



City of Virginia Beach

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March 13, 2020

The Honorable Robert "Bobby" M. Dyer, Mayor
Members of City Council

Subject: COVID-19 Situational Awareness Update

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

City staff continue to be fully engaged in planning and preparation concerning the global outreach of COVID-19. On March 11, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a **controllable** pandemic that can be slowed by the continuous action of countries around the world. The situation is being closely monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Virginia Beach Department of Public Health (VBDPH), and the Virginia Beach Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Attached is our second executive brief for City Council, developed by Virginia Beach OEM. Items of note include:

- A local declaration (also attached) has been issued as of 3:00 PM today, Friday, 3/13.
- Governor Ralph Northam, today, 3/13, ordered all K-12 schools in Virginia to close for a minimum of two weeks in response to the continued spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Schools will close from Monday, March 16, through Friday, March 27, at a minimum.
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will move to virtual activation on Monday, 3/16.
- All City-sponsored events and meetings over 100 people, and City senior programs, are cancelled as of Monday, 3/16.
- All non-mission essential travel for City employees is suspended through May 2020.
- Virginia Beach Public Library has cancelled all programming, as of this afternoon, Friday, 3/13, at all locations, until further notice.

As previously discussed, VBDPH is the lead on COVID-19 and Virginia Beach OEM will continue to coordinate activities based upon their direction. Our taskforce will continue efforts to keep City Council, the workforce, and our citizens well informed as our operations and planning advance.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact me or DCM Steve Cover. He may be reached at 385-8137 or scover@vbgov.com.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Leahy, P.E.
Acting City Manager

Attachments (2)



COVID-19 Executive Brief
March 13, 2020 1530hrs
Shared Program Code 1199

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is closely monitoring a global pandemic caused by a novel coronavirus that was first detected in China and has now spread internationally, including the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”). The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a **controllable** pandemic on March 11 that can be slowed by the continuous action of countries around the world. Numerous public and private closures have been reported across the U.S. to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Commonwealth of Virginia Actions

- Virginia declared a State of Emergency on 3/12 and issued several preventative actions by State employees
- Virginia declared COVID-19 a public health threat on 2/7
- Governor Ralph Northam, today, 3/13, ordered all K-12 schools in Virginia to close for a minimum of two weeks in response to the continued spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Schools will close from Monday, March 16, through Friday, March 27, at a minimum.

Virginia Situational Status (as of 1230 3/13) – currently no evidence of community spread

- 30 confirmed presumptive positive and confirmed cases in Virginia with 10 hospitalizations and 0 deaths
- 2 confirmed presumptive cases in Virginia Beach

City Highlights

- Acting City Manager Leahy suspended all non-mission essential travel for City employees through May 2020
- All City-sponsored events and meetings over 100 people and City senior programs are cancelled
- A local emergency declaration is expected this afternoon Friday 3/13
- Yuengling Shamrock Marathon Weekend, 2020 Grand National Championship by the Sea, 2020 Boys State Championship Gymnastics, Virginia Beach Spring Classic, and Senior Softball Tidewater Classic events **have been cancelled**. Other events are being assessed for cancellation in coordination with event organizers

An Awareness Message has been issued regarding a malicious website masquerading as a live map for Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins University to entice unwitting users to visit. The URL for the malicious site is (corona-virus-map[dot]com) and can steal a variety of sensitive data from users if they click on it.

City Actions

Health Department / Sentara

- VBDPH’s public health response focuses on multiple areas—including daily coordination with VDH and CDC, internal VBDPH preparation, working with community partners (local governments, hospitals, etc.), and traveler monitoring. VBPDH is investigating contacts of presumptive confirmed cases.
- On a case-by-case basis, VBDPH works with local emergency departments, urgent care centers, private physician offices and other healthcare providers to evaluate people when there is concern of COVID-19
- VBDPH has shared CDC criteria for a person to be tested for COVID-19 with local healthcare systems.
- Additionally, VBDPH has set up a Coronavirus Hotline at 757-518-2700 Option 5 to answer questions.
- Sentara has opened the System Command Center, manned 0600-1800 daily with on call staff off hours and is developing surge plans for the Emergency Departments, inpatient, and outpatient divisions.

