

ANA-Vermont March 24 Missive

Coming soon: ANA Vermont Well Being initiative called: RNconnect 2 Well-Being, a free resource in partnership with the American Nurses Foundation, Arizona Foundation

State Legislative Update

The Nurse Compact Bill (s.48) was approved by the Senate Health and Welfare committee, passed the finance committee & appropriations committee. It is in the 2nd reading (Senate Floor)

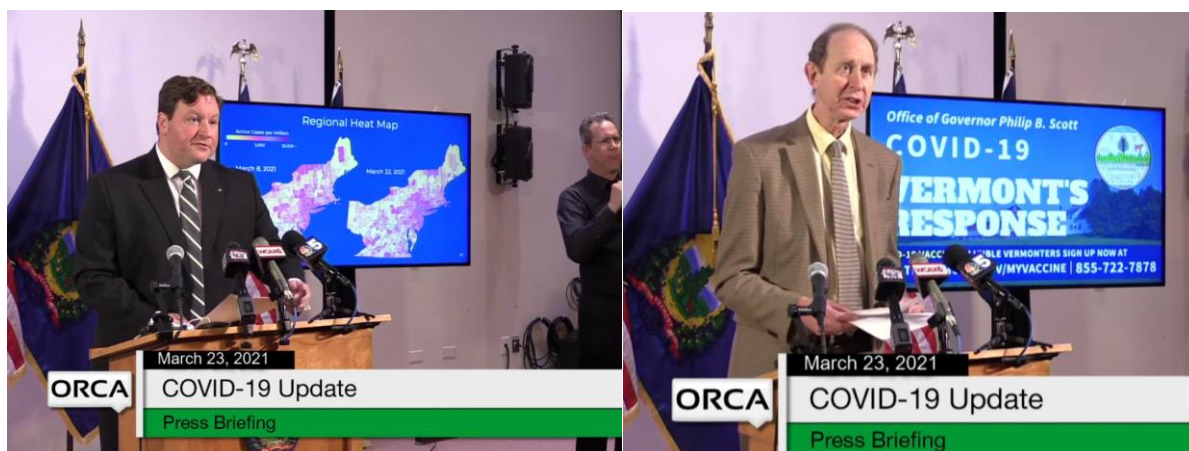
Governor's Update: State of COVID-19



Gov Scott reminds us “It’s still really important to follow guidelines and do our part”.

College students- you are not invincible. Don’t spread the virus to someone vulnerable. 60 + can now vaccinate as of Thursday (25th)- that’s Governor Scott’s age group and he is signing up!

The U.S. has now administered over 100 million doses of COVID-19 Make a vaccine appointment <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine> or call **855-722-7878**



Small outbreaks have quieted down. Dr. Levine noted campus cases are decreasing. For off campus students we are not finding that they are gathering like spring fling Florida’s behavior.

Governor Scott relayed that AstraZeneca was deemed acceptable by Dr. Fauci after his White House call. He expects that High School age children will have their vaccines by fall, younger children by spring. Students still need permission for vaccination until they are 18



Our doses have been increased. Pfizer has 1 million doses more available (1000 for VT), and J&J also has more 1.6 million (1600 for VT) J&J. 2500 more doses available... For VT that totals 5000 with previous doses so more vaccinations will be possible.

School counts are higher

People 16 and older with [high-risk health conditions](#) can be vaccinated. School and child care staff, public safety workers and people 65 and older are also eligible. In Vermont, 220 have died from the pandemic in Vermont (per Dr Levine) March 23. Dr Levine advised us to protect ourselves now that most older populations are protected. Avoid unneeded travel. Post-acute COVID Syndrome is a risk with chronic fatigue, and shortness of breath... Get tested even if you only have minor symptoms. If you have high-risk health conditions, you do NOT need a doctor's note, proof of a health condition, or a pass code to sign up.

