



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

[Explore Your Town Services](#)

Town News for the Week of May 24, 2021



What do you want to do today?

Manager's Message



Aaron Frank, Town Manager

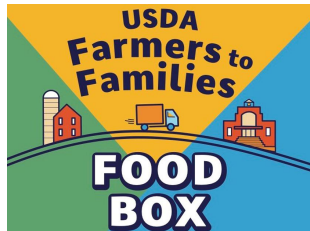
National EMS and Public Works Weeks: The Town of Colchester celebrated both National EMS Week and National Public Works Week from May 16-May 22. We thanked and honored our Emergency Medical Services providers in our Rescue and Technical Rescue squads for their selfless dedication to saving lives and keeping community members healthy and safe, especially during this last tough year during the pandemic.

We also honored our Public Works employees who serve an important role in our community to provide services and implement capital projects to keep the town running and safe. We thank both of these groups for their service to the town. Read the full letters to the [EMS](#) and [Public Works Department](#).

Town Offices Updates: Starting Tuesday June 1st, the Town Offices at 781 Blakely Road will be open from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. In light of the recent changes to the state's face mask policy, however, we are still requiring all employees and visitors to wear face masks in the Town Offices until further notice to continue protecting those who have not finished their vaccinations. We appreciate your understanding and assistance as we continue on our path to safely reopening.



Aid Available for Individuals and Families: Your Town staff have been compiling information on aid and resources available for individuals and families who need it including: food, child care for essential workers resources, rental and mortgage assistance, unemployment, senior services, health and mental health information. It can be found at our [website](#).



Farmers to Families Food Box Program Extended: The Farmers-to-Families Food Box Program 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](#).

Rental Assistance Program: Renters struggling with rent who lost income due to the pandemic might be eligible for benefits from the [Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#), which was just awarded \$100 million for relief. Homeowners who have missed mortgage payments could be eligible for the [Vermont Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program](#) through the VT Housing Finance Agency.

Emergency Broadband Benefit: Residents might be eligible for the [Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) through the Federal Communications Commission to receive discounts on internet bills and other related products.

For more information on the aid listed above and to find more resources, please visit our Town Services webpage [here](#).

Public Works Update

Night Line Striping

L&D Safety Markings will begin painting roadway center and edge lines throughout Colchester beginning the night of Monday, May 24th. Please be aware of signage and cones along and in the roadway noting areas with wet paint and avoid crossing wet paint lines where and

whenever possible. Please direct any questions to Randy Alemy, DPW Operations Manager, at ralemy@colchestervt.gov or (802) 264-5626.



COVID-19 Update

Recent Cases: Chittenden County has had 76 new cases in the last 14 days. Read more [here](#).

Modeling on Track

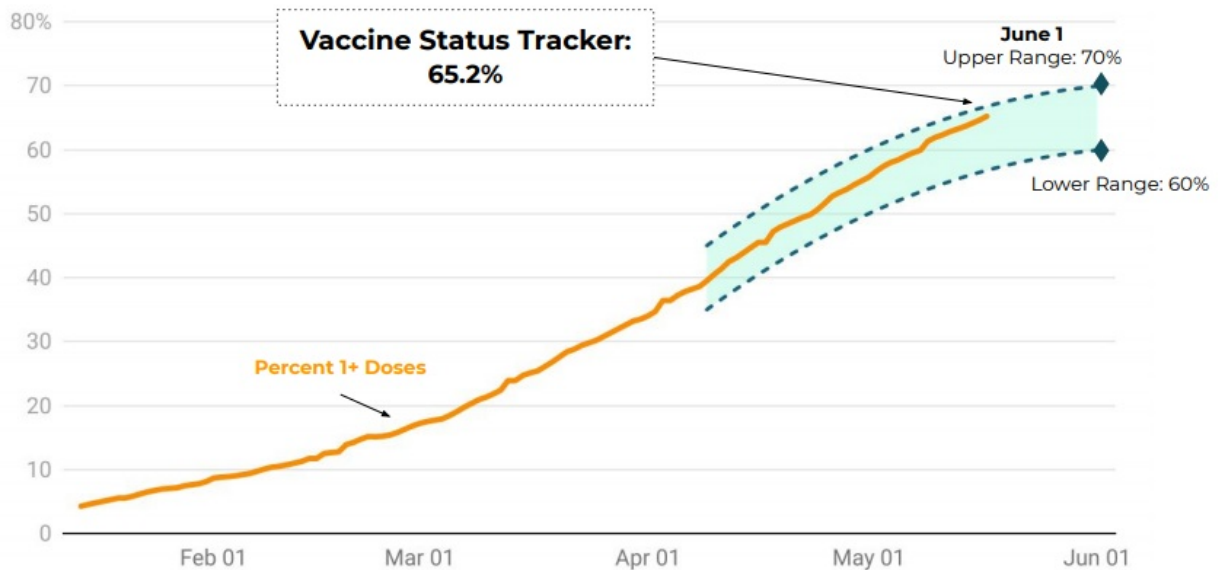
The latest COVID-19 modeling shows the state's cases continuing to decrease, with the seven-day average falling 24% this week and the fewest active cases at any point in the last six months. Additionally, for the first time since tracking started, there are no active outbreaks at any long-term care facilities. These positive trends are correlating with the state's high rates of vaccinations, ranking first in the country in many categories. 97.5% of Vermonters 65 and over are partially or fully vaccinated, with 65.2% of all Vermonters having started vaccination.

