



Richmond County Board of Supervisors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – APRIL 20, 2020

RICHMOND COUNTY PRESS RELEASE REGARDING COVID-19 AT HAYNESVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Richmond County Officials have been in constant contact with the Virginia Department of Corrections, Haynesville Correctional Center and the Three Rivers Health Department regarding the outbreak of COVID-19 within the Haynesville Correctional Center. As the Haynesville Correctional Center is one of the largest employers in the region, we are rightfully concerned about this scenario, and are working closely with all entities.

As recent as the end of last week, there were several known positive cases within the Center. The County was notified on Friday, April 17th that additional testing of the affected area of the Center was going to be done to ensure that any asymptomatic offenders testing positive could be isolated to further reduce the spread of COVID-19.

As of Sunday, April 19th, it was reported that within Haynesville Correctional Center there are additional known positive cases of COVID-19. Additional information and updates from the Virginia Department of Corrections regarding COVID-19 can be found at <https://vadoc.virginia.gov/news-press-releases/2020/covid-19-updates>.

Dr. Richard Williams, Director, Three Rivers Health District, says "Many people infected with the COVID-19 virus can shed virus particles and test positive for several days before any symptoms begin. Some of these people will go on to develop symptoms, and some may remain asymptomatic until they no longer have the disease. We will remain in close contact with Center authorities to help them in any way we can until this outbreak is over."

"The medical professionals at VADOC are working around the clock to provide care to offenders during this pandemic, and we greatly appreciate Richmond County partnering with us to make sure we're all working together to keep the whole community safe," said Dr. Trey Fuller, VADOC Assistant Director of Health Services. "Working hand-in-hand with our partners at the Virginia Department of Health, UVA, and VCU, we are testing all symptomatic offenders as well as many asymptomatic offenders, which enables us to monitor and treat positive cases sooner, rather than after symptoms develop. Just as happens in the community when testing is increased, this increased testing at Haynesville Correctional Center has led to an increase in the number of known COVID-19 cases. Identifying all these positive offenders helps us tremendously in halting the spread of the virus."

Mitch Paulette, Chief of the Richmond County Department of Emergency Services stated "The County has been in regular conversation with the leadership of Haynesville Correctional Center and the Virginia Department of Corrections for the past two weeks, and we feel as though the steps they are taking to eliminate the spread of COVID-19 within their facility and within our community are appropriate. We stand ready to assist Haynesville Correctional Center as our capabilities allow."

County Administrator, Morgan Quicke, noted "Positive tests within Haynesville Correctional Center will show up on the Virginia Department of Health Database as Richmond County cases; therefore, expect to see those numbers increase within the next few days as HCC continues to do additional testing to further control the spread." For up to date and accurate information, please visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/

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Election District 2

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Election District 3

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Election District 4

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R. Morgan Quicke
County Administrator