



COVID 19 Testing in Rural Areas

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Lenowisco Health District
Virginia Dept. of Health

Speaker Disclosure

No conflicts of interest to disclose.



Poll 1: Which of the following best describes your principal employment setting?

- Academic Health Center
- Federally Qualified Health Center
- HIV, HCV, STI, or other Infectious Disease Clinic
- Correctional Facility
- Substance abuse treatment center
- Opioid Treatment Program
- State or local health department
- Other community-based organization
- Mental health clinic
- Other (please type your response in the chat)



Poll 2: What is your primary profession/discipline?

- Dentist or other dental professional
- Nurse
- Midwife
- Pharmacist or other pharmacy professional
- Physician
- Physician assistant
- Social worker or case manager
- Other public health professional
- Administrator
- Other (please type in chat)



Our Location

- The LENOWISCO Health District (LHD) is located in the beautiful Appalachian mountains of Far Southwest Virginia, extending east from the Cumberland Gap, and bordering Kentucky and Tennessee.
- Much of the District is closer to at least seven other state capitals than to Richmond, the capital of VA.



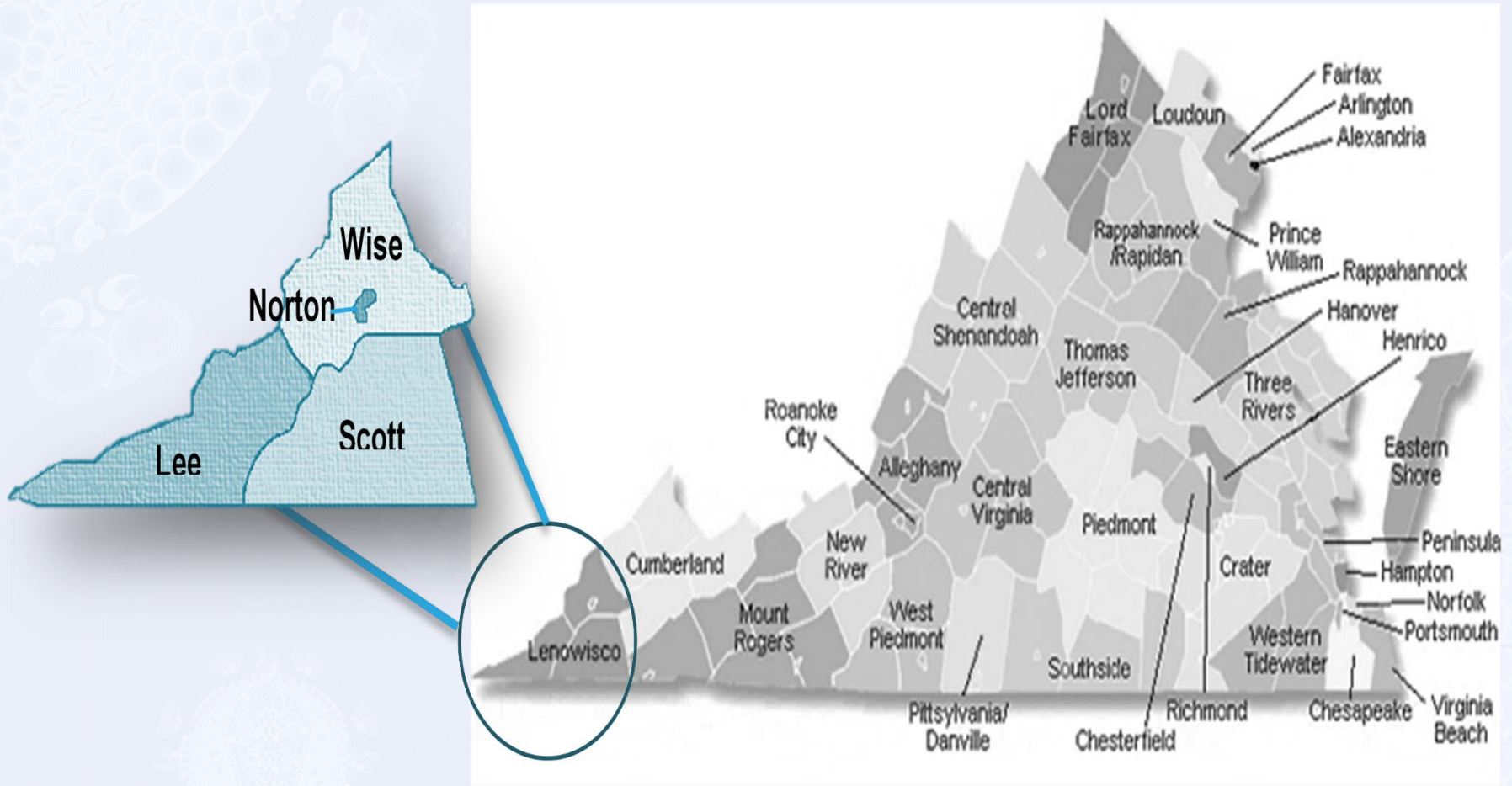
Where We Are



Wise Co., VA ; Powell Valley Overlook



Lenowisco Health District of VA



One of 35 Health Districts in Virginia



Geographic Challenges

The Health District faces several geographic challenges. The city of Wise sits at 2,451 ft. (747 m) elevation and the county has more snowfall than any county in the state at an average of 52.7” annually.



