

## **For the Week of March 22, 2021**

### Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**From Colchester Blooms:** For more than 10 years, Colchester Blooms!, a volunteer group, has raised money from local businesses and residents for the purchase and maintenance of the flower beds at Bayside Park, under the flagpole by the Pickled Perch, and the two traffic islands opposite Colchester Middle School & Malletts Bay School on Blakely Road.

We hope that those who can support the beautification of Colchester will do so. Your donation-- in any amount--enhances the Town and bring smiles to residents and visitors from June through early October.

Checks should be made payable to the "Town of Colchester" and sent to Colchester Blooms!, c/o Liz Hamlin-Volz, 123 Holy Cross Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Put "Colchester Reserve Fund" on the memo line of the check, so donations are allocated properly. All donations are tax-deductible. Contact Theresa Carroll at [mnhinc@comcast.net](mailto:mnhinc@comcast.net) with questions. Thank you in advance for your support. We hope you'll get out and enjoy the flowers this summer!

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## **COVID UPDATE**

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Vermont remains stable, while the deaths attributed to COVID-19 continue to decline. The average age of Vermonters contracting COVID-19 decreased from 44 years old at the end of November to 32 years old this week, likely due to vaccination of senior citizens.

### **Testing Recommended by Vermont Health Department as soon as possible when:**

- You have symptoms of COVID-19 (call your health care provider first) which may include the following: Fever (100.4 F or higher); Cough; Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; Chills; Fatigue; Muscle pain or aches; Headache; Sore throat; New loss of taste or smell; Congestion or runny nose; Nausea or vomiting; or Diarrhea. Even mild symptoms (like a headache or dry cough) could be signs of COVID-19.
- You are not fully vaccinated and a person in your workplace or household, or a person you attended an event with, tests positive for COVID-19.
- You are not fully vaccinated and you gather with multiple households at a time or attend an event. You should get tested as soon as 2 days after the gathering, and again 7 days after the gathering.

**Free Testing** - How and Where: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>

**State Metrics:** National trends show decreasing rates of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, though rates are stabilizing at numbers still higher than in the spring and summer of 2020. In Vermont, there were more COVID-19 diagnoses this past week, with most new diagnoses in people younger than 70. Fatality rates are also falling, primarily because those most vulnerable have been the focus of vaccination efforts since mid-December. [https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc\\_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-031621\\_0.pdf](https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-031621_0.pdf)

### **Get Vaccinated!**

**Current Groups:** COVID-19 vaccination registration is currently open to Vermonters aged 65 and above and Vermonters aged 16 and above with certain high-risk health conditions. Healthcare, first response, school, and childcare staff are also eligible for vaccination. The Department of Health is providing vaccinations for Black, Indigenous, and of color (BIPOC) Vermonters who meet the above eligibility criteria and their households.

Eligible Vermonters should register online at [www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](http://www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine)

Those without internet or who speak a language other than English call 855-722-7878.

**Future Groups:** Registrants should be able to schedule an appointment within 3 weeks of the opening date and be fully vaccinated within 2 months of that date.

- 3/25: Those aged 60 and up
- 3/29: Those aged 50 and up
- 4/5: Those aged 40 and up
- 4/12: Those aged 30 and up

**Vaccination Progress:** As of 3/18 in Vermont 166,093 people received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 88,841 of those completed vaccination.

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

**COVID Modeling:** [https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc\\_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-031621\\_0.pdf](https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-031621_0.pdf)

**Recent Cases:** There have been 438 cases in Chittenden County in the last 14 days. Given our regional social, employment, and shopping networks, this seems more important than cases in Colchester. <https://vtdigger.org/coronavirus/>

**Please be careful:** Keep masking, distancing, avoiding crowded places, washing hands, and get tested when you have symptoms so we can wind this pandemic down with as little additional sickness as possible.

Scott Crady  
Chief Colchester Rescue.

