

COVID-19 Update & Reconstitution

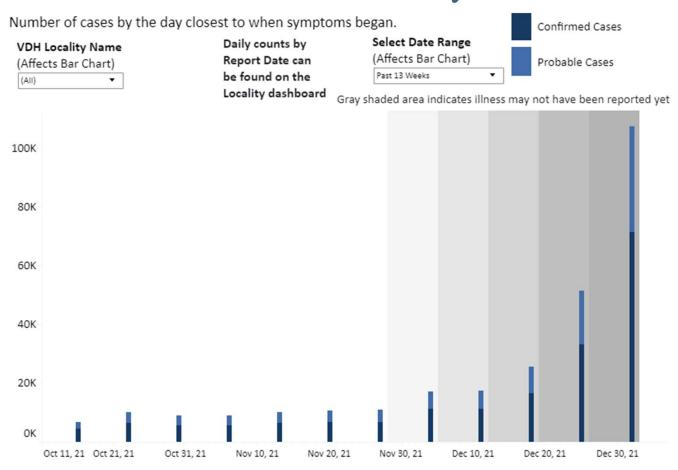
County Executive's Office

01.12.22

COVID-19 Data

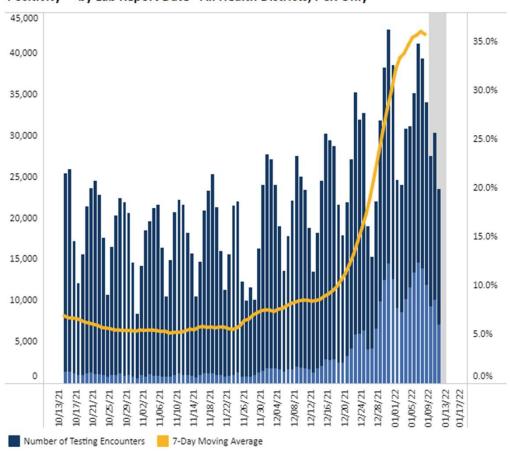


COVID-19 New Daily Cases

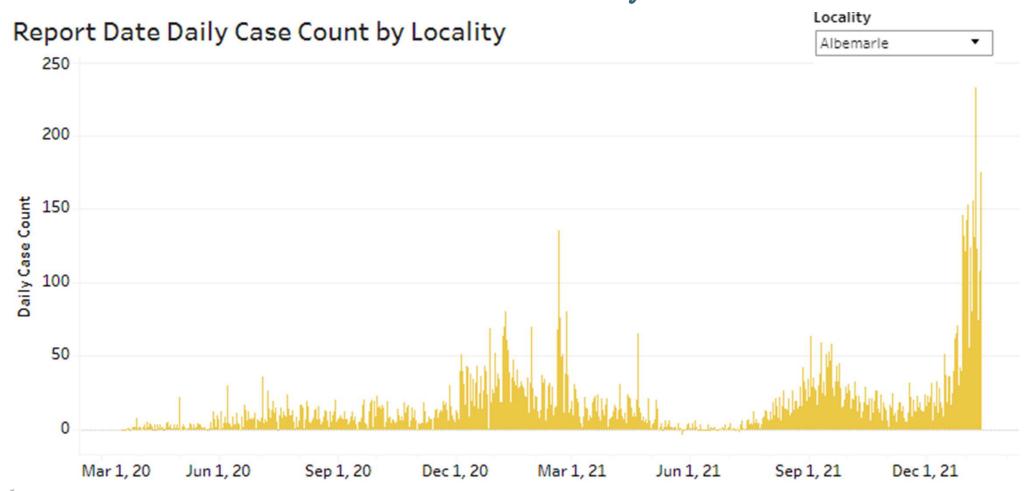


Testing

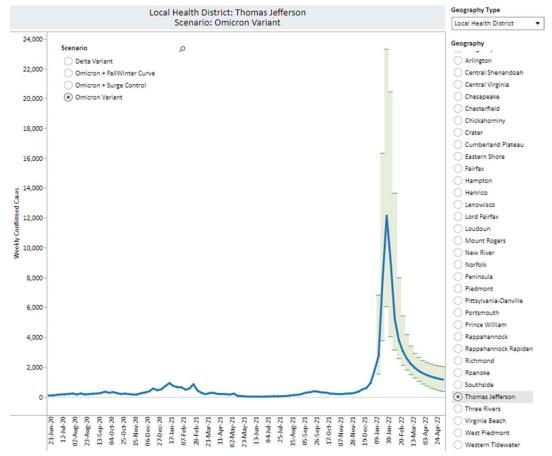
Number of Testing Encounters, Number of Positive Testing Encounters, and Percent Positivity** by Lab Report Date - All Health Districts, PCR Only



COVID-19 New Daily Cases



UVA Model



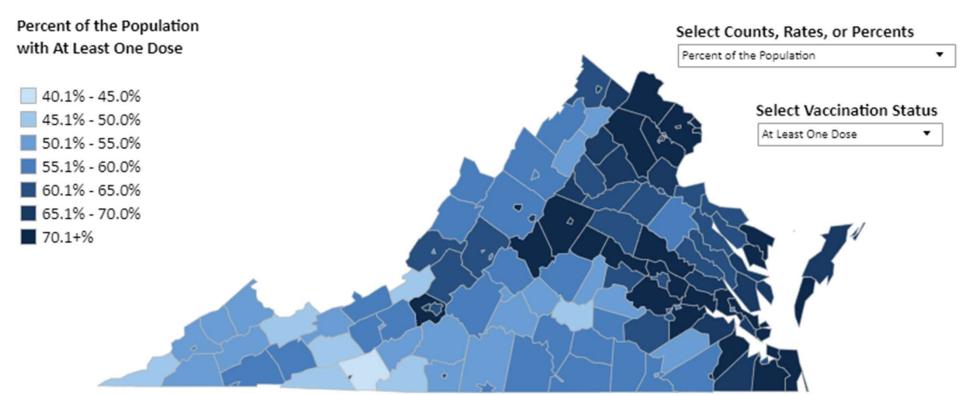
[†]Model estimates only, not actual cases. For actual case counts visit https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/.