Regarding variants in Vermont: B117 is 50% more transmissible. B1429 from California is 20% more transmissible. Younger age groups will see ad campaigns to address hesitancy. Dr Levine encouraged awareness of the post-acute syndrome, which can affect younger populations and be very debilitating. He wants to make the vaccine easily accessible – bring the vaccine to them, drive throughs in warm weather.

REMAINING VACCINE ELIGIBILITY TIMELINE



By Monday 82.8 million people have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, including about 44.9 million people who have been fully vaccinated by Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine or the two-dose series made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.... about 2.49 million doses per day on average (NY Times, 2021). If the country maintains its current pace of vaccinating people, about half of the total population will be at least partially vaccinated by late May, and nearly all by September, assuming supply

pledges are met and vaccines are eventually available to children. In Vermont 22.8% have had at least one shot, and 15% have had both – In the U.S. 542,000 have died.

Read more: The NY Times. (2021, March 22). See how the vaccine rollout is going in your state. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-19-vaccine-doses.html>

The [CDC advises](#) parents or caregivers to contact a doctor right away if kids have fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes or extra tiredness. Typically, a surge in Multi-inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) follows a surge in Covid-19 cases. A study in [JAMA Neurology](#) said that neurologic symptoms are common among children hospitalized for Covid-19 or MIS-C; although symptoms resolved for most patients, some developed into life-threatening conditions.

Christensen, J.(2021, March 8).Some children's hospitals see a surge in rare Covid-19 complication MIS-C. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/06/health/mis-c-covid-19-case-increase-wellness/>

A survey of Vermont educators revealed 92% want to receive the vaccine (NBC, 2021). Clinics have begun administering the shots for teachers at seven school districts, with 28 more being planned. The initial locations include Harwood Union, Springfield, Barre, Mill River, North Country, Rutland City and all Bennington County District schools, according to Human Services Secretary Mike Smith (NBC5, 2021).

NBC5.(2021, March 6).Survey: 92% of Vermont school staff want COVID-19 vaccine. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/survey-92-25-of-vermont-school-staff-want-covid-19-vaccine/ar-BB1ehQsG>

Vaccinated Vermonters (both doses) may have two-household gatherings and travel after 2 weeks. Gov. Phil Scott shared that people who have been fully vaccinated can gather with people of one other household at a time, regardless of whether the people in the other household have been vaccinated. You can visit a friend, even if they're not vaccinated. If vaccinated, travelers can come in and out of Vermont without quarantining. press conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxUDd7b7zSs&list=PL-xsDpLCa0iRMj4dQrqu7uoXaQmqeGvT&index=1>

Before you get your vaccine, you can create an account by going to <https://vermont.force.com/events/s/selfregistration> but they will not schedule you for the vaccine until the day you are eligible. People can choose a nearby vaccination site when making their appointment. Go to <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine> or <http://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine>

Make an appointment at Kinney Drugs <https://kinneydrugs.com/pharmacy/covid-19/vaccination-scheduling/vt/> Walgreens, visit <https://www.walgreens.com/schedulevaccine>

Novavax press release provides results:
- 100% protection against severe disease

- Final analysis in U.K. trial of 15,000 participants between 18-84 confirms 96% efficacy against the original strain of COVID-19
- Efficacy against variants confirmed in U.K. and South Africa- Efficacy was 86.3% against the B.1.1.7/501Y.V1 variant circulating in the U.K

The company announced a complete analysis of its Phase 2b trial taking place in South Africa, with efficacy of 55.4% among the HIV- negative trial participants in a region where the vast majority of strains are B.1.351 escape variants.

The South Africa trial was a randomized, observer-blinded, placebo-controlled Phase 2b clinical trial of NVX-CoV2373. One cohort evaluated efficacy, safety and immunogenicity in approximately 2,665 healthy adults. The second cohort evaluated safety and immunogenicity in approximately 240 medically stable, HIV-positive adults.