Governor Scott says based on these numbers, no state is better positioned to transition to reopening. If Vermont was its own country, he added, it would have one of the highest vaccination rates in the world. Despite recent progress on vaccinations, Scott made no promises on whether the state will lift all requirements prior to the July 4th opening date set in the Vermont Forward plan. View the latest modeling data [here](#).

COVID Infections per 100K in Vermont (7-Day Average)



Vermont Forward Progress to Goal



Source: CDC—May 17, 2021; ranges represent 1+ dose for all Vermonters; VT at 63.2% using 2020 census with population of 643,503

20

CDC Study Shows Vaccine Effectiveness

A new CDC study shows a 94% efficacy rate of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines in health care personnel. While prior studies have also confirmed similar rates, this most recent study adds to the compelling evidence that the vaccines are highly effective as it utilized a larger sample size and is the first study that used real-world conditions in a larger geographic area, as opposed to clinical trials. The CDC says these findings support their recommendation that everyone should get both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves. For more information, read the CDC press release [here](#).

Walk-In Clinics for Hospitality Workers

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce and the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Health, are offering walk-in clinics for tourism, hospitality, and restaurant workers across the state. These clinics are being held directly at hospitality locations to make it easier for workers to access. For more information about this program and to see clinic

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

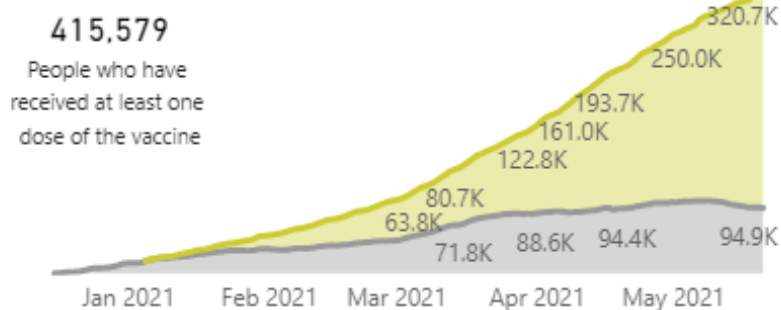
Vaccination Progress: As of Saturday, May 22, 415,579 Vermonters, or 67.5% of the state's population have had at least one dose of the vaccine. 320,700 Vermonters, or 49%, have been fully vaccinated. View the COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard [here](#).

locations, visit this [website](#).

● Started ● Completed

Links

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



Updated 5/22/2021 8:40:53 AM

Department Updates

Julie Graeter
Town Clerk

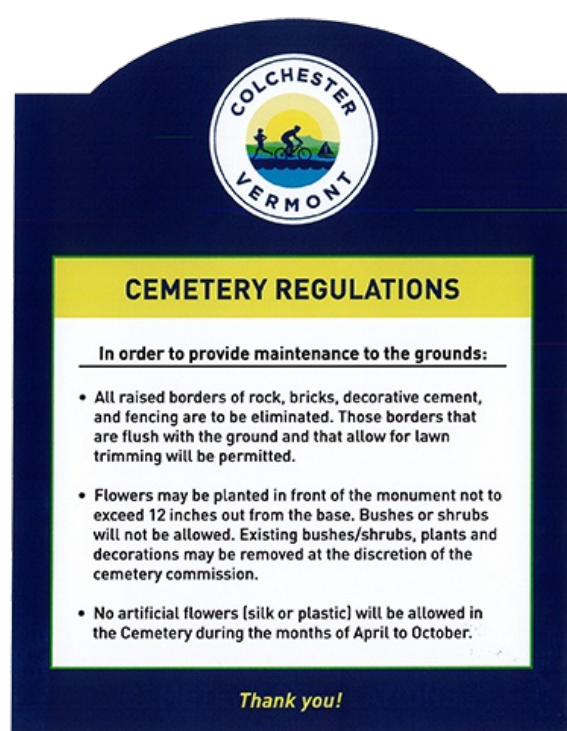
We are proud to announce this year's winner of the "Your Dog is #1" contest is Luna! Luna's parents Michelle and Mort Shapiro are so proud of her and said she is already enjoying her winnings, which included a #1 dog tag, a handmade dog quilt, a dog jacket, and snacks. Luna's parents will also get a free dog license for next year.



If you want your dog to be crowned #1 for 2022, be sure to register them by April 1st to be entered into the contest. For more information, please visit our [webpage](#).

Additionally, Colchester's six cemeteries are open and burial services have begun. We would like to remind people that as you start to visit your loved ones' gravesites this spring, there are some rules you need to abide by concerning the plants, flowers, and other decorations you adorn them with. Read more about these

regulations [here](#).



