

VT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

MARCH 27, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATE

We are getting many calls and emails from understandably worried Vermonters about how to navigate this rapidly changing environment. Here are some resources we hope will be helpful.

Resources from the Department of Health

The most comprehensive website with information on COVID-19 and for daily Department of Health updates including the CDC Self Checker Tool is: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Stay At Home, Stay Safe

Gov. Phil Scott has ordered Vermont residents to stay at home and directed businesses and non-profits to cease “in-person” operations by March 25.

Scott’s [“Stay Home, Stay Safe”](#) directive is the latest in a string of executive orders the governor has put into place to help slow the spread of COVID-19. It is in effect until at least April 15.

Under Scott’s order, people in Vermont are permitted to leave their homes “only for essential reasons critical to health and safety.” This includes buying groceries and medicine and for exercise.

Schools

Additionally, last night (March 26) the Governor ordered school districts across Vermont to remain closed through the current school year. They’ve been directed to continue teaching students remotely. In an effort to stem the spread of the coronavirus, this [directive](#) extends the order he issued earlier this month that had initially closed schools through April 6.

We know parents are working hard to keep their kids busy, educated and active and that this is a very challenging time. Here are a few resources that parents have recommended that you might want to check out: kiwico.com/kids-at-home, education.com/, prodigygame.com, rosettastone.com. Most have free versions. Not an endorsement, just suggestions. If you have other suggestions please share them with us.

Is Mine a ‘Critical’ Business?

The Governor’s Stay Home, Stay Safe order allows only [critical businesses](#) to operate.

Even with that list in the order, folks are still asking, “**But what about my business?**”

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.

Sat, March 28, 10:30 AM
Tues. March 31, 10:30 AM
Thur., April 2, 10:30 AM
Sat., April 4, 10:30 AM

Thurs., April 2, 7 AM
Kurt and Marcus “The Morning Drive” WVMT
call in 655-0346

Thurs., April 2, 9 AM
Speaking virtually
with Ag. Policy &
Ethics UVM Course

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](#).

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development has put out a more detailed list of critical businesses (based on NAICS codes) that you may find helpful:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/NAICS-Code-Guidance-for-Vermont-Businesses.pdf>

There is more info here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19-guidance/stay-home-stay-safe-business-faqs>

Unemployment Insurance

Vermont's unemployment rules have been relaxed to be able to help folks. Their phone lines are swamped so you are encouraged to use this link to start the process of applying for Vermont Unemployment Insurance.

<https://vermont.force.com/DOLClaim/s/>

Taxes

Due dates for personal income tax, Vermont homestead declaration and property tax claim, corporate income tax, and fiduciary income tax have been moved from April 15 to July 15. You can still file now and if you are expecting a refund you are encouraged to file your return. Also, if you can file electronically, please do so as it is much easier and will result in a faster refund. More tax info here: tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus

We will continue to add updates as we receive them.

Your Representatives and Senators have been working very hard to pass emergency legislation, to answer constituent questions, and to support their neighbors during these troubling times. We thank them for their service.

On a final note, here's something we overheard from a Vermont town clerk: "Loneliness, boredom and nail-biting anxiety are annoying devils we do not need right now. We need rest and peace. The best thing we can do is reach out and, if not physically touch someone, then make a virtual connection. The one thing about this pandemic, it affects every one of us. As for the economy, think of it this way: you can't have a livelihood without a life."

We've heard lots of heartwarming stories about neighbors helping neighbors. Please continue to share them on Front Porch Forum, on your social media and share them with us too. Stay safe and please feel free to reach out with concerns and questions. We're doing our best to answer them as quickly as we can.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Zuber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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