



**GOVERNOR NORTHAM - COVID-19 BRIEFING  
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020**

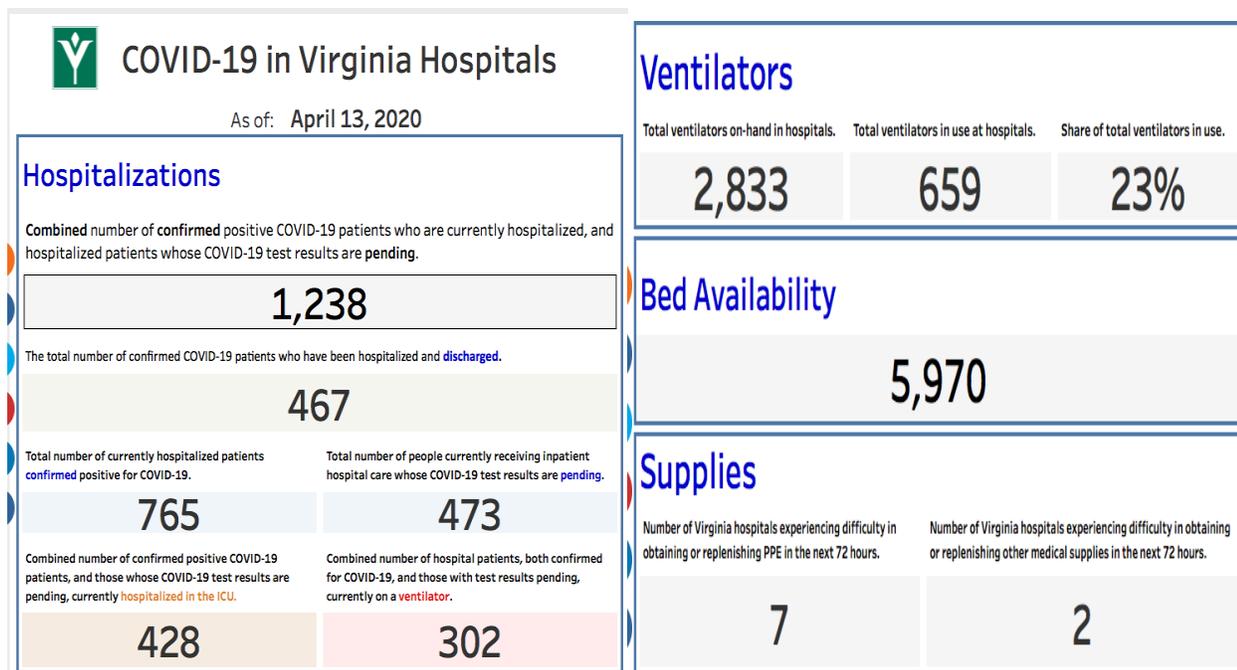
**Covid-19 in Virginia - Virginia Department of Health**

Positive Tests: 5,747 (+473)  
 People Hospitalized: 903  
 COVID-19-Linked Deaths: 149 (+8)  
 People Tested: 41,401

**City Breakdown of Cases Virginia Department of Health**

Charlottesville	33	Newport News	88
Danville	21	Norfolk	99
Hampton	72	Petersburg	19
Harrisonburg	87	Portsmouth	54
Hopewell	14	Richmond	167
Lexington	3	Staunton	2
Lynchburg	33	Williamsburg	20
Martinsville	0	Winchester	20

**97 total outbreaks of COVID-19 across the state  
 53 of the outbreaks are in long-term care facilities**



## **Governor Northam**

Last night and today we are seeing some treacherous weather  
20 water rescues  
166,000 electric customers without power.  
Dangerous storms and high winds throughout this afternoon

## **Modeling**

- Basing decisions on data and science and listening to experts at the Department of Health and hospital CEOs, economic experts to determine economic pain and how long it will be.
- We've watched national models that are helping the state and hospitals to determine when the surge will be. These models change daily. We want to take into account Virginia-specific numbers.
- UVA developed model shows that social distancing measures are working and we are slowing the spread. Also that Virginia hospitals have the capacity for the surge expected.
- If we try to rush to get lives back to normal than we will spike the numbers, so we need to keep on doing what we are doing. For students this means learning at home. Closing of schools is necessary for public health.
- Thank you teachers for dedication. Thank you superintendents, front line staff and volunteers getting food to children.
- We don't want to exacerbate the inequities in our system. We are working hard to address these inequities.

## **Education Resources**

Additional ed resources available:

- Expanding the existing Virtual Virginia to enable every public school teacher to use.
- For students without internet access, the content can be loaded onto devices and accessed offline.
- Doing everything possible to not widen the educational achievement gap
- vatv.com – public stations to broaden educational access
- There is a new guidance document for online learning and to help prevent the widening of the achievement gap. This has been sent to all our schools.

## **Nursing home and long-term care facilities**

Dr. Furlano heading this task force. The Governor, through a budget amendment has proposed increasing the rates paid to nursing homes by \$20 per resident per day. They are also looking at how the medical reserve corps can help with staffing at long-term care facilities.

