

Meals on Wheels Serving Many More Clients Due to Coronavirus May 2020

A significant COVID-19 challenge for the 15 Central Vermont meal sites is how to serve many more people while maintaining social distance and personal protection for volunteer drivers and their clients.

CVCOA's nutrition director, Kathy Paquet and CVCOA staff, and meals sites have been working tirelessly with the state of Vermont and the meal sites to implement new safety procedures and process new applicants.

First, all meal sites have suspended community meals to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Community meals participants can request a take-out meal by contacting their meal site. Second, volunteer drivers are using gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer when delivering meals on wheels. The meal is left outside the residence and the recipient is notified when the meal is delivered. Third, we are working to reduce the number of delivery trips which means increasing the number of meals delivered at one time. To accommodate this, we are purchasing a back-up supply of meals, including frozen meals to have on hand. All food safety standards are being maintained. CVCOA is actively raising funds to meet these challenges.

Remarkably, we have more volunteer drivers since before the COVID-19 crisis! Our neighbors and friends are coming out to help with meals on wheels and as discussed below, our Good Neighbor Volunteer Program as and RSVP are responding to bring new people on board. If you or a family member, neighbor or friend are worried about access to healthy meals during this crisis, please call CVCOA's Helpline (800) 642-5119. For a list of your local meal site and contact information, visit our website: [Meal Sites](#)