Emergency Management

- Facilitating COVID-19 City Task Force twice weekly and established 8 workgroups:
 - Communications
 - Continuity of Government
 - Continuity of Operations
 - Human Resources/Finance/IT
 - Infrastructure
 - Public Safety
 - Special Events
 - Vulnerable Populations



- Developing weekly Incident Action Plans (IAPs) that outlines City response structure and objectives
- Developing reports, briefings, and contingency plans
- Developing City's COVID-19 supply plan with support partners
- Emergency Operations Center will move to virtual activation on Monday 3/16

COVID-19 Workgroup Updates

Communications

- Communications Office has activated the virtual Joint Information Center (JIC) to address communications between City, Schools, Public Health, and internal City workforce
- Developed and maintaining [COVID-19 website](#) to provide updates on closures
- Coordinating on internal communication flow to City workforce

Continuity of Government *(focused on City leadership and elected City officials)*

- Assessing legal implications for social distancing and the impact of cancellations on City council meetings and other public meetings, courts status, and voting and how to move to virtual operations

Continuity of Operations *(focused on City workforce and operations)*

- City departments are updating their COOP plans to identify lines of authority, virtual operations, potential for reduction in workforce, and communications with staff

Human Resources / Finance / Information Technology

- Human Resources is developing policies on emergency health leave, telecommuting, and City operations
- IT assessing infrastructure to support remote connections to City network; increased remote connectivity to allow for 4,000+ employees to work remotely
- Finance is examining how to move existing paper processes to virtual operations and how to continue its services including payroll, purchasing, contracting, and debt services
- Management Services is evaluating City's revenue streams and overall financial impacts

Infrastructure

- Assessing potential exposure impacts and environmental cleaning for public facilities
- Assessing continuity of public services including water services and transportation needs

Public Safety Workgroup

- Assessing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs for public safety staff & managing City supply cache
- Discussing modified operations and triage needs for potential COVID-19 cases (incl transport assignments)
- ECCS developing call triage plan between 311 and 911

Special Events Workgroup

- Assessing special events across the City for rescheduling or cancellations through development of an event risk matrix. Events for assessment include external permitted events with event organizers and internal events, such as meetings, conferences, and cultural events

Vulnerable Populations

- Assessing impacts and contingency plans for vulnerable populations including homeless individuals, individuals in long-term care facilities, group homes, and jails, school-aged children with free lunches, elderly populations, and other low-income and vulnerable populations
- Identifying key issues and gaps and coordinating resources to address unmet needs

Helpful Resources

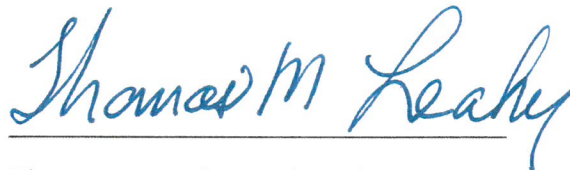
[Virginia Department of Health](#) / [Center for Disease Control](#) / [World Health Organization](#)

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

I, the undersigned, as Acting City Manager and Director of Emergency Management for the City of Virginia Beach find the imminent threat posed by COVID-19 to be of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant coordinated local government action to better protect the health and safety of the City's residents and visitors.

Therefore, pursuant to Code of Virginia § 44-146.21, as amended, I hereby declare the existence of a Local Emergency in the City of Virginia Beach beginning March 13, 2020 at 1500 hours.

In accordance with this Declaration, the Office of Emergency Management and all other appropriate City agencies are hereby vested with, and authorized to carry out, all powers, duties, and functions prescribed by State and local laws, rules, regulations, and plans as may be necessary to adequately and appropriately respond to said Local Emergency.



Thomas M. Leahy, Acting City Manager &
Director of Emergency Management

3-13-2020

(Date)