Wise, VA; Feb. 2015

Our Population Data

- LHD serves the three counties of Lee, Wise and Scott, and the independent city of Norton spread over 1,381.72 square miles of land.
- The District office is located in the Town of Wise, in Wise County. LHD serves a population of approximately 88,145 (2017 population estimate, U.S. Census Bureau).
- According to census reports, the District is not considered “rural” but most who live or visit here consider it so. There is an average of 41 residents per square mile, or 640 acres, in Scott County; 516 in Norton; 55 in Lee; and 97 in Wise (2016 VDH demographic data).



Social Determinants of Health

There are social determinants of health and health behaviors that the District must take into consideration when conducting all-hazards planning, in addition to our diverse geography.

LENOWISCO has an average:

- 12% without health insurance
- 22.9% living in poverty
 - Lee County ranked 133rd out of 133 in the state for poverty rate
 - Wise County 124th out of 133
 - Norton 120th out of 133
 - Scott County 113th of 133

Social Determinants of Health

- 7% unemployment rate
- 30% children in poverty and 24% total population in poverty
- 15.3% Working Age Population with a Bachelor Degree and 18.25% Working Age Population without a High School Diploma
- 42.1% adults who report poor mental health (2015 VDH population data)
 - 30.7% adults 18 years and older who have ever been told by a health professional that they have a depressive disorder, including depression, major depression, dysthymia, or minor depression

Lenowisco Health District Employees

- **The LHD has 55 full-time (and 8 wage/part-time) employees as of January 2019:**
- Administrative, business and financial specialists
- Clinical staff (nurses, nurse practitioners, dental hygienist, physician)
- Epidemiologist
- Local emergency coordinator
- Environmental health specialists
- Outreach workers
- Health Educators
- Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists
- Social Work & Psychologist

Most Employees Work in Multiple Offices—Changing Locations Based on Staffing Needs



Protecting Health And Safety of Employees

- Additional case investigators/contact tracers hired to supplement staff as contract employees
- Retrain existing staff for utilization in new job roles; e.g. dental hygienist as case investigator
- Implemented flexible work schedules to ensure daily availability of case investigators/contact tracers for weekend/evening staffing
- Implemented flexible teleworking capabilities, supplying all case investigators and contact tracers with home laptops/cell phones

VDH Recommendations for prioritizing SARS-CoV-2 testing

High Priority

Private/Commercial Lab Testing

- Hospitalized patients*
- Healthcare workers and first responders with COVID-19 symptoms*
- Un- or underinsured persons with COVID-19 symptoms*
- Residents and workers with COVID-19 symptoms* in, or newly arriving to, congregate settings (e.g., long-term care facilities, prisons, jails, or behavioral health facilities)

Public Health Lab Testing

- Contact and outbreak investigations
- Residents and workers with COVID-19 symptoms* in, or newly arriving to, congregate settings (e.g., long-term care facilities, prisons, jails, or behavioral health facilities)
- Un- or underinsured persons with COVID-19 symptoms*

Priority

- Persons with COVID-19 symptoms*
- Persons without symptoms
 - o Close contacts of cases**
 - o Prioritized by clinicians based on their best clinical judgment (e.g. for medical procedures)

- Public health monitoring, including point prevalence surveys
- Sentinel surveillance and seroprevalence studies
- Community testing clinics



Lenowisco Health District Strategies

- Drive-up free testing at local health departments provided multiple days per week for any needing/wanting to be tested.
- Continues to be provided on an ongoing basis.



COVID-19

DRIVE THRU TESTING

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

Appointment Required- please call your local health department:

Lee County Health Department: 276-346-2011

Scott County Health Department: 276-386-1312

Wise County/Norton City Health Department: 276-328-8000

You must call in advance for a screening and to schedule an appointment BEFORE coming to the health department.





Lee Co. VA Health Dept. Testing



Lenowisco Health District Strategies

- Community partnership with Food City, grocery store chain with multiple locations in our area to establish drive-thru testing locations in every county served.
- Drive thru clinics are held multiple times weekly on a continuing basis. Staffed by LHD nurses and health educators.
- Have been very well attended; began at a time when were seeing great increase in local cases and there was elevated community concern



COVID-19



DRIVE-THRU TESTING

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED. ANTIBODY TESTING NOT AVAILABLE.

