FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community Health Centers: Lighting the Way for Healthier Communities Today and in the Future

VERMONT - August 6, 2020 - National Health Center Week will be celebrated this year from August 9-15 to highlight health centers’ critical role in serving their communities and strengthening public health in the battle against COVID-19.

Health centers offer a wide range of preventive and primary care services, including mental health, chronic disease management, pediatric care, and oral health, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, with a sliding fee scale. Health centers offer resources and services that help patients overcome common barriers to accessing health care, including lack of transportation, childcare, and insufficient income to pay for services and prescriptions.

About 182,000 Vermonters call a health center their medical home. Health centers remain open throughout the COVID-19 emergency. They have taken many steps to protect their patients and staff by delivering services via telemedicine, implementing screening procedures, utilizing personal protective equipment, and offering drive-thru testing as part of a statewide strategy to expand capacity. Their commitment to patient care and community service is strong and unwavering in the face of our current challenge.

A list of Vermont Community Health Centers: https://bistatepca.org/community-resources/vt-health-centers

Vermont Health Center Week Events
Community Health
https://www.chcrr.org/
In celebration of National Health Center Week, patients will receive a keychain flashlight when they check out during the week of August 9-15 and Lighting the Way posters will be displayed in the waiting rooms as a reminder of health centers’ 50-year history serving as a beacon of strength, service, and care in their communities.

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About Bi-State
Bi-State is the Primary Care Association that serves NH and VT. Bi-State provides training and technical assistance (T/TA) to Federally Qualified Health Centers and Look-Alikes to improve programmatic, clinical, operational, and financial performance. Bi-State's Recruitment Center recruits health care providers and supports policies that help retain the NH and VT health care workforce.