

**Distribution Category**

Release outside of VDH as needed. Users may share this information with persons in the broader public health community (e.g. state/local government, healthcare organizations, first responders, etc.). However, this Situation Report is intended for use by VDH central office and local health department staff. External partners will not have full access to all of the hyperlinked resources in this document. External partners are encouraged to visit <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus> for the latest information.

**Incident Summary**

COVID-19 At a Glance	
<u>United States</u> CDC numbers close out at 4 p.m. the day before reporting.	
<b>Number of Cases</b>	164
<b>Number of Deaths</b>	11
<b>Number of States Reporting Cases</b>	19
<u>Virginia</u>	
<b>Number of Cases</b>	3
<b>Number of Test Results Currently Pending</b>	9
<b>Number of People Currently Under Public Health Monitoring</b>	166

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in over 90 locations internationally, including the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”). Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been [detected in the U.S.](#) Community spread of COVID-19 has been reported in [California, Oregon, Washington, and Florida.](#)

On 3/7/20, VDH confirmed the [first](#) presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Virginia. It is likely that there will be more cases in the U.S. in the coming days or weeks. It is also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur. Virginia is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health departments to identify additional possible cases and prevent the spread of the virus.

Current CDC Risk Assessment:

- The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is very high, both globally and to the United States.
- For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.

- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated though still relatively low risk of exposure.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure.

Significant Events - Current Operational Period	
Date	Milestone
3/7/20	VDH confirms the <a href="#">first</a> presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Virginia.

### Command and General Staff Updates

- On 3/6/20, VDEM and VDH met to discuss formalization, roles and responsibilities, and next steps of the Virginia, all-government, COVID-19 Task Force. A follow up meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 3/10/20.
- On 3/6/20, VDH submitted a request to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) for PPE in use during the COVID-19 response. Status pending.
- on 3/7/20, VDH confirmed the [first](#) presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Virginia.
- On 3/8/20, Virginia state and local health officials held a [press conference](#) on the status of the [first and second](#) presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in Virginia.
- On 3/8/20, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) created a WebEOC event for tracking information related to COVID-19 in Virginia.
- On 3/9/20, VDH confirmed the [third](#) presumptive positive case in Virginia.
- An Incident Action Plan has been developed for use by the VDH IMT. Local health districts are encouraged to modify for local use, as appropriate.

### Operations Section Updates

#### Surveillance Branch:

- As of 3/9/20, there are 423 [confirmed and presumptive positive U.S. cases](#) detected and tested in 34 states and Washington DC through the U.S public health system, with 72 travel-related cases, 29 cases of person-to-person spread and 322 cases with the source of exposure still under investigation. There are nineteen (19) deaths associated with this outbreak in the US. Additionally, there are 49 confirmed cases among persons repatriated to the United States and tested by CDC.
- As of 3/9/20, there have been three (3) [presumptive positive cases](#) and there are nine (9) PUIs awaiting lab results associated with this outbreak in Virginia.

Total Number of People Tested for COVID-19, by Region and Testing Status				
	Negative	Pending*	Positive	Total^
Central	13	2	0	15
Eastern	6	3	0	9
Northern	13	2	3	18
Northwest	4	2	0	6
Southwest	2	0	0	2
Total	38	9	3	50

\*Includes specimens obtained from Patients Under Investigation (PUI) that have been forwarded to CDC for testing.

^Cumulative since 1/21/2020

- Local health departments continue to follow up with [travelers from China and Iran](#) who arrive in Virginia as their final destination. Public health management of travelers is based on CDC risk exposure criteria.

Total Number of People under Public Health Monitoring, by Monitoring Status

	Low Risk**	Medium Risk†	High Risk	Total^^
Currently under Monitoring	23	121	22	166
Completed Monitoring without further Public Health Action	16	236	0	252
Total	39	357	22	418

\*\*VDH assigns risk groups according to [CDC guidance](#). Low risk individuals include US-based aircrew members and private travelers who have flown through or had layovers in mainland China in the last 14 days.

