



**GOVERNOR NORTHAM - COVID-19 BRIEFING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020**

Total Cases: 20,256 (+764 from 5/04)
 People Hospitalized: 2,773 (+73 from 5/4)
 COVID-19-Linked Deaths: 713 (+29 from 5/4)
 People Tested: 127,938 (+5,150 from 5/4)
 Unique People Tested: 112,809 (+1,368 from 5/4)

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

(Change since 5/4/20 – Data was last reported 5/3/20)

<u>CITY</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Hospital-izations</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Hospital-izations</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Charlottesville	64 (+1)	14 (+1)	2	Newport News	133 (+1)	35 (+2)	9
Danville	37	13	1	Norfolk	256 (+17)	41 (-4)	4 (+1)
Hampton	128	28	3 (+2)	Petersburg	40 (+1)	14 (-1)	2
Harrisonburg	525 (+28)	31 (+3)	19 (+8)	Portsmouth	187 183 (+4)	36 (+1)	8
Hopewell	31	10	0	Richmond	438 (+19)	76 (+4)	16
Lexington	5 (-1)	0	0	Staunton	13	0	0
Lynchburg	65 (+1)	5	1	Williamsburg	27 (+4)	7 (+1)	2 (+1)
Martinsville	2	1	0	Winchester	56 (+6)	1	0

Outbreaks COVID-19 Statewide: 244 (+5 from 5/4)

- 143 (+3) outbreaks are in long-term care facilities (2,902 {+136} cases, 405 {+23} deaths)
- 54 (+2) in congregate settings (790 {+40} cases, 13 deaths)
- 20 in a healthcare setting (86 cases, 0 deaths)
- 20 in correctional facilities (749 {+74} cases, 1 death)
- 7 cases in an educational setting (36 cases, 0 deaths)

Major Takeaways

- Asking President Trump for extended funding for the National Guard
- More detailed information will be given this Friday regarding Phase 1 May 15
- If local governments feel they need to maintain additional restrictions on gatherings, reopenings, etc. the state will allow that, especially in Northern Virginia
- Guidance will be going out to Virginia agency heads this week and then guidance will go out to Virginia local governments regarding CARES Act funding. There is not a mandate that the money go to local governments. Dollars expended will have to be certified to be used per the federal guidelines.

Governor Northam

- More detailed guidance on phases to be provided on Friday
- Working with localities that are being affected in very different ways. If local governments feel they need to maintain additional restrictions on gatherings, the state will allow that, especially in Northern Virginia
- The state is closely monitoring the health data. Declining numbers (based on CDC guidelines) are being witnessed and that is why they plan to move to Phase 1.
- Next steps depend on testing, tracking and ability to quarantine

Major General Timothy Williams, NG Adjutant General of Virginia

- Working with Department of Health
- Additional capacity for CV-19 testing, especially in long term care facilities
- More than 2700 tests conducted
- This week they are in Central and Northern Virginia
- 1000 people per day will be tested by the National Guard
- Personnel on duty helping in other ways, e.g. food banks/boxes & distribution/delivery. 50,000 lbs of food throughout Virginia communities
- Local Government requests for National Guard assistance should be sent through their local emergency managers

Governor

- Thank you to hospitals for stepping up to assist with **long-term care facilities** with several issues: staffing, testing and PPE.
- 15,000 masks and hundreds of bottles of hand sanitizer for neighborhoods that are at high risk, health equity populated. Also, distributing pamphlets and information on CV-19 education in multiple languages.

Dr. Oliver:

They are having problems with data/website. New numbers will be posted asap. Therefore, the numbers posted above are from yesterday.

Q & A

Q. If there are areas that need to intensify (hot zones) their CV-response, could you speak to the local government/regional approach?

A. Yes, greater DC area is an area that we need to pay particular attention to. As they get closer to next Friday and they want to raise the floor, the state will work with them on that.

