



**GOVERNOR NORTHAM - COVID-19 BRIEFING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020**

Covid-19 in Virginia
Virginia Department of Health

Total Cases: 6,500
 People Hospitalized: 1048
 COVID-19-Linked Deaths: 195
 People Tested: 44,169

City Breakdown of Cases Virginia Department of Health

Charlottesville	38	Newport News	95
Danville	22	Norfolk	99
Hampton	75	Petersburg	19
Harrisonburg	101	Portsmouth	59
Hopewell	14	Richmond	177
Lexington	3	Staunton	2
Lynchburg	34	Williamsburg	19
Martinsville	0	Winchester	21

108 total outbreaks of COVID-19 across the state

- 60 of the outbreaks are in long-term care facilities (644 cases, 36 deaths)
- 19 in congregate settings (91 cases, 2 deaths)
- 15 in a healthcare setting (54 cases, 0 deaths)
- 9 in correctional facilities (87 cases, 0 deaths)
- 5 cases in an educational setting (10 cases, 0 deaths)

 **COVID-19 in Virginia Hospitals**

As of: April 15, 2020

Hospitalizations <small>Combined number of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients who are currently hospitalized, and hospitalized patients whose COVID-19 test results are pending.</small> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">1,298</div> <small>The total number of confirmed COVID-19 patients who have been hospitalized and discharged.</small> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">752</div>		Ventilators <small>Total ventilators on-hand in hospitals. Total ventilators in use at hospitals. Share of total ventilators in use.</small> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: 24pt;">2,865 695 24%</div>		
<small>Total number of currently hospitalized patients confirmed positive for COVID-19.</small> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">802</div> <small>Total number of people currently receiving inpatient hospital care whose COVID-19 test results are pending.</small> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">496</div>		Bed Availability <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">5,617</div>		
<small>Combined number of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients, and those whose COVID-19 test results are pending, currently hospitalized in the ICU.</small> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">394</div> <small>Combined number of hospital patients, both confirmed for COVID-19, and those with test results pending, currently on a ventilator.</small> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">234</div>		Supplies <small>Number of Virginia hospitals experiencing difficulty in obtaining or replenishing PPE in the next 72 hours.</small> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">6</div> <small>Number of Virginia hospitals experiencing difficulty in obtaining or replenishing other medical supplies in the next 72 hours.</small> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">1</div>		

- Data shows social distancing is working. Actions we have taken have shown to both **slow the spread and flatten the curve**. It's not time to stop what we're doing right now – we will be able to handle the number of cases if we continue our efforts, but will not if we stop.
- **Extending [Executive Order 53](#) for two weeks.** All **non-essential businesses will remain closed**.
- Important to remember that the **stay-at-home order remains in place until June 10**. We all want what's best for our health and our people. We want to go out, work and see our families. These sacrifices have been necessary for us to have time to plan and prepare. We also need to remember to thank people who're working overtime to care for others, stock shelves, etc.
- We have to find out how to build a new normal. Wear masks, telework, social distance, no large gatherings. We need to **continue to take these steps to protect ourselves and those who are most vulnerable**. No switch to flip all at once, but we'll move forward together.
- Working with our economic strike force on how best to get back our strength and open businesses. Before this crisis our economy was on fire!**March 2020 revenues were 10.8% higher than March 2019.**
- **Childcare remains vital for essential workers** – those working to move our society forward. To support those childcare options, we allocate **\$70 million to go toward direct cash assistance** for those childcare centers still open, to eliminate co-payments for schools, and open some schools for essential worker childcare. These measures should help some of our childcare services open back up. We want to ensure that all 3- and 4-year-olds get vital early childhood education. (introduces First Lady Pam Northam, who has been working to improve/increase early childhood education in the Commonwealth)
Pam: We've traveled all over the state to highlight education during those first few years, and emphasize the importance of early childhood education. childcareva.com or 866-kids-plc for more info about funding. Thanks for all you're doing to provide childcare for our essential workers. Vachildcare.org (childcare aware) we will work together.
- **Tomorrow is the anniversary of the Virginia Tech shooting**, which happened on April 16, 2007. All flags will fly at half staff tomorrow.
- Latest Virginia numbers: **6,500 positive cases (329 new) and 195 deaths (increase of 41). 1,048 hospitalizations, 44,169 tested.**
- Data on the racial/ethnicity of patients we have: of the 3,904 patients that have data, 1,158 are African American (30% of cases).

