

Network Systems  
Science & Advanced  
Computing  
  
Biocomplexity Institute  
& Initiative  
  
University of Virginia

# Estimation of COVID-19 Impact in Virginia

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

(data current to March 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>)

Biocomplexity Institute Technical report: TR 2021-024



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**BIOCOMPLEXITY INSTITUTE**

[biocomplexity.virginia.edu](http://biocomplexity.virginia.edu)

# About Us

- Biocomplexity Institute at the University of Virginia
  - Using big data and simulations to understand massively interactive systems and solve societal problems
- Over 20 years of crafting and analyzing infectious disease models
  - Pandemic response for Influenza, Ebola, Zika, and others



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# Overview

- **Goal:** Understand impact of COVID-19 mitigations in Virginia
- **Approach:**
  - Calibrate explanatory mechanistic model to observed cases
  - Project based on scenarios for next 4 months
  - Consider a range of possible mitigation effects in "what-if" scenarios
- **Outcomes:**
  - Ill, Confirmed, Hospitalized, ICU, Ventilated, Death
  - Geographic spread over time, case counts, healthcare burdens

# Key Takeaways

Projecting future cases precisely is impossible and unnecessary.  
Even without perfect projections, we can confidently draw conclusions:

- **Case rate growth in Virginia continues to decline with a few hotspots emerging**
- VA mean weekly incidence down to 19/100K from 23/100K, US levels decline (to 18 from 19 per 100K)
- Significant progress made in last month, however 88% of VA counties above mean rate of Summer 2020
- Projections continue to be down across Commonwealth
- Recent updates:
  - Adjustment to death outcome modeling to correct for delays in reporting, higher resolution hospital data incorporated for hospital calibration
  - Ascertainment rate adjusted to better capture total infections to date
  - Further updates to vaccination schedules, with fitting now including partially vaccinated population and future vaccinations based on current levels instead of goals
- The situation is changing rapidly. Models continue to be updated regularly.



# Situation Assessment

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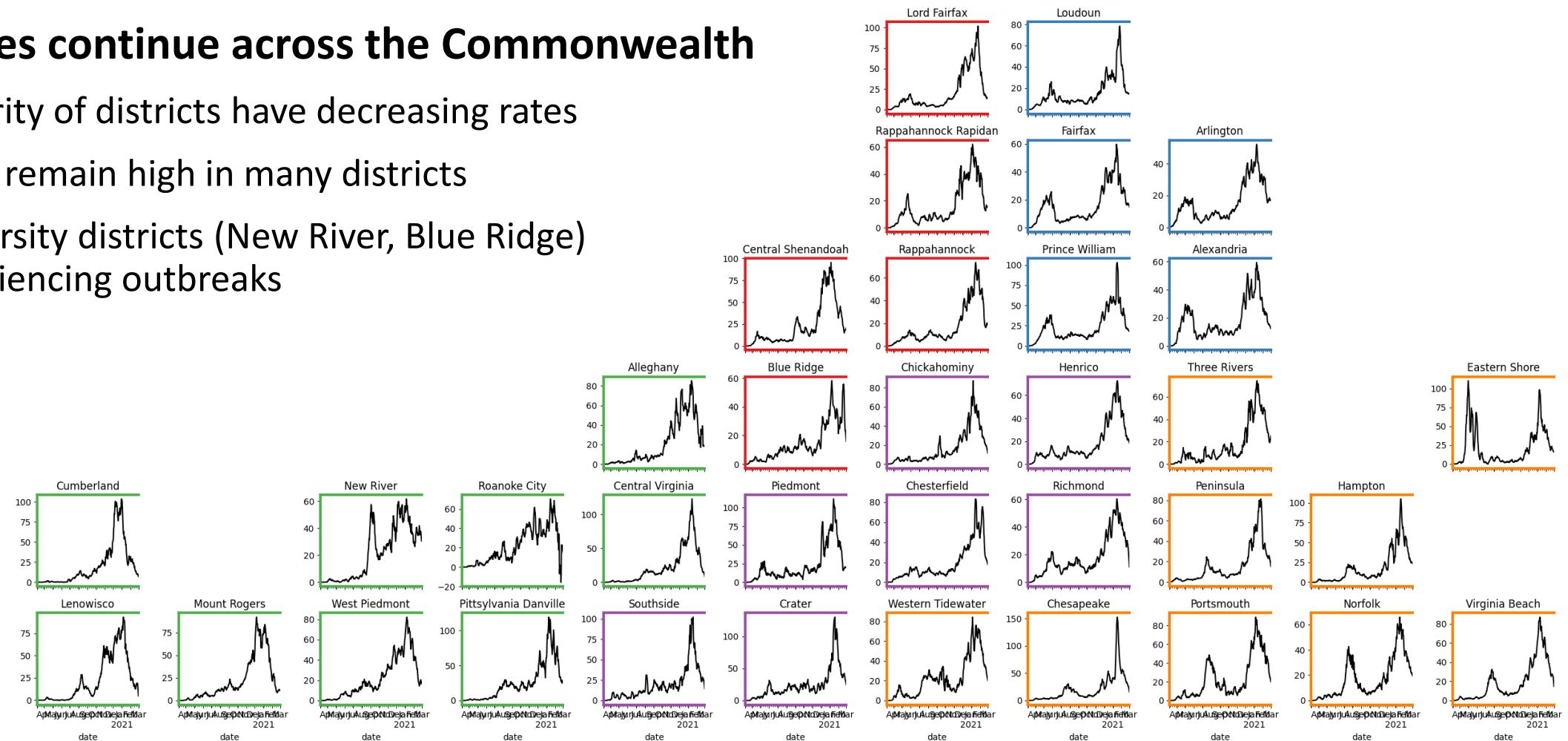
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# Case Rate (per 100k) by VDH District

## Declines continue across the Commonwealth

- Majority of districts have decreasing rates
- Rates remain high in many districts
- University districts (New River, Blue Ridge) experiencing outbreaks

