



# *Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail*

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## **VPRJ ANNOUNCES THIRD INSTALLMENT OF COVID-19 TESTING**

Williamsburg, Virginia – Today, all Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail staff and inmates underwent point prevalence testing for COVID-19. Last week, VPRJ received confirmation that an inmate had tested positive for COVID-19. Additionally, a number of VPRJ staff have tested positive over the last two weeks. The point prevalence testing taking place today will provide a complete and accurate picture of positivity among employees and inmates, and will guide VPRJ's response moving forward.

“Since the Thanksgiving holiday, prisons and jails across the Commonwealth, as well as the nation, have seen a significant increase in positivity for COVID-19 among their employees and inmate population,” said Superintendent Colonel Roy Witham. “The Peninsula Health District has been an important and steadfast partner in ensuring the health and safety of our staff and inmate population throughout this pandemic. After consulting with our health partners, they offered and I accepted, a coordinated mass testing event at the jail. The results of this test will inform us of our current status, and provide guidance forward for our medical professionals and any need to manage positive offenders.”

An estimated 450 total tests were conducted by the Virginia Army National Guard in coordination with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). This is the third mass testing event to take place at VPRJ since the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020, and the second testing event which saw all staff as well as all inmates tested. Currently, VPRJ has received no timeline on when medical staff, correctional officers, or inmates can expect to receive either of the two vaccines recently authorized for emergency use by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). VPRJ continues to follow all safety guidelines from VDH and the CDC, as well as all mandates, including wearing masks throughout the facility and quarantine for all new commits. The VPRJ Weekender Program remains suspended until further notice. The jail remains open for professional visits, members of the public needing to see the magistrate or drop off medications for an inmate, and pre-scheduled video visitation for friends and family. Members of the public can view the jail's current status by visiting [www.vprj.net](http://www.vprj.net) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/VaPRJ](http://www.facebook.com/VaPRJ).