

## Vermont Medical Society 2020 Priorities



# VMS Helping You Help Others during COVID-19

Vermont  
Medical  
Society



The average number of VMS members who join our weekly VMS hosted call with the Commissioner of the Vt Dept. of Health

### Advocacy | Emergency Legislation

*Licensing and telehealth flexibility extended to 2021 (Act 140)*

*Liability protections (Addendum 9 to Executive Order 01-20)*

*\$275 million in stabilization funding for Vermont health care facilities and clinicians (Act 136)*

*Increasing insurance coverage of telehealth and COVID-19 testing*

*Increasing PPE availability*



### VMS Member Resources

Created COVID-19 Resource page updated with critical information



Created 2 new peer support programs, including our "Lumunos Huddle" and Peer-to-Peer Networking Group



### VMS Rounds 1-2x/wk

The VMS Rounds newsletter currently maintains a 26% average open rate, showing content remains relevant.



### Collaboration 3 days/wk

Coordinate emergency response efforts on daily calls with 12 other VT health care organizations.



### 3 Financial Relief Classes

Hosted 3-part webinar series on State and federal financial relief programs with Pastore Financial Group.

### Other 2020 Legislative Priorities

#### Health System Reform

- **Insurance Practices** – Advancing meaningful out-of-network coverage and charges for patients; protecting physicians from unfair contracting and reimbursement practices. (S. 309)
- **Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB)** – Ensuring work of GMCB reflects clinical input.

#### Reduce administrative burdens in the practice of medicine

- **Streamline prior authorizations & quality metrics** – Reducing administrative tasks that do not meaningfully improve quality or patient care. (H. 960)

#### Ensure a strong work force

- **Strengthen Recruitment and Retention** – Increasing loan repayment; advocating for innovative scholarships or tax incentives for clinicians committed to practicing in Vermont. (H. 607)

### Support evidence-based medicine and public health measures

- **Suicide and Gun Violence Prevention** – Supporting a waiting period for gun purchases. (H. 159)
- **Marijuana Policy** – Opposing commercial sales of recreational marijuana (S. 54)
- **Reproductive & Sexual Health** - Supporting legal protections for women’s reproductive rights, minor consent to STI prevention services. (H. 663)
- **Mental Health Capacity** – Supporting expanded access to mental health services and the creation of a forensic mental health system (S. 183)
- **Tobacco Control** – Supporting flavor ban for all tobacco products (S. 288)
- **Team-Based Care** – Supporting physician-led team-based care that allows all clinicians to provide excellent care commensurate with their training (S. 128, S. 220, S. 81)
- **Stem Cell Clinics** – Ensuring patients have accurate information regarding risks and FDA-approval status of stem cells administered outside of clinical trials. (S. 252)
- **Health Impacts of Climate Change** – Supporting efforts to curb global warming.

### What is the Vermont Medical Society?

The Vermont Medical Society (VMS) is the largest physician membership organization in the state, representing over 2400 physicians, physician assistants and medical students across all specialties and geographic locations. VMS is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization founded in 1784, dedicated to protecting the health of all Vermonters and improving the environment in which Vermont physicians and physician assistants practice medicine.

### VMS Organization

**VMS is made up of 2416 members**, which represents 2/3 of practicing physicians & PAs in Vermont, along with 460 medical students. Our members include primary care, specialists and all employer-types (hospital-employed, FQHC, independent practice)

### ***VMS also operates the:***

- *Vermont Specialty Societies:* Pediatrics, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Anesthesiology, Surgeons, Orthopedics
- *Vermont Practitioner Health Program* under contract with Board of Medical Practice to serve licensees with an impaired ability to practice
- *VMS Education and Research Foundation:* independent 501(c)(3) that supports education, improvement and evaluation in the field of health

### VMS Physician Leadership

*President:* **Catherine Schneider, MD** (general surgery, Mt. Ascutney)

*President-elect:* **Simha Ravven, MD** (psychiatry, incoming Chief Medical Officer, Howard Center)

*Vice President:* **Patti Fisher, MD** (Chief Medical Officer, Central Vermont Medical Center)

*Immediate Past-President:* **Stephen Leffler, MD** (President, UVM Medical Center)

### VMS Policy Staff

**Jessa Barnard**, Executive Director – [jbarnard@vtmd.org](mailto:jbarnard@vtmd.org)

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