



Private Sector Conference Call Agenda

For those who have not participated previously, the intent of this call is to provide our private sector partners with an update of actions that Virginia is taking to mitigate, respond to, and now recover from COVID-19 in Virginia. The flow of our agenda will include a situation update (policy and procedure standpoint), followed by State Agency briefs, and a brief from DHS CISA representative in Virginia. Finally, we will open the lines for questions so please hold those questions until the end and the operator will open the line where you will have an opportunity to ask questions the; all speakers will stay on the line. As always, while we may not have answers for every question on the phone today, we always provide responses to you individually whether that be through emails, the Private Sector Portal, updates on our website, or this weekly meeting call.

The purpose of these calls is not meant for solicitation or procurement offers; those need to be directed to the Private Sector email at: Private.Sector@vdem.virginia.gov

Nor is this call is for media; if you are media, please hang up and contact the JIC at COVID19JIC@vdem.virginia.gov

This call is intended to get actionable information from state government into hands of businesses and industries in Virginia both for situational awareness and decision-making purposes, and it becomes even more important now that we have moved into Phase One of re-opening, as businesses look to resume their operations & also take into account health and safety of your employees, and customers.

VDEM Situational Update

As of today, the **number of confirmed COVID19 cases in Virginia is 32,908**, current total of **hospitalizations as of today is 1,536**, the total **cumulative hospitalizations reported is 3,979**; there have been **1,074 fatalities**.

To recap on where we are with the Executive Orders (EO) and the Forward VA process: On Monday, May 4th the Governor extended key provisions of Executive Order 53: [EO-53 Temporary Restrictions on Restaurants, Recreational, Entertainment, Gatherings, Non-essential Retail Businesses, and Closure of K-12 Schools Due to Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) through last Thursday May 14, at 12 midnight.

As the economy re-opens, the detailed health metrics that we continue to monitor are:

- Positive cases in a downward trend for 14 days

- Hospital capacity remaining steady for 14 days
- Increased capacity for testing
- Necessary PPE supplies readily available to continue providing care in hospitals and health care facilities

There is an online slide show regarding these metrics on the Governor's website, as well a link to it on the VA Private Sector page. Additionally, these new graphics are available daily on VDH's website and are downloadable.

On May 9, the Governor signed [EO 61 Phase One- Easing Of Certain Temporary Restrictions Due To Novel Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](#), presenting a detailed framework for the first phase of Forward Virginia, which began last Friday. Phase One is a gradual ease of public health restrictions while we continue to try and contain the spread of COVID-19. The Phase One guideline implementation began on Friday May, 15 in most of Virginia where public health criteria that was already outlined by the Commonwealth, was currently being met.

The Exceptions are as follows:

- Accomack County
- City of Richmond
- NOVA counties & cities

On May 12, the Governor issued [EO-62-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Four-Jurisdictions-Temporarily-Delayed-From-Entering-Phase-One-in-Executive-Order-61-and-Permitted-to-Remain-in-Phase-Zero](#) which allowed those aforementioned localities to delay entering Phase One of Forward Virginia Plan, and the easing of restrictions on businesses and operations, in order to allow more time for them to meet the health metrics. This delay will go through Thursday May, 28.

As a reminder, the Governor's Phased approach is based on Science & Data and includes mitigation strategies to slow the spread of the COVID19 virus through enhanced safety practices. The plan establishes guidelines for localities when they are able to start reopening. The guidance for all business sectors can be found on the Commonwealth's COVID19 webpage, and links are also on the private sector webpage. Business sectors with specific guidance include the following:

- Restaurants & Beverage Services
- Farmer Markets
- Brick & Mortar Retail
- Personal Care & Grooming Services
- Fitness & Exercise Facilities
- Campgrounds & Summer Camps

- Religious Services

On Monday, May 11 the Governor announced a pilot program with the City of Richmond to support the Commonwealth's ongoing focus on health equity. The partnership aims to increase equitable access to PPE in underserved communities that may be the most adversely impacted by the virus. Virginia's Health Equity Leadership Taskforce is working to leverage data to prioritize areas experiencing disproportionate impacts and is partnering with those localities to establish policies & programs to address these critical issues. To date, we have held events in Harrisonburg, and the City of Richmond; this week we are finalizing an event for Petersburg. After Petersburg, there will be an event in Emporia. Other events are being planned, and will be announced once they are confirmed.

In addition, plans for distribution of face masks are being taken into consideration by leadership to be identified for these community events. None of these events are being planned in a vacuum; state officials are working directly with the localities to ensure we are putting available PPE in the areas of greatest need.