<p>Food City Coeburn 10am-1pm September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30</p> <p>Appointment & Preregistration: (276)328.8000 VDH- LENOWISCO</p>	<p>Food City Weber City 10am-1pm September 3, 10, 17, 24</p> <p>Appointment & Preregistration: (276)386.1312 VDH- LENOWISCO</p>	<p>Food City Lebanon 10am-1pm September 4, 11, 18, 25</p> <p>Appointment & Preregistration: (276)889.7621 VDH- Cumberland Plateau</p>
<p>Food City Big Stone Gap 10am-1pm August 31 September 14, 21, 28</p> <p>Appointment & Preregistration: (276)328.8850 The Health Wagon</p>	<p>Food City St. Paul 10am-1pm September 3, 10, 17, 24</p> <p>Appointment & Preregistration: (276)328.8850 The Health Wagon</p>	<p>Food City Clintwood 10am-1pm August 31 September 14, 21, 28</p> <p>Appointment & Preregistration: (276)328.8850 The Health wagon</p>

Free COVID-19 testing is available to all Virginia residents. An appointment and pre-registration is **strongly** encouraged to make sure a test is available for you. For an appointment and pre-registration, please call the number listed for each testing site. A limited number of tests are available each day.

All passengers must stay inside vehicles from arrival to departure. Please bring a government issued ID (if possible). Testing staff will direct traffic flow, verify contact information, and perform a respiratory swab. Antibody testing is *not* available.

Testing times for results may vary depending on current laboratory load. Testing dates are subject to change due to inclement weather.

Questions? Call the Virginia Department of Health's local COVID-19 Hotline at (276)415-3430 or contact your local health department.



Flyer For Food City Testing

MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center





Lenowisco Health District

Posted by Daniel Hunsucker

3d · 🌐



Coeburn Drive Thru COVID Testing

Food City · Coeburn, VA

WED, SEP 2

10 AM – 1 PM

WED, SEP 9

10 AM – 1 PM



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share





Lenowisco Health District



Posted by Daniel Hunsucker

Jul 10 · 🌐

**FREE Drive-Thru
COVID testing is
available today
(7/10) at Food City in
Coeburn from 2p-5p.
No appointment
required!**



13

10 Comments 51 Shares



Like



Comment



Share

[6,351 people reached >](#)



