



**GOVERNOR NORTHAM - COVID-19 BRIEFING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2020**

Covid-19 in Virginia - Virginia Department of Health

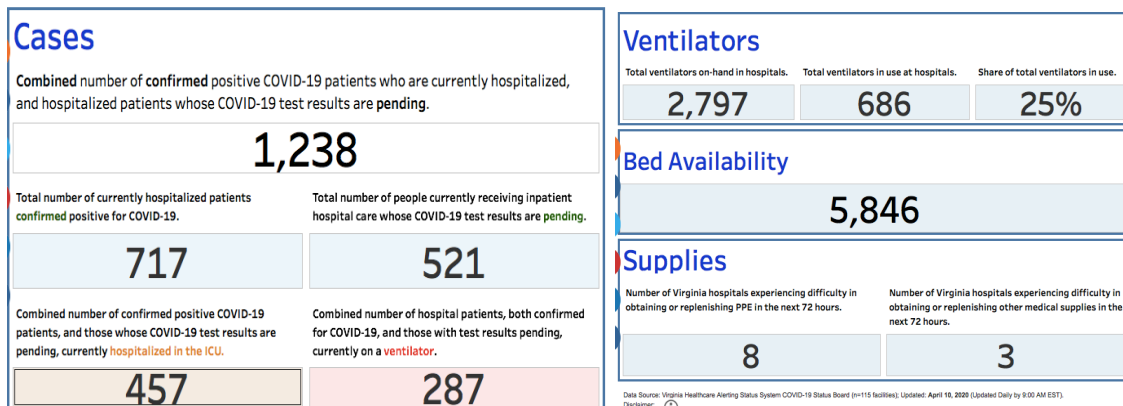
Positive Tests: 4,509
 People Hospitalized: 772
 COVID-19-Linked Deaths: 121
 People Tested: 35,459

City Breakdown of Cases Virginia Department of Health

Charlottesville	28	Newport News	68
Danville	20	Norfolk	88
Hampton	62	Petersburg	13
Harrisonburg	57	Portsmouth	48
Hopewell	14	Richmond	139
Lexington	3	Staunton	1
Lynchburg	27	Williamsburg	17
Martinsville	0	Winchester	15

 **COVID-19 in Virginia Hospitals**

As of: April 10, 2020



Governor Northam

Task Force on Long Term Care Facilities

- Canterbury Health Care facility now has largest number of deaths in a long-term care facility than any other facility in the nation.

- Setting up a special COVID-19 Task Force, chaired by Dr. Laurie Furlano, Deputy Commissioner of Public Health, to prevent further outbreaks in long term care and congregant facilities.
- The task force focus: 1) Working with the Secretary of Finance to assure these facilities have the resources they need; 2) Strengthen staffing and infection control (testing, PPE and cleaning supplies); 3) Make sure public and the facilities are getting information needed about where the outbreaks are and all the data.

Virginia Medical Reserve Corps

VMRC now has 13,000 volunteers but need more. About one half have medical training
Working with colleges and medical schools for training and reach out to volunteers
Current and former health professionals still needed.

Nurses, nurse practitioners, and nursing students encouraged to apply

Need non-medical in logistics, communication and technology and other areas.

This is an opportunity for Virginians to come together and do some good for our community

To volunteer, go to Vamrc.org to apply and for further information

Governor Budget Amendment April 22 – Department of Corrections Early Release

Will ask the General Assembly to give the Department of Corrections the authority to release offenders with a year or less remaining on their sentence. (They must have had good conduct and not be a threat to public safety)

Unemployment Update

- 114,000 applied for unemployment as of last week of March 2020
- 147,369 initial claims in the last week
- 306,143 claims in the last 3 weeks
- 191,000 payments totally \$157 million last week alone
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program to come – An additional \$600 per week.

Unemployment assistance for folks that did not previously qualify (gig workers, self-employed,)

You still have to fill out the state unemployment application to receive assistance

VEC will be reaching out to its workers and updating website to process claims

VEC hiring more staff, contracted with a private call center and upgraded claims website

Committed to make sure every claim is processed

Veto Session

1291 bills passed by GA

Deadline midnight Saturday and he will meet the deadline

Signed gun safety legislation and women's reproductive health legislation

VCU/MCV

VCU has come up with a way to clean N95 masks with UV radiation in order to decontaminate and reuse. VCU is not the only one doing this, but proud that they have stepped up and urges hospitals and others to reach out to them if they need assistance. This can be a game changer.