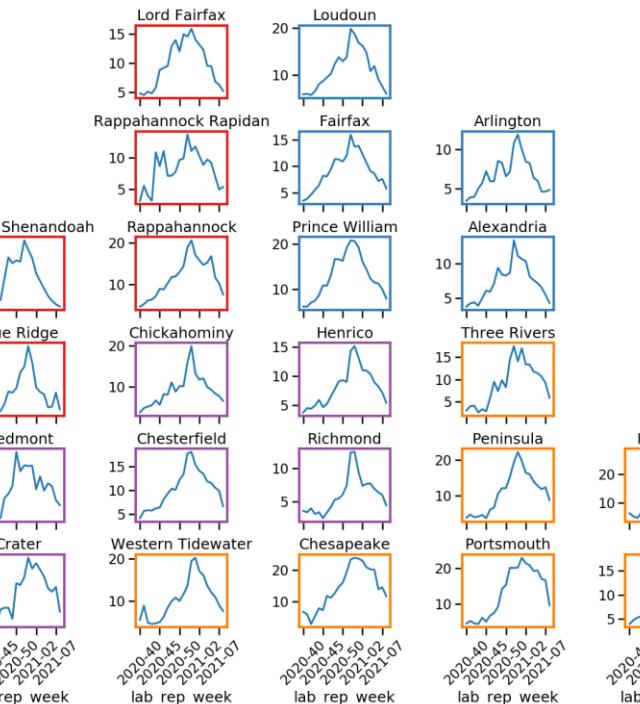
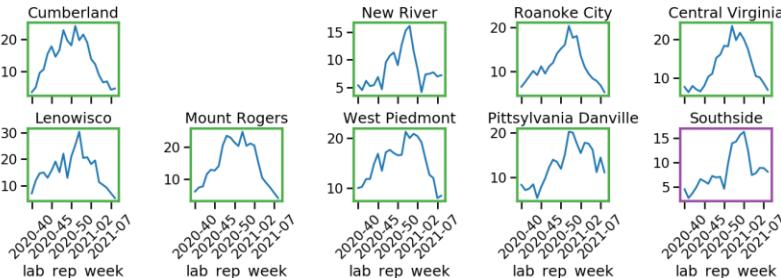


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# Test Positivity by VDH District

## Weekly changes in test positivity by district

- Rates continue to decline
- 41 counties classified in the ‘Red’ category (as of Feb 24<sup>th</sup>) and are fewer than ‘Yellow’ for first time since late November

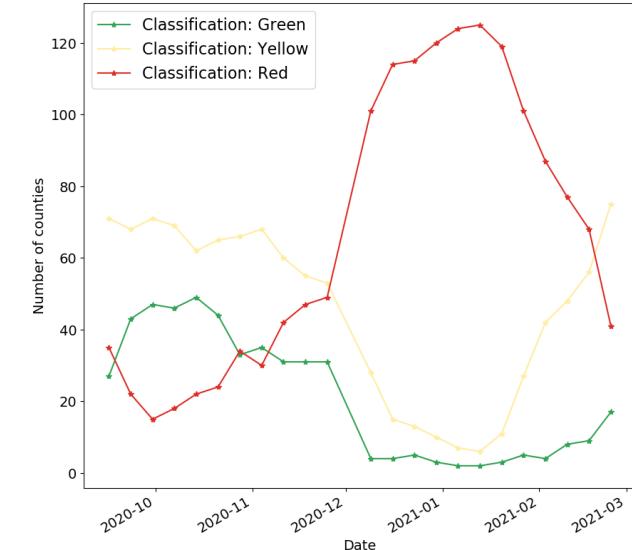


## County level test positivity rates for RT-PCR tests.

**Green:** Test positivity <5.0%  
(or with <20 tests in past 14 days)

**Yellow:** Test positivity 5.0%-10.0% (or with <500 tests and <2000 tests/100k and >10% positivity over 14 days)

**Red:** >10.0% and not meeting the criteria for “Green” or “Yellow”

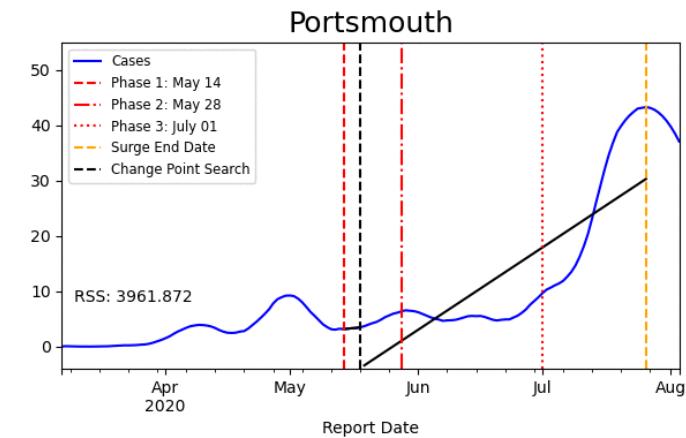


# District Trajectories

**Goal:** Define epochs of a Health District's COVID-19 incidence to characterize the current trajectory

**Method:** Find recent peak and use hockey stick fit to find inflection point afterwards, then use this period's slope to define the trajectory

