

VDH COVID-19 Containment Program

Marshall Vogt, MPH and Chris Ghaemmaghmi, MD

Program Leaders

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How Viruses Spread

Effective Reproduction Rates*



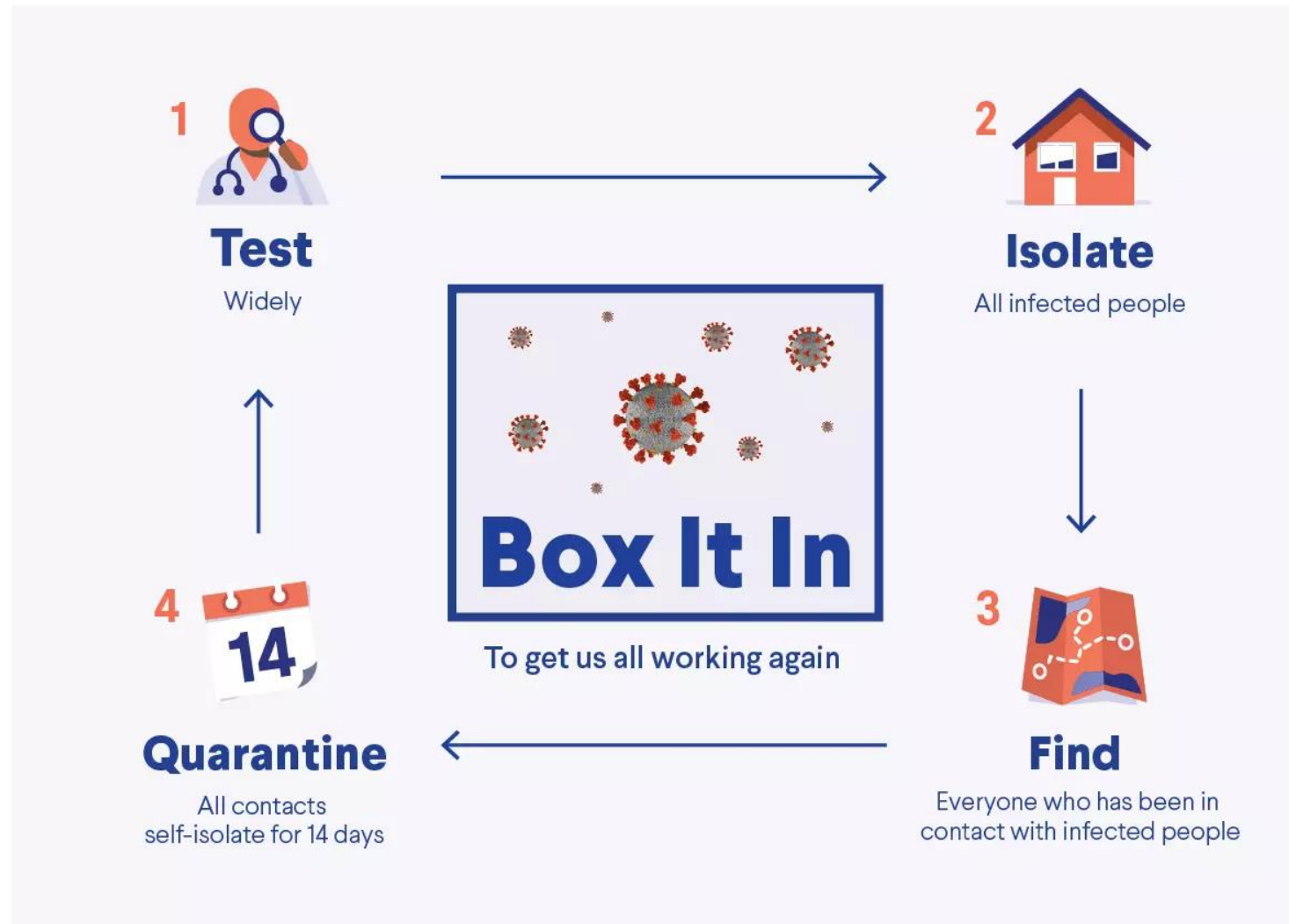
*The effective reproduction number (R_t) of a viral infection is the mean number of additional infections caused by an initial infection in a population at a specific time.

Sources: Thomas V. Inglesby, MD, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, via JAMA Network.

Pandemic Time Horizon



COVID-19 contact tracing/containment strategy



Contact tracing and disease containment



Contact tracing/containment in Virginia

- Primarily conducted by local health department staff
- Case investigation identifies key variables for each case of COVID-19
 - Illness onset date, infectious period, contacts/exposure sites
- Contacts of each case are notified and receive
 - Education about COVID-19 (route of spread, symptoms, prevention methods)
 - Symptom assessment/referral to medical care and testing
 - Instructions to self-quarantine to prevent spread of illness
 - Connection to wrap-around services where resources permit

Contact tracing/containment in Virginia

- Increased staffing support for case investigation and contact tracing
 - Projected need of 200 additional case investigators and 1,000 contact tracers to augment existing workforce
- Regional support teams to provide assistance with staffing assignments, data management/analytics
- Standardized workflows to ensure uniform, thorough approach to contact tracing/referral to testing and/or care
- Integration of apps to streamline efforts and improve data management