Q. Update on testing in minority communities. How are you Governor taking this? How are you holding up?

A. Governor: We are testing in underserved areas. We are deploying the National Guard to these areas. We are working through VDEM to guiding them to where we need testing. In several sites in Richmond and will continue our outreach, especially in under-served areas. The evolution of the testing process continues to expand up to 10,000 tests per day and to get to areas needing tests, but also to random areas. Each day is better.

A. Governor: "I am doing fine. This is a biological war and, I've spent time in the U.S. Army training for biological war. While my time in Desert Storm was tough, it might be likened to what our medical corps are going through. We have a great team and are doing everything together to get us through this."

Q. Eastern Shore outbreak and testing of employees. What other recommendations do you have and financial assistance for employees having to self-isolate.

A. Dr. Oliver: We are looking at the broader community because the outbreaks go beyond the meat processing/poultry plants. There are 3,000 employees in these plants. Think of them like a cruise ship and every day all those passengers disembark. We are working diligently with contact tracers looking to contain the spread as best we can with the support of the CDC. The CDC and state epidemiologists want to increase physical and social distancing within the plants. Plant management has been very cooperative. For example, using plexiglass between stations, altering break times, insuring paid sick leave). Plants have arranged for hotel space for quarantined employees so they don't have to go back to their densely populated home quarters. The National Guard presence will hope ratchet down the spread because of doing more community based testing.

Q. You said you are asking President to extend Virginia's Title 32 status. What will Virginia do if it is not extended?

A. Secretary Carlos Brown: We believe the request will be granted. If it is not, the Virginia National Guard is still available. The cost would fall to the state.

Q. How much federal money has been received and spent thus far on CV-19

A. Secretary Lane: 50 different income streams from CARES Act funding. \$15 billion (\$9 billion is the PPP program). Direct dollars received is \$3.1 billion for state/local. It cannot be used to replace lost revenues. Guidance will be going out to Virginia agency heads this week and then guidance will go out to Virginia local governments. There is not a mandate that the money go to local governments. Dollars expended will have to be certified used per the federal guidelines.

A. There are different parts of the PPP. \$25 billion was set aside for testing. Testing and contact tracing can be used under the \$3.1 billion received.

Q. Roanoke Times: Why can't state publish outbreaks by locality rather than by health district? Would you support a General Assembly change to the definition of nursing home to get around the Attorney General's opinion that nursing homes are the same as "persons" for privacy protection?

A. Secretary Carey: AG Office has said long-term care facilities have the same right to patient privacy. Would you support this? Governor: No comment.

Q. Can you speak to contact tracing and why 1000+ hires is the number. What guides that number?

A. National Association of Health Officials guidelines have a formula. We need a core 200-300 individuals that are highly trained and another 1000 contact tracers. Ramping up this workforce.

Q. Contact tracers: How do you know when you've hired the correct number of contact tracers since it is unclear how many we have now.

A. Dr. Oliver: There is a lack of clarity is because of local health districts facing a differing level of cases. They ramp up or down depending on what is happening in their districts. We will keep you updated on contact tracing since it is so important.

Q. What was the conversation like with the Governor of MD and DC Mayor Bowser regarding Virginia entering Phase I on May 15?

A. We have a great relationship with our neighbors even with our different challenges. Conversations are cordial and we understand that we are also different. They understand and we are trying to be as consistent as we can.

Q. Who has the final say on local restrictions. For example, if Arlington wants to do X and Alexandria wants to do Y?

A. Governor: The Governor will have the final saying. Having a teleconference with local leaders in NoVa as to how they can help them. Will discuss their requests and he will have the final say.

Q. What is your message to those protesting outside the Capitol grounds today?

A. My message is to all of Virginia: Thank you to those stepping up to protect the health and well being of Virginians so that we can reopen our economy.

Thank you to the National Guard, Nurses, and Teachers for all they are doing through this. Our teachers are doing so very much. Take the opportunity to thank the teachers and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Next briefing: Friday, May 8th