Hockey stick fit



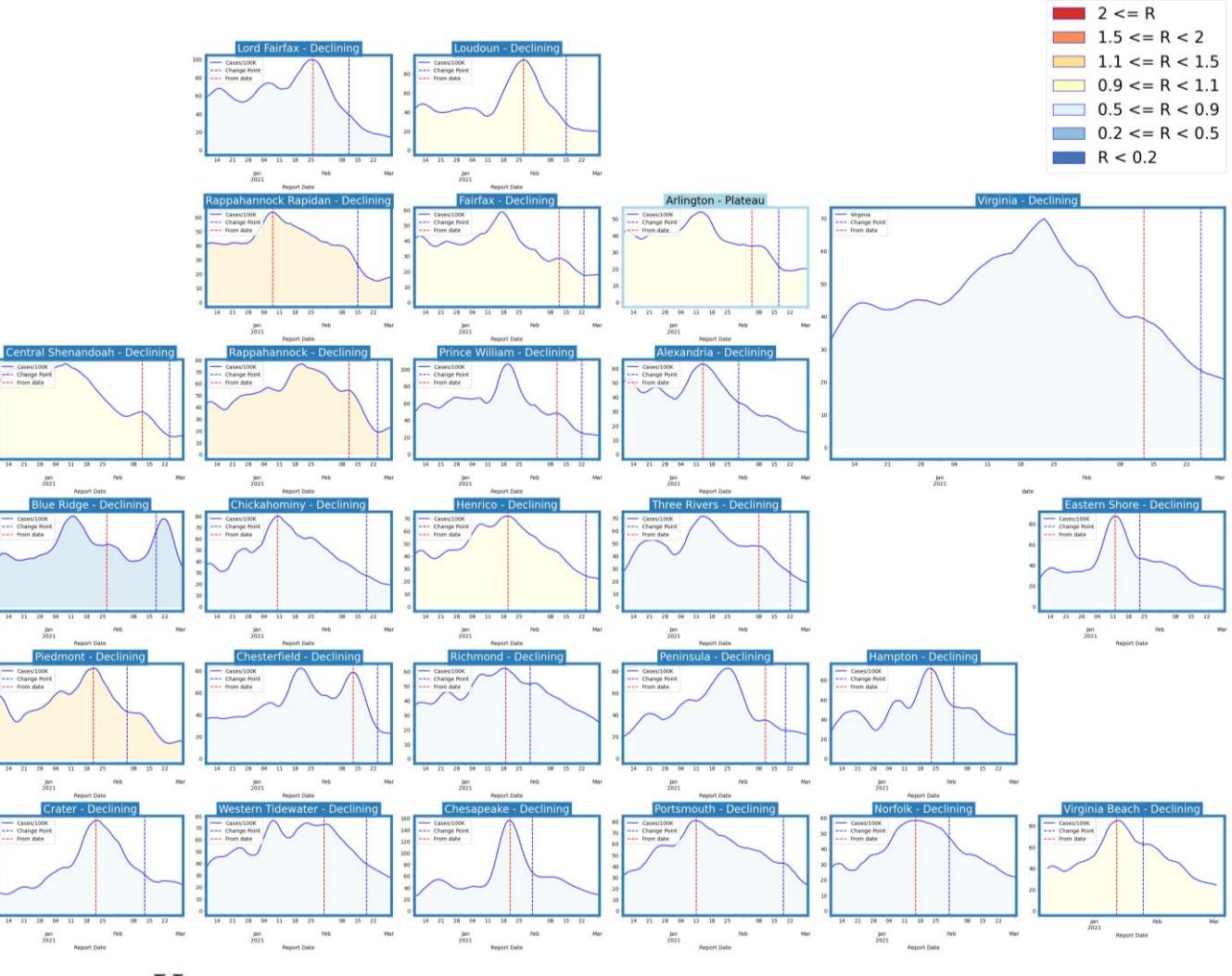
| Trajectory  | Description   | Weekly Case Rate (per 100K) bounds | # Districts (prev week) |
|-------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Declining   | Sustained decreases following a recent peak                   | below -0.9                         | 33 (32)                 |
| Plateau     | Steady level with minimal trend up or down                    | above -0.9 and below 0.5           | 2 (0)                   |
| Slow Growth | Sustained growth not rapid enough to be considered a Surge    | above 0.5 and below 2.5            | 0 (2)                   |
| In Surge    | Currently experiencing sustained rapid and significant growth | 2.5 or greater                     | 0 (1)                   |



# District Trajectories – last 10 weeks

| Status      | # Districts<br>(prev week) |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Declining   | 33 (32)                    |
| Plateau     | 2 (0)                      |
| Slow Growth | 0 (2)                      |
| In Surge    | 0 (1)                      |

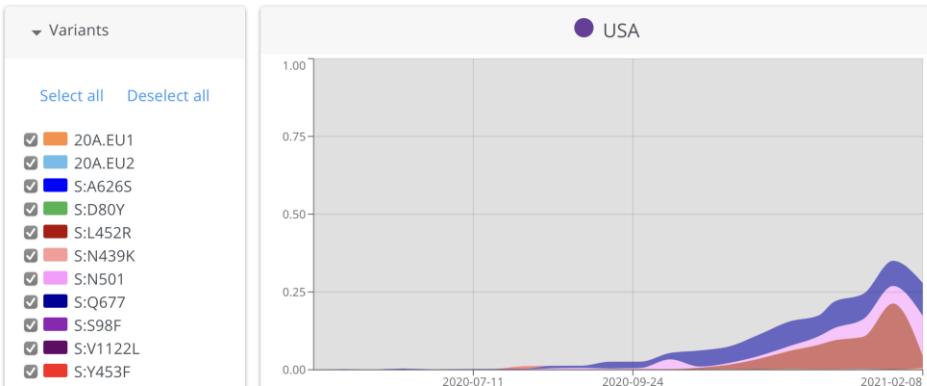
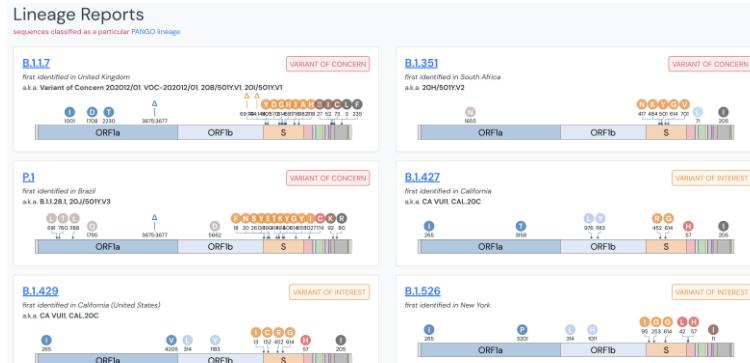
Curve shows smoothed case rate (per 100K)  
 Trajectories of states in label & chart box  
 Case Rate curve colored by Reproductive