Boost Unavailable

Facebook Post





Lenowisco Health District



Posted by Daniel Hunsucker

Jul 13 · 🌐

**FREE COVID testing
is available today
(7/13) at Food City in
Weber City from 2-5p
No Appointment
Required!!!**

👍 13

53 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

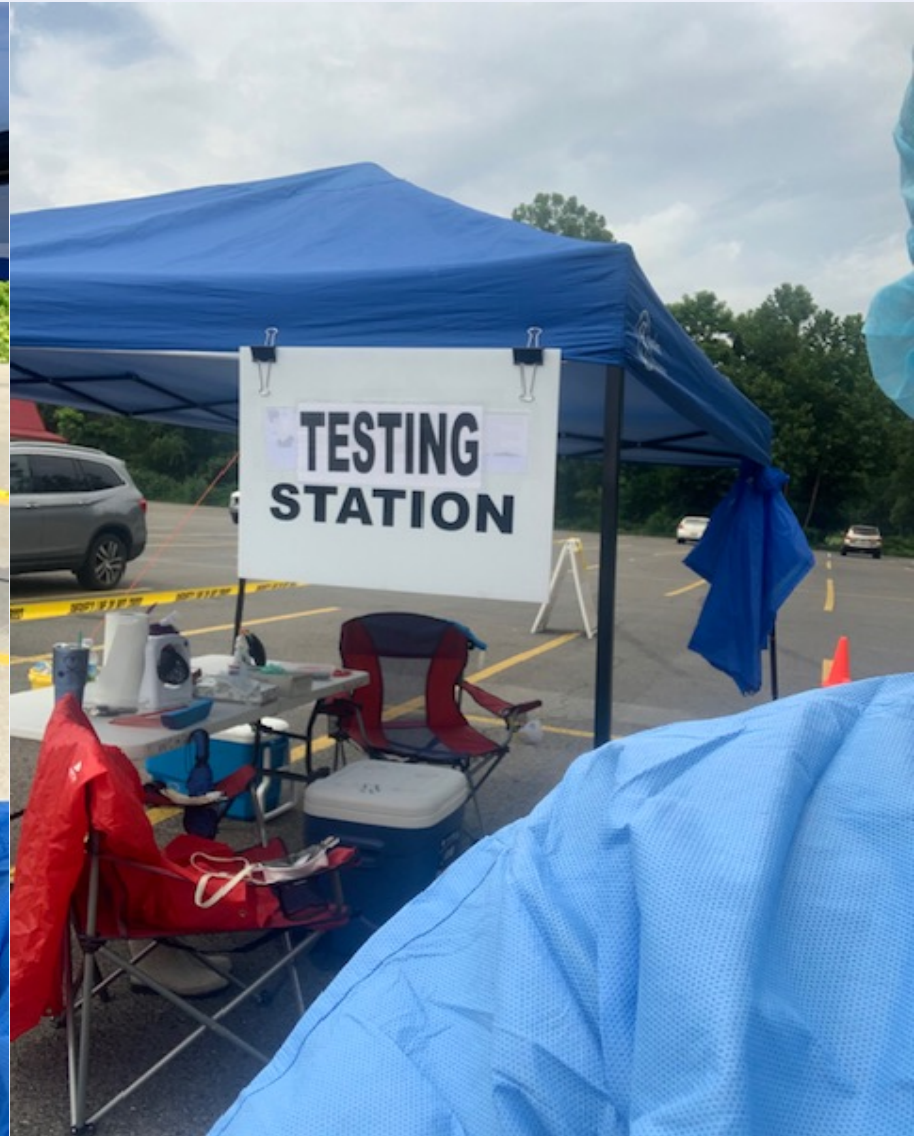
➦ Share

6,667 people reached >

Boost Unavailable

Facebook Post





Lee Co., VA Food City Drive Thru Testing





Lenowisco Health District



Posted by Michelle McPheron

Jul 15 · 🌐

FREE COVID testing is available today (7/15) at Food City in Wise from 2p-5p. No Appointment Required, but limited test slots are available.

👍❤️😂 19

75 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

9,340 people reached >

📘 Boost Unavailable



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2020

Media Contact:

Shirley Miller, health educator, senior, LENOWISCO Health District, shirley.miller@vdh.virginia.gov

FREE DRIVE-THRU COVID-19 TESTING CONTINUES AT FOOD CITY STORES IN LENOWISCO HEALTH DISTRICT

--Appointments are required due to limited availability --

(WISE, Virginia) -- The LENOWISCO Health District will offer drive-thru testing this month at Food City store parking lots in Lee, Scott and Wise counties and the City of Norton. Testing is free and open to the public. Appointments are required due to limited availability. Please call your local health department to make an appointment:

- Lee County Health Department: 276-346-2011
- Scott County Health Department: 276-386-1312
- Wise County/City of Norton Health Department: 276-328-8000

Testing is available from 2 to 5 p.m. at each of the following dates and locations:

- Fri., July 17 - Coeburn Food City, 517 Front St., W
- Mon., July 20 - Weber City Food City, 3004 U.S. 23
- Wed., July 22 - Wise Food City, 207 Woodland Drive, SW
- Thur., July 23 - Pennington Gap Food City, 205 River Bend Drive
- Fri., July 24 - Coeburn Food City, 517 Front St., W
- Mon., July 27 - Weber City Food City, 3004 U.S. 23
- Wed., July 29 - Wise Food City, 207 Woodland Drive, SW
- Thur., July 30 - Pennington Gap Food City, 205 River Bend Drive
- Fri., July 31 - Coeburn Food City, 517 Front St., W

“Testing is important to monitor cases as we begin to re-open, so we can investigate, trace the contacts of those infected and mitigate the spread of illness. Remember that the best protection for each of us comes from personal precautions, including hygiene and physical distancing. That’s how you protect yourself and those around you,” said Eleanor Cantrell, M.D., director of Cumberland Plateau Health District and LENOWISCO Health District.

To lower the risk of spreading respiratory infections, including COVID-19, the Virginia Department of Health encourages everyone to:

- Stay home as much as possible, especially if you are at higher risk of serious illness. If you must go out in public, wear a cloth face covering;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Avoid contact with sick people;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing;
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces;

(More)

Press Release For Food City Testing Sites

THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS OFFERING
FREE DRIVE UP COVID-19 TESTS
 TO THE COMMUNITY

LOCATIONS

July 6 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 3004 US-23 Weber City, VA 24290
July 8 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 207 Woodland Dr. SW Wise, VA 24293
July 9 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 205 River Bend Dr. Pennington Gap, VA 24277
July 10 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 517 Front St. W Coeburn, VA 24230
July 13 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 3004 US-23 Weber City, VA 24290
July 15 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 207 Woodland Dr. SW Wise, VA 24293
July 16 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 205 River Bend Dr. Pennington Gap, VA 24277
July 17 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 517 Front St. W Coeburn, VA 24230
July 20 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 3004 US-23 Weber City, VA 24290
July 22 nd	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 207 Woodland Dr. SW Wise, VA 24293
July 23 rd	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 205 River Bend Dr. Pennington Gap, VA 24277
July 24 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 517 Front St. W Coeburn, VA 24230
July 27 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 3004 US-23 Weber City, VA 24290
July 29 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 207 Woodland Dr. SW Wise, VA 24293
July 30 th	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 205 River Bend Dr. Pennington Gap, VA 24277
July 31 st	2pm – 5pm	Food City Parking Lot 517 Front St. W Coeburn, VA 24230

