



office of the governor of the commonwealth of virginia

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 LONG-TERM CARE TASK FORCE

Dr. Laurie Forlano, Deputy Commissioner of Population Health, VDH

Gena Berger, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources

April 23, 2020

Welcome and Housekeeping Items

- Please mute your phone (do NOT put us on hold) if you are not speaking
- We prefer to take questions/comments at the end of each agenda item

Overview of Agenda

- Review of Charge for Long-Term Care Facility Task Force
- Overview of Activities/Additional Identified Needs Since Kickoff Call
- Discussion
- Next Steps

Charge for the LTC Task Force

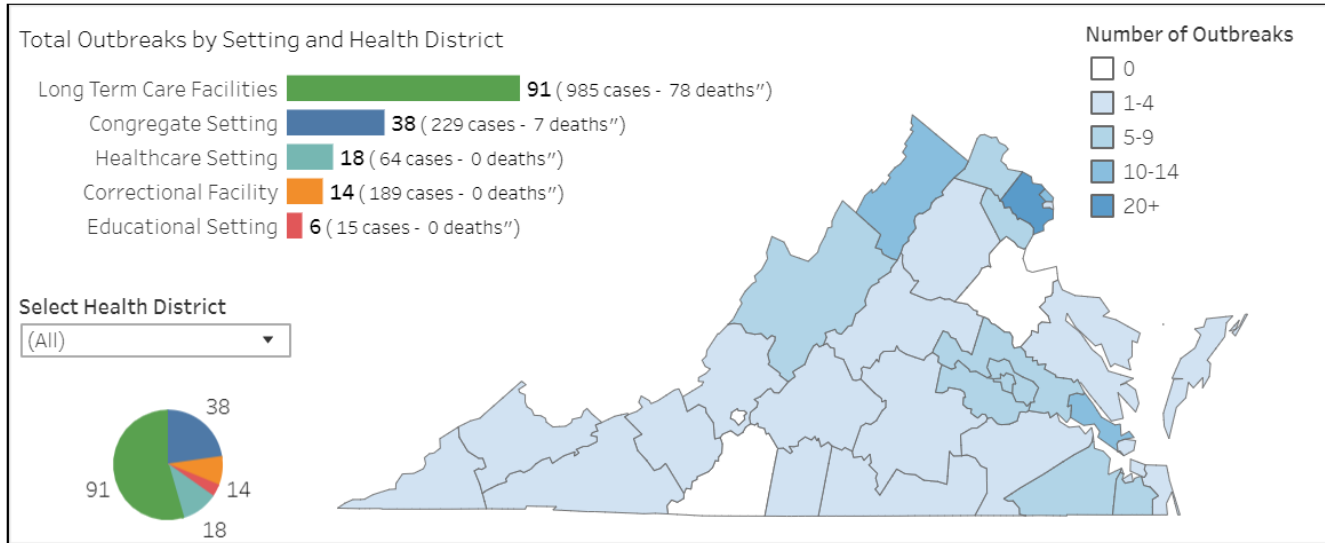
- Ensure a unified state government response in supporting long-term care community in responding to COVID-19
- Facilitate better data collection regarding COVID-19 impacts on LTC community
- Foster communication between providers and VDH/Office of the Secretary/Governor
- Elevate issues regarding outbreaks and resource needs at LTC facilities

Areas of Focus

- Data
- Staffing
- Financing
- Testing
- PPE
- Infection Control
- Hospital Discharge Planning

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Virginia

As of 4/22/2020, Virginia has 91 confirmed outbreaks of COVID-19 in LTCFs



LTCFs include nursing homes/skilled nursing, assisted living, residential behavioral health, and multicare/independent living

Data

- On April 21, Dr. Oliver exercised his authority under Section 32.1-41 of the Virginia Code to release PHI if it is pertinent to an investigation. The notification to LTCFs, including SNFs and ALFs, in a health district that a particular LTCF has a positive COVID-19 case is permissible as part of case identification and contact investigation efforts.
- VDH Weekly Report now includes some break down of case count data by “Residence in a LTC setting”
- VDH Outbreak Data also includes outbreak counts, and associated case counts and deaths (as available)

Staffing

- The Commissioner has approved the template Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and long-term care facilities.
- Retention and recruitment has been a priority with looking at incentives, worker supports (childcare, transportation]), and additional resources for workers.
- Because the MRC is not a long-term staffing solution, guidance and processes are needed to provide additional staffing support.
- Gathered information about the Maryland model which includes “Care teams” and exploring other resources including federal assets that may be available

Financing

- DMAS has received a response from CMS for the 1135 Waiver submission, who has asked additional questions for which DMAS is currently developing responses for.
- DMAS is working with the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and the Virginia Health Care Association to finalize the process for additional payments to the nursing centers.
- Additional flexibilities continue to be explored.

Testing

- Point Prevalence Surveys (PPS) are being conducted at facilities suspecting an outbreak.
- VDH is developing guidance to facilities on how to access these resources and support services
- The National Guard can deploy teams to test up to 500 individuals per day (this is across all settings, not limited to LTCF).
- VDH is developing guidance to facilities on how to access these resources and support services.

Testing

- At this time, the FDA has not approved any point of care rapid antigen tests on the commercial market. There are, however, several serologic tests available on the commercial market that have received emergency use authorization by the FDA.
- As of April 21st, LabCorp's self collection kits for COVID-19 testing have also been approved by the FDA via emergency use authorization.
- A COVID-19 Testing Task Force has been established by Governor Northam. Catie Finley will serve as the liaison between the two Task Forces.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- [Regional Healthcare Coalitions](#) continue to serve as the lead points of contact to address PPE needs of healthcare facilities (SNFs, hospitals, dialysis centers, etc.).
- Requests for PPE from non-healthcare entities (assisted living, local government agencies, jails, etc.) can be made through the locality emergency operations center (EOC) to the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST).
- Be prepared to provide information on current PPE inventory, PPE conservation strategies in place and burn rate.
- As additional PPE is received by the Commonwealth, the VEST will be able to distribute more PPE to end-users across the state in order to meet critical needs until the normal supply chain is restored. Unified Command is revising the PPE request and distribution process.

Infection Control

- The Virginia National Guard has offered support including offering services to train staff on the use of PPE, delivery of test kits and specimens to laboratories, local health departments and/or facilities.
 - VDH is developing guidance to facilities on how to access these resources and support services.

Discharge Planning & Coordination

- The Virginia Health Care Association and Virginia Hospital and Health Care Association are finalizing their guidance on hospital transfer and admission of patients to LTCFs during the COVID-19 emergency.

Provider, Administrator, and Clinical Leadership Work Group

- A work group comprised of LTCF providers, administrators, and clinical leadership convened on April 21st and will continue to meet biweekly.
- Key Takeaways of the discussion were:
 - There are licensure challenges to creating cohorts for isolation.
 - Mandatory reporting requirements impede facilities' ability to voluntarily report data.
 - Guidance would be welcomed on: obtaining PPE, securing national guard and Medical Reserve Corps support, addressing staff that work at multiple facilities

Discussion

Next steps

- Please fill out the work group sign up survey sent out by Brenden Rivenbark on 4/20/2020.
 - Meetings for work groups will be scheduled by the end of the week
- VDH staff and partners are developing a playbook and toolkit for facilities when there is a suspected outbreak and for facilities trying to enhance their prevention efforts.