



VDEM Private Sector Conference Call Notes – March 25, 2020 @ 13:00

Introduction

- Stacie Neal called the meeting to order at 13:02.

Intent of Call

- Provide update to private sector partners with summary of actions taken. Overall situation update, VDH, VDACS, and VDEM clinical and logistical updates. DHS / CISA federal perspective. Survey available for private sector partners to provide offers of assistance or report issues.
- Q&A period – questions will be documented and sent out via the Private Sector Portal distribution and posted on VDEM's website.

Situation Update - Virginia Unified Command

March 12 – Executive Order 51 declared emergency

March 17 – Governor and Public Health Commissioner declared a Public Health Emergency.

March 19 – VDOT transport waiver

March 23 – Executive Order 53 calling for K-12 and private schools be closed for the remainder of the year and closing of non-essential businesses.

Executive Orders can be found at <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/executive-actions/>

Governor is holding press conferences every day at 2:00 pm

Agency Reports

Economic Crisis Strike Force: Brian Ball, Secretary of Commerce & Trade

Designed to coordinate with government for things that we are currently experiencing and identify government and private sector resources that are out there to assist stakeholders with challenges. Want to get businesses back open and people back to work as soon as we possibly can.

Executive Order 53: closes certain businesses and limits scope of what other non-essential businesses can perform. Received over 400 inquiries after EO53 came out. Being as responsive as we can. Many businesses not effected (construction, transportation, manufacturing, supply chain, etc.). Businesses that remain open must consider workplace safety and social distancing. Access to SBA loans for businesses. Have been involved in the stimulus package. Working on recovery with businesses affected already.

VA Dept of Health – Dr. Julie Murphy

Helping with the mitigation group task force and leading the community mitigation group made up of VDH employees. Developing support tools and continuing to collaborate with State agencies. Webinars conducted to outreach to various groups such as faith-based groups. Reached out to Dept of Corrections and Juvenile Justice System and will be having a webinar for their healthcare personnel tomorrow. Receiving questions from and conducting conference calls with local and regional jails. Working with DHCD (Dept of Housing and Community Development) to talk about homeless population and reaching out to the Housing and Urban



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Development. Looking at best practices in using hotels and motels. Coordinating flow of information for constituents. Will be putting the link to the business portal on their website. Working on messages for businesses as far as documentation for ill employees (working with DSS on daycare guidance). DHRM to help State agency leadership to have tools at the ready in case of issues within State agency personnel.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) – Stacie Neal

VEST at red; most staff is working virtually; limited staff in the EOC
Confirmed cases-391; fatalities-9. Local declarations-122; 44 EOCs open.
Details on Executive Order 53

[https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-53-Temporary-Restrictions-Due-To-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-53-Temporary-Restrictions-Due-To-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf)

Dept of Professional and Occupations extended a temporary waiver for expired licenses, certifications and waivers – March 18 (look at VDEM and Governor's website)

On March 23, VA State Corporation Commission issued an order to describe a critical designation for utilities. Utilities directive (on VDEM and Governor's website)

Reaching out to private sector for donations or retooling production lines (N95, medical gowns, gloves, goggles and other med supplies).

Va Economic Development has been great in reaching out to businesses.

Question regarding reentry, this is not an issue the State is anticipating but the process is being discussed and plans are being made in case this does take place.

If any email has been sent to the Private Sector Portal and has not been answered, a team has been brought on board to respond to those questions and a response will be forthcoming.

Virginia Fusion Center – Andrew Dunnick

Monitoring exploitation of COVID-19. PPE scams and counterfeit scams. Cyber is huge right now due to this being a global crisis. Criminal are taking advantage. Price gouging. SNAP scams. Any suspicious activity, pass along to Fusion Center.

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Bill Scruggs (Marketing and Development)

Sent an email blast to ag clients, organizations and boards, informing them of VDEM website with portal. Put out the survey. Made contact with key industries reference the FEMA request looking for supply chain issues. Minimal supply chain problems. Grocery stores do have spot shortages but have been able to restock. One issue with poultry industry and thermometers; shortage of those. Working on that. Spoke with producers and agra command; farmers are getting ready to plant crops; have found issues with finding migrant seasonal workers. Not aware of any shutdowns. Working with VA Cooperative Extension, VA Farm Bureau, etc. to gather information. EO 53 will affect farmers markets; working on getting guidance out on this so farmers can sell produce without risking congregation at markets. Some distilleries are making hand sanitizer. Major grocery retailers have indicated interest in purchasing.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) – Rob Mooney



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- Mar 19 & 23 put out guidance on critical infrastructure; just a guide/framework to guide decision making process. EO53 is the real regulations. Will be supporting efforts. State regulates and decides what is considered essential.
- FBI bulletin (will put on VDEM website in portal)

