



**Colchester**  
VERMONT

781 Blakely Road  
Colchester, VT 05446  
802-264-5500

Explore Your Town Services

## Town News for the Week of May 17, 2021



*What do you want to do today?*

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### Manager's Message



**Aaron Frank, Town Manager**

**Business Aid Available:** The Town of Colchester is committed to assisting local businesses, business owners, and growing and promoting the local economy. Your Town staff has an ongoing commitment to economic development and have consistently funded a full-time staff member to business support, which is unusual for a municipality.

Your Town staff advocate for the business sector down in Montpelier at the

legislative level, to make sure positive change is made for business owners here in Colchester. In addition, our 10-year Heritage Project, completed in 2012, calls for improving the balance between residential and commercial as well as maintaining employment equivalent to our 10,000 working-age residents, something your Town staff remain committed to. In addition to jobs, the commercial base helps keep our municipal services taxes per resident among the lowest in inner Chittenden County where there are communities with similar levels of services.

Our Economic Development Director, Kathi O'Reilly can be reached at 264-5508 or [KOreilly@colchestervt.gov](mailto:KOreilly@colchestervt.gov).

The past year has seen hardships for business owners in almost every sector. Your Town staff has been compiling a list of resources for business relief which can be found at our [website](#). The recently-released [Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#) is providing grants for restaurants, brew pubs, coffee shops, food trucks, and more. The [Paycheck Protection Program's](#) deadline has been extended to May 31<sup>st</sup>, allowing Vermont businesses to apply for direct incentives to keep their workers on their payroll.

More aid for Vermont businesses is available, including debt relief programs, economic injury loans, unemployment information, cash flow tools, and more, which can all be found on your [Town website](#). We encourage all business owners to check out the programs and tools available to them. In addition, we would like to remind residents to continue to shop local when possible and support your Colchester businesses!

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### Don Demar Retires from Colchester PD

The Town and Selectboard would like to congratulate Detective Sgt. Don Demar who is retiring after 30 years of service to the Town of Colchester's Police Department. Don has had a number of successful assignments the Town including two with the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations which investigates crimes against vulnerable people. He has also served his country in the Vermont National Guard. Thank you, Don, and good luck in your future endeavors.



## COVID-19 Update

**Recent Cases:** Chittenden County has had 114 new cases in the last 14 days. Read more [here](#).

### Mask Mandate Change

Governor Phil Scott has [announced](#) Vermont will be following CDC guidance and that fully-vaccinated Vermonters no longer need to wear masks indoors or outdoors, nor do they need to physically distance themselves from others. However, businesses are allowed to determine how

they will proceed with mask requirements on an individual basis. In addition, the state is leap-frogging into Step 3 of the Vermont Forward reopening plan, since over 70% of eligible Vermonters have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, over two weeks ahead of schedule. This change ends testing requirements for travel. View more information about the Vermont Forward Plan [here](#).



Governor Scott said this new change is a “monumental step forward” and directly linked to the state’s successful vaccination efforts. He urges those who haven’t received the vaccine yet to set up an appointment if they are eligible, as the state still needs more Vermonters to get vaccinated in order to enter the final stage of reopening.



### Pfizer Vaccine Open to Ages 12-15

Vaccination registration is officially open to Vermonters ages 12 to 15 after the [Food & Drug Administration](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s](#) authorizations were made last week. The CDC approved the use of the Pfizer vaccine based on clinical trial data found

it to be safe and effective. Registration is available [online](#). Parents/caregivers can create a new account, or use an existing one, and add a child as a dependent. For assistance, call 855-722-7878.

Vaccination appointments for children ages 12 to 15 can also be made at certain pharmacies, including CVS and Kinney Drugs, with some offering walk-in appointments as well. The Vermont Department of Health is working on expanding access by offering school-based clinics. These clinics can be found on the Agency of Education’s [website](#).

### Outdoor Transmission Numbers Low

While numbers of outdoor transmission of COVID-19 have previously been reported to be “less than 10 percent” of all infections, that number might be even lower, under 0.1 percent. According to a [New York Times article](#), multiple epidemiologists suggest that the original number came from a conservative estimate, and multiple studies show rare outdoor transmission almost always involved crowded places or close conversation. For more information, read the [NYT article](#).