# SARS-CoV2 Variants of Concern

**Emerging new variants will alter the future trajectories of pandemic and have implications for future control**

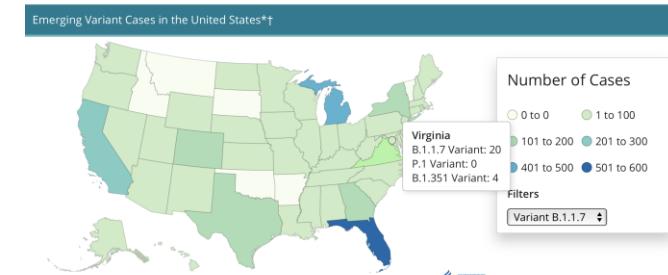
- Current evidence supports that new variants can:
  - Increase transmissibility
  - Increase severity (more hospitalizations and/or deaths)
  - Limit immunity from prior infection and vaccination
- Variants are defined by collection of co-occurring mutations that make it distinct from the other various variations in the genome.
  - Some subsets of mutations, including single amino acid substitutions, make the change that alters the virus pathogenicity



| Lineages Of Concern |               |                    |                           |                |                                   |   |   |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| LoC name            | PANGO lineage | NextStrain lineage | Other synonyms            | Emergence date | Emergence location                | Key AA substitutions in spike protein           | Impact  |
| B.1.1.7             | B.1.1.7       | 20I/501Y.V1        | VOC 202012/01, UK variant | September 2020 | Southeast England                 | H69-, V70-, N501Y, D614G, P681H                 | Increased transmissibility; S gene target failure (SGTF)          |
| B.1.351             | B.1.351       | 20H/501Y.V2        | South African variant     | October 2020   | Nelson Mandela Bay, South African | L241-, L242-, A243-, K417N, E484K, N501Y, D614G | loss of serum antibody neutralization                             |
| P.1                 | B.1.1.28      | 20J/501Y.V3        | Brazilian variant         | July 2020      | Brazil                            | K417T, E484K, N501Y, D614G                      | Increased transmissibility; loss of serum antibody neutralization |
| CAL.20C             | B.1.429       |                    |                           | July 2020      | Southern California, USA          | W152C, L452R, D614G                             | loss of monoclonal antibody binding                               |
| B.1.375             | B.1.375       |                    |                           | September 2020 | Massachusetts, USA                | H69-, V70-, D614G                               | S gene target failure (SGTF)                                      |

[NIH-NIAID Bacterial-Viral Bioinformatics Resource Center](#)

| Variant | Reported Cases in US | Number of Jurisdictions Reporting |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| B.1.1.7 | 2,506                | 46                                |
| B.1.351 | 65                   | 17                                |
| P.1     | 10                   | 5                                 |

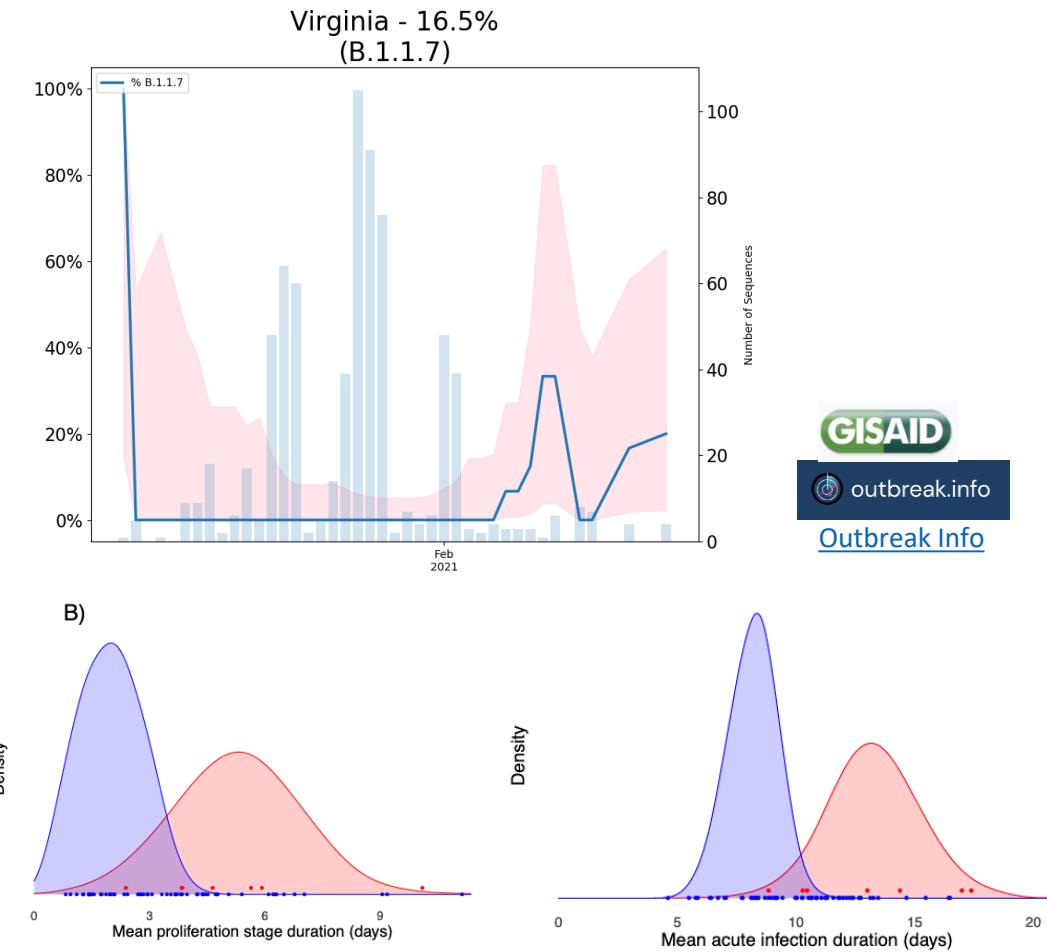


[CDC Variant Tracking](#)