Questions

- Joe Howell – Own small hair salon in Warsaw. Only stylist and only do appts. Only one person in shop at time. Do I still fall under restrictions? A: Gov office is continuously looking at this. Will take this info back to group in Gov office.
- David White – Va Maritime Assoc. Represent companies that move products through ports. Received inquiries about confusion because their section wasn't specifically mentioned in EO53. A: Guidance in EO53 pertains to retail businesses. Wasn't intended for manufacturing, supply chain, etc. Recommendation of social distancing and sanitizing procedures does apply. Not at the point of further restrictions but taking into account if it does happen; doing future planning. Stacie will follow up with more info. Detailed FAQ under EO53 on governor's website. Specific to various industries and retail. Will update webpages as new info comes out.
- Cheryl Simpson – Non-profit. Is this a regular call and will there be minutes? A: Yes, will be pushing minutes out through portal and will be conducting calls every Wed at 1:00 pm. Will be sending out number through private sector portal. Number changes each week.
- Corey Claiborne – American Institute of Architects – space needs for temp space for healthcare beds. A: UACE is already working on that. They are a resource. Name has been passed along to VaNG.
- Katrina Columbia Gas-Any resources available to locate childcare for essential employees? Are there any avenues for priority testing for our essential employees and if not, are you considering options? A: EO53 does not require daycares to close. Will have to get an answer on that resource and put on portal. DSS is working on this info (see info below). Priority testing is for medical personnel and first responders. Lack of test kits. Fed govt is working on more test kits. As add'l info is known, will be pushed out. VDH website lists those who are prioritized for testing; private test sites are available (through healthcare providers). Anyone mildly ill and can manage their illness at home, refrain from being tested.
- Brett Bassie – CEO of VMA – thank you, your team and the Governor for practical approach. Supply chain-conf call with manufactures each week; one area need assistance with UVC light. 300 breweries sitting idle. Beer in production that will go stale in 20 days that can be used to make hand sanitizer. A: Stacie will reach out for more information and contacts.
- Larry Altenburg – More specific guidance for pre-schools to assist with critical childcare needs (DHSS is contact); Is EO53 being pushed out to non-English speaking community other than through the Gov website to ensure they are getting the message that they should be closed? A: Lori-ensure the JIC facilitates this.



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- Beth Simms – Why are small farmers and farmers markets not considered essential in supply chain? Older farmers don't have ability to allow for pre-orders online (large German Baptist Farmers market population). A: VDACS-key thing is fact that is a large gathering at farmers markets. Not required to close for business but allows for delivery and take-out services. Be able to monitor number of people gathering in one place. Suggest emailing commerce department to lobby them for possibly consider flexibility. commerce.trade@governor.virginia.gov
- Mike Johnston – Is there a way to push through process to open up farm based distillery that was originally planned? A: Go to portal.
- Laurie Forlano - States she has had reports of employers requiring employees to provide doctor report/notes for illness of employees to get sick leave credit for missed time. Laurie asked for this concern to be forwarded to get State Government to provide guidance to employers for understanding of the situation and limited access to medical staff for proper documentation. Stacie to forward this concern to Dept. of Economic Development.

Reminders

- To receive regular updates from Virginia, please register for the Virginia Private Sector Portal at <https://bit.ly/VaPrivateSector>
- Private Sector Survey for issues, unmet needs, and offers <https://arcg.is/1amrze>
- For questions that cannot be addressed through the Survey or issues accessing the Portal or Survey, please email private.sector@vdem.virginia.gov
- Offers of assistance: Survey <https://bit.ly/vadonations> (business and industry, not non-profit)
- For updates and guidance on COVID-19, please visit <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>
- For VDEM updates, please visit <http://Vaemergency.gov/coronavirus>

Call frequency – weekly

- Next Call Wednesday, April 1, 2020 @ 1:00pm

Childcare Information

You can find the guidance on the evolving child care plans here: <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/corona.cgi>

The specific emergency childcare info on that site can be found here: https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19-docs/Joint%20Guidance%20Document_Emergency%20Child%20Care%20during%20Extended%20School%20Closures.pdf



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A relevant excerpt is: "For Employers of Essential Personnel: How do I ensure that my employees who must continue working can find emergency child care for their children during extended school closures? Mandated school year closures are having a significant impact on families all across the Commonwealth. The Governor is strongly encouraging public and private partners to collaborate creatively to offer emergency child care for young and school aged children of essential personnel. Employers may be able to help establish and/or subsidize the cost of emergency care in center, school or family day home settings; and may direct employees to call contact 866- KIDS-TLC or go online to <https://vachildcare.com/> to identify alternative options available to them at this time."

Farmers Markets

Please review the guidance found on VADACS website regarding Farmers Markets which are not being required to close but rather to alter operations. Details are located here: [Guidance for farmers' markets, distilleries and breweries](#)

Call ended at 2:09 pm