

VT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Vermonters have always found ways to work together during hard times. We lend a helping hand, take care of neighbors, and look out for one another. This pandemic is challenging us to the core and forcing us to adapt in ways we never could have imagined. Like you, I am at home juggling my family and my work and doing what I can to support Vermonters during these uncertain times. I try to focus on the positive although some days, it is tough.

Mostly I recognize and appreciate all those Vermonters who are going the extra mile to protect our community during these extremely difficult times, from first responders and healthcare workers to grocery clerks and childcare providers and so many more.

As we shelter in place, there are a lot of things we can't do. Let's focus on what we can.

One way to help is to get involved: The Administration put out a CALL FOR VERMONTERS TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RESPONSE

Medical volunteers, blood and food bank donations and more needed as state ramps up response in anticipation of a surge in cases in the coming weeks.

Please consider signing up to volunteer to support the state's response to COVID-19: <https://vermont.gov/volunteer>. If you have medical and healthcare skills, please consider signing up for the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). Other volunteers are needed to help keep foodbanks stocked, deliver meals, and help their communities.

News you can use:

Now that the state has more testing capacity, you may now be tested if you are symptomatic and your healthcare provider orders a test for you.

Unemployment Insurance Town Hall

The Vermont Department of Labor will hold the first in a series of Virtual Town Hall events on **Thursday, April 2 at 2:00 pm**. This first event will focus on services for employers, focusing on issues around Unemployment Insurance, among other labor-related topics. For more information visit the [Department of Labor Website](#).

Unemployment Insurance

We have been hearing a lot from folks having difficulty filing for unemployment. The Department of Labor is swamped with a much higher demand than ever before. In fact, they have processed more claims in the last two weeks than they typically do in a whole year.

FACEBOOK LIVE UPDATES

Join us for regular updates on what the State is doing to help Vermonters during the COVID-19 pandemic at these Facebook Live Events. Go to: www.facebook.com/VTLtGov/ to tune in.

Thurs., April 2, 10:30 AM

Sat., April 4, 10:30 AM

Tues., April 7, 10:30 AM

Thurs., April 9, 10:30 AM

Thurs., April 2, 2 PM
Unemployment Ins.
Virtual Town Hall
[Department of Labor Website](#)

During this time of social distancing, you can:

Take a walk

Take a virtual exercise class

Catch up on reading

Check in on family and friends

Let us know what else you are doing.

We will be posting resources on our [website](#).

We've been assured that a delay in processing will not impact your eligibility or your benefits. They will be retroactively paid.

Commissioner Harrington promises that if you are eligible for benefits you will receive benefits.

1. You will receive the supplemental \$600/week from the Federal bill automatically; you don't have to do anything other than file your claim.
2. [The Dept. of Labor website](#) is being updated with information on an hourly basis.

In addition, most people (those with incomes under \$75,000) will receive a one-time payment of \$1,200 from the Federal government plus \$500 for each qualifying child, and that should arrive within 30 days.

Resources for Individuals and Businesses:

The VT Dept. of Labor has set up a landing page with information on benefits coming out of the **Federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act**: https://labor.vermont.gov/CARESact_Vermont, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development has set up the following resource page: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19>, with “resources for business,” “resources for individuals,” and “resources of communities” sections.

[The Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act](#)

I am appreciative of the work the Governor and the legislature is doing as to protect Vermonters, aid those in need, and lead efforts to rebuild Vermont's economy.

Things are changing by the hour. We are here to help answer questions during this chaotic and uncertain time. Please reach out with questions and we will try to answer them as fast as we possibly can.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Zuberona". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

If you find this newsletter helpful, please feel free to forward it on and let people know they can sign up to receive future newsletters and updates at www.ltgov.vermont.gov