# SARS-CoV2 Variants of Concern

## Lineage B.1.1.7

- B.1.1.7 has been detected in Virginia as well as in at least 2,506 cases across 45 states as of Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> (10-20 day delay for genotyping), will continue to grow rapidly. Current estimates place national frequency at ~10% and Virginia at 16%
- [A recent study](#) finds B.1.1.7 to have longer duration which may be the source of increased transmissibility and has implications for isolation durations
- [Estimates based on US growth rates](#) estimate it will predominate (eg reach 50% frequency) by mid to late March and is 35%-45% more transmissible
- [Evidence mounts](#) supporting increased risks of hospitalization and mortality for B.1.1.7 infected individuals



Variant B.1.1.7 may cause longer infections with similar peak viral concentration compared to non-B.1.1.7. May contribute to B.1.1.7's increased transmissibility.  
<https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/37366884>

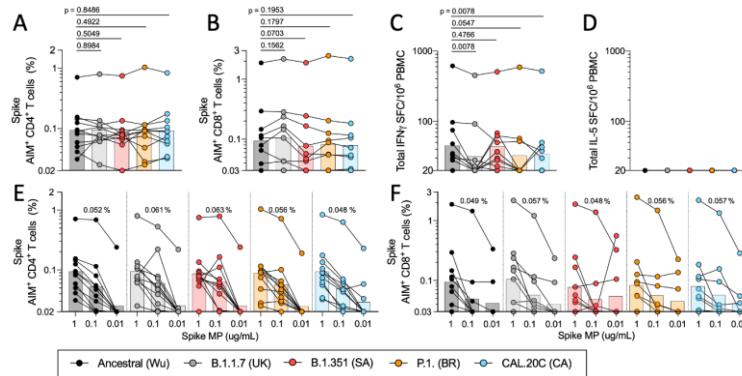
# New variants of SARS-CoV2

## Lineage B.1.351

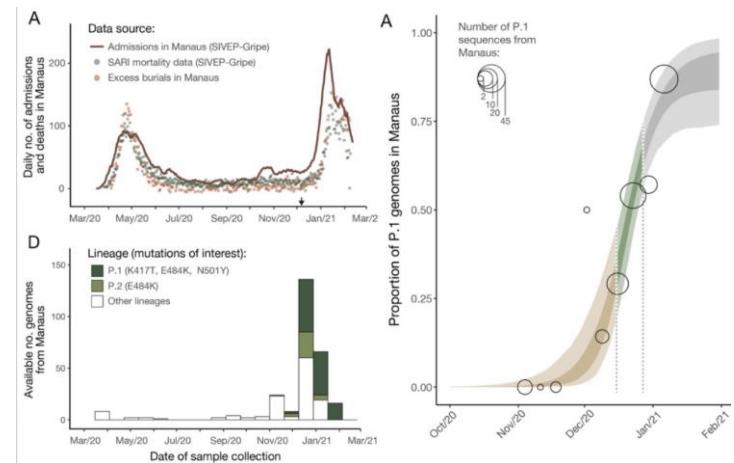
- Emerging strain initially identified in South Africa shows signs of vaccine escape, currently 46 reported cases in 14 states (including Virginia, 21 in South Carolina) as of Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>
- [New study in Cell](#) demonstrates immune escape across a bank of sera from different COVID-19 patients and vaccine recipients (Pfizer and AstraZeneca)
- [Additional study](#) demonstrates that T cell response from mRNA vaccinated individuals are not significantly degraded across these “immune escaping” variants

## Additional Variants

- Lineage P.1:** [First case reported in Minnesota](#) on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, now at least 10 cases in 5 states caused a [resurgence of hospitalizations in Manaus, Brazil](#) and is now estimated to be 1.4-2.2 times more transmissible and able to partially evade protective immunity.
- Lineage B.1.429 (similar mutations as in B.1.1.7 and B.1.351):** Initially found in Southern California, coincided with surge in Nov and Dec, [found in over half of sequenced samples in LA](#)
- New naming conventions in the works. May cluster these with bird names: Robin 1, Robin 2, Pelican, Yellowhammer, Mockingbird, Bluebird, Quail, etc.



[Results demonstrate](#) that CD4+ and CD8+ T cell responses in convalescent COVID-19 subjects or COVID-19 mRNA vaccinees are not substantially affected by mutations found in the SARS-CoV-2 variants



[Estimate](#) that P.1 may be 1.4–2.2 times more transmissible and able to evade 25–61% of protective immunity elicited by previous infection with non-P.1 lineages.

# Estimating Daily Reproductive Number

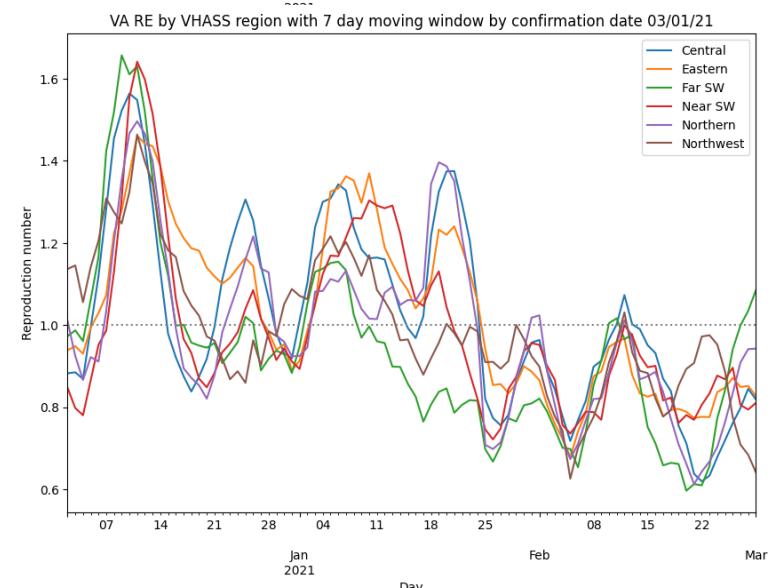
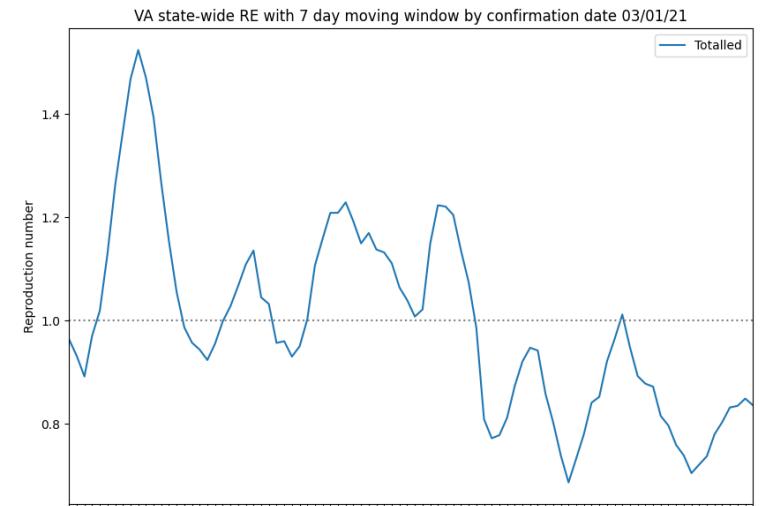
## March 1<sup>st</sup> Estimates

