



**GOVERNOR NORTHAM - COVID-19 BRIEFING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020**

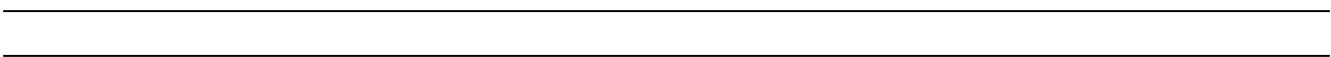
Total Cases: 14,961 (+1,426 from 4/27)
 People Hospitalized: 2,259 (+193 from 4/27)
 COVID-19-Linked Deaths: 522 (+64 from 4/27)
 People Tested: 85,307 (+5,127 from 4/27)

VFC City Breakdown of Cases, Hospitalizations, Deaths Virginia Department of Health

<u>CITY</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Hospitalizations</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Hospitalizations</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Charlottesville	52 (+2)	13	2	Newport News	114 (+2)	33	7
Danville	34 (+1)	13	1	Norfolk	192 (+8)	39	3
Hampton	109 (+1)	28	1	Petersburg	31 (+1)	13	2
Harrisonburg	411 (+28)	26	11	Portsmouth	150 (+36)	33	5
Hopewell	24 (+5)	8	0	Richmond	323 (+19)	62	14
Lexington	3	0	0	Staunton	12 (+2)	0	0
Lynchburg	52 (+1)	5	1	Williamsburg	18 (+3)	6	1
Martinsville	2 (+2)	0	0	Winchester	36 (+3)	1	0

206 (+7 from 4/27) Total Outbreaks of COVID-19 Across the State

- 116 of the outbreaks are in long-term care facilities (1,407 cases, 111 deaths)
- 45 in congregate settings (378 cases, 8 deaths)
- 18 in a healthcare setting (64 cases, 0 deaths)
- 17 in correctional facilities (298 cases, 0 deaths)
- 7 cases in an educational setting (20 cases, 0 deaths)
- 3 - Other



Governor Northam

Takeaways

Elective surgeries and non-emergency dental care can begin Friday, May 1

Meat processing facilities

- President Trump invoked Defense Production Act to keep the supply chain going after Virginia, along with Maryland and Delaware, asked President Trump to help. The CDC team landed on the Virginia Eastern Shore yesterday. Assessing the plants and making sure they are operating safely. The #1 concern is for the worker's safety. Working to help these essential workers by raising the minimum wage, etc.
- Meat processing facilities are critical to our food supply chain and our economy. The food supply chain is dependent on healthy and safe workers. If they are essential, we must support their health and wellbeing
- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Perdue has said the federal government will supply federal support for adequate PPE. These plants must follow CDC and OSHA guidance.
- Expects employees in all these plants will be tested
- Accomack County, where the Governor was raised, has 229 positive confirmed cases, so time is of the essence to stop the spread and protect workers.

Elective Medical Procedures – Doctors, Dentists, Veterinarians

- The actions that we taken to preserve PPE, hospital beds, etc. have been successful. Now hospitals and dental facilities can reopen safely and they are ready.

Dentists

- Elective surgery and dental procedures can occur after midnight Thursday, April 30. The Virginia Dental Association (VDA) issued new guidelines to members yesterday. Please contact your dental health provider now. They have new protocols to prevent the spread of CV-19.

Hospitals

- President and CEO of Mary Washington Hospital, Dr. McDermott – Time is right to provide non-emergency procedures in inpatient and outpatient settings to improve patient outcomes.
- All Virginians need to know to please seek care to improve your outcome
- We will continue to monitor the number of CV-19 patients and supplies and frontline care givers and will adjust the approach as necessary.

Veterinarians

- Allowed to provide full array of services while using the best practices.

Student Loans – CARES Act allowed people to defer loan payments. Virginia will help an additional 200,000 Virginians with student loans. Lenders will provide a minimum of 90 days forbearance on the commercial loans.

Ramp up Testing/More Granular Data

- Because of resource challenges, just a few weeks ago they were concerned about running out of beds, PPE, and testing kits. Therefore, they were priority testing. Now they have more testing capacity and so are ramping up testing of moderate and lower priority cases.
- From here out data will be reported at the zip code level. It will take a few days to report zip code information but you will see it in the next few days and moving forward.

