

**COVID-19**  
**Weekly Highlands COVID-19 Task Force Touchpoint**  
**July 14, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Krystal Onaitis, Covington City Manager, opened the conference call.

Organizations/Representatives via phone conferencing:

VDH, DSS, Alleghany County, Iron Gate Town Clerk, Local Emergency Managers, CSB, Salvation Army, area Elected Officials, Ingevity, WestRock, Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Clifton Forge Police Dept, Covington City, Covington Police Dept, Covington Schools

- VDH: gave an update and answered questions:
  - There are a lot of unknowns such as the belief that hot weather would kill the virus and it doesn't.
  - There will be more testing in Salem, Roanoke, Craig County, Botetourt and Bath County. Details will be sent to the group.
  - The testing at Alleghany High School went well. Approximately 145 were tested, all that came where wearing a mask. Everyone was thanked for their assistance at the testing site.
  - Localities are planning on how to get kids to school in the fall, whether it will be virtual or in person. The anticipation is that in the spring all kids will be in school full time.
  - The positive case numbers are going up due to more people getting out and testing being more available. However the percentages are not high. This is because the area is taking this serious and are continuing to social distance, wear masks and sanitize.
  - The positive case count information sent by e-mail was Alleghany County: 46 and Covington City: 11. The counts are higher since this was sent. The counts will be broken down for Clifton Forge and Iron Gate. Further updates will be sent. The peak may not have been reached yet.
  - There will be discussion on another testing site for the area, with possible CARES funding.
  - At this time, rapid testing is not available. The average is 2-4 days or 5-7 days to get results. A lot of research is being done and when rapid testing is available, VDH will get it out asap.

Everyone was thanked for their time on the conference call.