4/21/20
Dear Network Partners,
Here are a few important updates from the Vermont Foodbank.

- **Vermont Foodbank and Vermont National Guard to provide MREs to people facing hunger:** The VF has been working closely with the State to try to close any gaps in the charitable food system during the pandemic. Though we are also working on longer term solutions, one short-term solution is that the Vermont National Guard will distribute MRE meals (meals ready to eat) in 5 of the most food insecure areas of the State. The Foodbank sent out the attached press release yesterday. Please refer people to the location closest to them. You may also pass out the attached flyer to folks that you are assisting.

  Dates and locations (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. each day):
  - Wednesday, April 22, Franklin County Airport, 629 Airport Road, Swanton
  - Friday, April 24, Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport, 1002 Airport Road, North Clarendon
  - Monday, April 27, Hartness State Airport, 15 Airport Road, North Springfield
  - Tuesday, April 28, William H Morse State Airport, 1563 Walloomsac Road, Bennington
  - Wednesday, April 29, Northeast Kingdom International Airport, 2628 Airport Road, Newport

- **Staff days off April 30th and May 1st:** As you all know, our staff has been working extremely hard (just like you!) to meet the incredible increase in demand across the state. On Thursday, April 30th and Friday, May 1st the Operations Team (branch managers, drivers, warehouse workers, etc.) will be taking the days off to recharge and come back ready to continue meeting the great need in our communities! Network Partners ordering through the Barre Facility for May 4th need to have their orders in no later than noon on April 28th for us to be able to have them picked by the end of day April 29th. Brattleboro has already sent an email with their ordering deadlines.

- **Governor releases addendum to Stay Home/Stay Safe Order:** On Friday, Governor Scott released Addendum 10 to the Stay Home/Stay Safe Executive Order. The following items are included and new pieces are highlighted in yellow:

  a. Employees shall not report to, or be allowed to remain at, work or job site if sick or symptomatic (with fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath).

  b. Employees must observe strict social distancing of 6 feet while on the job.

  c. **Employees must wear non-medical cloth face coverings** (bandanna, scarf, or nonmedical mask, etc.) over their nose and mouth when in the presence of others. In the case of retail cashiers, a translucent shield or “sneeze guard” is acceptable in lieu of a mask. From a Foodbank perspective, this would include volunteers and those in shared office spaces.

  d. Employees must have easy and frequent access to soap and water or hand sanitizer during duration of work, and handwashing or hand sanitization should be required before entering, and leaving, job sites. All common spaces and equipment, including bathrooms, frequently touched surfaces and doors, tools and equipment, and vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected at the beginning, middle and end of each shift and prior to transfer from one person to another.
e. **No more than 2 people shall occupy one vehicle when conducting work.**

Instructions on cleaning and making masks from the CDC are here:  

Additional instructions on cleaning are below.

**How do I clean a homemade cloth mask?**

Homemade cloth masks should be properly cleaned before they are reused. To wash, launder masks in hot water (160°F) using soap or detergent that leaves no residue. Rinse well with fresh water and hang to dry. You may also disinfect masks by soaking them for 5 minutes in a solution of 2 tablespoons of bleach per quart of water or 1/3 cup of bleach per gallon of water.

- **Message from our colleagues at Hunger Free Vermont:** HFV would like to express our deep appreciation for the heroic efforts you are making to ensure all who need it have access to food in your communities. We would also like to help lift some of the strain from the food shelf system by encouraging people to apply for 3SquaresVT, WIC, school meals, and Meals on Wheels when they are eligible for these programs. We have developed a range of resource flyers specifically for the COVID-19 emergency, and we would like to partner with you to get this information to those you are serving. We will print and mail flyers to you if you can use them.

  Or, you can download and print them yourselves from this webpage:  
[https://www.hungerfreevt.org/coronavirus](https://www.hungerfreevt.org/coronavirus). On this webpage, you will also find a form you can fill out to request flyers to be mailed to you for distribution. Or, you can email a request for flyers directly to me at ahorton@hungerfreevt.org, or call me at 802-231-1293. Thank you for helping us connect Vermonters to every possible source of nutritious food during this critical time! -- Anore Horton

- **Vermont Foodbank can help with 3SquaresVT applications:** Please let people know to visit our 3SquaresVT page, email 3svt@vtfoodbank.org, call 1-855-855-6181 or text VFBSNAP to 85511 for assistance.

- **Food insecurity increases during COVID-19 pandemic:** Food insecurity in Vermont has increased by one-third during the coronavirus pandemic, from 18.3% to 24.3%, according to a statewide survey conducted by the University of Vermont at the end of March and announced in a series of briefs today. For more information click [here](https://www.hungerfreevt.org/coronavirus).

- **VF COVID-19 page for Network Partners:** Please continue to refer to [this page](https://www.hungerfreevt.org/coronavirus) for updates and resources.

Our very best to you in the important work you’re doing each and every day! -Vermont Foodbank team