



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

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## Town News for the Week of May 31, 2021



*What do you want to do today?*

### Manager's Message



**Aaron Frank, Town Manager**

#### Flags Flying for Memorial Day

For Memorial Day this year, the Colchester Cemetery Advisory Committee has placed flags in the Town cemeteries to honor and mourn military personnel who have died in service. The flags were placed by committee members Wanda Morin and Theresa Carroll; Julie Graeter,

Town Clerk; and volunteers Bruce Nelson, Doug Sweeney, and Pam

Loranger.

The Colchester Milton Rotary Club is also continuing their initiative, Operation Flags for Heroes, this year. Community members and businesses have sponsored flags to fly in several locations around Colchester, including Charlebois Truck Parks in Milton and on

West Lakeshore Drive near Dick Mazza's General Store. Funds raised through these sponsorships will be donated to community organizations to support local needs. For more information on this project, please visit the Colchester Milton Rotary Club's [website](#).



### **Sarah Hadd Leaving Colchester**

Sarah Hadd, Director of Planning & Zoning, is leaving the Town of Colchester after 21 years, and has accepted a job as Town Manager with the Town of Fairfax. Sarah has contributed substantially to Colchester with myriad projects, including implementing an online permitting system that provides the public, permitting professionals, and town staff with access to the history of past permits as well as a modern system to review and approve permits.

She has been crucial in the planning for the growth center framework, enforcing zoning and health violations, completing three sets of town plan updates, supporting the Development Review Board and Planning Commission, and more. Please join me in thanking Sarah for her significant contributions to the Town of Colchester and wishing her the best in her future position.

### **Town Offices Updates**

Starting Tuesday June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Town Offices at 781 Blakely Road will be open from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. 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.



### **Unemployment**

Numbers were just released for April 2021 by the Vermont Department of Labor, showing a slight decrease in Colchester's rates as well as in the county, state, and country. From March 2021 to April 2021, the unemployment rate dropped 0.1% in Colchester, and 0.2% in Vermont. However, looking at these rates from a historical context, we are 12 months out from the worst part of the current recession.

From April 2020 to April 2021, the unemployment rate has decreased by 10.9% in Colchester and 12% in Vermont as a whole. In February of 2020, 10,556 Colchester



residents, or 98.1% of the labor force, were employed. In April 2021, 9,667 residents, or 97.6% of the labor force, are employed. There has been an overall decrease of 0.5% employment in those 14 months. In addition, the labor force has seen a decrease over this past time period; in February 2020, 10,758 individuals were in the Colchester labor force, but that number dropped to 9,906 in April 2021, with a difference of 852 individuals.

### Unemployment Rates (%) in Current Economic Downturn

| Month                             | Colchester | Chittenden County | Vermont    | US         |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| <i>Feb 2020 (for perspective)</i> | <b>1.9</b> | <b>1.8</b>        | <b>2.6</b> | <b>3.8</b> |
| Mar 2020                          | 2.6        | 2.5               | 2.9        | 4.5        |
| April 2020                        | 13.3       | 14.2              | 15.0       | 14.4       |
| May 2020                          | 10.6       | 11.7              | 9.4        | 13.0       |
| Jun 2020                          | 7.7        | 8.7               | 7.9        | 11.2       |
| July 2020                         | 6.8        | 7.6               | 6.6        | 10.5       |
| August 2020                       | 3.8        | 4.3               | 5.0        | 8.5        |
| September 2020                    | 3.3        | 3.7               | 4.5        | 7.7        |
| October 2020                      | 1.9        | 2.1               | 2.9        | 6.6        |
| November 2020                     | 2.2        | 2.4               | 3.2        | 6.4        |
| December 2020                     | 2.3        | 2.5               | 3.3        | 6.5        |
| January 2021                      | 2.9        | 3.1               | 3.7        | 6.8        |
| February 2021                     | 2.4        | 2.6               | 3.1        | 6.6        |
| March 2021                        | 2.5        | 2.7               | 3.2        | 6.2        |
| <b>April 2021</b>                 | <b>2.4</b> | <b>2.4</b>        | <b>3.0</b> | <b>5.7</b> |

While private-sector jobs in Vermont have increased 20% over the past year, the state is still down approximately 18,800 private-sector jobs as of the end of April. Additionally, an increasing number of the unemployed population are classified as “long-term unemployed,” which can make it more difficult for individuals to return to the workforce. The Department of Labor has services for Vermonters who are long-term unemployed to assist them back into the workforce and find meaningful employment with their workforce development team. For more information, visit [The Department of Labor's website](#). View the latest unemployment press release [here](#).

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### Conservation Commission Plantings on Blakely Road

The [Conservation Commission](#) held their first of two planting days last week, planting annuals in the flower beds off of Blakely Road. Their next planting will be this week at the Bayside fence and flagpole. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to making our town look beautiful!







