



April 10, 2020

Governor Northam Provides Updates on Nursing Homes, Testing and Additional Authority for the Dept. of Corrections

Below are the highlights from Governor Northam's briefing.

Nursing homes/LTC facilities

- Governor Northam announced that Dr. Laura Forlano, Deputy Commissioner for Population Health at the Virginia Department of Health, will be leading a task force specifically focused on ensuring Virginia's nursing homes have the financial, supply and testing resources they need, supporting staff with infection control measures and assisting with communications efforts.
- Virginia has had 45 outbreaks at nursing home/LTC facilities of the 82 total outbreaks. This represents 55% of the outbreaks in the state. There have been 525 positive cases of COVID-19 at LTC facilities, which is 10% of all positive cases in Virginia, and 32 deaths or 22% of all Virginia's deaths.

Healthcare workforce

- Virginia's Medical Reserve Corp now has more than 13,000 volunteers who have signed up to help fight COVID-19. Approximately half of the volunteers have medical training.
- Virginia is also looking to colleges and medical schools to identify additional people to help meet the staffing needs that are anticipated.
- Training is available both for basic medical skills and more specific medical skills training.
- Nurses, nurse practitioners and nursing students are encouraged to volunteer.
- Non-medical volunteers are also needed for logistics, communications, technical and other support.
- For more information or to volunteer, visit www.vamrc.org.



Department of Corrections/DJJ

- The Governor announced that he is recommending expanded authority be granted to the Department of Corrections to enable them to release those inmates who have one year or less left in their sentence. There are approximately 2,000 inmates who may be eligible for early release.
- To be eligible for early release, an individual must have had good behavior while incarcerated and determined to not be a threat to society if released early.
- The General Assembly is expected to act on this when they return to Richmond for the reconvened session on April 22, and if approved, the Governor will sign the legislation and it would be effective immediately as emergency legislation.
- The Department of Corrections is conducting re-entry planning to ensure those who are released have a place to go, will have any medications they may need for three months and will have access to other community support.
- In addition, Virginia's only juvenile justice facility is located in Bon Air and currently has 205 inmates. Several staff members and residents have tested positive for the virus. Sec. Moran shared that the facility has the capacity to house more than 500 people in seven units, which has helped as those infected are quarantined. They have conducted widespread testing at the facility and are following VHD guidance.

Economic impacts

- During the last week of March, 114,000 unemployment claims were filed. Last week, an additional 147,369 were filed, bringing the three-week total to 306,143. Payments to unemployed Virginians last week totaled \$57 million.
- Next week, the federal unemployment program will launch, boosting the weekly payments by \$600, and including individuals who did not previously qualify to receive unemployment, including gig economy workers, temporary employees and those who are self-employed.
- The Virginia Employment Commission continues to be overwhelmed by this increased volume of claims. They have hired staff, are hiring a private call center and making updates to their web site in an effort to better meet the demand.

Testing



- The Governor was asked if Virginia will consider opening community centers in African American communities to provide information and testing. Sec. Carey responded that due to the limited testing supplies and turn-around times for results, we are not able to take these steps at this time. As capacity increases and turn-around times improve, more widespread testing will be available.
- The Governor shared that Virginia has retained a consultant to evaluate what other states are doing to expand their testing capacity to help determine what more can be done. It was noted that it's been reported that Maryland has made an investment that will allow them to conduct 20,000 tests/day. Virginia's state lab is now receiving approximately 2,500-4,000 test results per day.

Other updates

- The Governor shared that the data indicates it appears social distancing is working. When asked about lifting some of the restrictions, the Governor emphasized that now is not the time to make a change.
- The deadline for the Governor to act on legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly is midnight Saturday, April 11. He shared that he will meet that deadline.
- The Governor shared that VCU has developed a way to clean N95 masks using UV radiation that allows the masks to be decontaminated and re-used. This could be a game-changer as Virginia's health systems struggle to keep up with the demand for PPE.
- In response to a question about the two ICE facilities in Virginia, Sec. of Public Safety Brian Moran shared that Virginia does not have jurisdiction over those facilities.
- A question was asked about whether the Governor may mandate face covering as some other states have done. He responded that at this time, people are strongly encouraged to cover their faces when outside the home and around other people.

To watch the Governor's briefing, click [here](#).

