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May 21, 2021

## Gov. Scott sets new vaccination benchmark to lift all restrictions

Governor Phil Scott announced on Friday that all the state's pandemic restrictions can be lifted ahead of the Vermont Forward target date of July 4th — if the state vaccination rate reaches 80% of eligible Vermonters (age 12 and older).

Currently, [nearly 75% of eligible Vermonters have received at least one dose](#) — more than 400,000 Vermonters.

“So, here’s my challenge to Vermonters,” said Gov. Scott. “If we hit 80%, I’ll lift any remaining restrictions and mandates — that day.”

To reach this threshold, we’ll need to vaccinate 27,954 more Vermonters, he said.

“If you’re on the fence, or haven’t gotten around to making your appointment yet, now is the time. Because we have a chance to get back to normal faster, and it’s never been easier to get vaccinated,” Gov. Scott said.

Even if you’ve already been vaccinated, you can still help, by offering someone a ride, finding them a vaccination site, or sharing why you got vaccinated, he said.

“Employers, you can help by offering an incentive, or at least a few hours off to employees so they can get their vaccines, or by asking us to bring the vaccine to your worksite,” Gov. Scott said.

“Let’s keep our momentum going. Let’s finish strong. Let’s continue to show the nation, and the world, what this brave little state is capable of.”

**[Read the press release](#)**

## Say thanks and get vaccinated at an EMS walk-in clinic this weekend

Throughout Vermont, more than 100,000 requests for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) are answered on an annual basis. Add to that the unprecedented challenges required of

the state's individual emergency responders and 168 licensed ambulance and first responder services during the pandemic, and you come up with 2,800 of our fellow Vermonters who deserve every moment of the EMS Week recognition that started on Sunday.

Governor Phil Scott officially kicked off this year's celebration with a [proclamation](#) declaring May 16 - 22, 2021 as EMS Week.

Governor Scott asks all Vermonters to show their appreciation for the work and sacrifice of our emergency responders by getting their COVID-19 vaccination. Emergency Medical Service (EMS) stations across Vermont will open their doors this weekend to host walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

From May 21 to 23, the nearly 30 EMS sites will offer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for people ages 18 and older. No appointment needed. And as a springtime bonus, people who get their shot will also get a coupon for a free creemee, thanks to Vermont Dairy Farmers and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets!

Thank you for protecting yourself, your loved ones and your community by getting vaccinated.

Learn more about getting a [Creemee for a Shot!](#)

[Read the press release.](#)

**Find an EMS Week vaccination site near you**

## **Vaccination now open to anyone visiting Vermont**

As of Wednesday, May 20, Vermont has removed the residency requirement for vaccination. That means that anyone age 12 and older who is visiting Vermont can get vaccinated. You do not have to be a Vermont resident or a part-time resident.

**Find a vaccine near you**

## **Keep checking [healthvermont.gov](https://healthvermont.gov) for more walk-in vaccine opportunities near you!**

Looking to walk in to a vaccine clinic without an appointment? You can! Check out the latest opportunities on our website: [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) and follow our [social media feeds @healthvermont](#) to stay up to date.

Remember that a clinic's vaccine supply for walk-ins is limited, so the best way to guarantee your vaccination is to make an appointment through our website.

**Find a vaccine near you**

# Vermont now has new guidance for mask-wearing, travel and gathering

As of May 14, based on updated CDC guidance and Vermont's progress in vaccination, Vermont has new guidance around mask-wearing, cross-state travel and gathering sizes.

## MASKS

People who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear a mask or maintain a 6-foot distance from others. There are some exceptions, including in schools, on public transportation, and in healthcare settings, long term care facilities and correctional facilities. Fully vaccinated means 14 days have passed since your final shot.

Anyone who is not vaccinated, or is partially vaccinated, including children must follow the [current mask requirements](#).

## TRAVEL

Travel to and from Vermont no longer requires testing or quarantine. Rules for visitors from other countries are different. Learn more about [international travel](#).

## GATHERING

For indoor gatherings, there can be one unvaccinated person per 50 square feet up to 300 unvaccinated people (whichever is less), plus any number of fully vaccinated people.