A complete analysis of vaccine efficacy among 147 PCR-positive cases (51 cases in the vaccine group and 96 in the placebo group) demonstrated an overall efficacy of 48.6% against predominantly variant strains. The vast majority of cases circulating during the efficacy analysis were due to the B.1.351/501Y.V2 variant circulating in South Africa. All five cases of severe disease observed in the trial occurred in the placebo group. Among HIV-negative participants, 55.4% efficacy was observed. The complete analysis shows that vaccine-induced protection began 14 days after dose 1, although increased efficacy was observed 7 days after dose 2.

Novavax Press Release. (2021, March 11).Novavax confirms high levels of efficacy against original and variant COVID-19 strains in United Kingdom and South Africa trials. <https://ir.novavax.com/news-releases/news-release-details/novavax-confirms-high-levels-efficacy-against-original-and-0>

In the U.S. study of 30,000 participants, AstraZeneca was found to be 79% effective for adults (Cheng & Neergaard, 2021). Independent safety monitors found no serious side effects, including no increased risk of [rare blood clots like those identified in Europe](#). AstraZeneca is now applying for emergency authorization.

Cheng, M. & Neergaard, L.(2021, March 22). AstraZeneca: US data shows vaccine effective for all adults. AP.<https://apnews.com/article/us-data-shows-astrazeneca-vaccine-safe-all-ages-a73e711c7309be4444c65d5f9ae90c43>

Doctors across the country have been seeing a striking increase in the number of young people with the condition Braden had, which is called [Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children](#) or MIS-C. Even more worrisome, they say, is that more patients are now very sick than during the first wave of cases...(Belluck, 2021)

The condition remains rare (2,060 cases in 48 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, including 30 deaths, median age 9), but the rate of cases has been increasing since mid-October (Belluck, 2021).

Belluck, P.(2021, Feb.16).Covid-Linked Syndrome in Children Is Growing, and Cases Are More Severe. *The NY Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/16/health/covid-children-inflammatory-syndrome.html>

“It’s been a year of COVID and very little has improved for not only us nurses but for our patients...our previous administration has failed us,” Lee said. ‘I want to be protected’

Many nurses and health care workers battling the coronavirus on the front line continue to fight for increased staffing and [transparency related to data](#) on health care worker deaths and infections. Lee is not going to stop working but needs PPE – more surgical masks, testing, and shares “nurses are not vaccine hesitant... Nurses understand the importance of vaccination (she has received a COVID-19 vaccine already). Elsewhere, nurses were appalled by Texas Governor Greg Abbott for his decision to fully open his state and remove safety [measures such as lifting the face mask mandate](#).

Morgan, I. (2021, March 22). I want to be protected’: Nurses still worried about dangerous work conditions, COVID mutations. <https://www.floridaphoenix.com/2021/03/22/i-want-to-be-protected-nurses-still-worried-about-dangerous-work-conditions-covid-mutations/>

Two counties in Vermont, Chittenden and Franklin counties, have variants per the Department of Health. The B.1.429 strain from California and the United Kingdom mutation, also known as B.1.1.7, [was first detected in a sample from a Chittenden County resident on March 8](#).

Galloway, A.(2021, March 18). California virus variant found in two Vermont counties. *VTDigger*. <https://vtdigger.org/2021/03/18/california-virus-variant-found-in-two-vermont-counties/>

Anderson North is a front-line ICU nurse who contacted us after receiving what appeared to be an award for her brave work.

“I just got done with work, and checked my mail, and it was from America’s Top Nurse, like America’s Top Model,” she said. The group said it was an “exclusive opportunity reserved for a select group of nurses.”

...America’s Top Nurse is part of the International Nurses association, a trade group that’s generated more than 80 complaints at the Better Business Bureau.

Complaints say the so-called “prestigious nursing award” turned out to be a credit card charge ranging from \$400 to \$800 dollars, and the nurses name in an online book.

It’s not affiliated with the well respected American Nurses Association.