What you need to know:

Appointment Required A limited number of tests are available per day

No insurance needed

Testing is for Virginia Residents,
 Adults & children 10 & up
*(children 10-17 must be accompanied
 by an adult for testing)*

To protect yourself & our staff, please:

Tell the healthcare provider if you are
 having symptoms of COVID-19

Adhere to all traffic control/flow directives

Please call to make an appointment:

Lee County: 276-346-2011
 Scott County: 276-386-1312
 Wise County: 276-328-8000



VDH VIRGINIA
 DEPARTMENT
 OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment



Lenowisco Health District Strategies

- Community partnership with The Health Wagon, a nonprofit organization providing health services to the medically underserved in Southwest Virginia with mobile clinic capabilities.
- The Health Wagon provides free testing in multiple locations utilizing their mobile clinics and in areas where COVID-19 cases were known to exist. Guidance and support with specimen materials and lab processing provided by VDH.



THE HEALTH WAGON
AND
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ARE OFFERING

FREE COVID-19 TESTING

YOU NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!

This will help decrease exposure and
time waiting to be tested

This will be a drive-through testing site.
Call (276) 328-8000 for your appointment

JUNE 23, 2020

10-12

IGA GROCERY STORE
11133 INDIAN CREEK RD,
POUND, VA



Scott Co. VA—Health Wagon in Background



Lenowisco Health District Strategies

- Drive Thru Testing at Local Schools—In general these were not as widely attended as the grocery store drive thru events; perhaps due to school not being in session thus fewer people present than typical. Also were held at earlier dates prior to surge in local community cases.

COVID-19

TESTING BY APPOINTMENT

Testing done in
your vehicle.

Results available
within 2-3 days.

FREE drive-in COVID-19
testing for Virginia
residents. Please call
before coming to receive a
time slot.

