

VPR News - Vermont Public Radio

Quarterly Issues / Program List

2nd Quarter - April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

The Community Issues listed in this section of the report aired during local VPR newscasts. This listing is illustrative of the programs aired on VPR and is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of programs responsive to issues of importance to the community. A daily programming and local newscast schedule is provided at the end of this report.

Issue	VPR News - Story Narratives	Air Date(s) & Length
Agriculture	Dumped Milk, Falling Prices, Shrinking Demand: Vermont Dairy And The Coronavirus. With restaurants and schools closed, some dairy producers and processors say they're seeing demand for Vermont dairy shrink. That's led to falling milk prices last month and some dairy farmers and producers dumping milk. We talk with Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts and dairy farmers about the disruptions. On Vermont Edition.	4/07/20 - 42 mins 42 sec, 12 and 7pm
Agriculture	In A Food Shortage, Could Vermont Farms Feed The Whole State? Jamie McKenzie of Waterbury originally asked this question in the context of climate change. But the food supply issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have given it new urgency. Broadcast on Weekend Edition Saturday.	5/09/20 - 21mins 57 sec, 9:21am
Agriculture	As COVID-19 Closes Major Processors, Vermont Slaughterhouses Carve Up Local Meat. Large slaughterhouses across the country are being closed due to coronavirus outbreaks and illness, straining the U.S. meat supply. A presidential executive order has even kept some plants open amid the outbreak. But surging demand for locally-grown meat in Vermont is butting up against a regional processing system that's already maxed out. We talk about local meat supply, demand and changing values. On Vermont Edition.	5/05/20 - 46 mins 3 sec, 12 and 7pm
Arts / Culture	Music, Movies, TV: Finding Comfort During Anxious Times. Music, movies, books, games, TV. What diversions are you using to pass the time and keep the mind alive during this time of self-isolation? This hour, Bob Kinzel and VPR Morning Edition host Mitch Wertlieb team up to hear your answers. On Vermont Edition.	4/10/20 - 36 mins 21 sec
Arts / Culture	Vermonters Of Faith Turn To Virtual Worship Amidst COVID-19. Passover, Easter and Ramadan all happen this month. But since Gov. Phil Scott issued his "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, religious and spiritual organizations have had to move their services online. This hour, we speak with people of different faiths and ask how they are staying connected to their communities during COVID-19. On Vermont Edition.	4/08/20 - 45 mins 22 sec, 12 and 7pm

Arts / Culture	Across Vermont, Performing Arts Organizations Navigate COVID-19. Festivals canceled. Venues closed. COVID-19 has hit Vermont's performing arts hard. This hour, we talk about the strain on artists and arts organizations, and ways Vermonters can help. On Vermont edition.	4/30/20 - 45 mins 53 sec, 12 and 7pm
Arts / Culture	Play Ball? Baseball Fans Size Up An Uncertain Season. Each spring, Vermont Edition touches base on baseball, discussing players, stoking rivalries and debating the latest proposed changes to the great American pastime. This spring, there's only one problem: there's no baseball. We'll talk about enduring a baseball-less spring, a proposed start to the season in July amid empty stands and how coronavirus has also affected collegiate teams and softball leagues in Vermont. On Vermont Edition.	5/18/20 - 47 mins 10 sec, 12 and 7pm
Business / Economics	Rep. Peter Welch: What The New Federal Aid Package Means For Vermonters. The largest rescue package in American history was signed by President Donald Trump on Friday, so what does that mean for Vermonters? Rep. Peter Welch joins Vermont Edition to answer questions about the federal aid package and what else the government is doing to provide relief. On Vermont Edition.	4/01/20 - 44 mins 49 sec, 12 and 7pm
Business / Economics	Over A Month Into The Pandemic, Vermonters Still Struggle To Get Unemployment Benefits. Vermonters are still having a hard time filing their weekly claims for unemployment due to a slow system and backed up phone lines. This hour, we get an update from the state about what it's doing to streamline the process, and hear what the federal CARES Act is doing to provide relief to Americans. On Vermont Edition.	4/15/20 - 45 mins 52 sec, 12 and 7pm
Business / Economics	Disaster Loans & Paycheck Protections: Coronavirus Relief For Vermont Businesses. In the \$2 trillion federal coronavirus relief package are two economic lifelines to small businesses: low-interest "economic disaster relief loans" for business expenses, and a "paycheck protection program" of forgivable loans if the money keeps workers on the payroll. We talk with a business councilor about the need for the loans in Vermont and delays in getting funds to struggling businesses. On Vermont Edition.	4/08/20 - 12 mins 44 sec, 12 and 7pm
Business / Economics	As COVID-19 Closes Major Processors, Vermont Slaughterhouses Carve Up Local Meat. Large slaughterhouses across the country are being closed due to coronavirus outbreaks and illness, straining the U.S. meat supply. A presidential executive order has even kept some plants open amid the outbreak. But surging demand for locally-grown meat in Vermont is butting up against a regional processing system that's already maxed out. We talk about local meat supply, demand and changing values. On Vermont Edition.	5/05/20 - 46 mins 3 sec

