



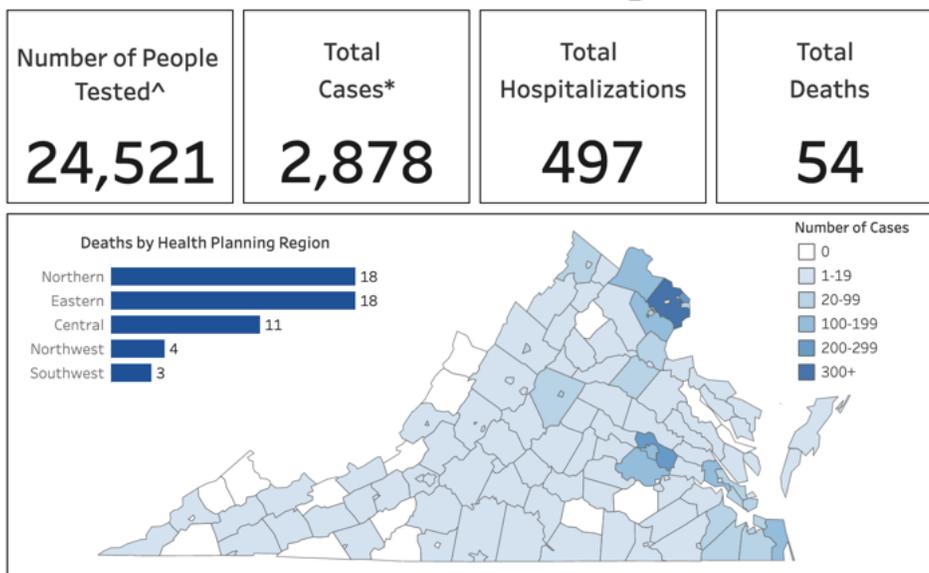
**GOVERNOR NORTHAM - COVID-19 BRIEFING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020**

Virginia Department of Health Website:

25,421 people tested
2,878 total cases (+241)
497 hospitalizations
54 deaths (+3)

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Dashboard

COVID-19 Cases in Virginia



Governor Northam

- Thank you for staying home.
- We did not see the crowds at beaches and parks
- Again, social distancing is still best way to combat
- One half of all cases are those under age of 50. Even symptomless people can transmit it, thus the face covering to prevent the spread. Face covering offers protection action against those droplets.
- Internet has patterns for making face coverings.
- Advises everyone to wear a face covering when you are out

- However, don't assume you can go about your business just because you have a mask. Unless you have medical grade face covering, you must also use social distancing.
- Reminder to wash the face covering once per day. Wash with soap and water and then put in the dryer.
- If you are wearing face covering for medical Covid-19 purposes, no one will write any citations

- News from State Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services is starting to use genetic technology to help our public health professionals better understand Covid-19. They are doing this with CDC and university partners to build a library of genetic information from the positive tests DCLS gets as well as other areas. One insight – It appears the virus was introduced in Virginia in multiple communities versus one source. DSLS is one of nation's first to do this sophisticated work to understand virus and how it may change. This will give us more tools to fight it.

- The three sites for alternative care (Dulles Expo, Hampton Convention Center, Richmond Convention Center) are finalizing contracts and the build out will begin this week.

- Severe shortage of PPE for front line medical professionals in Virginia and nationwide. Working every angle to get more PPE. The state executed a \$27 million contract with Northfield, a Virginia-based logistics company to provide PPE. Expect the first shipment to arrive from Asia a week from today

- The Commonwealth also contracted with SD's Trucking for logistics and distribution
- Virginia has sent 56,000 MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) to Virginia food banks to supply for the next 6 weeks. The state has received and shipped hand sanitizer. The Virginia Health Department has shipped 1 million H1N1 masks and supplies to be reconditioned and redistributed by the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association. VDH has also shipped a third round of supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile.

- Virginia can't do widespread testing because they can't get testing materials. Sentara Health is doing in house testing and faster processing times. This is a positive We work as fast as we can on testing that will have a 15-30 minute turnaround.

- Virginians are taking this seriously. Keep up good work. Social distancing, and frequent hand washing --- please continue to use it. We cannot relax our vigilance on this.

- This is National Public Health Week and shows how vital they are. On behalf of Virginia thank you now and all year round. Thank you to all medical professionals for making sure Virginians get the medical attention they need

Q&A

Q. Virginia website not releasing recovery numbers. Could this be included? Would you look into putting in recovery numbers?

A. Dr. Oliver: That data is not collected or reported to VDH to be reported. They only get positive cases and when the positive cases they are working on are discharged or if they have passed away.

Not able to track the other folks with Covid-19. Those numbers are most definitely an underestimated of the spread of the disease in the community because we know there are those that are asymptomatic?

Q. Why different numbers between VHHA and VDH?

A. Hospitalizations numbers that come from the Virginia Health Information and comes from hospital claims and lags behind VHHA info that is a current census of hospital bed situation. The models are changing all the time because the data changes from day to day. U of Washington model has changed a great deal. Working with partners at UVA and hope to have info later this week.

