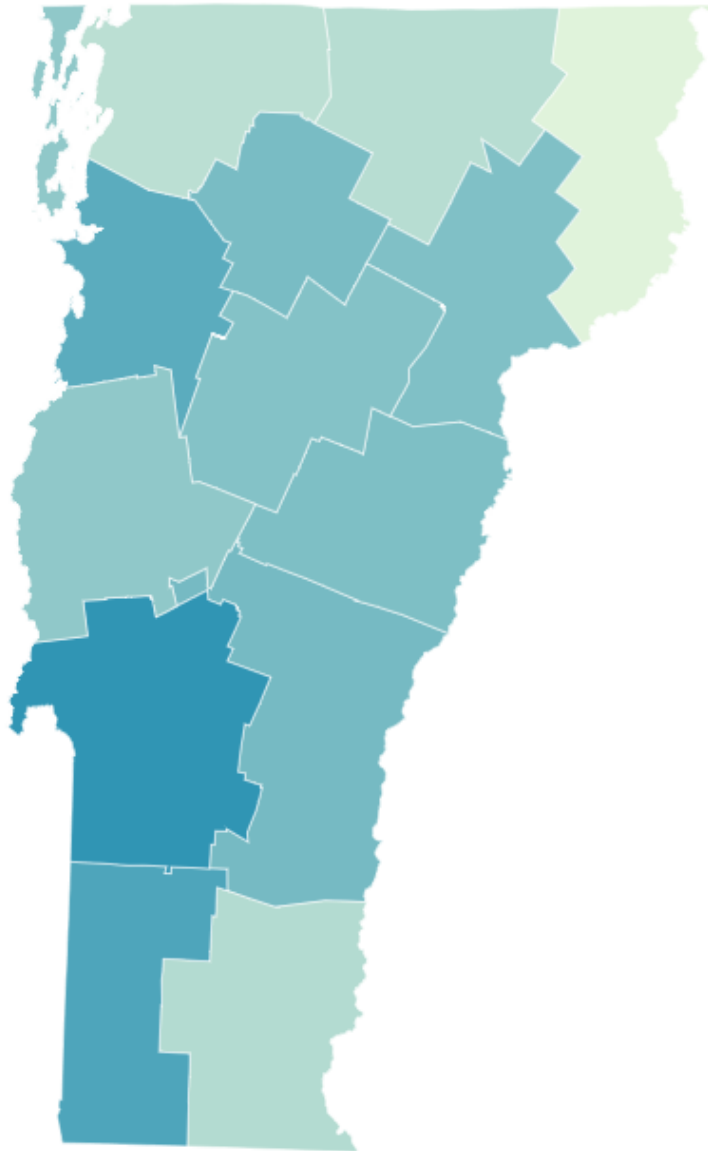
### % People Completed\*

● Residents ● Staff



\*Percentages reported as 95% here indicate  $\geq 95\%$ . Actual value is suppressed to protect individual privacy.





### Number and Percentage of Population Vaccinated By County

County	Started or completed	% Started or completed	Completed	% Completed
Addison	4,964	15.8%	2,456	7.8%
Bennington	5,401	18.2%	2,552	8.6%
Caledonia	4,086	16.3%	1,550	6.2%
Chittenden	24,566	17.7%	14,534	10.5%
Essex	670	12.8%	150	2.9%
Franklin	5,634	14.2%	2,989	7.5%
Grand Isle	959	15.7%	487	8.0%
Lamoille	3,457	16.6%	1,490	7.2%
Orange	3,991	16.4%	1,981	8.2%
Orleans	3,217	14.3%	1,287	5.7%
Rutland	9,513	19.3%	4,353	8.8%
Washington	7,937	16.2%	4,132	8.4%
Windham	5,149	14.4%	2,394	6.7%
Windsor	7,773	16.7%	3,786	8.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,317</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>44,141</b>	<b>8.4%</b>



# COVID-19 Prevention for Grocery and Food Retail Workers

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**COVID-19 Response – Primary Prevention Team**

Vermont Department of Health

February 17, 2021

# Primary Prevention Team's Role and Responsibilities

- The Vermont Department of Health's Primary Prevention Team:
- Works with groups, facilities, agencies, and other entities to help them prepare prior to cases being identified.
- Creates guidance documents, presentations, and reference materials for specific populations.
- Answers questions about COVID-19 prevention.
- Reviews and provides feedback on documents, plans, and protocols.

