**Summary of Governor Northam’s Briefing on COVID-19**

**01-06-2021**

**TOPLINE UPDATES**

* Governor Northam appoints Dr. Danny TK Avula to lead Virginia’s vaccination program.
* **Dr. Anthony Fauci will join Governor Northam on Friday at 3:00pm for a question and answer hour.** 
  + Virginians can join through the Governor’s social media channels.

**FORWARD VIRGINIA:**

* Governor Northam stresses the importance of continuing to social-distance and wear a mask, even as the vaccine is being introduced in Virginia.
* Case numbers across the country are almost four times higher now than they were at the perceived “peak” of the virus in Spring of 2020.
* **All guidelines for face coverings, businesses, and restaurants remain in place.**

**VACCINE**

* **So far, about 115,000 Virginians have received their first dose of the vaccine, with about 2,000 having received their second dose.**
* In order to vaccinate the 8.5 million people in Virginia, about 17 million shots will need to be distributed.
  + Two injections per person
* Currently, Virginia is receiving about 110,000 doses of the vaccine each week.
  + This includes both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.
* This works out to about 14,000 doses being distributed each day, an initial goal that has been met throughout the past 3 weeks.
* The next goal is to distribute 25,000 doses each day.
  + This will depend on the consistency of the vaccine supply chain.
  + Once this goal has been met, the next will be 50,000 per day, until all Virginians have received the vaccine.
* Governor Northam asks healthcare providers to distribute as many of the COVID vaccines as they can.
  + “If there are vials in freezers, give out shots until they are gone.”
* Doses will be allocated based on usage, meaning that places that have not used all of their supply from a previous shipment, will get less doses in the next.
* **Data related to allocation of the vaccine will be made public.** 
  + This information, as well as resources regarding distribution sites and registration, will all be available on the VDH website.
* People who are most at risk will be the first to receive the vaccine.
  + **Group 1A**: Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, and EMTs), and those who live and work in long term care facilities.
  + **Group 1B**: Top essential workers (Firefighters, police officers, teachers, grocery store workers, transit workers, mail carriers, food and agriculture workers, adults 75+)
  + **Group 1C:** Other essential workers (Food service, transportation, utility workers, adults 65+, adults ages 16-65 with high-risk medical conditions)
* These high priority groups make up over half of Virginia’s population, and have been chosen with the goal of helping as many Virginians as possible return safely to work.

**COVID-19 CASES, STATISTICS AND MODELING**

* **Total cases: 377,300**
  + New in the last 24 hours: 5,387
* **Total deaths: 5,226**

**Next briefing: To be announced.**

*NOTE: This is an informal and timely summary of the Governor’s live press briefing. To access recordings of the briefings, visit* [*https://www.facebook.com/GovernorVA/*](about:blank)*. To access the Governor’s official news releases, visit* [*https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/*](about:blank)*.*