**VDH Partner Call, 11 Sep 2020**

**Case Count Update from Suzi Silverstein:** (As of 5:00 pm on 10 Sep 2020):

* 131,640 Cases
* 10,155 Hospitalizations
* 2,711 Deaths
* See <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia/> for latest numbers

**Vaccination Update – Christy Grey**

* Slides posted on the VDH Webpage: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-preparedness/emergency-preparedness/covid-19-information/>
* Slide 2 – Trend on vaccines in general – starting to catch up in the past couple weeks, most current week (not shown) – we surpassed the total from 2019 for the same time period
* Slide 3 – Public Health administered vaccines – dramatically lower for 2020 compared to 2019, attributed to Public Health focused on COVID-19 response
* Slide 4 – Flu vaccine is going to be more important than ever this year. Really need help pushing the message about the importance of the flu vaccine
* Slide 5 – Information provided by CDC on the 2 vaccines that are closest to being approved by the FDA. Vaccine will initially be very limited (between Nov and Dec), maxing out at 35-45 million doses nationwide. The 2 vaccines will require different storage and handling requirements. Both will require 2-dose series. Vaccine A will be available in 1000 dose increments and Vaccine B will be available in 100 dose increments.
* Slide 6 – Priority Groups for Early Vaccination. High priority groups overlap somewhat, but represent a significantly larger group of people than there are doses of vaccine. Therefore, will need to prioritize further within those priority groups. VDH is conducting a large data gathering effort to identify the numbers of persons in each priority group in Virginia.
* Slide 7 - [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Recommendations](https://www.nap.edu/download/25914) (DRAFT – published last week)
  + The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine is an independent organization
  + Their final recommendations will be published later in September
  + The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will also provide their own recommendations later this month or early October
* Slide 8 – Healthcare workforce varies by setting. Not just doctors and nurses – need to include housekeeping, personal care aides, etc.
* Slide 9 – Showing the Vaccine Life Cycle. Safety is part of the process throughout the process. Several of the vaccines are now in Phase 3 (Safety and Efficacy testing) in 30,000+ people. Both Vaccine A and B mentioned earlier are in Phase 3 trials.
  + Once those trials are completed, the FDA will review the data before approving the vaccine.
  + After the FDA approves the vaccine, the ACIP reviews the data and makes recommendations on who should receive the vaccine (age range, # of recommended doses, recommended dose intervals).
  + After a vaccine is licensed it will continue to be monitored for safety and efficacy (Phase 4) for as long as the vaccine is licensed.
  + This is the same process followed by all vaccines
* Slide 10 – Vaccination Advisory Workgroup members listed. These are organizations outside VDH that will review VDH’s plans and policies and provide input.
* Slide 11: Showing the VDH Vaccine Unit’s planning activities

**Remdesivir Update - Stephanie Wheawhill:**

* On Aug 28, the Emergency Use Authorization was broadened to include treatment of all adults and children with COVID-19 regardless of their disease severity
* By the end of September, the drug will be in sufficient supply to allow distribution through the normal commercial supply chain.
* For now, VDH Pharmacy is still working with hospitals to facilitate supplies of Remdesivir until the private supply chain can take over

**Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (DBHDS) Update – Craig Camidge, Stephanie Waite:**

* Virginia COPES Warm Line program – just received an additional $996,000 in federal funding to continue the program through March of 2021
  + A Hot Line – provides immediate, emergency response to handle people in crisis
  + A Warm Line – provides information about community services to connect people to services that will help keep them from becoming acute
  + Phone Number: 1-877-
  + Functional adapting, coping assistance.
  + Referral service
  + Not a counseling or therapy service – but can connect people with those resources
* Frontline Wellness VA Workgroup – focused on the wellness of frontline healthcare and other responders. As workload of this group has diminished – moved the resources to Virginia COPES, but the Frontline Wellness group retains the ability to stand back up if needed
* Warm Line Utilization To date:
  + Since Jun 8 (date opened): 442,831 encounters with the general public (15 min or less)
  + 137 calls over 15 minutes
  + Have been mailing and handing out postcards
  + Initially handled about 8 calls a weak, by mid-August – 15 calls per day

**N95 Fit Test Training – Suzi Silverstein:**

* See slides
* Two Virginia National Guard (VANG) teams
* Training facilities on Fit-Testing so that the facilities can fit-test their own staff.
* Fit-Test Training teams can also offer 2.5 hour training events to other organizations upon request – sessions need to be min 6 people, max of 30, and must provide training space.
* Instructions to request sessions: See: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-preparedness/n95-respiratory-fit-testing-train-the-trainer/how-to-schedule-n95-respiratory-testing-train-sessions/>

**Q&A Session:**

* COL Chew, VANG – Not a question: Pointing out that VANG also has 4 testing teams that are doing COVID-19 testing around the state.
* No other questions were asked

**Next Call will be Next Friday, Sep 18 at 10:00**