| Region     | Date Confirmed | R <sub>e</sub> | Date Confirmed | Diff Last Week |
|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|            |                |                |                |                |
| State-wide | 0.836          |                | 0.115          |                |
| Central    | 0.819          |                | 0.200          |                |
| Eastern    | 0.827          |                | 0.051          |                |
| Far SW     | 1.085          |                | 0.476          |                |
| Near SW    | 0.810          |                | 0.005          |                |
| Northern   | 0.943          |                | 0.300          |                |
| Northwest  | 0.641          |                |                | -0.331         |

### Methodology

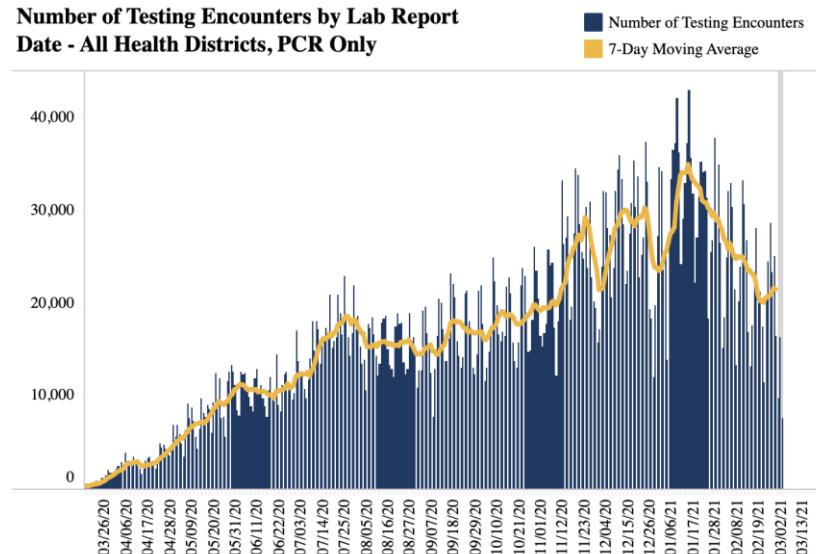
- Wallinga-Teunis method (EpiEstim<sup>1</sup>) for cases by confirmation date
- Serial interval: 6 days (2 day std dev)
- Using Confirmation date since due to increasingly unstable estimates from onset date due to backfill

1. Anne Cori, Neil M. Ferguson, Christophe Fraser, Simon Cauchemez. A New Framework and Software to Estimate Time-Varying Reproduction Numbers During Epidemics. American Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 178, Issue 9, 1 November 2013, Pages 1505–1512, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwt133>



# Changes in Case Detection

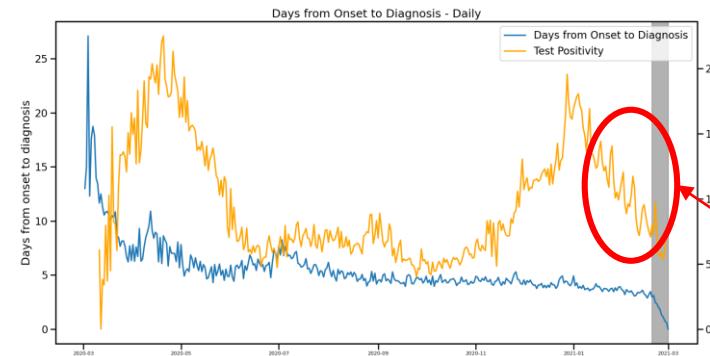
| Timeframe<br>(weeks) | Mean<br>days | % difference from<br>overall mean |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| July (26-30)         | 6.2          | -10%                              |
| Aug (31-34)          | 4.9          | -29%                              |
| Sept (35-38)         | 4.5          | -34%                              |
| Oct (39-43)          | 4.5          | -35%                              |
| Nov (44-47)          | 4.5          | -35%                              |
| Dec (48-49)          | 4.2          | -39%                              |
| Jan (00-04)          | 3.9          | -43%                              |
| Feb (05-06)          | 3.4          | -51%                              |
| Overall (13-05)      | 6.9          | --                                |