### Farmers to Families Food Box Program Extended

The Farmers to Families Food Box Program award

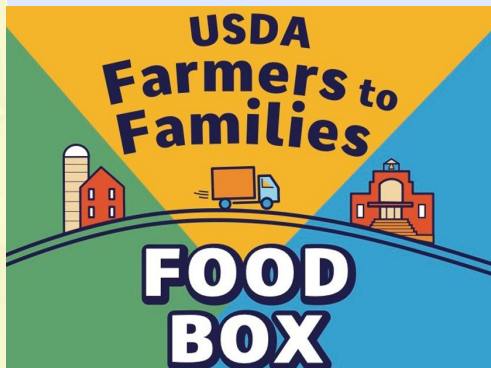
### Vaccination Progress

All Vermonters aged 16 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine. You may set up an account with the Dept. of Health to register for a vaccine [here](#). Those without

has been extended through the end of May. Please check back every day or two for locations nearby. Registration and other food resource information is available [here](#).

internet or who speak a language other than English can alternatively call 855-722-7878.

**Vaccination Progress:** As of Saturday, May 15, 388,314 Vermonters, or 70.9% of the state's population have had at least one dose of the vaccine. 288,700 Vermonters, or 52.8%, have been fully vaccinated. View the COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard [here](#).

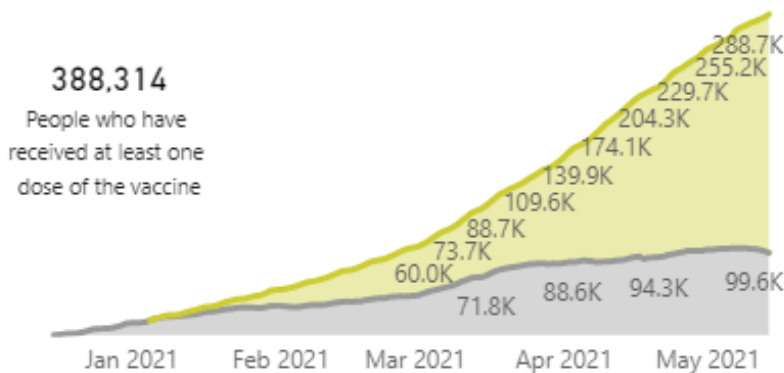


### Links

- [DOH COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Vaccine Dashboard](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Information](#)
- [St. Mike's Dashboard](#)

