

## COVID-19 Partner Call 11/20/20

**COVID-19 case count: 213,331**

**Deaths: 3,912**

No call next week....there will be a new call in number on December and will be sent out.

### **Mitigation measures- Amy Hayes:**

In light of increasing case count, the Governor has made modifications to EO. Messaging includes washing hands, wearing masks and avoid gatherings outside of household.

EO 67: gathering size decreased from 250m to 25.... Excludes religious services. Restaurants may not host parties greater than 25 delivery and take out still allowed. Fitness classes cannot exceed 75 % occupancy. Athletics competitions VHSL will provide additional details. Amusement parks private parties no more than 25 people.

EO63: children's age for mask reduced from 10 to 5 years of age.

### **Testing – Dr. Jaber:**

Big points will be highlighted, increased Percent positivity in commonwealth. Total PCR count close to 3,000,000,000..... Working with National Guard and hd's for testing. Media requests have been received around testing results turnaround.....this is being monitored and are on average of 2 days. JMU has had some successful testing results. Metrics of 10,000 tests per days, we increased to 15,000 but we are exceeding 20,000. When we look at percent positivity you can see the breakdown on the website, but in summary, we are seeing surges increasing in SW VA. Working with partners to increase testing capabilities. Binax now tests kits are being distributed to state dept. of corrections, assisted living. First responders will be getting more tests though the EMS councils. Preparing for challenging months, and we need to continue to use testing as a cornerstone of the response. Testing symptomatic and asymptomatic....those that have been in close contact, or part of outbreak.

### **Testing- Karen Owens with OEMS:**

Last week a question was raised for antigen testing for ems providers, currently working on a plan to distribute and how to use at agency along with training. Encouraging Medical directors

for councils to work on vaccination plan as the ems providers can prove to be a resource. Continue to provide information on OEMS website.

**Long-term care facilities and the holidays-Sara Lineberger:**

These facilities have been greatly impacted due to community transmission increases; there have been increased cases in the facilities. There is concern with the holidays, family and facilities. Recommendations have been made on how to celebrate the holiday. Small gatherings guidance has been provided, including not having those of increased age attending. Looking at best ways of families coming to facility as opposed to resident leaving facility and the possibility of quarantining on return.

**COVIDWISE app- Andrew Larimer:**

Link to download for free was provided in invite. A few key points to know is that the app does not use location and no personal information is used. The app in the background will be exchanging data over Bluetooth and remembers time the exchanges of anonymous tokens take place. The app detects the Bluetooth signal strength. If someone gets sick, then they can call Dept. of health, they will be given a random number string and then the numbers checks to see if you have been near of any of those token packages that the phone exchanged previously. This allows us to know if someone has been in close proximity based on that information. The more people that use the app the better it will be. VA will be joining a national key server to assist with tracking outside of VA which will help with travelers. An updated video will be released today or Monday to show the app in action.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covidwise/>

**Q AN A:**

**Q:** Craig Evans- Questions about Governor Orders. Are there further discussions on limiting schools? Sports and childcare.

**A:** Please email Rachel Ellick for information, as the speaker was filling in. Also go to Governors webpage has been updated to reflect new changes. VDH is meeting on regular basis.

**Q:** Craig Evans- Is the app the same functionality in the new IOS operating system? How many Virginians have installed the app?

**A:** The Covidwise app does, but it also provides more functionality, like a chat function and other features with more information. As of yesterday over 800,000 have installed app.

**Q:** Is Dept of Health considering to switching to the total PCR testing.

**A:** Referring to testing team. The issue has been raised and will addressed.