†Medium risk individuals include those who have traveled from mainland China in the last 14 days.

^^Cumulative since 2/2/2020

- On 3/6/20, VDH released a syndromic surveillance dashboard in Virginia ESSENCE for health department users to support surveillance of COVID-19.
- On 3/9/20, the Virginia Department of Education distributed a memo to public school superintendents on behalf of VDH to encourage reporting of summary student absentee counts to VDH to support public health surveillance efforts.

#### Health Information Branch:

- Infection control guidelines, case report forms, laboratory testing information and other resources are available in the VDH [Disease Control Manual \(DCM\)](#).
- VDH have updated and released materials for:
  - Mass Gatherings:
    - [Interim Guidance: Mass Gatherings or Large Community Event Considerations, Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
  - Travelers:
    - VDH Interim Guidance for Returning Travelers- [Level 2](#) and [Level 3](#)
  - Educational Institutions:
    - [Interim Guidance: Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHE\), Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
    - [Interim Guidance: Considerations for Childcare Programs & K-12 Schools, Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
  - Community Organizations:
    - [VDH Interim Guidance: Considerations for Community- and Faith-Based Organizations, Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
  - Businesses:
    - [VDH Interim Guidance: Considerations for Businesses and Employers, Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
    - [VDH Interim Guidance: Information for Food Establishments Regarding COVID-19](#)
    - [Guidance about COVID-19: Helpful Tips and Information for Food Establishments](#)
  - The General Public:
    - [COVID-19 Disease Basics: What you Need to Know](#)
    - [VDH COVID-19 FAQs](#)

- CDC has recently updated and published materials on:
  - Educational Institutions/Childcare Facilities:
    - [Resources for Institutes of Higher Education](#)
  - Law Enforcement:
    - [What law enforcement personnel need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
  - Community Organizations:
    - [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#)
    - [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#)
  - Travel:
    - [Communication Resources for Travelers](#)
    - [COVID-19 and Cruise Ship Travel](#)
  - The General Public:
    - [People at Risk for Serious Illness from COVID-19](#)
- On 3/8/20, CDC issued a [HAN Update](#). This update provides a situational update and interim guidance to state and local health departments that supersedes guidance in CDC's HAN 428 distributed on 2/28/20.
  - Updated guidance includes Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Testing of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 and Recommendations for Reporting, Testing, and Specimen Collection.

#### Investigation Branch:

- VDH has updated staff [PPE guidance and infection control precautions](#) in accordance with updated federal guidance.
- On 3/4/20, CDC removed clinical and epidemiological criteria for considering an individual to be a PUI.
  - DCLS has received a very small number of test kits from CDC, and thus has a very limited capacity for testing. Until private labs are able to provide testing and DCLS receives additional test kits, VDH must use clinical and epidemiological criteria to identify patients most likely to be infected. These interim criteria are summarized in the [VDH Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Testing](#) on the VDH website. Instructions for public health testing are on the [DCLS website](#).
  - Virginia's local health departments do not provide primary care and thus are not equipped to clinically evaluate patients or collect specimens for COVID-19. If there are barriers to testing for COVID-19, clinicians should call the [director of the local health department](#) to discuss the concerns.
  - Private laboratories are expected to begin COVID-19 testing in the near future.
  - COVID-19 is a [reportable condition in Virginia](#). Healthcare providers are **legally required** to report all suspected cases (i.e., PUI) and confirmed cases to the local health department **immediately**. Laboratory directors are required to submit the initial specimen to DCLS within seven days of identification per these regulations. Healthcare providers are encouraged to report cases using the VDH [online electronic reporting tool](#) whenever possible.
  - Healthcare providers who receive a positive laboratory diagnosis from a private lab for the first case of COVID-19 should immediately call the [director of the local health department](#) to discuss how this will be coordinated.
- On 3/5/20, CDC updated their [Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Exposures](#).
  - Updated guidance includes:
    - Clarified guidance for decision-making in jurisdictions with and without sustained community transmission