^{*}Cases are calculated by week, so "today," "so far," or any specific date refers to the week end date (Sunday) of the week in which the relevant date falls.

^{**}Estimates are created for the Virginia portion of Metro areas only.

Vaccination

People Vaccinated by Locality of Residence and Vaccination Status - Percent of the Population



People Not Mapped: 952,446



Executive Order

NUMBER EIGHTY-FOUR (2022)

ACTION TO PROVIDE CERTAIN OPERATIONAL RELIEF FOR HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS, VIA DECLARATION OF A LIMITED STATE OF EMERGENCY

Importance of the Issue

As the Commonwealth of Virginia continues to respond to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the highly-transmissible Omicron variant is driving a significant increase in hospitalizations. This increase in people hospitalized due to COVID-19—the overwhelming majority of whom are unvaccinated—is placing stress on Virginia's general hospitals and nursing facilities and creating a sudden yet temporary need to increase bed capacity in these facilities. In addition, the winter season is spurring an increasing number of flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases in Virginia, impacting hospital capacity. Staffing levels at these facilities are severely strained by a national shortage of healthcare workers. Healthcare workers across the country are facing severe burnout and exhaustion 22 months into the pandemic. Reinstituting both the authorization of out-of-state licensed professionals to provide care to the citizens of the Commonwealth and the availability of telehealth services will assist in meeting that demand.

Over 3,500 patients are hospitalized statewide as a result of COVID-19, with a seven-day average of 3,118 patients hospitalized as of January 9, 2022. Statewide ventilator numbers have significantly increased over last month, with 314 patients on ventilator support as of January 10, 2022 compared to 146 ventilated COVID-19 patients on December 1, 2021. ICU COVID-19 hospitalizations have more than doubled—increasing from 235 to 567 patients in the ICU—since December 1, 2021. Virginia is quickly approaching its record of 585 COVID-19 ICU patients reported on January 13, 2021.



TAKEAWAYS

- At the state, health district, and local levels, COVID-19 cases are at an all-time high.
- Albemarle County continues to lead booster and vaccination rates.
- The local hospital systems are demonstrating strains.
- County has adjusted operations to reduce transmission.
- At this time, staff does not recommend a shift in public meeting posture to hybrid or in-person.



LOCAL EMERGENCY

- Local emergency is active
 - Executive Order 84 re-confirmed that the COVID-19 pandemic is a "disaster"
 - The local emergency will end when the Board, in its judgment, determines that "all emergency actions have been taken." VC 44-146.21(A)
- Once the local emergency declaration ends, there is a 12-month period under the Continuity of Government ordinance to "return to normal operations"
 - Virtual meetings are permissible, up to 12-months
- The local emergency allows for, but does not require, virtual meetings.



FOIA

- Once the local emergency declaration ends, there is a 12-month period under the Continuity of Government ordinance under which we could continue to hold virtual-only meetings.
- At such time of "return to normal operations", FOIA requirements will once again apply, including:
 - Members of the public body must be physically assembled
 - Members of the public must have open access to the physical meeting location
 - Quorum of the public body must be those in physical attendance
 - Virtual access to a meeting of a public body is allowable and must also be provided to all members of the public.

Planning for Public Meetings





Balancing Act

Effectiveness of the body

User experience

Reliability

A/V Resources

FOIA obligations



Framework

Legislative Bodies - Hybrid

- Board
- School Board
- Planning Commission

Authorities/Decision-making Bodies – Virtual Access

- Broadband
- Economic Development
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Board of Equalization
- Architectural Review Board

Committees/Boards – In-person

Meeting Types





Virtual meeting





Hybrid meeting



Virtual Access meeting









In-Person meeting

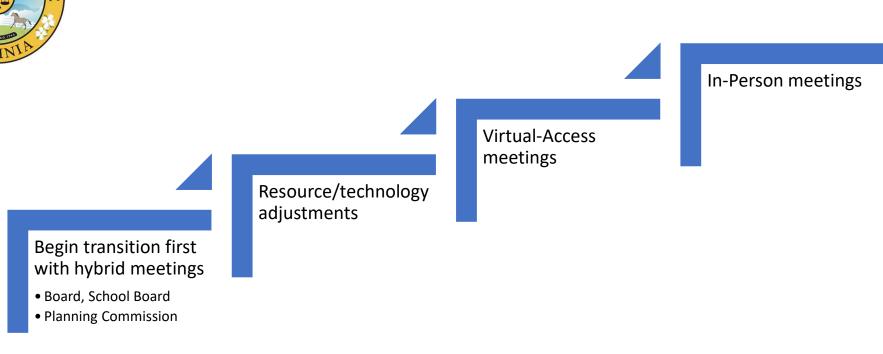


Implementation





Phased Approach



Public bodies will remain virtual as we roll out.



In-Person Meetings

Resources

- County Conference Rooms dedicated for public body meetings
- Maintain database of other adequate meeting facilities around county

Protocols Informed by CDC Guidance

- Physical spacing
- Face coverings
- Cleaning protocols



Guidance

- Recommendation: maintain virtual public meeting posture
- Framework for meetings
 - hybrid | virtual access | in-person
- Implementation phasing