Dr. Laurie Furlano

Protecting residents and staff of nursing homes because these are the most vulnerable and social distancing is difficult to achieve. Committed that they have the funding and supplies they need. Also, want to ensure open communication and all have the most updated information.

As of today there are 45 outbreaks in long term care facilities (out of a total of 82 outbreaks across the Commonwealth) which equates to 55%

Q&A

Q. When will the Department of Corrections early release take place?

A. Once and if the General Assembly concurs, it will go into effect immediately with emergency clause. It will apply to less than 2000 inmates with less than a year left

Q. The legislative veto session could land at the peak of CV-19. Are you concerns about the legislature being healthy and safe?

A. Governor - The House of Delegates will meet outdoors underneath a tent and the Senate at the Science Museum on Broad Street. They are making arrangements for social distancing.

Q. National reports that federal government/FEMA seizing equipment PPE. Has this happened in Virginia? Are you looking at waiving requirements for nurse practitioners?

A. Virginia has not had that problem.

Governor Northam would like to hear from the nurse practitioner community if there are challenges with current relationship. The relationship between PAs, nurse practitioners is working well as far as he know.

Q. Immigrants being held in ICE facilities in Virginia. Legal Aid Justice Center wants more proactivity

A. Secretary Moran – The state does not have jurisdiction over these facilities. Virginia spoke with congressional delegation and others to help ensure safety of those residents.

Q. Has there been need for law enforcement to help enforce distancing and other guidelines?

A. Some reminders to break up gatherings. He doesn't know of any citations.

Q. Juvenile justice facilities testing positive (Bon Air). Will everyone there be tested? If so, when?

A. Secretary Moran – That population has been reduced to the one facility. 205 residents. They've done widespread testing. They have units there and can distance/isolate and use quarantine methods to ensure no interaction. Doing everything they can to ensure health and safety of the Bon Air facility.

Q.1. Will centers be opened in more rural areas for testing? Q. 2. President Trump's leadership style regarding CV-19 communications

A.1. Governor: No one wants us to get back to normal life more than he does. There is a difference between being inspirational and not using science. As a doctor, the Governor looks at the data and the models. He would like to be inspirational and give people hope, but also wants to tell the truth. This is a biological war that must be taken seriously and use the science and data as best we can.

A.2. Dr. Carey – Have not set up community testing yet. Having trouble with testing with those in nursing homes. When we have more testing and quicker results, we would like to go out into the community for testing.

Q. About the quantity and delay in testing.

A. Dr. Carey – Bringing in McKenzie Consulting in. Wants Virginia to be a leader in testing.

Q. What about mental health facilities like Central State (where one worker has tested positive). What is being done?

A. Using the same guidelines that are being used in nursing homes. In the case of mental health facilities, there is really not an option to let them out to ensure they get the care needed.

Q. Is Virginia considering a mandatory wearing of face protection?

A. We encourage individuals to wear the facial protection. Have not made it mandatory, but a strong suggestion. Thank you, Virginians, for doing the right thing.

Q. Why aren't deaths reported by locality?

A. Dr. Oliver – now reporting by health district and will be getting that data in a more granular view. They can't release information without family consent.

Q. Work release in Virginia

A. Secretary Moran – Promoted work release pre-COVID. He would be surprised if Sheriff's are doing this now. They are discouraging this at this point in time.

Q. Legislative bills – Casino bill. Will the Governor sign it?

A. Governor – Lot of discussion on this. He will continue his work on bills. Hasn't signed it yet. Stay tuned and you will know by midnight Saturday.

Q.1 Alternative care facility update;

Q 2 Modeling

A.1. Working with Corps and hospital CEOs. Governor's goal is to make sure hospitals and health care providers can provide care need.

A.2. Regarding modeling, they are following several models. They will be bringing in the data specialists for Monday's briefing.

In closing – We want to give all Virginians hope that we will get through this together. Working every day and night to follow the data and make the decision of when and how to ease the guidelines.

Our economic crisis can only be fixed until the health care crisis is over. Jump starting business and getting folks back to work. His administration is working to "land the plane" successfully. We went into this crisis in a strong position and we will come out of this crisis even stronger.

NEXT BRIEFING – MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2 P.M.