Virginia Dashboard Provides Daily Data on COVID-19

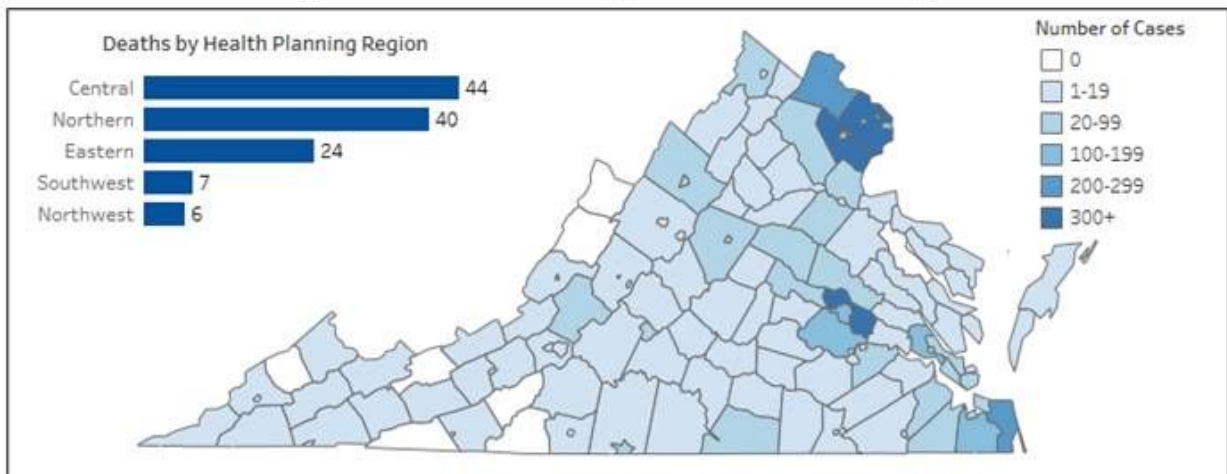
The Virginia Health Department has a dashboard that is tracking COVID-19 data. See below for the latest numbers. To access this dashboard, click [here](#). The Governor shared that they plan to



provide more information on the various models that are tracking the COVID-19 outbreak on Monday.

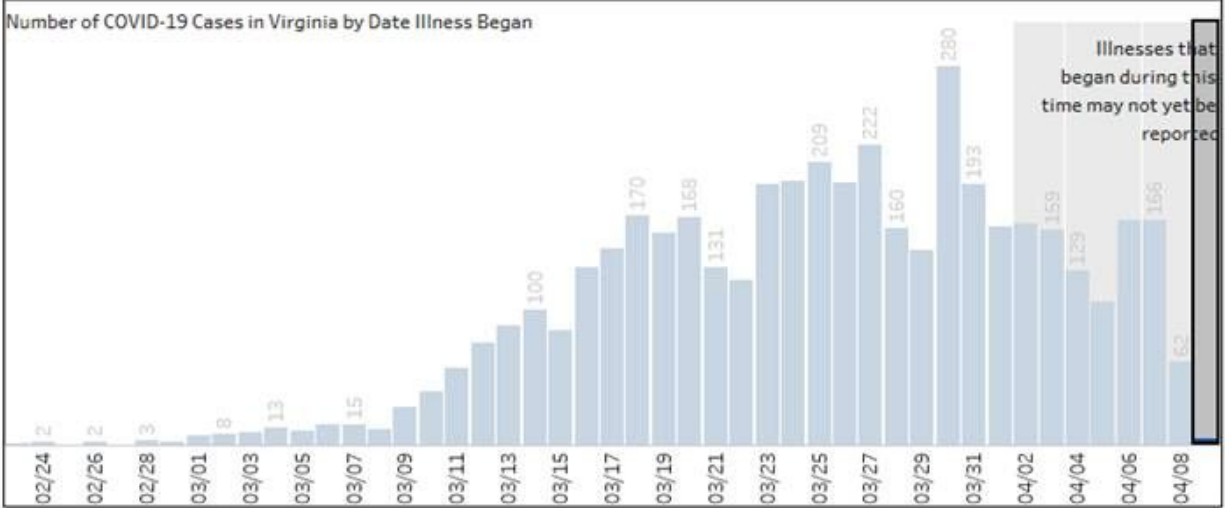
COVID-19 Cases in Virginia

Number of People Tested [^]	Total Cases*	Total Hospitalizations**	Total Deaths
35,459	4,509	772	121





GREATER RESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Healthcare providers diagnose patients with COVID-19. They, along with laboratories, report COVID-19 cases to VDH. This graph shows the number of new COVID-19 cases in Virginia each day since the first case was detected in Virginia. Cases are counted on the date closest to the day the person's illness began. Ideally this is the day the person developed symptoms, but if that information was not provided, it may be the date VDH received the case report. The numbers are preliminary and may change as more information is gathered during investigations. The intention of this graph is to show the trend of the number of cases over time. It helps us understand whether the outbreak is growing, leveling off, or declining. That information can guide Virginia's response.