With regard to the Blueprint for Northern Virginia (which includes Phases One, Two & Three), being in Phase One right now I wanted to review the restrictions for those who may not be aware, or may not have the guidance downloaded from the website.

Phase One Restrictions include:

- Stay At Home directive has transitioned to a Safer At Home directive (especially for vulnerable populations)
- The ban of more than ten people at a social gathering in one place at one time remains in place
- Continue Social Distancing
- Continue Teleworking where possible
- Face Coverings are still recommended for people in public
- Easing of restrictions on Businesses & Faith Communities, so that they may gradually begin to re-open

Phase One is very well developed and anticipated to last appx between 2-4 weeks, though it could go on longer depending on what the Health Metrics show as we move through Phase One. Businesses will need to operate at a decreased capacity in facilities (specifically those such as fitness, restaurant, and other such places with close proximity to others).

Phase One guidelines FOR BUSINESSES include:

- Physical Distancing
- Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Enhanced Workplace Safety

Phases Two & Three are still being developed; we have basic frameworks we anticipate seeing in Phases Two & Three. Phase Two is anticipated to last 2-4 weeks, but again, could be longer depending on the Health Metrics.

Phase TWO guidelines FOR BUSINESSES include:

- Stay at Home for vulnerable populations
- No social gatherings of 50 or more
- Continue teleworking
- Continue social distancing
- Face Coverings recommended in public
- Further easing of businesses limitations

Phase THREE guidelines will be shared once more details are available.

All of these guidelines are available on the Governor's website, as well as links on the Private Sector Website.

On Monday, May 18 the Governor announced a diverse set of education stakeholders participating in the [Commonwealth's COVID-19 Education Work Group](#) to help chart a path forward for determining how schools can safely re-open later this year.

This group is comprised of:

- Representatives from Virginia's Public & Private educational systems
 - Early Childhood
 - K-12
 - Higher Ed
- Teachers
- Superintendents
- Parents
- College Presidents
- State Agency Personnel
- Special Education Advocates
- Museum Directors
- Student Perspectives

This wide variety of education stakeholders represents a whole of Virginia's education system, and come from every Region of the Commonwealth.

There is also a separate second group focused solely on re-opening Higher Education Institutions; this group is developing guidance and they are in regular contact with College Presidents to get their input surrounding this effort.

On Tuesday, May 19 the Governor shared [new resources to protect Virginian's from eviction and support individuals who have lost their jobs, or income due to COVID-19](#). These tools include a website that is now set-up: www.StayHomeVirginia.com

This website is intended to help Virginian's navigate housing programs, services, and resources. The website also offers guidance on working with landlords, financial institutions, and other organizations to use eviction and foreclosure protection during this health crisis. These resources include relief for Private Mortgage Holders, Multi-family Complexes, and Tenants impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This link (www.StayHomeVirginia.com) will also be added to the Private Sector portal webpage upon conclusion of today's call.

On Monday, May 18 the Governor announced that he would allow Virginia Beach to open its beaches for recreation, with restrictions, starting this Friday, May 22, as we go into Memorial Day weekend.

Virginia Beach Officials and Secretary of Natural Resources, Matt Strickler, developed a plan for reopening the Beach, with restrictions on groups & activities. As finalized, Virginia Beach's plan includes:

- Increased cleaning of high-touch areas
- Compliance monitoring by Beach Ambassadors
- 50% reduction in beach parking lots

While families & individuals WILL BE ALLOWED to **sunbathe, swim and surf**, the new rules DO PROHIBIT group activities:

- ALL group sports (i.e.: volleyball)
- Speakers playing music to large groups
- Alcohol Tents & Groups of Umbrellas

Those using the beach must adhere to social distancing rules. If these rules cannot be followed the Governor warned he would not hesitate to re-close the Beach. We all need to cooperate, as we don't want the beaches to close as we go into the summer.

The Governor's Press Conferences will be held Monday & Friday this week at 2pm EST. Next week, after Memorial Day, these Press Conferences will move to Tuesday's & Thursday's only, with the time remaining at 2 pm EST. Tuesday May, 26 will be the first in this new series.

Agency Reports

Virginia Department of Health:

When cases are identified, they will be assigned to a contract tracer. The contract tracer will enroll the patient in monitoring, to include a daily check of symptoms. Once the patient goes for 14-days without showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 **OR** testing positive **OR** reporting coming into contact with another case of COVID-19 (which would then re-start the 14 day clock) **THEN** the patient will be released from monitoring.

During different phases of re-opening, businesses may become aware of situations where employees are identified as contacts of COVID-19 cases. In those incidents the employee should be advised to practice self-quarantine, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others.

