**VDH Partner call, 2 Oct 2020**

**COVID-19 Cumulative Case Count, as of 2 Oct 2020 – Suzi Silverstein:**

* Cases: 149,687
* Hospitalizations: 11,140
* Deaths: 3,250

**ALPHAVU Social Media – Scott Michelson:**

* Collecting Social Media information to identify how people are perceiving various aspects of COVID-19 response
* Statewide and regional data
* Allows us to see what information, misinformation, and beliefs that could be countered
* Example – Governor’s positive case – resulted in spread of belief that masks don’t work
* The public does seem to have understanding of masks, social distancing
* Approach – partnering with social media accounts that have strong followings and perceived trust
* Data is available on local and regional basis
* TracingTrust.com – dashboard and data reporting available
* [Scott@alphavu.com](mailto:Scott@alphaview.com)

**Containment – Rachel Ellick:**

* New Pandemics Dashboard located on VDH Website, under Key Measures. Was only for internal use but is now available to the general public: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/>
* On the Pandemic Metrics dashboard there are 4 main tabs:
  + About the Data: Information on wow the metrics are generated and guidance documents for slowing the transmission of disease in the community
  + Daily Region Metrics
  + Weekly Transmission Extent (Region level composite metrics)
  + CDC School Metrics Tab – Uses Virginia Data with the CDC School Metrics methodology. Core indicators:
    - # of new cases per 100,000 for the last 14 days
    - PCR test positive rate for the last 14 days
    - Ability of the school to implement the five key mitigation strategies
* It is highly recommended that no decisions be made on the school opening status based on this dashboard alone – it should be a conversation with the Local Health Department

**Contact Tracing – Elena Diskin:**

Slides at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-preparedness/emergency-preparedness/covid-19-information/>

* Case Investigation and Contact tracing are primary methods of reducing spread of the virus in the community
* Case Investigation:
  + Identification and investigation of patients with confirmed and probable diagnoses of COVID-19
  + Starts with a positive test result or provider diagnoses
  + Cases are entered into the Virginia Electronic Disease Surveillance System (VEDSS) and triaged for assignment to the local health department
  + SARA Alert is used to manage the Case investigation and contact tracing workflow
* COVIDWise APP – generates random keys that allow smart phones to exchange information anonymously with other phones via blue tooth. If a person reports their illness in the COVIDWise App, the App will anonymously notify potential contacts of the exposure
  + 571,640 App downloads as of 9/29/2020
* Hiring efforts to increase case investigation and contact tracing:
  + 1200 public health staff hired statewide
  + In the past 7 days 81% of cases were contacted within the 24 hours, and 91% of contacts of those cases were reached with 24 hours

**COVID-19 Antigen Testing Update – Dr. Brooke Rossheim:**

* HHS has sent out COVID-19 rapid point of care antigen testing machines to all Nursing Homes in Virginia.
  + This allows NHs to do onsite rapid antigen testing for COVID-19
* There is also a new device that uses a card that does not require a machine – the test kit is an all in one COVID-19 antigen testing card, called BinaxNOW by Abbot Labs
* HHS is sending out additional testing devices to support State testing efforts
* Virginia is working with HHS to determine where these tests can be best used
* Virginia is also working with a multistate effort to procure even more antigen point of care tests
* New workgroup – the Commonwealth Antigen Testing Team (CATT) – formed in mid-September
  + Goal: to determine how all of these new antigen tests should be used, such as in schools, Long Term Care Facilities, correctional facilities, etc.

**PCR Testing Update – Suzi Trotter:**

* Slides at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-preparedness/emergency-preparedness/covid-19-information/>
* Positivity rate across the state continued to decline down to 4.5% this week
* About 2,050,000 total PCR test to date
* Robust testing effort by State and Local Health Districts
* Virginia National Guard – 4 testing strike teams assisting us with testing at Assisted Living Facilities and Community events on behalf of local health departments (5 CTEs this past week)
* Laboratory turnaround time currently at 1.98 days (slightly up from last week)
* Expect to meet the testing goals for September after all results are in
* Recently developed Regional Rapid Response Teams
  + Meet weekly to look at pandemic data and metrics
  + Identify needs for the Region and coordinate with Central office for resources
  + Testing is one of the components, along with Case Investigation, Community Mitigation, and Communications

**Office of Emergency Preparedness Update – Bob Mauskapf:**

* The Regional Teams mentioned by Suzi Trotter – Coordinate and synchronize efforts across the region, bring information from the Local Districts up to Central Office
* Components of Regional Team:
  + Community Mitigation
  + Containment
  + Planning
  + Communications
  + (And Hopefully Beginning Soon) Vaccinations
* Continue to do vaccine planning. Plan itself has been completed in draft form – will be shared with the State partners that will be participating in upcoming Seminar on Oct 8 and Table top Exercise on Oct 14
* Seminar and TTX – invitation only events – include state partners, regional representatives, and some local representatives
* Will be briefing the Secure Virginia Panel on Oct 29th
* PPE – 2.4 million cloth masks are available for distribution to schools. VEST and DOE working on the distribution plan for the cloth masks.

**Q&A Session:** No Questions asked

**Next Call:** Friday, Oct 9, at 10:00 am