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Office of Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs
COVID19 Posture: UPDATE #4
(09-22MAY2020)**

Office of Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs:

- Virginia ranked as “The Best State for Military Retirees” by Wallethub.com for the second year in a row. Read more at <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-states-for-military-retirees/3915/>.
 - Ranked 2nd in best overall economic environment;
 - Ranked 2nd in the lowest percentage of homeless Veterans;
 - Ranked 3rd in the highest percentage of Veteran-owned business;
 - Ranked 4th in overall quality of life;
 - Ranked 4th in the highest Veterans per capita.
- Maintained key support and leadership role in Virginia Emergency Operations Center;
- Governor’s Office submitted request of Title 32 status for Virginia National Guard until August 31, 2020; VNG currently on Title 32 orders until June 24, 2020.
- Provided outreach and updates to Radford’s Chamber of Commerce.
- Travelled with Governor Northam to Charlottesville to thank Guardsmen on the front lines of testing.
- Held discussions with the three Directors of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Medical Centers.
- Provided an update on the Commonwealth’s response to the pandemic during a virtual meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Council Community and Military Partnership Meeting.
- Engaged with Association of Defense Communities (ADC) to attend webinars focused on studying how the COVID-19 pandemic will change the U.S. Military as well as the delivery of healthcare.
- Attended Memorial Day Flag placement ceremony at Amelia State Veterans Cemetery on May 21.

Virginia Department of Military Affairs:

- Deployed 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:
 - **14,828** point prevalence testing samples conducted across **40** locations;
 - **1,976** Community-based test samples collected at **6** locations;
 - **2,819** test samples transported to various lab locations;
 - **1,491** N95/PPE fittings.
 - **73,603** pounds of food distributed.

*All numbers are cumulative as of 22 May.
- Continued planning and preparation with Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to coordinate support to the Governor’s Long-Term Care Facility Task Force;
- Fulfilled mission assignments requested through emergency management process, to include logistics support, planning, mobile testing assistance and medical planning;
- Celebrated 413th service birthday on May 14.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS):

- Coordinated 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>.
- Virginia Veterans Care Center (Roanoke) and Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (Richmond) held family “drive through” parades the week of May 11. The parades provided a boost to the residents and families who have not had the opportunity to see each other in person as well as the staff who continue to provide quality care in challenging conditions.

Held discussions with and participated in Virginia Veterans Benefits Town Hall forum on May 21 with the Undersecretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits, Dr. Paul Lawrence, concerning delivery of benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Planning underway for the 2020 Virtual Virginia Women Veterans Summit June 17-19, 2020. To learn more, visit <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/virginia-women-veterans>
- The Virginia War Memorial team presented three webinars (on May 11, 13, and 15) as part of their “Livestreams: Learning From the Home Front” series. Links to these and other Memorial webinars is posted on the Memorial’s Facebook Page www.vawarmemorial.org.
- Carol Berg, Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Program Director, participated in an interview with the Virginian Pilot regarding COVID-19 and trends in requests for assistance with behavioral health needs. The piece was also picked up by the Associated Press and has garnered national coverage: <https://www.pilotonline.com/news/health/vp-nw-coronavirus-military-mental-health-20200505-xuvcavxzhhbl5kjpfnlagjsmoi-story.html>

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/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
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