## **Legislative Issues**

- 1,291 bills dealt with by Saturday deadline, including the state budget
- 144 amendments

- \$874.6 million in FY21 freed up to deal with CV-19
- \$1.4 billion in FY22
- 49 language amendments giving greater flexibility to agencies and universities in dealing with COVID-19.

## **Dr. Furlano**

Updated outbreak data by facility on the VDH dashboard

Learned of an outbreak in a long-term care facility. Testing resources were given to them, coordinating to regional health district. Staffing continues to be an issue. VDH able to supplement to help in an acute situation. The task force continues to work on higher level strategies to sustain this kind of response.

## **Q&A**

Q. UVA models show a spike in the summer if stay at home orders are lifted. Do you plan to keep the stay at home model until the Fall of 2020?

A. These are models and models are only as good as the data. It changes everyday. No known answers as of today. Taking it a day at a time. As soon as we can get lives back to normal we will. We know social distancing is working. Hospitals are currently able to handle the planned surge. As soon as restrictions can be safely eased, he will do this.

Q. The Governor's Executive order closes non-essential business through April 23. Will this be extended? Barbers and hairdressers --- when they can get back to work? .

A. Governor: We are looking at a peak in May. He will be extending the date beyond April 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will make an announcement on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> as to when it will be.

Q. How are you working with neighboring states and Washington, DC for a consistent way to ease the restrictions?

A. We are working closely with our neighbors and will, as best we can, make them consistent to ease confusion.

Q. UVA testing data on when the true peak will be. Are there efforts to boost testing capacity?

A. Dr. Carey on testing: Trying to assess at all test locations as to what is the capacity is. This is a significant problem. We are not where we need to be. Each day does get better. We need to be at a turnaround time of 15-20 minutes.

Q. Why is the Governor recommending "games of skill/gray machines" be continued to stay in convenience stores and other places?

A. Governor: His proposed budget was to tax these machines (of which there are currently approximately 15,000). The General Assembly recommended that these machines be shut down. With the current CV-19 crisis, many convenience stores are closed or on the verge of closing, so he wants to keep the machines for another year. It's now up to the General Assembly to decide.

- Tax revenue for keeping machines for one year and taxing them: \$125-150 million
- This is revenue that can be put towards homelessness, health care needs/nursing homes, and small business.

Q. Data on African American cases, can you issue an executive order to get this data? Also, President Trump talks about giving PPE and ventilators to other countries. Isn't this a disconnect?

A. Governor: In Virginia case, this is a disconnect. All the nation's governor's are fighting the same battle with finding necessary resources. Virginia is nowhere near where it needs to be. Our hospital bed capacity is adequate. However, ventilators, PPE and staffing are a different matter.

A. Dr. Carey: Lab results and getting best data on the equity issue: VDH working with hospital partners and the makers of the electronic health records they utilize. Reporting on lab results has to do with not getting the information from the clinicians. Working to insure all the important demographic information goes along with the lab requests. They are continuing their education of clinicians so they get the info to VDH. Also looking at processes for improvement.

Q. Nursing home outbreaks --- How is this information communicated to family members that have loved ones in these long-term care facilities?

A. Dr. Furlano: That happens at the facility level. VDH and Task Force continue to urge the facilities to communicate with timely and sensitive information to family.

Q. Virginia model shows regional differences. Will social distancing be adjusted?

A. Governor: This virus doesn't know county/city borders. We can't really go region by region. It is dependent on density, etc. Areas that have the densest population have the greatest surge. Western Virginia and rural areas, the surge is slower. Social distancing is a powerful tool that has slowed the virus.

Q. First responder, police, and public employees (e.g. social services) contacts with CV-19 patients --- How to handle public health and contact investigations for public employees? What is required and optimal in terms of reporting?

A. VDH interviews that individual, where they've been, social workers, etc. Do their best to notify those contacts. They do their best to identify and communicate.

Q. Please update us on the construction at the three alternative care facilities.

A. Governor: We are in daily communication with hospital CEOs. They have all kind of options including expanding existing hospitals, MASH-type options, or the alternative care facilities. He has not yet made the decision for the alternative care facilities.

Q. Question about releasing inmates

A. Governor: He has made an amendment to the state budget and now it is up to the General Assembly at the April 22 session

A. Secretary Moran: Allowing the Virginia Department of Corrections to have the discretion as to who is released. Special care is needed for those in a confined setting like a prison. This would apply to 2000 inmates (with less than a year left on their sentence). Virginia has the lowest recidivism rate in the country. Virginia has a robust reentry program for four straight years. We make sure they go through reentry while incarcerated. Substance abuse, housing, employment are all dealt with. Obviously, this is difficult to do at this time.

### **Messages/Takeaways:**

- Continue social distancing and aggressive hand washing.
- We can't stop what we are doing too soon. If we do, we will have a second peak that will be much worse than the first peak.

**NEXT BRIEFING – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2 P.M.**