

Overview of
Office of Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs
COVID19 Posture: Update #7
August 6, 2020



Office of Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs:

- Conducted a combined in-person and virtual meeting of the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) at the Virginia War Memorial on July 16. In addition to receiving updates and reports from VMAC members, the Secretary hosted Governor Northam, the Assistant Secretary of the Army Alex Beehler, the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps and Commander of USMC Installation Command, MG Edward Banta, and the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to sign the first multiservice regional intergovernmental support agreement (R-IGSA).
- Also at the July 16 VMAC, Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO of Blue Star Families, Delegates Willet and Coyner, Senator Suetterlein, and several military spouses joined Governor Northam as he ceremonially signed into law legislation that enhances the Commonwealth's existing expedited and temporary licensing process for military spouses. To learn more about this new law that increases licensure opportunities for military spouses, please visit <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/july/headline-859261-en.html>;
- Coordinated the request for Virginia National Guard to receive an extension of Title-32 status for COVID-19 pandemic response beyond August 21. President Trump signed presidential Memorandum-12 (PM-12) on August 3. However, Virginia and 47 other states will now assume a 25%-to-75% state-federal cost share for operations from August 22-December 31, 2020.
- COVIDWISE: Please see information about Virginia's new way to help defeat COVID-19 below.

Virginia Department of Military Affairs:

- Concluded the deployment of the 34th CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P) teams across the Commonwealth to support expanded COVID testing and point prevalence operations, PPE and decontamination coaching. Fulfilled mission assignments requested through emergency management process, to include logistics support, planning, mobile testing assistance and medical planning:
 - **105,904** COVID-19 test samples collected at **425** testing events;
 - **87,247** test samples transported to multiple lab locations;
 - **3,590** N95/PPE fittings;
 - **1,249,448** pounds of food distributed;
 - **50,919** hours of planning conducted in support of VDEM.
*All numbers are cumulative as of July 30, 2020.
- Deployed approximately 80 personnel and 30 vehicles within 24 hours across Hampton Roads, Eastern Shore, and Northern Neck in response to Governor's declaration of emergency for Tropical Storm Isaias. Operations concluded on August 4, 2020;
- Coordinating with VDEM and VDH to determine requirements for further COVID-19 pandemic response.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS):

- Reopening of DVS offices and other facilities for in-person services began June 22 (Veteran's Cemeteries) and June 29 (Benefits Offices, VVFS program locations, and the interior of the Virginia War Memorial). In-person office visits are by appointment only. To learn more about scheduling an appointment at your local office, please visit: www.dvs.virginia.gov;
- Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center (Richmond) moves into Phase II. To learn more about the changes this will bring, please visit <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/veterans-care-centers> or call VVCC at 540-982-2869 or SBVCC at 804-371-8000;
- Continued work with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce to host the *2020 Virginia Veterans & Military Affairs Conference* on August 19. The conference will be virtual this year. To learn more or to register for the event please visit: <https://www.vachamber.com/event/virginia-veterans-and-military-affairs-conference/>

Mental Health & Well Being Resources

- **Virginia Department of Veterans Services: State Website:** <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/>
“Virginia Veterans & Family Support Program”: 1-877-285-1299
- **Military One Source: Non-Medical Counseling Resources:**
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/confidential-help/non-medical-counseling/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/>

Office of the Secretary 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
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

COVIDWISE



Use Your Phone to Fight COVID-19



To help lead the way in the fight against COVID-19, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is pleased to announce that COVIDWISE, Virginia's official COVID-19 exposure notification mobile app, will launch on August 5, 2020. Virginia will be the first state in the United States to deploy an exposure notification app using the Apple/Google Bluetooth Low Energy framework.

What is COVIDWISE?

COVIDWISE is the official Virginia Exposure Notifications System (ENS) app created by the Virginia Department of Health in partnership with Google and Apple. This free smartphone app will be available to all Virginians on Google Play and in the App Store on Aug. 5. After downloading the app, you will be able to use your phone in the fight against COVID-19, without compromising your privacy or personal information. **COVIDWISE** uses Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology to quickly notify users who have likely been exposed so you can reduce the risk for your friends and family and help Virginia stop the spread.

Who should use COVIDWISE?

Everyone with an Android or Apple phone is strongly encouraged to download and use **COVIDWISE**. By working together and using every tool at our disposal, we can protect ourselves and our communities. Minors should request permission to download and use **COVIDWISE** from a parent or guardian.

Why is COVIDWISE important?

COVIDWISE will notify you if you've likely been exposed to another app user who shared a positive COVID-19 test result. Knowing your exposure history allows you to self-quarantine effectively, seek timely medical attention, and reduce potential exposure risk to your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. The more Virginians who use **COVIDWISE**, the greater the likelihood that you will receive timely exposure notifications that lead to effective disease prevention.

Is my privacy protected?

YES! VDH takes privacy very seriously. Every user decides whether or not to opt-in to receive Exposure Notifications, and if a person is diagnosed with COVID-19, it is up to them whether or not they share their result through **COVIDWISE**. No location data or personal information is ever collected, stored, or transmitted to VDH. You can delete the app or turn off Exposure Notifications at any time.

How does COVIDWISE work?

COVIDWISE works by using random Bluetooth keys that change every 10-20 minutes. Phones with the app installed will anonymously share these random keys if they are within close proximity. Positive COVID-19 results submitted by other app users are checked against the list of random keys it has encountered in the last 14 days. If there is a match, **COVIDWISE** may notify the individual, taking into account the date and duration of exposure, and the Bluetooth signal strength which is used to estimate proximity.

How do I download COVIDWISE?

The FREE app is available for download via the App Store and Google Play Store.



Where do I find more information about COVIDWISE?

Additional information is available at [COVIDWISE.org](https://www.covidwise.org). Questions about **COVIDWISE** use and operations should be directed to covidwise@vdh.virginia.gov. Questions about partnership opportunities should be directed to davids@madisonmain.com.