Dear Vermont Foodbank Partners,

As you know, the Governor has issued an executive order directing people in Vermont to stay in their homes as of today, March 25, at 5 pm. There are exceptions to this order, including the Vermont Foodbank and you, our partners in this work. The language from the order states:

“5. Businesses and entities providing services or functions deemed critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security shall remain in operation, and, except as set forth in Section 4 above, shall not be subject to the in-person restrictions set forth in Section 3. 6. Services or functions in Vermont deemed critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security include:

... 
q. providers of necessities and services to economically disadvantaged populations . . . .”

The Foodbank is remaining fully operational during this time. If it is safe for you to do so, we encourage you to remain operational, taking any necessary precautions to protect you, your staff and volunteers (all of whom are covered under this exemption). We recommend distributing as a “grab and go” (pre-bagged or boxed) to clients either as a drive up or outside your space. Be sure to have social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) measures in place for any food distribution efforts and use gloves if you have them. Be sure to maintain good hand washing and hygiene practices.

**IMPORTANT:** For the safety of our Foodbank drivers, please use proper social distance (6 feet apart) when receiving Foodbank orders.

In addition, if you haven’t already done so, please consider posting these notices re. not sharing germs and keeping social distance at your agency.

A reminder (for USDA agencies) that the TEFAP income level has been raised to 300% of the federal poverty line, and that clients need only verbally acknowledge that they qualify.

Please let Joe Dauscher (jdauscher@vtfoodbank.org) know what’s happening at your place and share any questions you have about what the Foodbank is doing. Thank you for all the amazing work you are doing for your communities. It is truly inspirational!

Christine Meehan, MBA
Chief Community Impact Officer
Vermont Foodbank
33 Parker Road
Barre, VT 05641
o. 802-477-4130