Matarese, J. (2021, March 12).Is it an honor or a hoax? <https://www.nbc4i.com/news/investigates/dont-waste-your-money/is-it-a-nursing-honor-or-a-hoax/>

Katella,K.(2021, Feb. 27).**Comparing the COVID-19 Vaccines: How Are They Different?** *Yale Medicine*. <https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/covid-19-vaccine-comparison>

Type of Vaccine	Effectiveness	Common Side effects	Dosage	Effectiveness on Variants
FDA Approved in US				
Pfizer’s messenger	95% or better	Chills, headache, pain, tiredness, redness and	Two shots, 21 days apart	So far protects against the variant that 1st

RNA (mRNA) vaccine		swelling at the injection site which generally resolves within two days of rest, hydration, and meds like acetaminophen. Rare anaphylaxis		detected in Great Britain (B.1.1.7), but it may be less effective against the variant first detected in South Africa (B.1.351).
Modern's messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine,	94.1% the Moderna vaccine is slightly less effective in clinical trials (86%) in people 65 and older.	Chills, headache, pain, tiredness, redness and swelling at the injection site which generally resolves within two days of rest, hydration, and meds like acetaminophen. Rare anaphylaxis	Two shots, 28 days apart	Some research suggests that Moderna's vaccine may provide protection against the B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 variants. Researchers are still studying this
Johnson & Johnson Carrier vaccine uses adenovirus (a common virus that, when not inactivated, can cause colds...) to carry genetic code on spike proteins to cells	<u>72% overall efficacy</u> and 86% efficacy against severe disease in the U.S.	Fatigue, fever headache, injection site pain, or myalgia (pain in the muscle(s) all of which generally resolve within a day or two. It has had noticeably milder side effects than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines	Single shot. A 2nd Phase 3 clinical trial will study use of 2 doses, 2 months apart, to see if that regimen provides more protection.	Offers protection against the B.1.1.7 variant. According to the analyses the FDA released in late February, there was 64% overall efficacy and 82% efficacy against severe disease in South Africa, where the B.1.351 variant was first detected
Not Yet Approved in U.S.				
AstraZeneca Carrier virus made from a modified version of a harmless adenovirus.	79% efficacy and 100% protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death after the 2nd dose. Analysis showed potential for the vaccine to reduce asymptomatic transmission by up to 67%.	Minimal side effects except tenderness, pain, warmth, swelling or bruising at the injection site, which generally resolves within a day or two.	Two doses, four to 12 weeks apart	Works better against the mutation that emerged in Great Britain than the one that emerged in South Africa. A paper in early February (not yet peer-reviewed) cited 74.6% efficacy against the B.1.1.7 variant. However, the vaccine did not protect as well against mild and moderate cases in people infected with the B.1.351 variant ? clots (Denmark)
Novavax protein adjuvant containing the spike protein of the coronavirus formulated as a	<u>89.3% efficacy</u> Latest results showing 96% on their press release	Still being studied, <u>early trials have shown no adverse events.</u>	2 doses, three weeks apart	effective not only against COVID-19, but also against the mutations that have emerged in Great Britain and South Africa (although in late

nanoparticle, which cannot cause disease, & stimulates the immune response				January, efficacy against the latter was found to be less than 50% against severe illness)
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More information at <https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/covid-19-vaccine-comparison>

Ernest Grant, ANA President shares “If you have questions, reach out to a nurse, physician or health care professional for answers and credible information. Try to connect with someone you know and trust who has received a COVID-19 vaccine and ask them about their experience to help you make an informed decision. The mass distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines marks a critical turning point in this pandemic. Vaccination will help protect us from this deadly virus so we can get back to the people, the hobbies and the activities that we all cherish and miss.”

AHA, AMA & ANA Release Public Service Announcement Urging the American Public to Take Covid-19 Vaccine When It Is Their Turn: <https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2021/aha-ama--ana-release-public-service-announcement-urging-the-american-public-to-take-covid-19-vaccine-when-it-is-their-turn/>