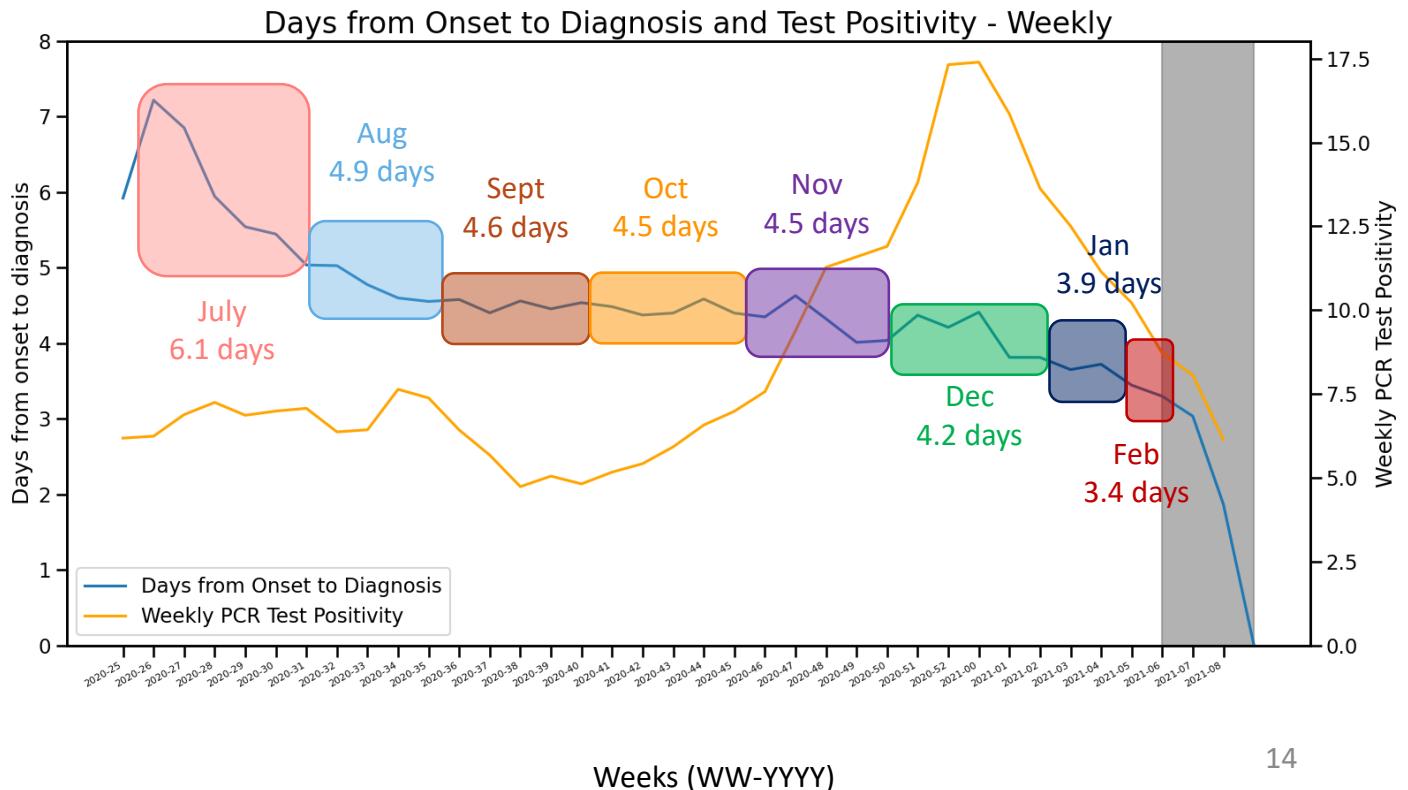
3-Mar-21

Accessed 9:00am March 3, 2021  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

## Test positivity vs. Onset to Diagnosis

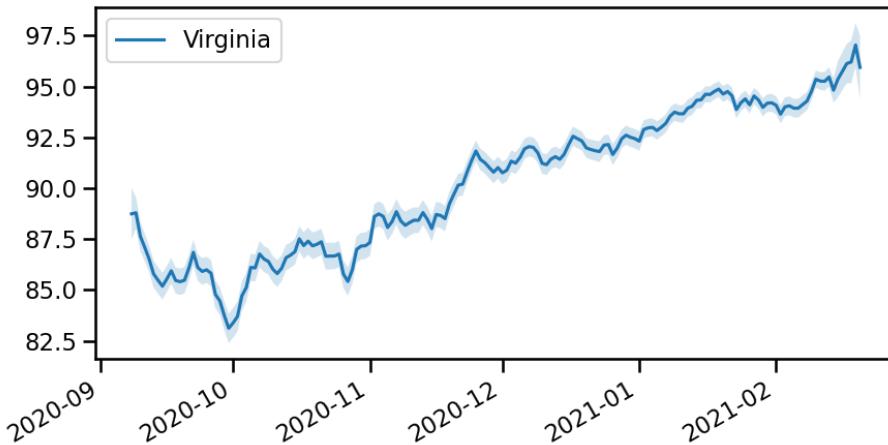


Positivity continues its rapid decline



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# Mask Usage and Vaccine Acceptance in Virginia

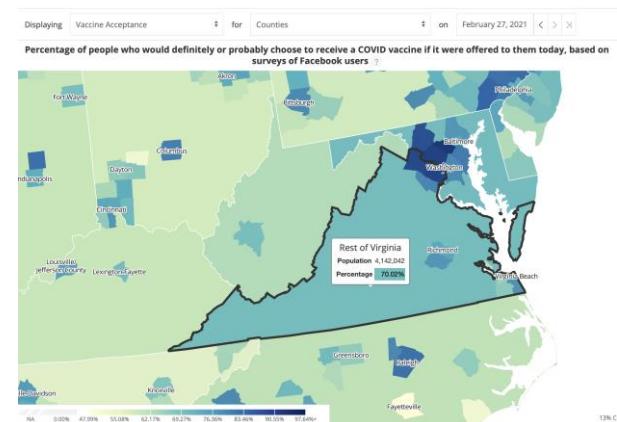


Reported mask usage for Virginia remains high

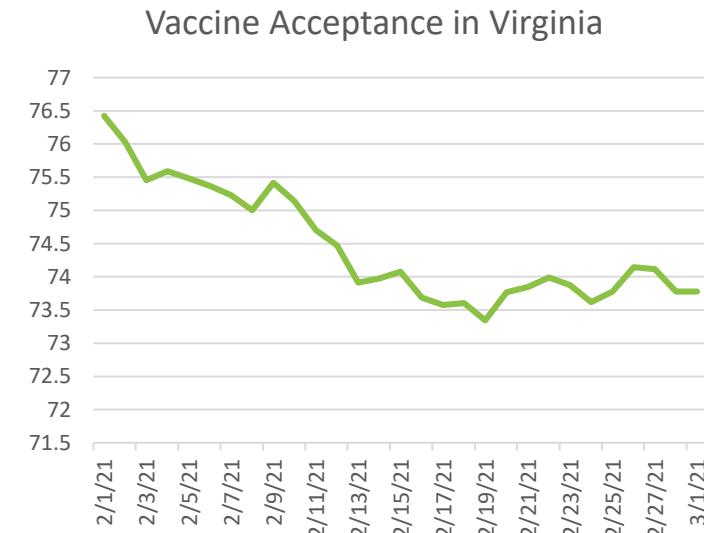
- Facebook surveys have shown steady increase over past three months
- ~88% (early Nov) to ~96% (late Feb)
- Some variance across the Commonwealth
- ~3000 daily responses from VA