Lee County
(276) 346-2011

Scott County
(276) 386-1312

Wise/Norton
(276) 328-8000

DRIVE-IN TESTING SCREENING REQUIRED

Duffield Primary
June 17; 10a—12p

Fort Blackmore Elementary
June 17; 2p—4p

Pennington Middle
June 18; 2p—4p

Jonesville Middle
June 19; 2p—4p

St. Paul Elementary
June 24; 2p—4p

Union High
June 25; 2p—4p



LENOWISCO Health District

Flyer for Local School Drive Thru Testing



Drive Thru Supplies





Drive Thru Set Up Supplies





Entrance/Traffic Control Set Up, Lee Co. VA





Traffic Control/Entrance Set Up, Dickenson Co. VA



Traffic Control, Dickenson Co., VA





Lee Co., VA





Utilization of Existing Farmer's Market as Drive Thru Site, Russell Co., VA





Utilization of Existing Canopy for Drive Thru, Scott Co., VA



Registration Tent For Drive Thru Testing, Buchanan Co., VA



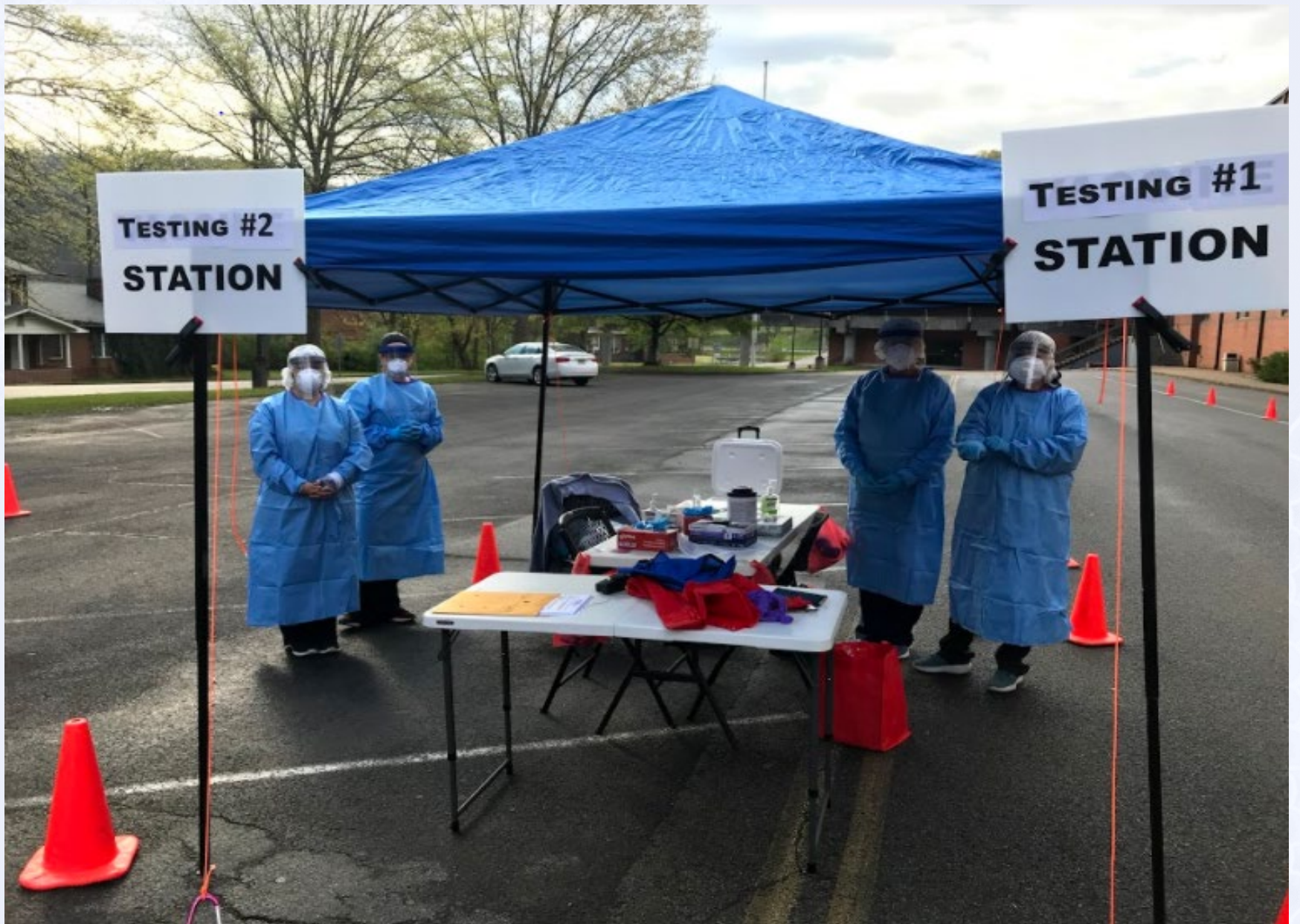
Registration Tent/Drive Thru, Dickenson Co., VA





Ready to Test, Dickenson Co., VA





Ready to Test, Lee Co., VA





Testing Set Up, Dickenson Co., VA





Ready To Test, Dickenson Co., VA





Ready to Test—Scott Co., VA



Point Prevalence Surveys

- LHD has conducted multiple point prevalence surveys among congregate settings in our district including prisons, long-term care and assisted living facilities.

Reducing Spread of COVID-19

- Thorough education of cases and contacts regarding disease transmission and importance of isolation and quarantine.
- Education and counseling provided to persons requesting testing over phone and at curbside testing sites regarding disease transmission and crucial preventative measures.

Reducing Spread of COVID-19

- Getting the message out regarding the importance of mask wearing, handwashing, social distancing through social media, newspaper/press releases to local/community papers and media including television and radio
- Prompt contact tracing and implementation of isolation/quarantine of every case/contacts as soon as identified
- Daily conference calls among Health Director, District Epidemiologist, Nurse Manager, and epidemiology nursing staff to discuss cases, problem shoot any difficulties—communication and teamwork is vital
- Frequent contact between Health Director and Epidemiologist among community organizations such as local school boards providing guidance and answering questions regarding proper procedures



Lenowisco Nurse Mgr Michelle McPheron interviewed by local news



HIV/PrEP Patient Care During Pandemic

- Increased utilization of telehealth appointments; including initial PrEP visits
- Increased utilization of Positive Links for telehealth and connectivity (app for University of Virginia patients)
- Increased quantity of medication via refills (60 day supply vs. 30 day supply)

HIV/PrEP Patient Care During Pandemic

- Increased flexibility on home delivery of medications via mail
- Increased flexibility of refills of medication if unable to come in for labs (additional 30 day supply)
- Nurse-delivered medications to patients unable to come in for pick-up
- Nurse-delivered food and supplies to patients unable to obtain on their own



COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics



Select Health District
(Affects Boxed Numbers and Health District Bar Charts)
Lenowisco

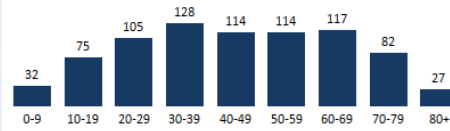
Select Measure
(Affects All Bar Chart)
 Cases
 Hospitalizations
 Deaths

Dashboard Updated: 9/8/2020
Data entered by 5:00 PM the prior day.

