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Governor Northam Announces Additional Actions to Address COVID-19



March 21, 2020—Governor Northam shared the following actions his administration has taken to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak:

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- **On Friday, the Governor signed an executive order that gives hospitals and nursing homes more flexibility to add the beds they need without going through red tape. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/2U6cxVQ>**
- **The Virginia Department of Health has revised its testing criteria to give additional priority to first responders and medical professionals who have had contact with COVID-19 patients and people in nursing homes and long-term care facilities.**
- **The federal government announced it will accept waivers from states for federal testing requirements. Virginia is preparing its waiver and the Northam administration is considering further actions to suspend state-mandated SOL tests.**

Accurate, reliable information about COVID-19 can be found on the [Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\)](#) website.

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