It is important for Businesses to begin creating plans for how to open and operate during the phases of Re-opening. In addition to developing policies for proper social distancing, and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces, Businesses should also consider developing plans for staffing changes that may arise as a result of staff becoming ill from COVID-19 **OR** being identified as a COVID-19 CONTACT, and needing to self-quarantine.

There are specific documents on the VDH website that address screening, monitoring, and testing of employees (both for essential and non-essential workplaces).

If an outbreak is identified in your personal business setting, please contact the local health department so it may be appropriately documented and investigated.

Additional resources are now available on our website under the [Business Toolkit](#) page (this includes signs, posters, flyers, floor-dots, table tent cards, etc. to promote social distancing; also guidance on employee health, as well as cleaning and disinfecting, and Critical Infrastructure Resources).

The toolkit is also available in Spanish, but it has not been published on line as of yet.

The Check-List for Industry and FAQ for Businesses will also be posted online soon.

Lastly, there is a downloadable pdf info-graphic that breaks down very simple step-by-step processes regarding contact tracing **AND** determining when an employee may return to work/when those who may have been exposed may return to work, etc.

All links will be available via the Private Sector webpage.



Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services:

All Livestock Markets are open throughout the Commonwealth, ahead or on-schedule.

For the week ending on May 15, state-graded feeder cattle dry food numbers were mostly steady or slightly higher; but basically remain 5% lower than where the numbers were in late February.

As of May 14, Cattle slaughter in the United States is down 26% from the same period last year; two weeks ago, Cattle slaughter was down 37%. Pork slaughter was down 20% compared to the same period last year, but that is an improvement as a few weeks ago it was down 35%. So, as the weeks move on we are seeing overall improvements.

Beef/Pork slaughter capacity is improving, although still down significantly due to processing plant closures, and plants running at reduced capacity, which reduces efficiency and negatively impacts markets by reducing demand for live animals. This also impacts the poultry industry. The net effect is that the supply of meat available on the retail side is compromised, which results in high prices.

Cash Grain Prices are also negatively impacted because there is less need.

As of May 19, there are 55M poultry plants temporarily closed and 2 poultry plants running under limited operations. This number is not going to go down, as closures are expected to continue over the next 3-4 months, and if/when plants do begin to re-open they will be doing so at a limited capacity.

On May 18, USDA Economic Research Service released their Poultry outlook. Agency data shows that COVID19 forced disruption throughout this market. Interestingly enough, despite all the challenges for the remainder of 2020, the early forecast for next year 2021 shows that production will increase significantly, so that is good news.

Continue to be involved with the Coronavirus Food Assistance (CFAP) program that was announced on April 17, 2020. CFAP will use funding and authorities provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and other USDA existing authorities. This \$19 billion immediate relief program will provide critical direct support to our farmers and ranchers, maintain the integrity of our food supply chain, and ensure every American continues to have access to the food they need. More information can be found online at <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>.

Working with VA Farm Bureau and VA Dept of Health (tracking transmission statistics, risk factors, symptoms, testing) to help inform interim guidelines for migrant labor camp operations to keep safety of migrant workers in place as they are critical to our produce operations.

Produce prices are doing well due to strong demand.

Grain prices continue to be impacted by low export and low ethanol production and concerns over reduced feed demand. As of May 14, corn prices were mostly steady, but still down 11% since February; soy beans were down nearly 1%, wheat prices were down nearly 4%.

Grain Inspection Group has been involved in export cargo grain inspections in the sum of 9.4M dollars worth of soybean/corn/soybean-meal going to several countries: Dominican Republic, Burma, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Philippines, Qatar, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. This will hopefully help in the long-run.

VA Fusion Center

On the line, but nothing of significance to report out.

DHS/CISA

Version 3.1 has been released on Guidance for Essential Workers in Critical Infrastructure. Further refines activities within various sectors. Please read, it will be available on the Private Sector webpage after this call. It is also available at www.CISA.gov/COVID19

VDEM

Virginia still has 136 localities under local emergency declarations. 58 Emergency operation centers are still open to some degree.

VDEM has moved to ORANGE/Partial Activation, effective as of Monday of this week. Largely virtual still, but partial activation does mean that weekends are on-call not on-duty, allowing for rest before Hurricane Season officially starts June 1.

VEST continues to coordinate efforts to expand the number of testing opportunities across the Commonwealth, in coordination with the Health Equity Group and the VA Dept of Health. We are using the National Guard to increase our testing capacity (i.e.: Long term care facilities, jails & prisons), meat processing plants, congregate housing, and, finally, the community at large in conjunction with locality officials.

