

  

**Overview of  
Office of Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs  
COVID19 Posture: UPDATE #3  
(17April to 08 May 2020)**

**Office of Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs:**

- Maintained key support and leadership role in Virginia Emergency Operations Center;
- Coordinated the Governor's request for an extension of Title-32 orders for Va. National Guard;
- Engaged the commanders of DoD installations in Virginia and the Directors of the VA Medical Centers to discuss capabilities to support Virginia's lab capacity and testing efforts;
- Conducted virtual "town halls" for more than 400 Virginia Department of Veterans Services employees to discuss impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agency operations and commend employees for how they have adapted to continue delivering quality services to veterans;
- Organized discussion with Virginia National Guard, Virginia Department of Health and Governor's health diversity and equity team to discuss outreach to traditionally underserved populations;
- Provided outreach and updates to Bristol and Norton virtual community forums on veterans' services;
- Engaged with Association of Defense Communities (ADC) to attend webinars focused on how military families are coping with economic and psychological impacts of the pandemic.
- Coordinated Military Spouse day recognition May 8, 2020. The Secretary's bills (HB967 and SB981) to enhance Virginia's existing expedited spousal licensure process were signed into law by Governor Northam.

**Virginia Department of Military Affairs:**

- Deployed CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P) teams across the Commonwealth to support expanded COVID testing and point prevalence operations, PPE and decontamination coaching:
  - 4,312 point prevalence testing samples conducted across 14 locations;
  - 2,185 sample test kits delivered to state and local partners;
  - 970 test samples transported to various lab locations;
  - 426 N95/PPE fittings;
  - 75 personnel coached on infection control strategies;
  - 118 first responder decontaminations.
- Mobilized more than 500 Guardsmen to Title 32 status;
- Continued planning and preparation with Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to coordinate support to the Governor's Long Term Care Facility Task Force;
- Fulfilling mission assignments requested through emergency management process, to include logistics support, planning, mobile testing assistance and medical planning.

**Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS):**

- Coordinating the Commonwealth's virtual Memorial Day Ceremony to be held: May 25, 2020 at 10:00am. Info at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/events/the-commonwealth-of-virginias-virtual-memorial-day-ceremony>.
- Participated in Va. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Military & Veterans Affairs Council meeting to discuss strategies to attract Veterans and Transitioning Service Members to jobs in the Commonwealth;
- Governor Northam joined Secretariat, Agency, and the staff of Virginia's two Veteran Care Centers for a call to thank them for the hard work the staff have taken to address COVID-19 and care for veterans;
- Participated in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Office of Inter-Governmental Affairs' COVID-19 Briefing Call concerning National Cemetery Administration's updated protocols.

## Mental Health & Well Being Resources

- **Virginia Department of Veterans Services:**
    - “Virginia Veterans & Family Support Program”:
      - Phone: 1-877-285-1299
      - Website: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/virginia-veteran-and-family-support-2>
    - **Comprehensive listing of local, state, and federal mental health resources for Veterans and their family members:** <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/virginia-veteran-and-family-support-2/resources/mental-health-services>;
  - **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health:** Resources for Coping with COVID-19: <http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/covid19/clients-individuals>;
  - **Military One Source:** Non-Medical Counseling Resources: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/confidential-help/non-medical-counseling/military-onesource/military-onesource-counseling-the-essentials>.
  - **Telehealth Opportunities with the Veterans Health Administration:**
    - Overview of Telehealth Process for eligible Veterans: <https://telehealth.va.gov/>
    - VA Video Connect: <https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect#AppFAQ>
    - All VA Health Apps: <https://mobile.va.gov/appstore>
    - To learn more, call the VA’s 311 Information at 1-844-698-2311
- 

## STAYING INFORMED

For a list of all health & safety measures taken by the Commonwealth and a *comprehensive list of state resources*, please visit *Virginia’s COVID-19 information page* [here](#); For a list of FAQs for those who are seeking information for unemployment benefits, click [here](#) or call **1-866-832-2363**.

### STATE:

#### Office of the Governor

State Website: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/>

News Releases: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GovernorVA>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GovernorVA/>

#### Secretariat of Veterans & Defense Affairs:

State Website: <https://www.vada.virginia.gov/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VaSecVADA>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VaSecVADA/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/virginia-secretary-of-veterans-defense-affairs>

#### Virginia Department of Veterans Services

State Website: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/@VaVeteransSvc>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaVeteransServices/>



Virginia Department of Veterans Services  
[www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

- **For the following offices in the East, the number to call is 757-455-0814**
  - Accomac
  - Chesapeake
  - Hampton and Hampton VAMC
  - Norfolk
  - Portsmouth
  - Williamsburg
  - Virginia Beach – Pembroke; Virginia Beach – Oceana
  
- **For the offices in the North, the number to call is 703-479-7437**
  - Fort Belvoir
  - Fairfax
  - Loudoun
  - Manassas
  - Pentagon
  - Quantico
  - Springfield
  - Strasburg
  
- **For the offices in the West, the number to call is 540-982-2463 ext 6547**
  - Abingdon
  - Big Stone Gap
  - Danville
  - Lynchburg
  - Roanoke
  - Salem VAMC
  - Staunton
  - Tazewell
  - Wytheville
  
- **For the offices in Central Virginia, the number to call is 804-691-4905 or 804 720-8027**
  - Charlottesville
  - Emporia
  - Fort Lee
  - Fredericksburg
  - Henrico
  - McGuire VAMC
  - Petersburg
  - South Hill