Current Selection: Lenowisco

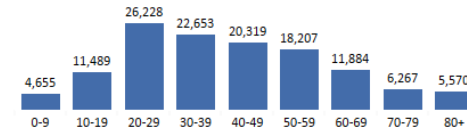
Lenowisco Cases*		Lenowisco Hospitalizations**		Lenowisco Deaths	
794		70		13	
Confirmed+	Probable+	Confirmed+	Probable+	Confirmed+	Probable+
700	94	64	6	13	0

Cases by Age Group - Lenowisco



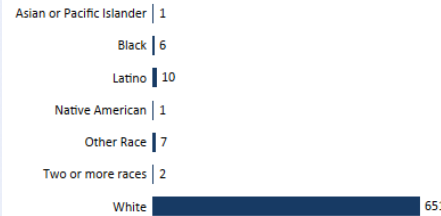
Not Reported: 0

Cases by Age Group - Virginia



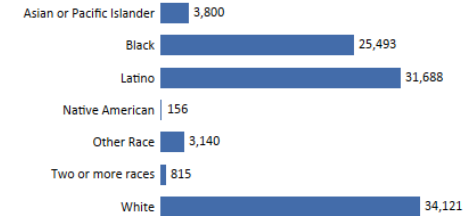
Not Reported: 1,135

Cases by Race and Ethnicity* - Lenowisco



Not Reported: 117

Cases by Race and Ethnicity* - Virginia



Not Reported: 29,194

Cases by Sex - Lenowisco



Not Reported: 6

Cases by Sex - Virginia



Not Reported: 837

* Includes both people with a positive test (Confirmed), and symptomatic with a known exposure to COVID-19 (Probable).
 ** Hospitalization status at time case was investigated by VDH. This underrepresents the total number of hospitalizations in Virginia.
 † Probable case status was defined starting April 5 by CSTE, for more information click here:
https://cdn.vhhs.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/2020ps/interim-20-td-01_covid-19.pdf
 Source: Cases - Virginia Electronic Disease Surveillance System (VEDSS), data entered by 5:00 PM the prior day.
 * For more information about how VDH is presenting race and ethnicity data for COVID-19, please read our blog post:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/2020/06/16/race-and-ethnicity-reporting-update/>





COVID-19 in Virginia: Locality



Dashboard Updated: 9/8/2020
Data entered by 5:00 PM the prior day.

Select Counts or Rates for the Table

Select Locality for Bar Chart
or Click on Table to Select

Select Measure for Bar Chart

Counts

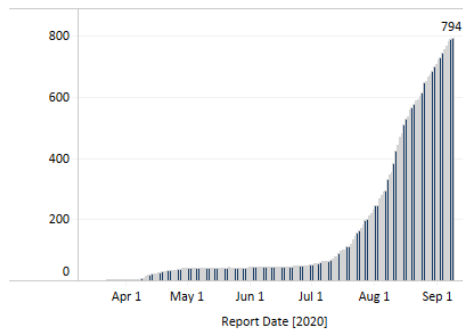
All

Cases

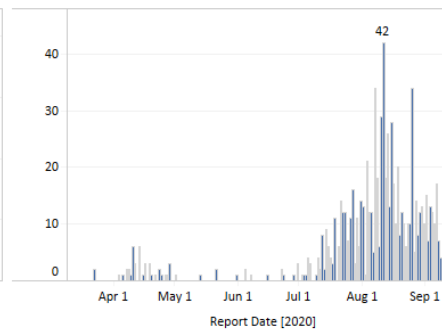
Counts by Virginia Locality

Health District	Locality	Case Count	Hospitalized Count	Death Count
Cumberland Plateau	Dickenson	71	7	1
	Russell	199	21	4
	Tazewell	217	15	2
Eastern Shore	Accomack	1,154	87	19
	Northampton	304	49	29
Fairfax	Fairfax	19,135	2,090	563
	Fairfax City	125	13	7
	Falls Church	66	11	7
Hampton	Hampton	1,651	57	16
Henrico	Henrico	4,844	390	194
Lenowisco	Lee	232	21	4
	Norton	31	3	0
	Scott	167	14	4
	Wise	364	32	5
Lord Fairfax	Clarke	86	12	0
	Frederick	793	61	11
	Page	366	41	27
	Shenandoah	782	82	50
	Warren	395	22	6
	Winchester	461	36	4
Loudoun	Loudoun	6,263	396	118
Mount Rogers	Bland	62	2	1
	Bristol	146	8	2
	Carroll	446	35	19
	Galax	403	41	28

Report Date Cumulative Cases Counts - All Localities



Report Date Daily Cases Counts - All Localities





COVID-19 in Virginia: Testing



Dashboard Updated: 9/8/2020
Data entered by 5:00 PM the prior day.