### Total People Vaccinated

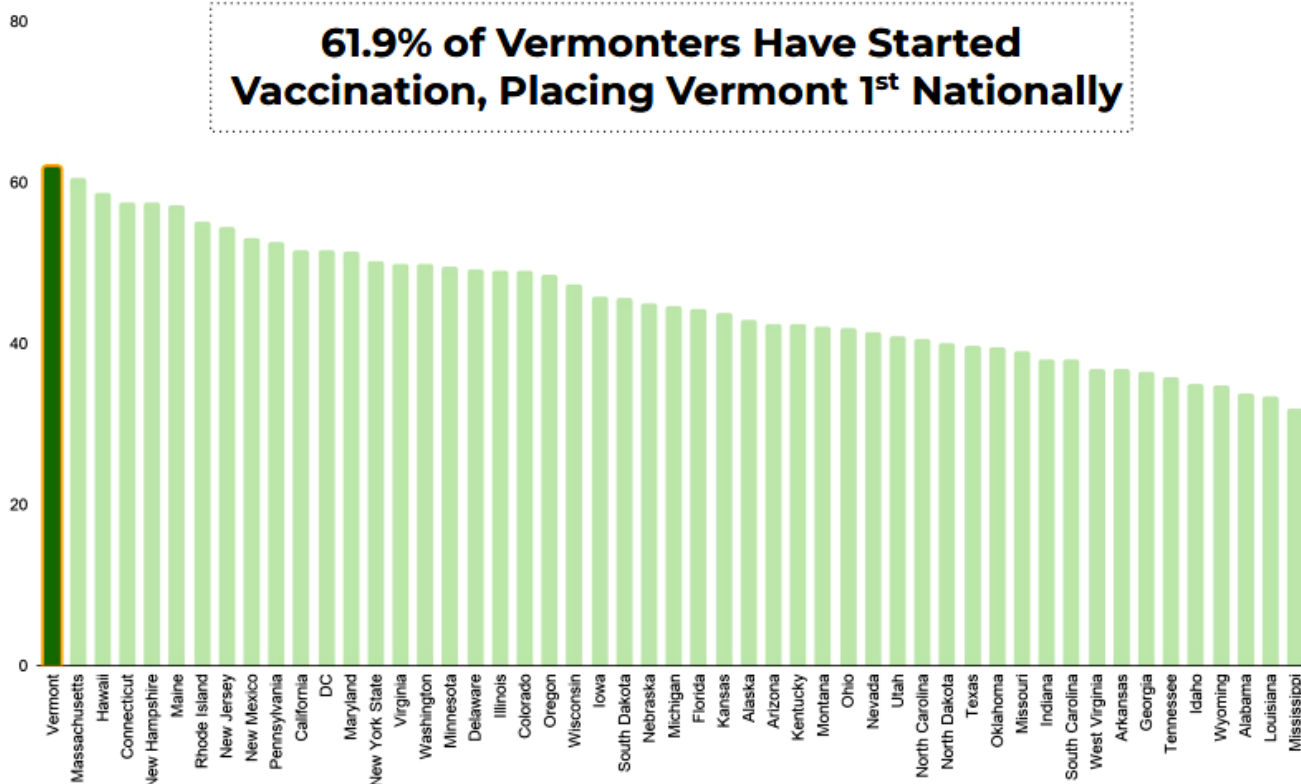
● Started ● Completed



Updated 5/15/2021 8:38:30 AM

**Vermont Ranks First in Vaccine Categories:** Vermont currently ranks first in the nation in several vaccination categories, including dose administered per 100,000 residents, percent of people who received their first dose, and percent of people over 65 years old fully vaccinated.

## 61.9% of Vermonters Have Started Vaccination, Placing Vermont 1<sup>st</sup> Nationally



Source: CDC—May 10, 2021

**Scott Crady**  
*Rescue Chief*

## National EMS Week May 16-May 22

“THIS IS EMS: Caring for Our Communities”

Each year, the nation recognizes and celebrates the dedicated providers of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) during the third week of May. 2021 is the 46th year of recognition for EMS providers.



How appropriate the theme is for this year. It goes without being said that the past year has been taxing and has been a challenge.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Colchester Rescue has remained 100% in service, answering close to 1,700 calls. Our EMS providers have worked tirelessly and without complaint to ensure the health and safety of the Colchester community.

Whether volunteer, part-time, or full-time, EMS providers meet the same professional standards. Although licensed to three different levels, our crews create cohesive teams, working seamlessly to ensure confidence and comfort with all of our patients.

EMS is not always what is seen on TV. While sometimes we find ourselves in adrenaline-pumping situations, it is much more likely to see EMS providers simply holding the hand of a scared patient or their loved one.

EMS is often show and tell for children: assisting an adult to their feet, educating community members about CPR, First Aid, and bleeding control. It is giving presentations in the schools about bike safety and careers in EMS.

We are caretakers. We are advocates. We are EMS.

**EMS**  **STRONG**

**This Is EMS: Caring for Our Communities**

**Stephen Bourgeois**  
*Chief of Colchester Fire Department*

The Colchester Fire Department has recently purchased a new fast attack fire engine to

replace several older vehicles that were taken out of commission. This new engine is smaller in size; with just six wheels and operating on four-wheel drive, it will help firefighters get to more remote areas of town that our large equipment will not. It will also be used to respond to medical calls in the Colchester Center Battalion.



The purchase was made using Fire Capital Funds set aside for equipment like this, and did not require any additional appropriations or taxpayer funds. Additionally, it is replacing 3 vehicles that would have cost \$1.3 million to replace including a brush truck and two pumper/tankers, and was purchased at a very cost-effective price of \$269,573. We are excited to have this new multi-purpose engine on the road to serve the community and keep Colchester residents safe.



Colchester Fire Department's new fast-attack fire engine purchased with Fire Capital Funds will replace several older vehicles that are now out of commission.

## Upcoming Town Meetings

[Agendas available here](#)

- Planning Commission: May 18 at 7:00 P.M. via [Zoom](#); *Zoom Meeting ID: 935*

984 6003

- [Live stream](#)
- Mail or email public testimony prior to the hearing ([shadd@colchestervt.gov](mailto:shadd@colchestervt.gov) or Town of Colchester Planning Commission, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446)

- **Development Review Board:** Next meeting: June 9 at 7:00 PM via [Zoom](#);  
*Zoom Meeting ID:* 935 984 6003

- [Live stream](#)
- 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:** Next Meeting: Meeting and planting Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM, rain date Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at the Town Offices on Blakely Road.

- **Library Board of Trustees:** Next meeting: May 20, 2021 4:30 PM; *Dial in:* (929) 205 6099 *Meeting ID:* 992 1600 9241 *Passcode:* 988244

- **Selectboard:** Next meeting: May 25, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Attend via *phone:* 1-929-205-6099; *Meeting ID:* 952 9673 1656; *Passcode:* 875044

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](#).

### [Selectboard Agenda](#)

### [Subscribe to the Town Newsletter](#)

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

[More Info](#)



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[Get In Touch](#)

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