The mission of VTDigger is to produce rigorous journalism that explains complex issues, holds the government accountable to the public, and engages Vermonters in the democratic process.

**VTDigger is the only news organization in the state of Vermont with a dedicated health care reporter.** We publish deep, iterative reporting on the state’s all payer healthcare system, OneCare, health care policy and state and hospital budgeting in order to bring clarity to a complicated set of issues that have huge impact on Vermonters’ lives.

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**Covid-19 in Vermont:**
Since the pandemic began, VTDigger has seen an unprecedented level of reader demand for trusted, in-depth news about the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic. Trusted information during this time has been absolutely essential.

**Our Response:**
VTDigger has provided non-stop 24/7 coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic and launched critical projects to keep Vermonters informed about the latest policy responses, science and the evolving impacts of the virus around the state.

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**Covid-19 Editorial Projects**
When the pandemic arrived in Vermont, VTDigger’s newsroom worked around the clock to develop vital tools to help readers keep up with the rapidly changing situation. VTDigger has received national recognition from the NYTimes, LION Publishers and in the National Congressional Record for our role in Vermont’s measured response to Covid-19.

- Coronavirus daily data analysis
- Live coverage of press conferences
- 24/7 liveblog and landing page
- Pop-up email newsletter (8k subscribers)
- Directory of essential businesses
- How you can help page
- Searchable FAQ database
- Email Q&A inbox
- Covid-19 remembrances series
- The Bright Side series
- Live Covid FAQ events w. state experts
2020 Covid-19 Coverage

Is Vermont ready? Hospitals scramble to prepare for Covid-19
As the Covid-19 cases surged in Vermont in mid-March, hospitals rushed to prepare for the worst case scenario. VTDigger was right there, covering the early exponential rise in cases and the emergency strategies that would stand between Vermonters and the virus. We made public the number of hospitalizations, ICU beds and ventilators that would be needed at varying rates of population infection.

VTDigger also investigated the supply of personal protective equipment available across the state, tracking deliveries from the national stockpile and private companies to Vermont. These early investigations kept Vermonters informed about the actions that medical providers and state officials were taking and identified unanswered questions. VTDigger also requested and reported on public records on the number of hospitalizations in Vermont.

The Next Wave series
In this three-part series VTDigger reported on how Vermont, which by the early summer was experiencing national recognition for its relative success containing Covid-19, would respond to a potential resurgence of the virus. The series examined the impact that a “second wave” could have on the state’s population, hospitality industry, and senior living facilities, and how the state is being affected by national trends.

Covid FAQ Live Event Series
In response to the immense volume of reader questions about ever-changing Covid-19 concerns, the FAQ Live event series is a space for community members to get answers to their most pressing questions from experts. VTDigger has hosted FAQ Live events about Covid holiday planning, anticipating a Covid vaccine, food insecurity, ski season during the pandemic and the vaccine rollout. Readers submit questions using an online form or by phone.

VTDigger’s health care reporting is made possible by generous donors and our wider membership. In the midst of the Covid-19 state lockdown, our spring mask drive donated 3,000 masks in total to local hospitals, such as Southwestern Vermont Health Care. If you are interested in making a gift to support our public health reporting, reach out to Libby Johnson at ljohson@vtdigger.org.