- There were 128 emergency medical calls in the last 30 days, compared to 118 calls last year.
  - We would like to welcome some new volunteer members who have joined our squad. Hannah Clay, EMT and a student at the University of Vermont; Jasmine Magloire, EMT and a student at St. Michael's College; and Jason Ziter, AEMT, EMS Instructor, Winooski Police Officer and a past member as a full-time captain here. We would also like to welcome a new per-diem employee, Justin Bliss, a paramedic with 9 years' experience in Vermont and Virginia. Justin was also a past volunteer Crew Captain here.
  - Colchester Rescue has many personnel who are helping with COVID-19 Vaccinations and Sample Collection at Vermont Dept of Health run sites around Chittenden and Franklin counties.
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Colchester Fire Department  
Chief Stephen Bourgeois

In the last month, our Department has responded to 65 calls for service that included 4-Fires, 27-Rescue & Emergency Medical calls, 2-Hazardous Condition, 9-Service calls, 7-Good Intent, and 16-False alarms. Also, Mutual Aide responses to Burlington, Winooski, and Milton.

Spring is here and just a reminder there is no burning of leaves allowed in Colchester. If you would like more information on open burning please see Sections 7-13 and 7-14 of the Town ordinances or call 862-4415.

With the retirement of Assistant Chief David Weissenstein, the department has made the following promotions of our volunteer leadership. Battalion Chief Gary Francis Jr. to Assistant Chief and Captain Mike Pelchat to Battalion Chief. Both of these individuals have a vast amount of experience and have served the town for many years, and I would like to thank them for their continued service to our department and the community.

Our department is always looking for volunteers if you would like to apply to become a member you can call 862-4415 or go to the Towns website for an online application.

If you would like to contact the Department for any reason, please call 802-862-4415

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Sarah Hadd  
Director Planning & Zoning

Spring is finally here! After being indoors all winter, everyone is ready to get out and enjoy warmer temperatures and sunshine. Spring is also a time prone to extreme weather events and especially flooding. The Town of Colchester became a Community Rating Service (CRS) Community, which gives our residents a discount on flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. Learn more about flood insurance by calling the NFIP help center at 1-800-427-4661 or by visiting: [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov).

We are here to help! Staff from the Planning & Zoning Office are willing to read floodplain maps and meet with you at your site to review your specific flooding problems and risks. We will provide one-on-one advice regarding the building regulations required to comply with federal flood standards. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call the Office at 802-264-5606 or email [pzinfo@colchestervt.gov](mailto:pzinfo@colchestervt.gov).

### *Join Our Email List*

To receive emails from the Town of Colchester with general info around flooding including what to do in the event of a flood, information on flood-proofing your property, as well as when feasible known hazardous situations such as flood event, evacuations, or flood recovery information:

- Visit [www.colchestervt.gov/list.aspx](http://www.colchestervt.gov/list.aspx)
- Click on “Notify Me” email address box
- Enter your email address that you’ve already registered with or the one you would like to use and select “Sign In”
- Select the mail icon next to the “Flood Notification” subscription

### *Register for 911 Alerts*

- VT-Alert is used by the state and local responders to notify the public of emergency situations such as floods via text, email or phone. For more information visit: <http://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert>
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## Upcoming Town Meetings

Agendas available at: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

- **Planning Commission:** April 20 at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom:  
<https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Meeting ID: 935 984 6003:
  - Live stream:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLljLFn4BZd2MtMV4SzmzYI6grkrjrcbym>
  - Mail or email public testimony prior to the hearing (shadd@colchestervt.gov or Town of Colchester Planning Commission, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446)
  
- **Development Review Board:** Next meeting: April 14 at 7:00 PM via Zoom:  
<https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Meeting ID: 935 984 6003
  - Live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
  - Mail or email public comments prior to the hearing ([lriddle@colchestervt.gov](mailto:lriddle@colchestervt.gov)) or Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446) or participate at public comment periods during the Zoom meeting.
  
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Next meeting: TBA
  
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month. Next meeting: April 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Dial: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 940 0941 6919; Passcode: 291046
  
- **Library Board of Trustees:** Next meeting: April 15, 2021 at 4:30 PM. Dial: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 915 3778 8889 Passcode: 167274.
  
- **Selectboard:** -Next meeting: March 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Attend via phone: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 989 5883 0839; Passcode: 161599. Alternatively, send a note to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:TownManager@colchestervt.gov) with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting. Watch the meeting online via live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>

Selectboard Agenda: [www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/list.aspx>

For more information or to comment call 264-5509 or email [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)