

2022 Virginia Public Health Preparedness Summit & Virginia Epidemiology Seminar COVID-19 Contingency Plan Proposal

Introduction

The Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) and Office of Epidemiology (OEpi) are hosting an in-person shared public health conference September 27-September 30, 2022 in Hampton, VA with approximately 400 staff in attendance. Continued pandemic conditions (that may escalate in the fall) prompted the planning committee to consider COVID-19 contingency plans to proactively prepare for different scenarios that may arise due to increased community transmission levels. The conference venue does not have a COVID-19 contingency plan. The planning committee is seeking the CLT's permission and approval to move forward with its COVID-19 contingency plan as outlined below.

Approach

To address potential risks to the Summit posed by the still unknowns of COVID, the risks identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we believe actions taken should be data-informed and based on context specific to each instance, rather than predetermined threshold levels that do not specifically address the existing or evolving conditions. Summit planning and operations will follow one of the outlined levels below, with the potential to shift as we see trends in specific populations or locations in accordance with the CDC COVID 19 Community Levels <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>. The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. Most of our decisions will relate to specific interventions for targeted needs. For

example we see trends in certain populations or locations, we intend to focus on those specific populations or locations.

General States of Summit Conduct/Suspense

- *Level 1: Proceed as planned*

- Primarily low and medium COVID Community Levels
- Minimal or no surge needs in the districts

- *Level 2: In-Person with enhanced mitigation measures (Provide Masks, pre-conference health screening, social distancing, provide rapid self-tests)*

- Low, medium and some high COVID Community Levels
- Minimal or no surge needs in the districts

- *Level 3: Virtual attendance only*

- Moderate Medium and high COVID Community Levels Statewide
- Moderate surge needs in the districts
- Moderate Employee illness/absenteeism (per CDC Self Checker <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/coronavirus-self-checker.html>)
- Significant applicable action by the Governor, Secretary of HHR and/or State Health Commissioner

- *Level 4: Cancellation*

- Significant Medium and high transmission
- Significant surge needs in the district
- Moderate to high attendee absenteeism (gained via employee survey and/r direct feedback)

- **Relevant Circumstances and Data**

A combination of indicators from multiple domains will inform the measures recommended to VDH Leadership by the Summit planning team to recommend modification and reduction to in-person summit activities.

- **Governance For Decision Making**

- The Summit Planning Team has provided this plan to inform VDH Leadership decisions regarding Preparedness Summit and Virginia Epidemiology Seminar activities and potential status changes related to conduct, virtual attendance,

and/or cancelation of the events. These recommendations will be revised as our situational awareness changes. Risk cannot be eliminated, only mitigated.

- Decision timeline:
 - Summit Registration Closes Wednesday, September, 21, 2022
 - All registered personnel will complete RedCap screening tool, September 22 and 23.
 - Decision to cancel based on survey data
 - Communication of decision