



**GOVERNOR NORTHAM - COVID-19 BRIEFING
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020**

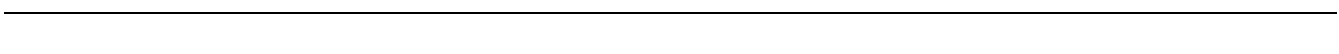
Total Cases: 16,901 (+1,940 from 4/29)
 People Hospitalized: 2,416 (+157 from 4/29)
 COVID-19-Linked Deaths: 581 (+59 from 4/29)
 People Tested: 105,648 (+20,341 from 4/29)

VFC City Breakdown of Cases, Hospitalizations, Deaths Virginia Department of Health
 (Change since 2/29/20)

<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	58 (+6)	13	2	Newport News	120 (+6)	33	9 (+2)
Danville	35 (+1)	13	1	Norfolk	204 (+12)	42 39	3
Hampton	119 (+10)	28	1	Petersburg	33 (+2)	15 (+2)	2
Harrisonburg	456 (+45)	26	11	Portsmouth	170 (+20)	33	7 (+2)
Hopewell	25 (+1)	8	0	Richmond	364 (+41)	66	15 (+1)
Lexington	4 (+1)	0	0	Staunton	12	0	0
Lynchburg	58 (+6)	5	1	Williamsburg	20 (+2)	6	1
Martinsville	2	1	0	Winchester	41 (+5)	1	0

Outbreaks COVID-19 Statewide: 226 (+20 from 4/29)

- 132 of the outbreaks are in long-term care facilities (2,412 cases, 311 deaths)
- 45 in congregate settings (664 cases, 12 deaths)
- 18 in a healthcare setting (73 cases, 0 deaths)
- 17 in correctional facilities (631 cases, 1 deaths)
- 7 cases in an educational setting (36 cases, 0 deaths)



Governor Northam

Major Takeaways

The Governor will detail Phase 1 guidelines for re-opening on Monday, May 4.

Case numbers are rising, but not drastically

Hospitalization rates across the state remain steady

We are making progress

- Virginia first case of COVID-19 was reported on March 7, 2020. We feared that there would be a surge and that hospital ICUs would be overwhelmed. We were struggling for PPE and testing. We directed Virginians to stay home and asked businesses to close if they could not keep customers 6' apart. We asked you to social distance. The curve has flattened.
- Our case counts climb, but so does our testing. We must move forward carefully and testing is the key to that

Testing capability - Dr. Remley

5,000 tested on Wednesday

5,800 tested Thursday

We are moving forward quickly

- Looking at communicating and sharing
- Link to interactive map on VDH website to see where the nearest public testing site is
- Increasing numbers every day
- Clinicians are committed to increasing the testing
- Lab Tests – Virginia has contracted w/ 2 Virginia labs and a NC lab for growing to 3000 tests per day/
- Regarding Lab Test Results: Virginia is in Phase 2 of testing, while other states are still talking about what the phases are
- Virginia is normalizing testing to the entire community
- CDC Priorities for testing: Test anyone symptomatic

* Screen scroll – According to Kaiser, Virginia ranks 50th in testing per 1,000 residents

Governor Northam

- We are looking at a number of data points and they are not always consistent, but we are making progress. Our goal was to keep hospitals from being overwhelmed. We've done that and our numbers show we are doing that.
- Testing in long term care facilities – Two weeks ago, Dr. Forlano appointed to head task force concentrating on nursing homes and long term care facilities. VDH, UVA and VCU Health Systems and the state lab all working on this. Appreciate the National Guard working on logistics and supplies across the Commonwealth. They are doing a great job.

What comes next

The Governor will talk about it on Monday. Please keep in mind:

- When other states talk about going to their Phase 1, it looks like where Virginia is right now. Some states' phase 1 is about opening beaches to exercise. In Virginia, we've been doing that from the start
- When other states talk about Phase I including elective surgeries, we have done that as of today.

Press/Media: There will be a Monday morning briefing for the media

- This weekend is the Census digital action weekend. Urges every Virginian to be counted
- May is Asian American and Pacific Islander month.
- May is National Foster Care Month. Thank you to those that have fostered children and to social workers.

Education/K-12

- The Virginia Department of Education has allocated \$238.6 million in federal CARES Act funding. Of this amount, 90% will go direct to local school divisions and 10% will go to statewide efforts for technology and to support students, families and educators.

