



**GOVERNOR NORTHAM - COVID-19 BRIEFING
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020**

Covid-19 in Virginia

Positive Tests: 2,012 (+306 from Thursday)
People Hospitalized: 312 (+66 from Thursday)
COVID-19-Linked Deaths: 46 (+5 from Thursday)
People Tested: 19,005 (+1,416 from Thursday)

City Breakdown of Cases

Charlottesville: 17
Danville: 9 (+2)
Hampton: 29 (+13)
Harrisonburg: 22 (+7)
Hopewell: 7 (+2)
Lexington: 2 (new)
Lynchburg: 9
Newport News: 37 (+4)
Norfolk: 43 (+6)
Petersburg: 8 (+4)
Portsmouth: 17 (+1)
Richmond City: 76 (+24)
Winchester: 9 (+4)
Williamsburg: 9

- Federal Government approved emergency declaration for equipment and supplies, shelter for approximately 1500 homeless individuals. Hotel vouchers and FEMA funding for food, medical supplies. This money will also support the Army Corps, FEMA, National Guard and the alternative care facilities.

Alternative Site Hospitals:

- Dulles Expo Center - Can accommodate 315 acute and 510 non acute beds
- Hampton Roads Convention Center – 360 acute or 580 non acute
- Richmond Convention Center – 432 acute and 758 non acute beds

The next steps contracts, design and construction.

Ready in about 6 weeks.

- Expecting the surge to come in May. Not sure if beginning, middle or end of May

Economic slowdown is affecting thousands of Virginians

- 114,104 applied for unemployment last week
- Overwhelming the unemployment system.
- VEC Website server capacity upgraded
- Call center staffed up
- The Virginia Department. of Labor will provide unemployment benefits for independent contractors/1099 employees, gig workers

- More and more people eligible for Medicaid
- Virginia has over 400,000 enrollees. Grateful eligibility was expanded for access to health care

State budget

- While just weeks ago our State Legislature passed a balanced budget with reprioritized functions. Now we are most certainly headed for a recession
- Will have major impacts on the current budget year and the budget beginning July 1
- Significantly less revenue than their worst forecast
- Investments being made for PPE, hospitals, etc
- Federal money will help but not fully fix the problem.
- Governor has directed all agencies to prepare for budget cuts for July and to reexamine funding for new initiatives
- The Governor has full confidence that the budget will be managed responsibly and, when pandemic is over, we will be strong.

Update on Canterbury Nursing Home in Henrico County

Nursing homes are very vulnerable.

Canterbury demonstrates how critical it is that everyone stay home. 58 people at Catebury tested positive that had no symptoms. We must slow the spread of virus to protect not only ourselves, but other people/healthcare workers.

Re Virginia Department of Game/Inland Fisheries

- Many Virginians are using parks and preserves to get outside. It is important to get outside. However, group gatherings are in direct violation of the Governor's Executive Orders and put tremendous burden on first responders, park personnel, etc. Everyone must practice social distancing and treat our natural areas with respect.
- Virginia Natural Resources personnel are working hard to maintain these resources. Everyone needs to stay apart and not gather in groups. We will be watching this weekend.

Dr. Oliver/VDH Update:

- CDC listed Virginia as a state with widespread COVID-19 community transmission of covid 19
- Next week is National Health Public Service Week. This crisis shows us the importance of the work they do. Frontline workers deserve our gratitude.

Governor Northam

- We are entering religious season. Normally faith community would celebrate together.
- Please use alternative means of religious service. Drive in, internet.

Rev. Jones (Governor Northam's pastor)

- This is not a time to be angry or frustrated or fear our government is trying to control us.
- This is the time to hit the reset button of our lives and concentrate on our faith. Covid has stripped us of so much. Our faith cannot be taken. It may get tried, tested, but we will not break.
- It will sustain us and be the stimulus package long after the \$1200 is spent.
- Challenge all Va's who believe to activate their faith. This light shines brightest in darkness. It radiates from every religion and we have the opportunity to be one bright, unified light.
- We will arise stronger, wiser and better than ever before because of our collective faith.
- Worship in a safe, social distancing manner.

Q&A

Q. Rent – What can administration do about rent?

A. Clark Mercer: Supreme Court suspended proceedings for evictions.

VHDC are using all tools to keep folks from being evicted. Lenders, banks, all working on it
FEMA dollars: Will help up to 1500 homeless Virginians find shelter. 500 hotels with over 37,000 hotel rooms have stepped up.

Q. Any guidance about wearing cloth masks in public? Will Virginia law banning such practice be waived?

A. Governor – All are encouraged to wear as scarf or cloth mask on the face when going around other people. Virginia law enforcement will not enforce bother folks with cloth masks, scarves, etc.

Q What is in the pipeline for PPE, especially with alternative hospital sites now identified?

A. Dr. Carey: We are committed to find every bit of PPE we can from worldwide. Always planning for the next surge. It is an issue, but committed to moving forward on all fronts to be prepared.

Q. PPE issue. MD and DC ordered more ventilators than Virginia. Why is that?

A. Dr. Carey: Virginia ordered 350 from national stockpile and 350 from private vendors (not filled). Trying to increase the numbers of PPE and ventilators. Looking at innovative ways to better use the ventilators they have, like valves to serve 2 patients at once.

Q. Petersburg Police Chief questioned alcohol beverages being available as “essential”. And, are stores staying open to keep patients that may have the “DTs” from clogging hospitals?

A. Governor: ABC stores treated like any other retail if they can maintain 10 or less in a confined space. No to DTs and hospitals. Anyone experiencing a crisis should seek help from emergency hotline, medical doctors, crisis counselors.

Q. What happened with the Exxon Mobil site discussed on Wednesday?

A. Governor: Stepping back from that site because the Dulles Expo Center could be prepared in a much more reasonable timeframe.

Q. Are you confident these alternative sites will be able to meet the surge needs? What other sites might be investigated?

A. Dr. Carey: Surge plan to discharge patients to alternative sites. Reevaluating each day.

Q. Modeling

A. All about data, but not a perfect science. We are analyzing it. Best estimate is surge in month of May, not sure when. Virginia using data from all over the U.S. and worldwide.

Q. How many individuals are going to get Covid-19

A. If you don't abide by our guidelines and you're in the vicinity of someone that has it, you will get it. Governor has never seen a pathogen as contagious as this.

Q. Models

A. U Penn models hospital bed utilization. U of Washington model paints a rosier picture. UVA Data Science Institute produced a model. VHHA and VDH are looking at Virginia specific data that will be a better estimate.

All Virginians please abide by our guidelines. Have a safe and peaceful weekend

NEXT BRIEFING – MONDAY, 2 P.M.