



**VADOC RESEARCH  
DURING  
COVID-19**

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# MAIN AREAS OF CHANGE

- COVID Related Projects
  - PPE Projects
  - COVID Projects
- Adjusting Ongoing Projects
  - Early Release
  - Reentry Services
  - Forecasting
- New Ways of Working
  - Schedules
  - Location

# COVID RELATED PROJECTS - PPE

- Since March 2020 the Research Unit has administered a daily inventory survey to each of its locations and stockpile sites to determine the numbers used and on hand of various types of the following equipment:
  - Gloves
  - Gowns
  - Eye protection
- These data are shared with a task force working for the Governor to ensure that PPE is distributed where needed
- The data is also used internally to move around to locations where needed
- Survey is being expanded to include items delivered in the last 24 hours, add new “types” of PPE like KN-95 masks and get more detailed information on how many offenders are in various “zones” for planning purposes

# COVID RELATED PROJECTS - PPE

- Daily reports are provided to the Unit Heads and the Logistics Unit
  - Shows location level information
  - Shows regional level information
  - Shows totals
- Start with email to report an non-reporters to leadership and give 30 minutes to input data
- Draft report sent for review
- Final report sent after any edits

# COVID RELATED PROJECTS - COVID

- Virginia does not have Electronic Health Records
- Initial data collection was added to the daily inventory to determine the number of offenders tested, positive cases, location of the positive (facility/hospital), and how many staff are active and recovered
- As cases were added and complexities were found, information was added to include offenders released with active COVID, deaths of COVID patients and transfers of active COVID offenders
- Daily reports are provided to the Health Services and Agency Leadership
  - Shows location level information
  - Shows regional level information
  - Shows totals
  - Charts showing curves of active cases
- Start with email to report an non-reporters to leadership and give 30 minutes to input data
- Draft report sent for review
- Final report sent after any edits
- Relevant information is posted to our public website

# COVID RELATED PROJECTS - COVID

- The governor's office invited VADOC to participate in information that they are collecting from health sites and long term care facilities
  - Questions were reframed to reflect the correctional setting
  - The daily inventory survey was vastly expanded
  - After seeing the correctional translations, local/regional jails were also asked to participate
  - Data is entered in to a dashboard for the VADOC Health Services Unit to review/edit/use
  - Reviewed data is submitted to the Governor's office

# COVID RELATED PROJECTS - FLEXIBILITY

- Flexibility has been the key to success with these projects
- Questions have been expanded as more information is needed
- The need for information is balanced with the burden of collecting that information
  - Recognizing that not all of the information is used everyday, we have recently proposed a “light version” for weekends and holidays to reduce the burden on those who are collecting and submitting data on weekends and holidays.
  - Need to continue the daily data on weekends and holidays to put information on our website through a legal settlement and to gather cumulative information
  - The light version will be conditioned on stability of COVID cases; if there is a spike they will go back to every day with the full version

# ADJUSTING ONGOING PROJECTS – EARLY RELEASE

- During budget process, Research ran 9 different models of early release scenarios
- Research is providing Courts & Legal and Reentry Services with lists of offenders who meet minimal criteria for investigation
- Research runs early release numbers daily to publish the numbers of early releases on our public website

<https://vadoc.virginia.gov/news-press-releases/2020/covid-19-updates/>



# ADJUSTING ONGOING PROJECTS – REENTRY SERVICES

- Identifying offenders who will be releasing for services
  - To order/provide books for programming while regular programs are not meeting
  - To identify to DMV for identification/licenses prior to releases; especially important while DMV offices have been closed
  - To identify where offenders are releasing to in order to make special provisions with services that are not open
- Working Dialogue with IPMs
  - How can our offender programs be restarted?
  - In this COVID19 environment, what would best enable you to run effective groups?
  - What are some suggestions on how Research can help you best to proceed with programming?

# ADJUSTING ONGOING PROJECTS - FORECASTING

- Consensus process required by Code of Virginia
  - Using last year's forecast because we do not know what the impact of COVID will be
  - Working with other CJ agencies and Courts to identify what factors need to be monitored, tracked and could have an influence

# NEW WAYS OF WORKING

- Schedules
  - New roles require 7 days a week/365 days a year coverage by Research Unit
- Location
  - Teleworking fulltime currently
  - Looking at getting telework equipment
  - Possible expansion of telework in the future
- Keeping the team together while apart
  - Daily check-in/check-out questions
  - More frequent unit meetings
  - Unit Activities
  - Weekly one on one calls
  - Collaboration via the WebEx and Google Meets
- Dealing with uncertainty