Q&A

Q. Regarding regional business re-openings, will that be by county or by health district? How is this going? Update?

A. Governor: We are still working through a plan to do that. Looking at the data for new cases, etc. There have been good discussions and the last formal meeting of the business task force was Monday afternoon. They are getting good feedback and talking to all range of businesses. There is one more formal meeting scheduled. **Please give us your input.** We are anxious to get the economy back up and running but it must be done responsibly.

Q. PPE and bed capacity. Does that mean that the threshold has been met for a Phase 1 reopening?

A. Governor: Yes. There were initial challenges, but they have been met. You can see hospitalizations, ICU admissions and ventilator usage have remained relatively flat, thanks to dentists, veterinarians and health care providers all ceasing non-elective procedures and operations.

Q. Poultry processing plants, do these efforts apply to pork producing facilities as well? If not, when will they apply to other meat processing plants?

A. Secretary Ring: CDC guidelines apply to meat and poultry processing facilities.

Q. Can you speak to some private labs saying they have unused capacity for CV-19 testing?

A. Some of those labs do not take insurance and bill the patient directly. The Governor's task force is working on creating a database of testing facilities to make sure they use all capacity and taking care of Virginia businesses that include those labs. Trying to maximize the testing capabilities and information.

Q. Closing of Virginia's K-12 schools, was this why FEMA prioritized getting testing to other states and testing numbers in Virginia lagged other states? Will kids be back in school in the fall of 2020?

A. Governor: Can't say that for sure. FEMA is sending Virginia 200,000 additional swabs. Virginia did take aggressive steps to close schools for the remainder of the year. Very difficult step to take, but feels it was important to flattening the curve. While kids outcomes with CV-19 are better than adults, kids live in homes with parents, grandparents and great grandparents, and the virus can quickly multiply.

A. If we continue to see these results and we are slowing the spread, we are hoping they can be back in August/September 2020.

Q. Data showing 17% increase, so is Phase I going to be delayed? Is the 14-day trend absolute?

A. The bottom line, they are looking at trends. When more testing is done, they are going to have more positive results and this affects the numbers. It also is impacted by the turnaround time. Finally, you must look at who has been tested. If we are testing ER patients, nursing homes and poultry plant workers, the statistics are going to be higher. Nothing is set in stone. We are focused on the trends.

Q. Are you looking at May 8 to begin Phase 1 reopenings?

A. Right now, our numbers really haven't flattened out. Some areas of Virginia have no or very few cases. They are thinking through it fairly and reasonably to keep Virginians safe.

Q. With labs doing different kinds of testing, how confident are you on these tests? False negatives, false positives, antibody tests?

A. Dr. Toney: When looking at the different tests, they are both important and help us understand the course of the disease. Molecular tests are the most specific. All meet FDA levels of high performing tests. The timing of the tests is important. If you test too early you are going to get a false negative. If

you test the antigen test at the wrong time, you can get a false result. The molecular tests are high confidence tests.

Q. Can you keep us updated on the general trends on the curve? What has the fiscal impact been on having paused elective surgeries, dental work, and veterinarian procedures?

A. Governor: Yes, will bring updated charts/visuals to Friday's briefing.

A. Governor: The fiscal impact has been very significant. This wasn't about money, but about safety and being ready for the surge.

A. Dr. McDermott: The medical providers have sacrificed to do the right thing and it was absolutely the right decision. The pause on elective surgeries has meant well over \$200 million loss to Virginia hospitals

Q. Granular data, Colonial Heights cases have gone from 2 to 49 cases over a matter of weeks. Is that increase normal? Can we know if the deaths were in nursing homes or within the general population?

A. Colonial Heights, as in a number of localities across the Commonwealth, you will see high pockets of disease. Communities of color that have been the epicenter are getting more focus for contact tracing. The VDH Chesterfield Health Department has been following very closely the situation there and they are doing the contact tracing there. They are on top of those cases and containing the spread of the disease.

Q. Is the Department of Corrections releasing CV-19 positive patients? If so, why is this? Is this a part of the Governor's early release program?

A. Secretary Moran: No, these were scheduled releases. They would not release any inmate testing positive for CV-19 under the early release program.

In conclusion ----- Governor Northam: Let's get back to the basics. Following social distancing, frequent hand washing, covering your face when sneezing or coughing, crowds less the 10.

Next briefing scheduled for Friday, May 1, 2020