Mother Nature is not standing still, we are entering Hurricane Season, the State of Michigan had two dams break causing evacuations, so we continue our planning.

There is a future planning cell within VEST, to include VDEM along with other state agencies that have roles in hurricane or flooding events. We have developed our concept of operations, and we are working on our Incident Support Plan. We are working with FEMA and the state coordinator has a TTX June 3 to walk through Hurricane planning.



There are some very specific things and secondary events we will need to address with regard to a Hurricane Response in a COVID-19 environment, i.e.: decreased capacity in shelters, need for more shelters to continue social distancing, enhanced sanitation, and mass feeding operations.

VDEM Private Sector:

The daily power point is being reduced in conjunction with the change in activation status to ORANGE. The briefings will now go out Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays. Emails on Tuesday/Thursdays and weekends will only be if there is something significant to relay (i.e.: Governor Press Release related to COVID-19 or a secondary emergency, EOs or Policy changes that would impact businesses).

By way of an Update on FEMA's cloth face masks, VDEM will be receiving 1M more for distribution to small businesses, essential front-line workers and our community at large (esp. underrepresented communities). A plan for future distribution is currently being developed, allocations earmarked last week will go out today. If you have not yet been in contact and have a need for cloth masks, please email Private.Sector@vdem.virginia.gov.

In terms of PPE sourcing options. Any contract with the Commonwealth of VA is a public document and those contracts that have been issued in conjunction with COVID-19 are listed online. If you are having difficulty, and you have needs, please be aware of the following three resources (all of which can also be accessed thru the link that is listed in the daily VDEM PS email for the dashboard):

1. [Virginia Department of General Services](#)
2. [Virginia Manufacturing Association](#)
3. [ProjectN95.org](#)

With regard to the PS Survey, if you have offers of assistance and you have submitted to the survey, or you are thinking about doing so, here are some reminders:

- The survey is where Business & Industry can submit any offers of assistance (donations and/or procurement) relative to critical supplies for hospitals and Health Care workers, first responders, and emergency responders in general.
- The Survey is not limited to PPE; it can be services, equipment, skilled teams, etc.
- You can access the survey at: virginia.gov/COVID19supplies
- Recently there have been some changes to the Survey as testing becomes a top priority. Working with Division of Consolidated Lab Services to incorporate additional questions on the Survey relative to testing.

- If you are a vendor that wants to submit your testing products for consideration, please fill out the new survey and answer the additional questions. Select “COVID19 testing kit” as ‘BUSINESS TYPE’, which will drive you to the questions we need answers to.
- If you have received a follow up email from VDEM PS in response to your submission, especially as it relates to PPE, and you have test kits to offer, we will be going back through our database to pull such vendors and send an additional follow-up email. You do NOT need to submit a SECOND survey, if you already have submitted one.
- If test kits are a NEW capability you have, please email Private.Sector@vdem.virginia.gov and include “TEST KITS” in the subject line, and we will ADD it to your EXSISTING survey.
- Please coordinate within your company if you are making a submission, as your company can use one submission for any type of offer; this also avoids duplicative submissions which slows down tracking and follow up for everyone, because of time spent having to de-conflict multiple submissions from the same company.
- Please read through our reply closely to ensure you reply with all the requisite information. This is necessary for you to move forward in the process; if you have not replied with all of the additional information that was requested after 3 attempts to reach you, your offer will be placed on hold, and you will need to reach out at that point. So, check your spam folder if you are waiting for a response from VDEM PS. Turn around time for all offers of assistance is between 48-72 hours, with the exception of any submission made on a Friday afternoon or over the weekend (as these requests are being reviewed Monday-Friday only).

In closing, please recognize that there is a difference between being added to the Private Sector portal for receipt of communications and making offers of assistance. If you just want to be added to the distribution list for calls and info you can register for the Private Sector portal at bitly/vaprivatesector; offers of assistance should be submitted through the survey at Virginia.gov/COVID19supplies.

Q&A

Q: With regard to the number of daily tests (10K GOAL) being conducted; North Carolina is encouraging front-line workers to be tested, especially if they are unable to maintain social distancing recommendations. Can anyone speak to where Virginia is going with regard to how testing will look for front-line workers?



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A: VDH will share this question with the testing group and provide a follow up answer. In the interim, the 10K number is a percentage of the overall population, which is a target goal. We know we are still ramping up to get there. We are still looking at from a state perspective going out to contract with larger companies that can help us increase the capacity for testing. As far as the guidance from North Carolina encouraging front-line workers to get tested, we will have to follow up with you on that piece as the guidance VDEM has regarding front line workers being tested is only if there is an outbreak.

Next call: May 27, 2020

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