Governor: Re modeling and how it changes ---- The Governor spent 1.5 hrs with VP Pence and U.S. Governors and talked about modeling and PPE national supply chain and testing. The message from VP Pence is to continue what we are doing and the guidelines for social distancing and hand washing because that is what science tells us works.

Q. Please explain a little more the \$27 million contract with the Virginia-based company. And, why aren't you wearing masks?

A. Governor --- We all have them and wear them when we exit the building.

Secretary Moran: PPE woefully short. Numerous request to national stockpile and we've only got a fraction of what was requested. So, we went to the market for suppliers. Identified a very reliable supply chain. Substantial purchase made and will delivered by this weekend. It will come in a number of receipts. N95 masks, gloves, gowns, etc. later this week.

Q. PPE....is that a one-time order? Abbott Rapid Testing

A. Secretary Moran: This is the first of what will be many. Think there will be massive demand for PPE and N95. They will need additional supplies.

Secretary Carey: There is an installed base of the Abbot Rapid Testing. Virginia is getting a handful (10-20) but not the number of test kits to test accurately. We need to do this at volume. It is good that the trickle has started, but we need it to be a torrent.

Q. New data that data from Washington University has moved peak surge in Virginia from May 20 to April 20. What are you doing to be prepared for an earlier peak date?

A. Governor: The data changes daily and there are various models. We continue to follow data trends and will adjust guidelines as necessary. As was reinforced, please stay at home, continue social distancing, hand washing.

Q. Will Virginia send ventilators and supplies to New York and other hotspots?

A. Governor: We are working with other Governor's and the federal government on inventory. We have prepared for the worst. PPE ventilators, bed space being ramped for a surge in a couple of weeks.

Q. Politico article....Are you looking at other alternative sites for surge capacity. The article identifies South Hampton Roads as the next hotbed.

A. We are looking at them and at data.

Q. How are you handling long term care facilities? Special precautions?

A Dr. Oliver – VDH has 35 districts across the commonwealth and those local divisions are working closely with long-term care facilities in their area. As soon as there is a case, there is extensive contact investigation. Isolate the case and that the contacts are not infected and protecting

the rest of the system. If you don't get on it soon enough it spreads very quickly. We've stepped up our surveillance and working closely with them and getting PPE out to the facilities.

Q. A number of Southwest Virginia state trails have closed because of social distancing concerns even though they don't have big numbers (Creeper Trail, Spearhead Trail).

A. Governor: This virus is real. People weren't abiding by our guidelines so to protect everybody's health they closed them.

Q. Will state release the numbers of outbreaks in nursing home/long term care facilities? Henrico health district supervisor said nursing homes should not share staff and that there were so many asymptomatic cases.

A. Dr. Oliver. We don't have those numbers but will try to get them. They are intensifying efforts with long term care facilities and doing more expansive testing, etc. Nursing home workers are a dedicated lot, are not paid very well. These workers have more than one job and work in multiple facilities. As part of contact investigation they are tracing that and let other nursing homes know so that it might be a possible means of transmission.

Q. Why, despite the stay at home order, are construction projects/work still going on?

A. Governor: we haven't heard of any problems with social distancing being a problem here.

Q. How is the lag in testing results impacting hospitalizations?

A. Secretary Carey – In-house labs (UVA, Sentara, VCU, state lab) Commercial labs are committed to getting quicker turnaround times. Lab pendings from hospitals critically important so they can decrease contact precautions.

A. Dr. Tony – They are continuing to work through their backlog. There have been smaller private commercial labs that are testing. There is a desire to divert hospital work to some of these new labs that can share the testing burden. The 15-30 minute testing turnaround times are not in place in Virginia yet. We are struggling with getting the reagents and cassettes to run them, as they are not widely available. This is, therefore, a barrier to widespread use.

Q. It has been reported that there are 19 prison inmates and 9 prison staff in Virginia with Covid-19. Since the Governor has broad powers to pardon inmates, what is the Governor going to do? Are you looking at an Executive Order on this. How many have been pardoned since Covid began?

A. Governor: We have protocol and staff working around the clock. Don't plan an Executive Order at this time.

A. Secretary Moran: Parole eligible/geriatric control = 2351 inmates. Parole Board working overtime. 95 released in month of March (153% increase from February). A large number of these were violent offenders. Advocate groups have been in communication. The Governor's clemency powers (Howell v. McAuliffe) restrict his ability to do so more broadly. He could only apply clemency powers on an individual basis. It is a cumbersome lengthy process. We are looking at it, but have to comply with recent case law.

Q. For those with long-term sentences that are going to be in prison for some time, what are you doing?

A. Secretary Moran – The Virginia Department of Corrections is providing space, isolation for prisons. Face masks, bar soap (2 per week). Doing their very best.

Q. What is it going to take for non-essential businesses to be shut down.

A. Govenror: We've made clear that if bricks and mortar businesses can assure us that 10 or less people are there and they have hand washing capability then they can stay open. If they can't comply then they must close.

NEXT BRIEFING – WEDNESDAY, 2 P.M.