For outdoor gatherings, there can be 900 unvaccinated people, plus any number of fully vaccinated people.

- To view the full Vermont Forward Plan, visit [vermont.gov/vermont-forward](https://vermont.gov/vermont-forward).
- To view the updated executive order, [click here](#).
- For vaccination information, visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine).

**Read the press release**

## Mask guidance 'adjustment period' is OK, Dr. Levine says

Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD said at Tuesday's press conference that it's okay for Vermonters to take time to adjust to the new guidance that no longer requires masks for fully vaccinated people.

He reminded Vermonters that vaccines work, they protect against the variants we've seen, and vaccinated people are unlikely to spread the virus.

"We have great vaccination rates here in Vermont, and we're going to keep doing even better," Dr. Levine said. "This is why we can ease up on masks and distancing for fully vaccinated people. And why the Vermont Forward plan makes sense – and is even possible."

However, he acknowledged that businesses may still require masks, especially if their employees are not yet fully vaccinated.

“That is totally fine and I applaud their concern for the health of their staff,” said Dr. Levine. “This is why you should continue to keep a mask with you when out and about – to respect the policies of businesses and the settings you might find yourself in.”

He added: “It’s also OK for fully vaccinated people to be thoughtful about their decisions and observe how others behave before changing their own behaviors. Wanting to protect yourself and others has been so ingrained in us now, I can certainly understand. But know that when you’re ready, you can have confidence in the vaccine’s protection. Even if you unknowingly encounter an unvaccinated person, the vaccine is highly protective against all of the most serious outcomes.”

And if you’re not yet vaccinated, or you are just waiting for your full vaccination day to arrive – which is two weeks from your final dose – please keep up masking and distancing so you don’t put others at risk, Dr. Levine said.

## Vaccine Dashboard updated with new features and data

The COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard has a new look and data that now includes 12- to 15-year-olds who recently became eligible to get a vaccine.

The dashboard features a new dial that uses CDC data to show the percentage of all Vermonters who have had at least one COVID-19 vaccine. This is the measure used in [Vermont Forward](#), the state’s phased reopening plan.

In the “Age, Sex, Race, Ethnicity” tab, age groups by race are now broken into ages 12-30, 31-64, 65+, and Age 12+.

Please note that all data with a gray header is Health Department data, while a blue header indicates CDC data. CDC includes some data not reported to the Vermont Department of Health.

**[See the new Vaccine Dashboard](#)**

## Additional resources about vaccination & more

- Find answers to your questions about the COVID-19 vaccine from the CDC: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html).
- Get Vermont-specific information in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Find information sheets, posters and toolkits, as well as translated materials on our [Resources web page](#).

**[Visit the Resources webpage](#)**

## Take care of your emotional and mental health

If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs emotional support, help is available 24/7:

- Call your [local mental health crisis line](#).
- Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the [Crisis Text Line](#).

- Call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention-lifeline) at 1-800-273-8255. For more info, visit [healthvermont.gov/suicide](https://healthvermont.gov/suicide).
- Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at [VT Helplink](https://www.vt.gov/help).
- Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at [COVID Support VT](https://www.vt.gov/COVID-support).

Read more on coping with stress

## New on healthvermont.gov

The latest [Weekly Data Summary](#) spotlights the disproportionate number of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) with COVID-19 in Vermont. One in 8 COVID-19 cases in Vermont are Black, Indigenous or people of color (BIPOC). Rates of COVID-19 are nearly 2 times higher for BIPOC compared with white non-Hispanic residents.

From the [COVID-19 Dashboard](#), as of May 21, 2021:

- **65.8% (411,105)** of all Vermonters have received at least one dose of vaccine.
- **48.4% (315,400)** of all Vermonters have completed vaccination



**NOTE:** The dashboard features a new dial that uses CDC data to show the percentage of all Vermonters who have had at least one COVID-19 vaccine. This is the measure used in [Vermont Forward](#), the state's phased reopening plan.

Visit [COVID-19 Current Activity](#) for up-to-date information on COVID-19 positive cases across Vermont.

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