Select Health District from Drop Down Menu

(Affects Number of Testing Encounters, Current Positivity Rate, and Both Bar Charts)
Lenowisco

Select PCR* or Total Tests from Drop Down Menu

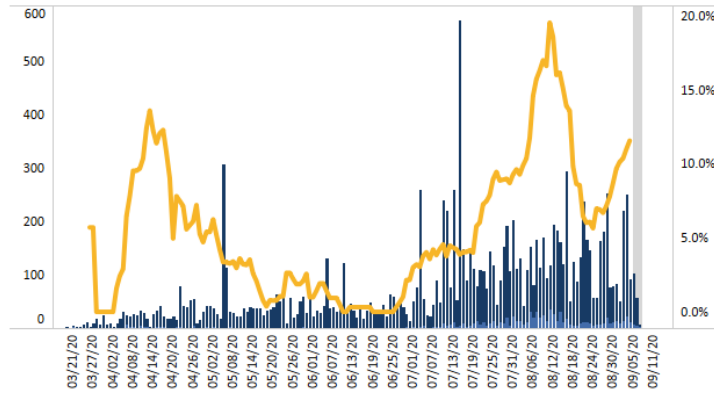
(Affects Table and Both Bar Charts)
PCR Only

Lenowisco Testing Encounters PCR Only <h2 style="margin: 0;">12,491</h2>	Lenowisco Current 7-Day Positivity Rate PCR Only <h2 style="margin: 0;">11.6%</h2>
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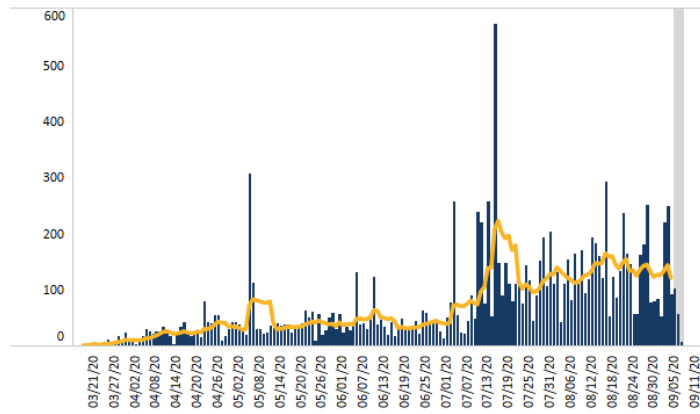
Testing Encounters by Health District, PCR Only

Fairfax	202,197
Prince William	104,451
Virginia Beach	90,434
Henrico	83,496
Chesterfield	74,525
Loudoun	71,684
Peninsula	62,876
Roanoke	56,520
Norfolk	55,536
Rappahannock	54,447
Thomas Jefferson	52,516
Richmond	50,785
Chesapeake	49,689
Arlington	47,576
Lord Fairfax	46,255
Central Virginia	46,883
Central Shenandoah	44,127
Western Tidewater	36,019
Crater	35,420
New River	35,064
Alexandria	33,486
Rappahannock Rapidan	30,104
Chickahominy	27,063
Mount Rogers	26,961
Three Rivers	25,838
Portsmouth	24,035
Alleghany	23,535
Piedmont	22,256
Hampton	21,701
Pittsylvania-Danville	17,765
Southside	17,410
West Piedmont	16,259
Lenowisco	12,491
Eastern Shore	11,921
Cumberland Plateau	11,033
Out of State	53,433
Unknown	8,257

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



Number of Testing Encounters by Lab Report Date - Lenowisco, PCR Only



* PCR* refers to "Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction laboratory testing."

** Lab reports may not have been received yet. Percent positivity is not calculated for days with incomplete data.



Challenges/Lessons Learned

- Limited or no transportation with very sparse public transportation available
- Lack of providers offering testing (primarily an issue in the early months)
- Lack of COVID-19 knowledge among providers and the general public; specifically who should be tested and when
- Very limited rapid testing available; area residents often would need to travel excessive distances to obtain rapid testing

Challenges/Lessons Learned

- Declination of testing for religious reasons
- Reluctance to be tested due to concerns about being placed in isolation or quarantine and missing work

Answering Our Challenges

- Bring the testing to rural areas and those with limited healthcare options/providers
- Testing anyone who wants a test rather than limiting to those with symptoms or exposure
- Working with partners to expand testing (free clinics, FQHCs, hospitals, etc.)
- Promotion of public use of COVID WISE; Virginia's free phone app as aid to identify contacts to cases

ADD YOUR PHONE TO THE COVID FIGHT

HELP VIRGINIA STOP COVID-19



Download Virginia's free **COVIDWISE** Exposure Notifications app to help protect your community while protecting your privacy.



Supported on iOS 13.5 & 13.6, compatible with iPhone.



Supported on Android Version 8 (API 23) or above.



Answering Our Challenges

- Community education and heavily promoting testing availability
- Reaching out to churches to offer testing onsite or offsite
- Encouraging our partners in congregate settings to do testing
- Rapid testing with immediate isolation and quarantine of cases and contacts.
- Media messages that focus on helping our community get back to normal (as opposed to mandates)

Questions???