Q & A

Q. Can you give us an update on Phase I reopening on May? Will schools be reopened late August/early September and is there an update on Hopewell year-round schools?

A. We've had tremendous input from the business community, we are still working on that blueprint and that criteria. He will give further guidelines on Monday. We appreciate people's patience. We will do it responsibly to keep Virginians safe. Consumers need to know when they enter a business that it is safe.

A. Year round schooling – That is something that he's not addressed. Regarding reopening schools in late August/early September, he is confident that if we keep doing what we are doing that this will happen.

Q. Nursing home deaths jumped up today. Can you explain it?

A. Dr. Forlano: Deaths on outbreaks database display a lag. Don't really have an answer other than that.

Q. NPR survey on contact tracing capacity in the states indicates that Virginia has none. Can you explain?

A. Governor: We are ramping up the workforce to do that.

A. Dr. Oliver: We don't have a central roster, but local health departments do that work. They've pulled in other people from across the health districts. They are planning on using/ramping up numbers of people to around 1500 to do contact tracing work.

Q. North Carolina reversed an earlier decision and they are now telling residents where CV-19 outbreaks are occurring. Will Virginia consider changing their rule regarding reporting of outbreaks in long-term care facilities?

A. Dr. Oliver: The reason Virginia does this is because the Code of Virginia mandates that these facilities not be named.

Q. Johns Hopkins study shows Virginia cases are doubling. Do you attribute that to the ramp up in testing and, if so, how do you square that with your decision to reopen?

A. The data continues to widen, but it is taking longer for the number of cases to double, which is a good thing.

Q. Is the ramp up in testing resulting in an increase in testing?

A. Dr. Forlano: Yes, they are working on it and it is mostly proportional

Q. Opening the state by region. Can you give us a better idea on how that will be implemented?

A. Gotten good feedback from our businesses from across the state. Also have received great input from state legislators and Virginia's congressional delegation. There are pros and cons to all of the options. An example/concern he mentioned came from a Southwest Virginia business that voiced concern that if they opened sooner and residence from more densely populated and CV-19-case areas drove to Southwest Virginia for a "getaway," then Southwest Virginia could have a much worse problem on their hand and might have to close permanently. Nonetheless, the task force continues to work through the plan. They will all be working on it over the weekend and will have more guidance on Monday.

Q. Can you talk about unemployment applications and the number of people waiting for checks?

A. We've had 550,000 individuals apply for unemployment and the VEC has been working around the clock. While things have improved, they've been inundated. More folks working at call centers and they've updated their computer systems. They will continue to do everything they can to get the resources to them.

Q. Bristol reporter – What is Virginia doing to assist small businesses that can't open?

A. We did not separate our businesses into essential and non-essential businesses, like some other states. We've never mandated that retailers close, just required social distancing and small numbers allowed inside. The state Covid relief fund source of revenue is taxes from "gray machines" in small businesses. The General Assembly voted to ban them, but the Governor instead allowed them to operate for one additional year, so small businesses can get the revenue. Instead of a ban, the state is taxing the machine owners at rate of \$1,200 per month for each machine.

Q: Share methodology in comparative data? What is the difference then to now?

A: We could change it going forward and analyze going forward instead of backwards. Multiple testing same individuals only used to count as one. Now we are counting tests, no matter how many times one person is tested. VDH can provide that information.

Q: Might that be one of the reasons why Virginia's testing numbers were low?

A: We realize that the change in methodology is important, though reporting is not standard throughout the states. We are very focused on rapidly increasing the testing in Virginia.

Q: As we move forward, is the team looking at how to ensure that some of the funds get to people of color?

A: We have an Office of Equity/Diversity, so are intent on supporting minority businesses and minimizing health disparities. On that leadership team, Department of Emergency Management and VDH are also working on health disparities. More information can be found on the Governor's and VDH websites. The team is targeting testing, along with the Secretary of Commerce and Trade. Federal stimulus money has been set aside for that. We are sourcing PPE with minority owned businesses and that was a consideration when we selected that vendor.

Governor concluding remarks: Keep doing what you are doing and your sacrifices are appreciated. Six feet apart, less than 10 people, wear face protection. Try to stay at home and enjoy time with the family. Wash your hands as frequently as you can. Take care of friends, family and neighbors. We continue to reach out to our businesses and will get you the guidelines that are needed for Phase I. They are coming on Monday.

Next Briefing on Monday, 2 p.m.