# Resources for Information and Support

PREVENT COVID-19 EXPOSURE AT WORK



Prevent COVID-19 exposure at work

- [CDC Guidance for Grocery and Food Retail Workers](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/grocery-food-retail-workers.html)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/grocery-food-retail-workers.html>
- Primary Prevention
- Can provide individualized support for implementing prevention plans.

# Create plans and educate employees

Cover topics like staying home when sick, physical distancing, how to wear face coverings and proper hand hygiene.

Provide materials in multiple formats and languages if necessary.

Plan how to continue essential business functions with a reduced workforce.

Cross-train workers to perform critical duties.

Prepare for how to respond if there is a positive case on site.

Make sure staff understand that if they are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID they will need to quarantine.

## Resources

[Businesses & Employees](#)

[Checklist for Employers: COVID-19 in the Workplace](#)

# Screen employees for potential COVID-19 symptoms before they enter the workplace

Develop a standardized process for screening employees prior to entering the facility.

Support sick leave and other programs to encourage sick employees to stay home.

Send employees with symptoms home immediately.

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID, even mild ones, are encouraged to contact their health care provider.

## Resources

VDH FAQs - [Work and Employees](#)

# Masks

## Make sure face coverings are worn properly

- Two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric.
- Completely cover nose and mouth.
- Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps.
- Masks that have a nose wire help prevent air from leaking out the top of the mask.

Replace when wet, dirty, or contaminated.

## Resources

VDH – [Wear a Face Mask to Keep COVID-19 from Spreading](#)

CDC – [Use Masks to Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

# Promote proper hand hygiene

Provide access to running water, soap, paper towels and trash cans.

Use no-touch trash cans, soap dispensers, hand sanitizer dispensers etc. if possible.

Have employees wash hands for at least 20 seconds.

Increase the number of hand sanitizer stations.

Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

## Key times to clean hands include:

- Before, during and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- After using the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings

## Additional workplace-specific times to clean hands include:

- Before and after work shifts and periodically throughout shift
- Before and after works breaks
- After touching money or objects that have been handled by customers, such as reusable grocery bags
- Before putting on and taking off disposable gloves when performing food prep



# Increase distance between people

Use verbal announcements on the loudspeaker and place signage throughout the establishment, at entrances, in restrooms, and in breakrooms to remind employees and customers to maintain distances of 6 feet from others.

Place visual cues such as floor decals, colored tape, or signs to indicate to customers where they should stand during check out.

Use every other check-out lane to aid distancing.

Move the electronic payment terminal/credit card reader farther away from the cashier if possible.

Remove or rearrange chairs and tables or add visual cue marks in employee break rooms to support social distancing practices between employees.

Shift primary stocking activities to off-peak or after hours when possible, to reduce contact with customers.

Provide remote shopping alternatives for customers.

# Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfection in shared spaces

Create list of high-touch surfaces and develop schedule for when to clean:

Workstations

Cash registers

Payment terminals

Door handles

Tables

Countertops

## Resources

CDC - [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)

EPA - [Disinfectants for Coronavirus](#)



[AHS.VDHCovid19PreventionResponse@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHCovid19PreventionResponse@vermont.gov)

[healthvermont.gov/covid-19](https://healthvermont.gov/covid-19)

# FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RELIEF ACT

FFCRA Paid Sick Leave required covered employers to provide 80 hours of paid sick leave for COVID-19 related reasons, plus an additional 10 weeks of paid family and medical leave at 2/3 pay for employees needing to care for a child due to a school or child care provider closure.

**These requirements expired on December 31, 2020.**

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act (2021), **did not extend the requirement that employers make paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave available to employees.**
- However, it did extend the tax credit available to employers for payments made to employees as paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave through March 31, 2021.

Thus, **employers may voluntarily elect to provide paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave to employees and will receive tax credits for doing so through March 31, 2021.** There is no legal requirement that they do so.

Any paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave taken by employees up to December 31, 2020 must still be paid by employers despite the expiration of the FFCRA.