



Health Department



May 9, 2020

To: Dr. M. Norman Oliver, State Health Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health  
Mark Jinks, Alexandria City Manager  
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manger  
Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive  
Tim Hemstreet, Loudoun County Administrator  
Christopher Martino, Prince William County Executive

Dear Dr. Oliver and Chief Administrative Officers,

Governor Northam issued Executive Orders 53 and 55 that closed businesses in the Commonwealth to help maintain the public’s health in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Various criteria have been provided for determining when entering into Phase 1 of re-opening could be safely accomplished. Executive Order 61 was issued on May 8, 2020, to provide for the Phase 1 easing of certain temporary restrictions due to COVID-19.

The Northern Virginia Health Directors were asked to assess the status of the Northern Virginia region against the metrics. **Based on our assessment, we do not believe that the Northern Virginia region has met the criteria for moving into Phase 1 at this time.** We recommend continuing current community mitigation strategies and reassessing this on a regular basis to determine when Northern Virginia can move into Phase 1 according to these criteria (and any additional agreed upon criteria).

The following table is our assessment against the metrics issued on April 24:

Metric	Met or Unmet	Health Directors’ Comments
Moving downward: Percentage of positive tests over 14 days	<b><u>Unable to assess</u></b>	As of May 4 the data shows that Northern Virginia (NOVA) is higher than the rest of Virginia: 27% for NOVA and 18% for all of Virginia (the latter is inclusive of NOVA)  Without additional information, we cannot assess whether it has gone down over the past 14 days  We have asked Virginia Department of Health for this data (including past data)

Moving downward: Hospitalizations over 14 days	<u>Unmet</u>	* See chart below: “Hospitalizations over the 14 day period for NoVa, Outside of NoVA and All of VA”  (See suggestion below)
Increased testing	<u>Unable to assess</u>	Currently only have baseline  We have asked Virginia Department of Health for this data (including past data)
Increased (contact) tracing (capacity)	<u>Unmet</u>	Infrastructure is not yet in place to respond to every new case, trace and actively monitor their close contacts, and coordinate testing for symptomatic contacts
Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity	<u>Unable to assess</u>	Available critical care beds continue to decrease but still fall within normal operating capacity  Note: there is 20% surge capacity that is not yet utilized  (See suggestion below)
Increasing and sustainable supply of PPE	<u>Unmet</u>	<u>Met</u> : PPE for hospitals appears to be adequate at this time  <u>Unmet</u> : PPE for outpatient facilities (private practices, long-term care facilities and first responders) continues to be a challenge

\* COVID-19 Hospitalizations over the past 14 Days - Northern Virginia, Outside of Northern Virginia and All of Virginia

INPATIENT		Northern Virginia		Outside Northern Virginia		ALL Virginia	
14-Day Period	Date	Inpatient	Ratio Inpatient to Prev Day	Inpatient	Ratio Inpatient to Prev Day	Inpatient	Ratio Inpatient to Prev Day
1	7-May	670	0.99	943	1.03	1613	1.01
2	6-May	676	1.03	918	1.09	1594	1.07
3	5-May	654	1.09	842	0.97	1496	1.02
4	4-May	598	1.03	865	1.04	1463	1.04
5	3-May	580	1.03	833	0.96	1413	0.99
6	2-May	561	0.94	865	1.04	1426	1.00
7	1-May	596	1.01	835	0.87	1431	0.92
8	30-Apr	589	1.03	961	0.97	1550	0.99
9	29-Apr	571	1.00	995	1.06	1566	1.04
10	28-Apr	569	1.03	939	1.04	1508	1.04
11	27-Apr	553	1.03	902	1.00	1455	1.01
12	26-Apr	538	0.99	898	1.04	1436	1.02
13	25-Apr	543	0.99	862	1.02	1405	1.00
14	24-Apr	551	1.05	848	0.99	1399	1.01

## **Suggestions Regarding Metrics**

- 1) Regarding Hospital Beds and ICU Capacity: should indicate whether hospitals are able to double the number of patients treated in ICUs from current census (including staffing)
- 2) Regarding Increasing and Sustainable Supply of PPE: clarification needed about the meaning of “sustainable” (e.g. “assured resupplies available from vendors within 2 weeks”?)
- 3) Additional Metrics: need to be considered for Phase 2 and Phase 3, including Contact Tracing indicators, Availability of Facilities for Non-hospitalized Persons Needing Isolation and/or Quarantine, Long-Term Care Facility metrics, etc.

**Note: all metrics need to be measured using an equity perspective**

Sincerely,

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Reuben K. Varghese, MD, MPH  
Director, Arlington Health District

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