Kelly McCagg
Burnham Library Director

We are happy to announce the Burnham Memorial Library will be opening for appointments beginning June 1st. Patrons will be able to register for a 15-minute appointment beginning May 25th, either by calling the library at 802-264-5660 or visiting our [webpage](#). Restrooms will not be made available to the public during this time. More details will be shared as the date approaches.



We also will continue to offer curbside services in May and June on Tuesdays 1-4 p.m., Thursdays 3-6 p.m., and Saturdays 10-12 p.m. You can reserve books through our catalog on our website, by sending us an email at burnhamlib@colchestervt.gov, or calling us at 264-5660. We do ask for 24-hours' notice to get all your items ready for you.



As of June 1st, face coverings will no longer be required at curbside pickup or for adult programs. However, we do ask that patrons visiting the building continue to practice social distancing and wear a facemask in order to protect those members of our community who have not yet received or are not yet eligible for the vaccine. All youth programs will require participants to wear a mask (if 3 years old or older) and to practice social distancing.

Baby story time will continue to be virtual. You can join Miss Hannah on Fridays at

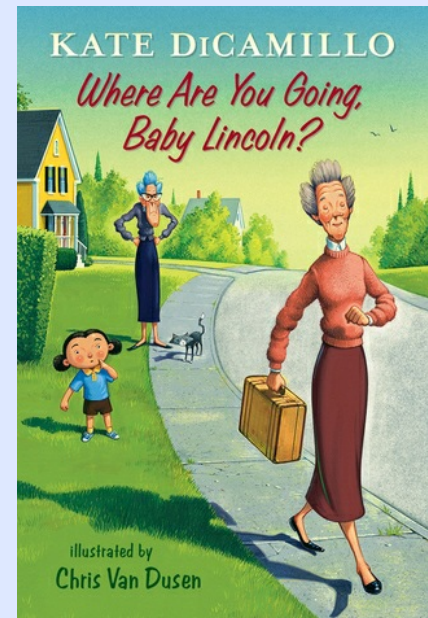
10:30 am for stories, songs, and lots of giggles. Past story times are available on our [Facebook page](#) if you've missed any.

Here is just one of the many books you can check out at curbside pickup or during an appointment:

Where Are You Going Baby Lincoln?

by Kate Dicamillo –Juvenile Fiction, 2016
Pam Tallmadge, Assistant Children's Librarian

Baby Lincoln decides rather than follow her sister Eugenia's request to buy mousetraps, she will leave and go on a "necessary journey." Baby Lincoln, whose name is Lucille, has never been anywhere or done anything without her sister. She packs a small suitcase and heads to the train station, hoping her sister might follow her. Instead, her neighbor, Stella, accompanies her and helps her to read the chart and choose a destination. Lucille meets some interesting people on the train and is asked to watch a boy named George. George is afraid of wolves, and Lucille distracts him with a story that she creates as they travel. At the end of the journey, she gives George's aunt her address so she can send him the rest of the story. She then discovers her own surprise as she disembarks. Wishing all of you "necessary journeys."



Sarah Hadd

Director of Planning & Zoning

- The Colchester Planning Commission met on May 18th to consider the program for public information for the Town's Floodplain Community Rating System program.
- The Commission will hold a public hearing on June 15th on Supplement 43 to the Development Regulations at 7PM via Zoom.
- The Development Review Board met on May 12th and approved: 1) a site plan and conditional use application of Pierre Plouffe and Ron Kingsbury to establish a U-Haul rental business at 4211 Roosevelt Highway; 2) a preliminary plat application of St. Michaels College for a six-lot subdivision of an 8.06-acre parcel located at 0 Ethan Allen Avenue; and 3) a final plat amendment of David and Lynette Rabidoux to enlarge a building envelope at 356 Thelma Dr. The Board denied the appeal of Mongeon Bay Properties regarding the expiration of building permit #26013. The Board also considered a sketch plan application of Allen Brook Development Inc. for a 26 unit planned residential development at 203 Belwood Ave.
- Due to changes in personnel, the Planning and Zoning Department will be conducting inspections only on Wednesdays with two-hour time frames. Inspection requests may be made by emailing pzinfo@colchestervt.gov or calling (802)-264-5606.



Upcoming Town Meetings

[Agendas available here](#)

- **Planning Commission:** June 15 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 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) 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 26th at 5:00 PM, rain date Thursday, May 27th at 5:00 PM at the Town Offices on Blakely Road.

- **Library Board of Trustees:** Next meeting: June 17, 2021 4:30 PM; *Dial in:* (929) 205 6099 *Meeting ID:* 935 1861 4645 *Passcode:* 059024

- **Selectboard:** Next meeting: May 25, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Attend *in person* with masks in the third-floor conference room at the town offices, 781 Blakely Rd, or via *phone:* 1-929-205-6099; *Meeting ID:* 952 9673 1656; *Passcode:* 875044

Alternatively, send a note to 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](#)

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For more information or to comment call 264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov

[More Info](#)

Get In Touch



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VERMONT

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