



**GOVERNOR NORTHAM - COVID-19 BRIEFING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020**

Covid-19 in Virginia Virginia Department of Health

Positive Tests: 3,6459 (+313)
 People Hospitalized: 615
 COVID-19-Linked Deaths: 75 (+12)
 People Tested: 30,645

City Breakdown of Cases Virginia Department of Health

Charlottesville: 23
 Danville: 15
 Hampton: 53
 Harrisonburg: 22 (+7)
 Hopewell: 13
 Lexington: 3
 Lynchburg: 20
 Newport News: 60
 Norfolk: 77
 Petersburg: 9
 Portsmouth: 41
 Richmond City: 119
 Staunton: 1
 Winchester: 15
 Williamsburg: 16

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Dashboard

COVID-19 in Virginia Hospitals

As of: April 8, 2020

Cases

Combined number of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients who are currently hospitalized, and hospitalized patients whose COVID-19 test results are pending.

1,289

Total number of currently hospitalized patients confirmed positive for COVID-19.	Total number of people currently receiving inpatient hospital care whose COVID-19 test results are pending.
649	640

Combined number of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients, and those whose COVID-19 test results are pending, currently hospitalized in the ICU.	Combined number of hospital patients, both confirmed for COVID-19, and those with test results pending, currently on a ventilator.
468	293

Ventilators

Total ventilators on-hand in hospitals.	Total ventilators in use at hospitals.	Share of total ventilators in use.
2,574	705	27%

Bed Availability

5,325

Supplies

Number of Virginia hospitals experiencing difficulty in obtaining or replenishing PPE in the next 72 hours.	Number of Virginia hospitals experiencing difficulty in obtaining or replenishing other medical supplies in the next 72 hours.
12	3

Data Source: Virginia Healthcare Alerting Status System COVID-19 Status Board (n=115 facilities). Updated: April 8, 2020 (Updated Daily by 9:00 AM EST).
Disclaimer: [Icon]

Governor Northam

PPE is being distributed around the state

- Continue to work to purchase more PPE.
- A chaotic market due to lack of federal direction and still competing for supplies
- Several hospital CEOs and health providers worry they don't have enough
- State is preparing for all scenarios

Local and special elections in May 2000 and Congressional primaries in June 2000

- The Governor has wrestled with options and none are ideal
- No one should have to decide between health and casting a ballot
- Recommending moving May elections to November (Will require General Assembly action on April 22)
- The Governor has the authority to move a primary election back two weeks. June congressional primaries will be moved to June 23, 2020.
- Postponing is best way to protect democracy

Racial disparities and reporting

- It is critical that everyone has as much information as possible. Data comes in from many different places. It is difficult, but also very important that we all report the same types of data.
- Seeing racial disparities in other places (New Orleans and New York) and so Virginia is studying. Inequities are the reason why African American communities are at greater risk.
- "We are obligated to do a better job of tracking racial demographic data. Exploring ways to make sure private labs also report this data."

General Assembly/Veto Session Update

- Governor's office working through hundreds of bills passed during the General Assembly Session. The deadline is midnight Saturday.
- State Budget – Cannot move forward as written. Expecting a recession and a lot of spending in the wake of the pandemic. The G.A. passed 1291 bills. He has acted on 864 bills. Will have more to say on legislation later this week.

ABC Update/Restaurant Relief

- Trying to ease pressures on our restaurants so they will get to defer their annual fees for licenses and permits that come up for renewal in June.
- The Governor directed ABC permitted establishments with mixed beverage licenses will be allowed to sell through takeout and delivery. This is effective Midnight Thursday. This will help augment their revenue streams.

Passover begins tonight. This is a time for those in the Jewish faith to come together. Please celebrate virtually or with those that you live in the same home with. Science tells us what we are doing is working.

Dr. Oliver: They not have race/ethnicity data on 53% of the cases. Mostly this is because of private labs. Deaths are similarly challenged. That is easier to resolve by looking at death certificates. Of the cases that VDC collects data on:

- Of 1,381 cases, 386 were African American (28%); 159 Latin X (12%)
- Of deaths, 14 African American (18.7%); 3 Latin X (4%)

Q&A

Q. Update on outbreaks. How are you dealing with long term care facilities?

A. Dr. Oliver: Canterbury site has a population at high risk of mortality from COVID-19. Local Health Department and management of Canterbury have done their best to isolate, distance and do everything to keep down the spread. Local health departments working very close with long-term care facilities to broaden surveillance, more testing.

Q. Localities saying they have PPE shortage with first responders, etc. Can the state help?

A. Yes, Governor asks that if you are at end of PPE, to please let them know as they disburse equipment throughout Virginia.

Q. Guidance that asymptomatic workers can continue to work with protections

A. Healthcare workers are on the front lines and are not of unlimited supply. Want to keep them working as long as they can. We are monitoring their symptoms, etc. like fever. Once symptomatic they are quarantined.

Q. Northern Virginia cases. Are there specific Northern Virginia hotspots? What do you hear from Northern Virginia hospitals about ability to handle the surge?

A. Governor: Mayor Bowser and MD Governor have tried to be consistent with their guidelines. Realize that this area is at risk. Re Hospitals – they are preparing for all scenarios. Commending Northern Virginias for following the guidelines, taking this seriously. We will flatten the curve and put less of a burden on our hospitals. The hospitals are ready. They are being taxed, however.

Q. Maryland announced strike teams to help at long-term care facilities and other places. Will Virginia do this?

A. Governor: Virginia has been doing that. We are so sorry for those who have lost loved ones and regret this. The nursing home challenge speaks to how contagious this disease is and the lack of PPE and difficulty with the testing. Testing getting better everyday. Nursing homes are doing everything they can to keep residents safe.

Q. Self-employed having problem accessing benefits application. Will there be an expedited process for them and what should they do.

A. Clark Mercer: Nationally and at state level we are seeing record numbers. Doing an overhaul of websites and servers. Using the 211 system and adding folks to answer the phone. We are looking at options over next few months to get the businesses the capital they need to hire back quickly.

Q. Has FEMA been slow to get PPE to Virginia?

A. There has been limited direction from the federal government on this. Every Governor has been on their own, competing against one another, other countries, and medical systems. Virginia has received 10% of what was requested. There are hotspots like NY, NO, and Detroit and they are directing their supplies to those hotspots. There is concern that the greater DC area will be an upcoming hotspot.

Q. Richmond area reporter asked a very pointed question about what the Governor will do with three specific pieces of legislation passed during the 2020 General Assembly: 1) Balanced billing legislation; 2) Certificate of Public Need legislation; 3) HB30 budget amendment dealing with Medicaid and emergency room visits.

A. Governor. Be patient, He is working through them. All will be made public on Monday morning.

Q. UVA surge data update? Also, a question about individuals working in businesses and are concerned because they hear that a co worker(s) has corona virus.

A. Continuing to work with UVA and they are collecting Virginia-specific data. In next day or so will have more information on this particular model.

Clark Mercer: Virginia Dept. of Labor can receive that complaint. He heard (through media reports) of a business with positive corona virus cases. Urges all to be transparent. Businesses are not required to report to the Virginia Department of Labor. Common sense, however, dictates management be proactive.

Q. Will absentee ballots that have already been received for the May local government elections have to be discarded? Will there be a special session to enable the election move from May to November?

A. Kyanna Carter: Every voter will have an opportunity to vote in November. One ballot. Absentee ballots received to-date will be discarded.

Governor Northam – The April 22 reconvened session will take this up.

NEXT BRIEFING – FRIDAY, 2 P.M.