Education and Schools	Call-In Special: New England Colleges In 'Survival Mode' As COVID-19 Jolts Higher Education. COVID-19 has driven New England's higher education sector into financial "survival mode." Now colleges and universities must adapt or risk major — if not catastrophic — loss from the crisis. Join us for an America Amplified special from the New England News Collaborative. We'll bring together voices from across the region, and we want to hear yours. On Vermont Edition.	5/20/20 - 46 mins 59 sec, 1pm
Education and Schools	Vermont Child Care Centers Can Reopen But Worry About Risks.Gov. Scott allowed child care centers to reopen starting June 1, but there has been some pushback from early childhood educators and parents concerned about the health and safety of children and teachers. This hour, we speak with the Department for Children and Families as well as some child care directors and teachers about the reopening of these centers. On Vermont Edition.	6/16/20 - 46 mins 19 sec, 12 and 7pm
Health Care / Public Health	COVID-19 Raises Health Concerns For Vermonters With Disabilities, Older People. People in long-term care facilities like Burlington's Birchwood Terrace and Burlington Health and Rehab are at high risk for COVID-19. Both facilities have had outbreaks and deaths due to the coronavirus. Vermonters with developmental disabilities are also concerned for their health and getting the help they need during the pandemic. This hour, we get an update from the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, as well as hear personal stories from the Vermont community. On Vermont Edition.	4/19/20 - 45 mins 31 sec, 12 and 7pm
Health Care / Public Health	The Latest On COVID-19, And How Urgent Care Centers Are Treating The Disease. Vermont's state of emergency orders have been extended through mid-May. But even as the state prepares for a surge in cases in late April or early May, how do Vermonters without primary care physicians and health insurance get tested or receive care? We talk with Department of Health officials, and a nurse practitioner running an urgent care clinic, for the latest on the virus and about getting healthcare in the COVID-19 era. On Vermont Edition.	4/10/20 - 45 mins 7 sec, 12 and 7pm
Health Care / Public Health	Vermont Health Officials Discuss Plans For Expanded Testing, Contact Tracing. As Vermont loosens restrictions on work and movement in a step-by-step manner, state health officials are gearing up for an expected increase in COVID-19 cases by beefing up testing and tracing capacity. If they stay on top of new cases, they hope to be able to keep the spread to a minimum. This hour, we get a health information update and take a deeper dive into the state's approach to testing and contact tracing. On Vermont Edition.	5/04/20 - 46 mins 36 sec, 12 and 7pm

Health Care / Public Health	Navigating Routine Medical Care, Elective Procedures During the Pandemic. While people seem to be avoiding doctor's offices and urgent care facilities due to COVID-19, getting regular check ups, vaccines and medical care are still recommended by doctors and state health officials. This hour, we talk with doctors and specialists about keeping up routine health care and the return of elective procedures. On Vermont Edition.	5/19/20 - 45 mins 34 sec, 12 and 7pm
Politics and Government	Let's Talk About Bernie Sanders Suspending His Campaign. Sen. Bernie Sanders officially ended his presidential campaign Wednesday. The presidential hopeful said in a video address a path to be the Democratic nominee was "impossible" after a string of primary victories by his opponent, former Vice President Joe Biden. As Sanders exits the presidential race, we talk about his campaign, the ideas he's pushed into the mainstream and what the path now looks like to November's election. On Vermont Edition.	4/08/20 - 46 mins 20 sec, 12 and 7pm
Politics and Government	Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger Delivers State Of The City, Declares 'State Of Emergency'. Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger delivered his annual State of the City address Monday and said "the state of the City is a state of emergency". We check in with the mayor and learn more about his plans for leading Burlington through the COVID-19 crisis. On Vermont Edition.	4/07/20 - 27 mins 33 sec, 12 and 7pm
Politics and Government	Broadband Access, The Next Stimulus Package: A Conversation With Rep. Peter Welch. COVID-19 has highlighted the need for broadband access, as students learn remotely, employees work from home, and health services are accessed virtually. This hour, we talk with about a proposal to direct more than \$80 million in federal funds to the nation's broadband infrastructure. On Vermont Edition.	5/05/20 - 46 mins 41 sec, 12 and 7pm
Politics and Government	Should Vermont Shift To A Vote-By-Mail System? The COVID-19 crisis has raised questions about the November general election. Like, will it possible to vote safely in person? And what would it look like for states to shift to a vote-by-mail system? This hour, we take an in-depth look at how Vermont is responding. We talk to elections analysts and officials, and we also hear from you. On Vermont Edition.	5/14/20 - 45 mins 43 sec, 12 and 7pm