Q & A

Q: Canterbury is now the worst outbreak in a nursing home facility in the U.S. Anything could have done better/different?

A: They are our most vulnerable citizens and we continue to work on getting PPE and increasing the rate facilities get reimbursed per Medicaid patient. Challenge in testing was the 5-9 day turnaround for results, which presented an issue. Doing all we can to support them.

Q: Volunteers to serve as medical staff? Where did the 30,000 workers figure (for those needed) come from?

A: That number takes into account the number we think may be needed. Some staff are working on reporting results and using their skill sets where needed and as we need them. Those who aren't in front-line positions now are being deployed to those positions.

Q: Question specific to the Canterbury facility in Henrico?

A: Dr. Forlano: Not familiar with that facility, but we are addressing everything needed for these outbreaks, including PPE, staffing, testing.

Q: The 41 new deaths in last 24 hours? Seems biggest yet? What percentage had underlying health issues? Why so high?

A: Dr. Oliver: This is a correction of the data recorded, doesn't mean that many deaths occurred in the last 24 hours. Data was just being entered, or death certificates received. People doing contact tracing and tracking; those same people are entering data. It's prior history as well, not just on that day. Some had preexisting conditions, can't walk and are non-communicative. All of these conditions, in addition to age, make them vulnerable.

Q: **UVA model shows the peak is late August?** Will you be extending the stay-at-home order further than June 10?

A: **No intentions to extend that** and we'd even like to move that date closer. The data changes every day and it's hard to say what will happen two months from now. A lot of energy is being focused on helping our economy recover. It will be a consumer driven recovery, working with our strike force group on going back to the way things were – is unlikely to go back to that.

Q: Testing? Johns Hopkins shows **we are 2nd lowest testing state**, next to CA. Why is that?

A: We are amongst the lowest in testing per capita. We are trying to optimize the testing we have and working with our providers. Many of them presume their patients have it and are treating them for it, but not actually testing. We are focusing additional testing on nursing homes. Also looking to how we can broaden that with our current system.

Q: Barber shops and salons? Any loosening of constraints so they can have one customer in there at once?

A: These are businesses and we've had a lot of suggestions on how we can do this safely. As we move forward and plan, that's one of our top priorities. We're working on it and talking about it every day.

Q: Talking with Republicans about these issues?

A: Yes, we want input from everyone we can talk with.

Q: **Extension of tax dates?** Federal changed to July 15 from today.

A: **Virginia state tax deadline has been extended from May 1 to June 1.** Our budget cycle ends June 30, so we need to balance our budget and can't move it further back.

Q: Letter from prosecutors, juvenile justice administration, addressing release of juvenile offenders?

A: Already reduced the number from 600 to 200. Only one residential juvenile facility still operated by the state in Bon Air. The remaining children require a great deal of services that can be provided at that facility. They're reviewing every one of those 200 kids and about 70% need to stay there, the other 30% we're looking how to place them back into community. We're doing what's in their best interest.

Q: While getting Virginia back to normal, how are we working with neighboring states?

A: We have a really good relationship with MD's Gov. Hogan, Mayor Bowser in DC and Gov. Cooper from NC. We plan to be consistent and talk every day. We don't want restaurants to open on one side of Potomac and not on the other, for instance.

Q: Physicians also are now reporting **clinical diagnoses of COVID-19** not just positive tests, so how is that impacting the numbers?

A: In the absence of a lab test, we have encouraged physicians to report cases with clinical diagnosis on our VDH website.

Q: Dr. Carey, question, when do we get test results?

A: There is a lag time in reporting. Testing about 1,300 individuals in hospitals each day using a rapid test. That's important for where we are focused on PPE. The number of tests ordered has not gone up much, and we are going to adjust our criteria to test more now that a greater number of tests are available.

Q: Would it be possible for VDH to add the date of death to backtrack and see what the lag is?

A: We are continually trying to conduct surveillance while protecting patient privacy. The date of death will not be released because it would mean that person could be identified.

Q: Is the data reported a true reflection of the reality?

A: Public health surveillance is not an easy thing to be exact. It's much easier to see trends in data, but some takes longer to be analyzed. Our data is good and reliable but not exact. We are trying to gather, report and track more data all the time.

Wrap-up: Things will be different than before: continue social distancing, and wear masks. They are greatly encouraged to protect you, your family and others. They're not difficult to make, and we should get comfortable with them. Will continue to wear them for months.

Next Briefing: Friday, April 17, 2 p.m.