



May 14, 2021

Mask mandate lifted for vaccinated individuals. Vermont Forward plan accelerated

Governor Phil Scott today announced that because Vermont has already hit its necessary vaccination threshold – with over 60% of the population receiving at least one dose – it will move into [Step 3 of the Vermont Forward Plan](#) more than two weeks ahead of the anticipated schedule.

Additionally, following [updated guidance](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Governor signed an [executive order](#) lifting the State’s masking and physical distancing requirements for fully vaccinated individuals in Vermont. You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the final dose of your COVID-19 vaccine.

Both steps are effective today.

“Today marks a major step forward in our efforts to end this pandemic and get back to doing more of the things we’ve missed over the past 14 months,” said Governor Scott. “Vermont has led the nation in many ways throughout the pandemic, including our vaccination efforts. This puts us in the best position in the nation to safely take these steps based on the CDC guidance.”

“We have been eagerly awaiting this, and know that it is based on current science, research and data,” said Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD. “This guidance makes sense for Vermont, because as thousands more Vermonters become fully vaccinated each day, life can, and should, begin to look normal again.”

Governor Scott emphasized that Vermonters’ commitment to getting vaccinated is critical to the state meeting its goal for lifting all remaining requirements on, *or before*, the 4th of July.

“Your shot is safe, easy and effective,” said Dr. Levine. “So, whether you prefer to make an appointment, go to a walk-in or mobile clinic, a partner pharmacy or any of the special vaccination events happening around the state, go to healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine or call 855-722-7878 to find a vaccination opportunity near you.”

UPDATED MASKING ORDER

Following CDC guidance, masking and physical distancing for fully vaccinated Vermonters – except in limited circumstances like in schools, on public transportation, healthcare settings, long term care facilities, prisons etc. – is no longer required. The mandate remains in place for

those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, including children who are not yet eligible for a vaccine.

Consistent with previous steps forward, businesses and municipalities can implement stricter guidance, if they choose.

VERMONT FORWARD STEP 3

Step 3 of the Vermont Forward plan removes the testing requirement for travel and increases event and gathering capacity restrictions.

The new gathering sizes will allow for one unvaccinated person per 50 square feet, up to 300, plus any number of vaccinated people for indoor events; and 900 people, plus any number of vaccinated people, outdoors.

State websites are currently being updated to reflect the updated guidance and acceleration of Step 3.

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

[Read the press release](#)

Vermonters Ages 12 to 15 Now Eligible for Vaccination

Approximately 6,300 vaccination appointments were made for 12- to 15-year-olds Thursday, the first day this age group became eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. This reflects the number made through the state's registration system. Additional appointments were made directly through federal pharmacy partners.

The immediate opening of this age group came after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's action late Wednesday authorizing use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for ages 12 to 15.

Parents and caregivers are strongly encouraged to have these young Vermonters get vaccinated. It's easy, safe, and effective.

Appointments can be made at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine. If you need assistance, you can call 855-722-7878.

You can create an account (or use your existing account) and add the child as a dependent. When you make an appointment for this age group you will only see clinics that offer the

Pfizer vaccine. Parental/caregiver consent is required for vaccination of this age group. Consent can be given as part of the online registration process or at a clinic in person.

The Health Department is working in partnership with the Agency of Education to offer school-based clinics with daytime and evening hours. These clinics will be updated in the vaccine registration system as soon as they are scheduled, and a listing can be found at the [Agency of Education's website](#).

Making an appointment is the best way to guarantee a vaccine, but walk-in opportunities are also available and can be found on our website healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine. Anyone under 18 should be sure to only choose locations that offer the Pfizer vaccine and plan to bring a parent or guardian with them.

Certain pharmacies, including CVS and Kinney Drugs, are also offering the Pfizer vaccine to this age group, with some having appointments or walk-in opportunities available right away.

[Make a vaccine appointment today](#)

Walk-in vaccine opportunities now available

Looking to walk in to a vaccine clinic without an appointment? You can! Check out the latest opportunities on our website: 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](#)

COVID-19 testing is important and available right near you

COVID-19 is a highly transmissible virus. Getting tested is not just the only way to know if you have the virus, it's also how we protect our loved ones and our communities.

And if you have any [symptom](#), no matter how mild, such as a headache, cough, fatigue or a runny nose, talk to your health care provider to get referred for testing. It's also important to avoid going to work, school or other places until you receive a negative result.

Even if you don't have symptoms, you can still have COVID-19 and not feel sick. If you don't have symptoms and want to get tested, there are [many test sites](#) now available around the state. It's free and easy!

[Find testing near you](#)

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.
- Get Vermont-specific information in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Sign up for [the COVID-19 Weekly Email Update](#).
- 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](#) at 1-800-273-8255. For more info, visit healthvermont.gov/suicide.
- Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at [VT Helplink](#).
- Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at [COVID Support VT](#).

[Read more on coping with stress](#)

New on healthvermont.gov

Learn more in our latest [Weekly Data Summary](#).

From the [COVID-19 Dashboard](#), as of May 14, 2021:

- **384,802 (70.3% of 16+ population)** Vermonters have received at least one dose of vaccine.
- **283,203 (51.8% of 16+ population)** Vermonters have completed vaccination

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

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