- Updated definitions for self-observation, self-monitoring, and self-monitoring with public health supervision
- exposure risk definitions and recommended management for countries other than China
- Updated recommendations for Crews on Passenger or Cargo Flights
- Added resources on discontinuation of isolation for patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19
- Clarification that a potentially exposed person's risk level does not change if symptoms develop

### [Disease Control Manual \(DCM\) Updates:](#)

#### **New**

- VDH FAQs for Healthcare Providers (Document A.9)
- Interim Summary of VDH Recommendations for Management of Exposed Persons in Travel-Associated or Community Settings by Exposure Risk (Document F.1a, Table 1.)
- VDH Healthcare Personnel Risk Assessment Tool (Document F.1b)
- VDH Recommendations for Close Contacts (Document F.6a)
- VDH Recommendations for Low Risk (Document F.6b)
- Interim Guidance: Considerations for Childcare Programs & K-12 Schools, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Under Section I. VDH Community Mitigation; Education Institutions)
- Interim Guidance: Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education (IHE), Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Under Section I. VDH Community Mitigation; Education Institutions)
- VDH Interim Guidance: Considerations for Businesses and Employers, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Under Section I. VDH Community Mitigation; Businesses)
- VDH Interim Guidance: Information for Food Establishments Regarding COVID-19 (Under Section I. VDH Community Mitigation; Businesses)
- Interim Guidance: Mass Gatherings or Large Community Event Considerations, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Under Section I. VDH Community Mitigation; Large Events/Mass Gatherings)
- VDH Interim Guidance: Considerations for Community- and Faith-Based Organizations, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Under Section I. VDH Community Mitigation; Community and Faith-Based Organizations)
- Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes (Document K.1)

#### **Updates**

- VDH Interim Guidance for Returning Travelers- Level 2 and Level 3; Algorithm for Incoming Travelers at Dulles (Under Section F: Risk Assessment and Management of Persons with Potential COVID-19 Exposure)
- Worksheet for Travel-Associated and Community Settings (Document F.3b)

#### **In Development**

- FAQs for Call Centers

### **Communications Section Updates**

- VDH will hold twice weekly media briefs on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- [Talking points](#) and [message maps](#) are available to assist VDH staff with responding to media and other inquiries.
- A call center is available to the public for general information about the novel coronavirus. The number is 877-ASK-VDH3.
- Communications is working with local officials to develop [press releases](#) as presumptive positives are

identified.

- Communications is in the process of developing a comprehensive public education and awareness plan.

## Upcoming Events

### VDH Meetings:

#### **VDH Executive Policy Group Meeting**

*Monday - Thursday from 8:30 – 9:00 am*

#### **VDH ICS Command Meeting**

*Monday - Thursday from 9:00 – 9:30 am*

#### **VDH ICS Tactical Meeting**

*Daily from 2:00 - 3:00 pm*

#### **Local Health Director Meeting**

*Tuesdays at 8:00 am*

#### **Partner State Agency and Organization Briefing**

*Fridays at 10:00 am*

#### **VDH IMT Meeting with Local Health Districts**

*Fridays at 11:00 am*

#### **Local Government Briefing**

*Fridays at 1:00 pm. Call-in information to be provided.*

### CDC Meetings:

#### **CDC COVID-19 Response All State Call**

*Mondays, 2:00-2:45 pm*

#### **CDC Returning Traveler Discussion**

*Every Wednesday and Friday from 3:00-4:00 pm.*

Notes from CDC conference calls are available on [Google Drive](#).

**Internal Resources:** <http://vdhweb.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>

**Public Resources:** <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

**Questions/Comments:** [Respiratory@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Respiratory@vdh.virginia.gov) or 804-864-8141

**Next Situation Report Due:** 3/11/20

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COVID-19 Response

Situation Report #16