Age Group	Number of Cases	% of Total Cases
0-9	26	0.6%
10-19	79	1.8%
20-29	526	11.7%
30-39	678	15.0%
40-49	744	16.5%
50-59	905	20.1%
60-69	757	16.8%
70-79	464	10.3%
80+	329	7.3%
Not Reported	1	0.0%
Total	4,509	100.0%



Sex		
Female	2,289	50.8%
Male	2,163	48.0%
Not Reported	57	1.3%
Total	4,509	100.0%

Race		
Black or African American	692	15.3%
White	1,242	27.5%
Other	389	8.6%
Not Reported	2,186	48.5%
Total	4,509	100.0%

* Positive Tests Among People Tested

** Hospitalization status at the time the case was investigated by VDH. This underrepresents the total number of hospitalizations in Virginia.

^ Test Results Received by Public Health From All Reporting Labs. All negative results may not be represented due to the large number of fax reports from new labs testing for COVID-19.

Source: Virginia Electronic Disease Surveillance System (VEDSS), data entered by 5:00 PM the prior day.

Updated:
4/10/2020

Face Covering Guidance Released

The CDC has released guidance on face covering, which recommends that face coverings:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

The [CDC recommends](#) wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. The CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

It's important to note that the cloth face coverings recommended by the CDC *are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators*. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

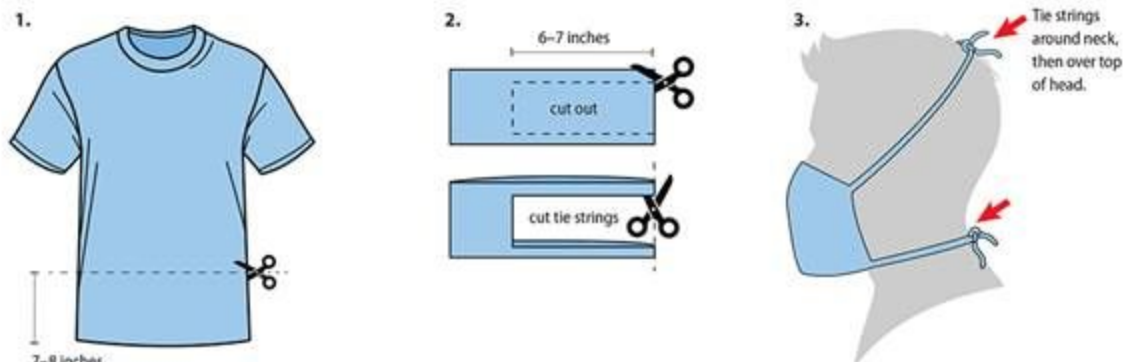
To learn more about how to make a case covering using supplies many people have in the home, including for those who do not sew or have access to a sewing machine, click [here](#) or see below.

Quick Cut T-shirt Face Covering (no sew method)

Materials

- T-shirt
- Scissors

Tutorial



Bandana Face Covering (no sew method)

Materials

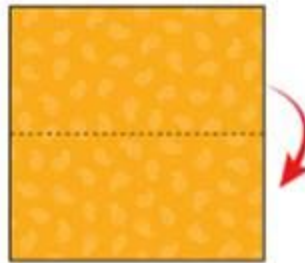
- Bandana (or square cotton cloth approximately 20"x20")
- Coffee filter
- Rubber bands (or hair ties)
- Scissors (if you are cutting your own cloth)

Tutorial

1.



2.



3.



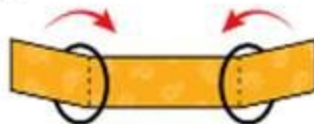
Fold filter in center
of folded bandanna.
Fold top down. Fold bottom up.

4.



Place rubber bands or hair ties
about 6 inches apart.

5.



Fold side to the middle and tuck.

6.



7.