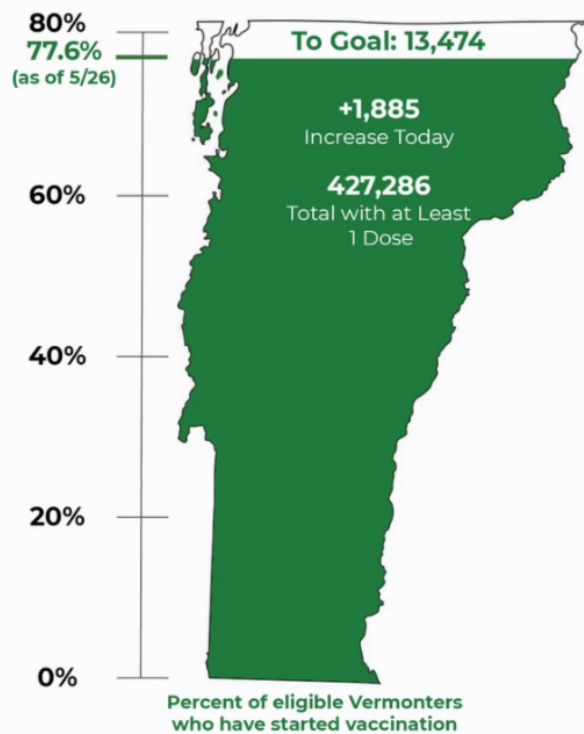
## COVID-19 Update

**Recent Cases:** Chittenden County has had 35 new cases in the last 14 days. Read more [here](#).

**New Goal to End Restrictions:** Governor Phil Scott announced last week that when 80% of Vermont's eligible population age 12 and older has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, the state will enter Stage 4 of the Vermont Forward Plan and remove the remaining restrictions which include maximum inside and outside gathering sizes and masking requirements.

As of Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 77.6% of the eligible population has received at least one dose, with 13,474 people away from the 80% goal. Appointments and walk-in clinics are still being offered around the state for those who need their first shot. You can find more information on the [Department of Health's website](#).





STEP 4 GOAL

**80%**

of Eligible Vermonters Vaccinated

STEP 4 PROGRESS

**77.6%**

of Eligible Vermonters Vaccinated  
as of May 26, 2021

PACE TO REACH STEP 4

An additional **13,474 individuals** remain to be vaccinated.  
On May 26, 2021, an additional 1,885 individuals were vaccinated.

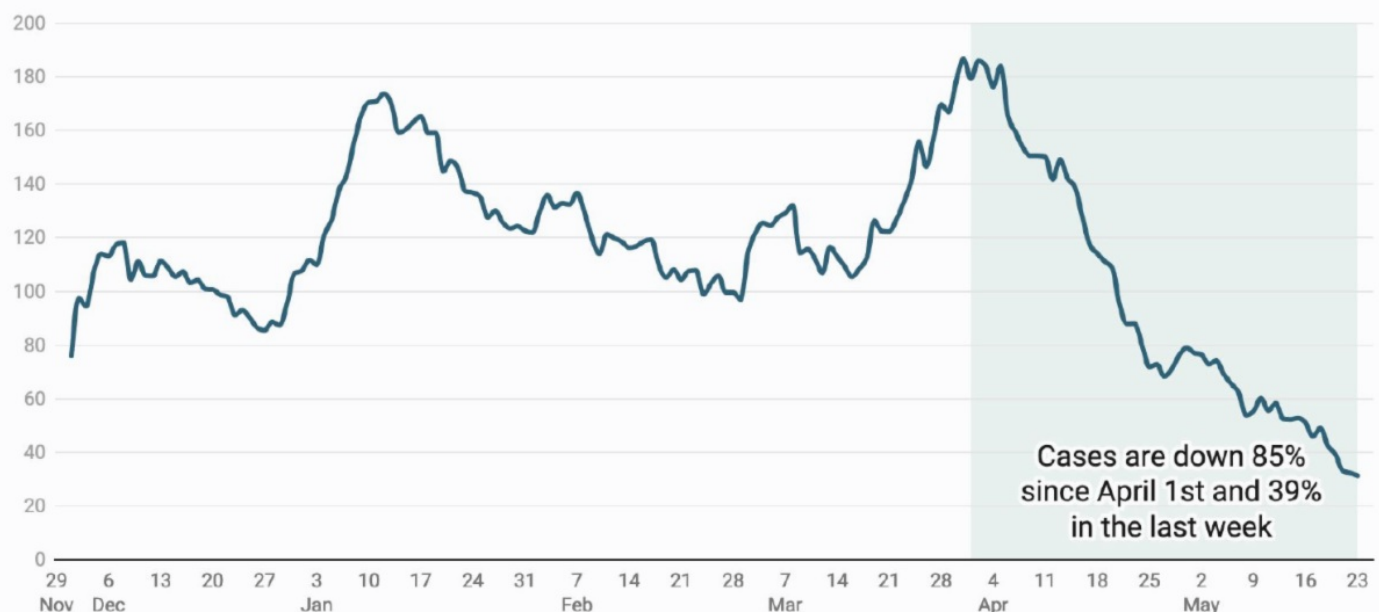
**Reopening June 9** if about 1,000 Vermonters are vaccinated daily  
**Reopening June 4** if about 1,500 Vermonters are vaccinated daily  
**Reopening Memorial Day** if about 2,695 Vermonters are vaccinated daily