Estimating Effects of Better Detection

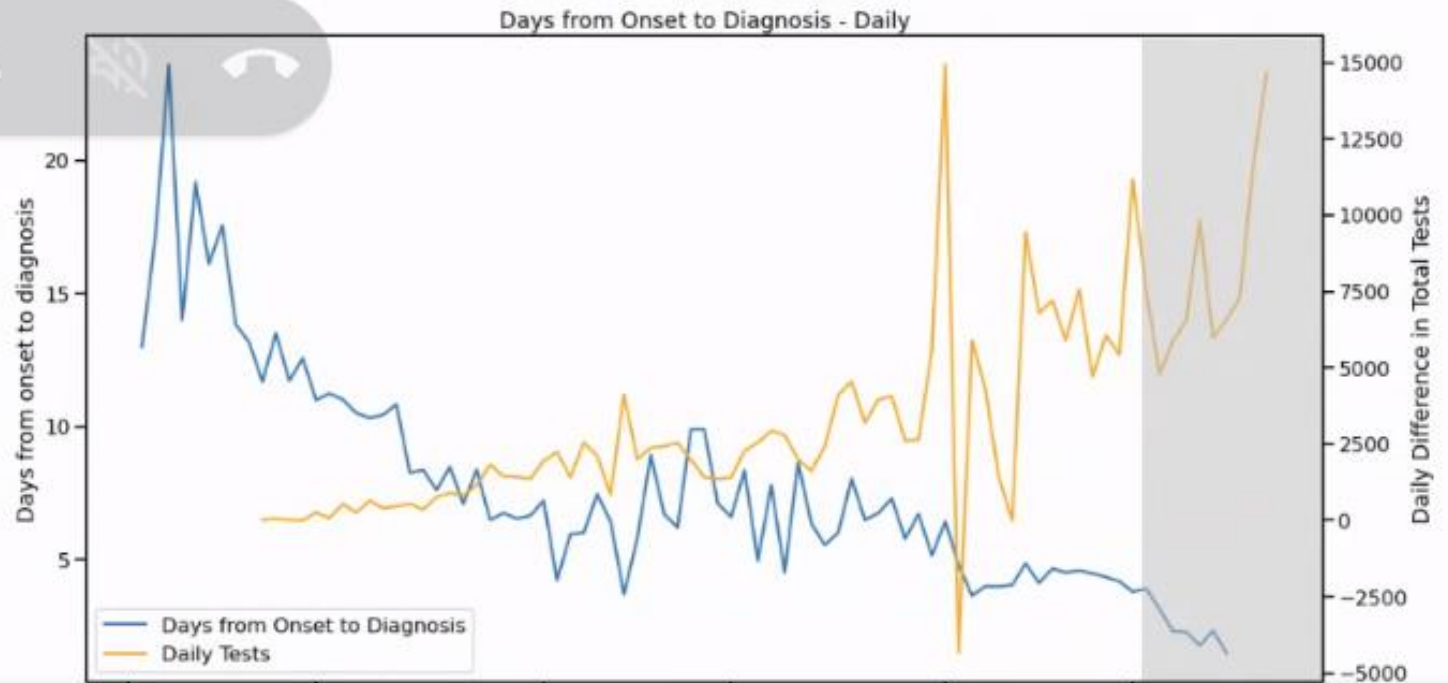
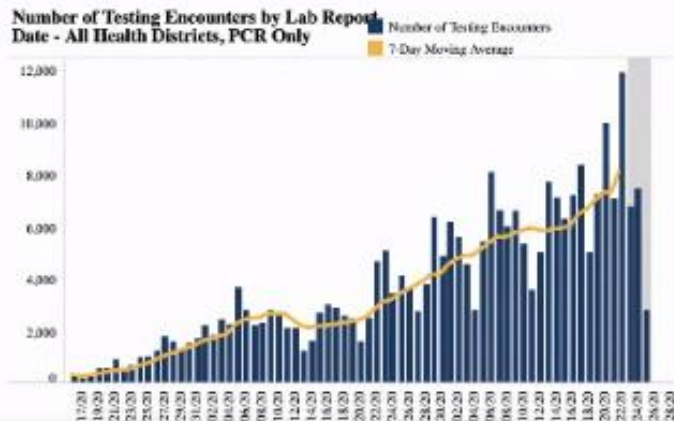
VDH data shows reductions in time from Symptom Onset to Diagnosis

Days to Diagnosis drops ~30% in recent weeks

- Mid March to Late April = 6.8 days
- Late April to Mid May = 4.7 days

Testing Encounters increase

- Late April = ~4K / day
- Mid May = ~7K / day



What can you do to help with contact tracing?

- Employee health screening
 - Self screening - daily
 - Screening upon workplace entry - daily
 - <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/vdh-interim-guidance-for-daily-covid-19-screening-of-employees-and-visitors/>
- Facilitate engagement with employees who may be contacts
 - Explain process to employees
 - Share contact information with VDH
- Follow return to work recommendations
- Encourage use of proximity detection app

General Guidance for Businesses

- Conducting daily health checks
- Conducting a hazard assessment of the workplace
- Encouraging employees to wear cloth face coverings in the workplace, if appropriate
- Implementing policies and practices for social distancing in the workplace
- Improving the building ventilation system
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html#more-changes>

Other Topics

- HIPAA concerns
- Essential businesses vs. Essential employees
- Immigration issues

Questions/Comments