Activation of Step 4 of the Vermont Forward Plan requires 80% of eligible Vermonters to be vaccinated.  
As of May 26, 2021, 77.6% (427,286) of eligible Vermonters have received at least one dose. An additional 13,474 Vermonters remain to be vaccinated to reach the goal. This accounts for the additional 1,885 Vermonters vaccinated on May 26, 2021.

## COVID-19 Modeling

COVID-19 cases are down 39% in the last week, and we have hit our lowest weekly total cases since early November of last year. Modeling shows cases continuing to decline as Vermonters get vaccinated. Additionally, there are no active outbreaks in long-term care facilities, and 98% of Vermonters 65 and over have been fully or partially vaccinated. For more information, visit the Department of Financial Regulation's [website](#).

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



## 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 locations, visit this [website](#).

## Links

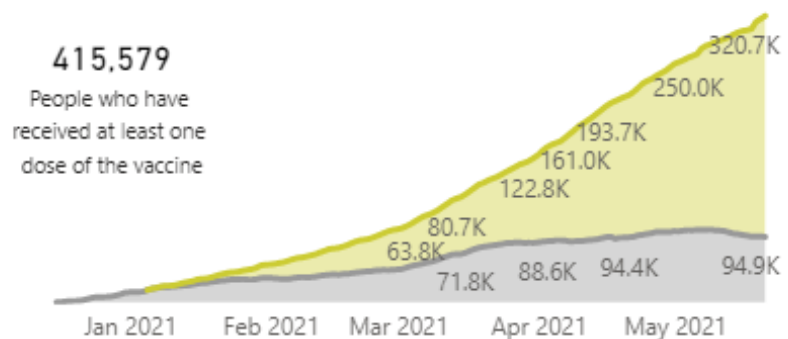
[DOH COVID-19 Dashboard](#)  
[Vaccine Dashboard](#)  
[CDC COVID-19 Information](#)  
[St. Mike's Dashboard](#)

## Vaccination Progress

All Vermonters aged 12 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 Thursday, May 27th, 428,708 Vermonters, or 77.6% of the state's eligible population have had at least one dose of the vaccine. 343,200 Vermonters have been fully vaccinated. View the COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard [here](#).

● Started ● Completed



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

## Department Updates

**Bob Vickery**  
*Assessor*

Starting June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Assessor's Office will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Masks must still be worn inside all town offices, whether or not you have been fully vaccinated, until further notice. The Assessor and Property/Tax Specialist is available by phone at (802) 254-5670 or (802) 264-5671 and by email at [colchesterassessor@colchestervt.gov](mailto:colchesterassessor@colchestervt.gov) to answer any questions you may have.



All parcel data is available online at the Assessor's [webpage](#).

We will be lodging the 2021 Grand List on June 4, 2021 with the Town Clerk; all Change of Assessment Notices will be mailed on June 4<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Grand List will be posed in five places around Colchester:

- Mazza's General Store

- The United States Post Office
- Shaw's Supermarket
- The Burnham Library
- The Colchester Town Offices

Anyone wishing to grieve their assessment must notify the Assessor's Office in writing no later than 4 pm on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Grievance hearings will be on June 18<sup>th</sup> by appointment only, and will be either by video conference or by phone. If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor by email or phone.

## Bryan Osborne

*Director of Public Works*



- Working within the right-of-way phase for the reconstruction of the Prim and West Lakeshore Drive Intersection.
- Currently working on the design and engineering needed for the future construction of a single lane roundabout at the Bayside intersection.
- Working within the right-of-way phase for stormwater improvements in Shore Acres and the surrounding area to improve water quality in Malletts Bay.
- Advancing reconstruction efforts for a stormwater outfall located behind the Town's Police Station

## 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](mailto: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: In-person site visit to Law Island, June 13th, rain date June 26th.

- **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: June 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Attend *in person* with masks in the third-floor conference room at the town offices, 781 Blakely Rd, or send a note to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto: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](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)

[More Info](#)



**Colchester**  
VERMONT

[Get In Touch](#)

**Address:** 781 Blakely Rd  
Colchester, VT 05446, USA  
**Phone:** +1 802-264-5500