**Acceptance remains high:**

- Proportion of Virginians that would definitely or probably accept vaccination if offered today
- Nearly ¾ of Virginians are likely to choose to be vaccinated
- Down very slightly from high at end of January, but has been stable for several weeks
- Urban areas have slightly higher acceptance rates



Data Source: <https://covidcast.cmu.edu>

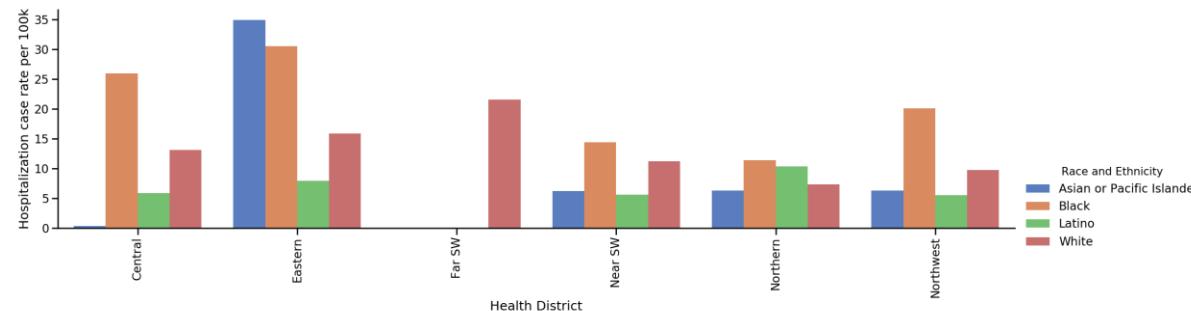


# Race and Ethnicity – Recent Rate Changes (per 100K)

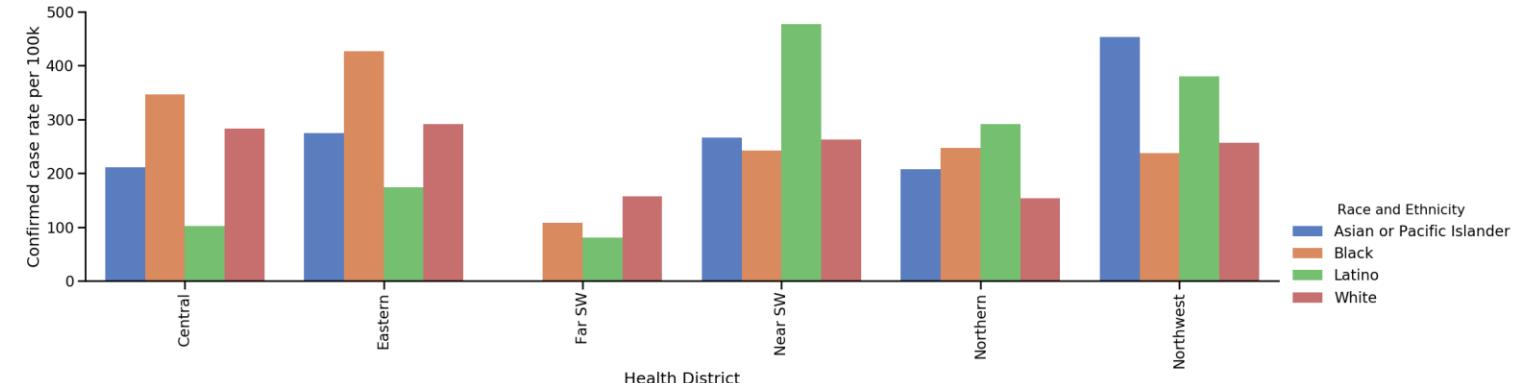
## Changes in Race and Ethnicity Rates (per 100k) in past two weeks

- Two week change in population level rates
- Black, Latinx and 2 or more races populations have much higher changes in rates; disparity is more pronounced in some regions than others
- Based on 2019 census race-ethnicity data by county

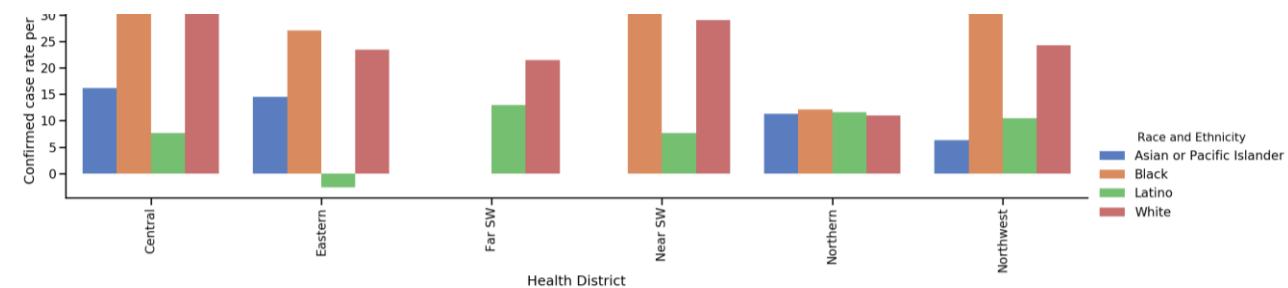
## Hospitalization Rate



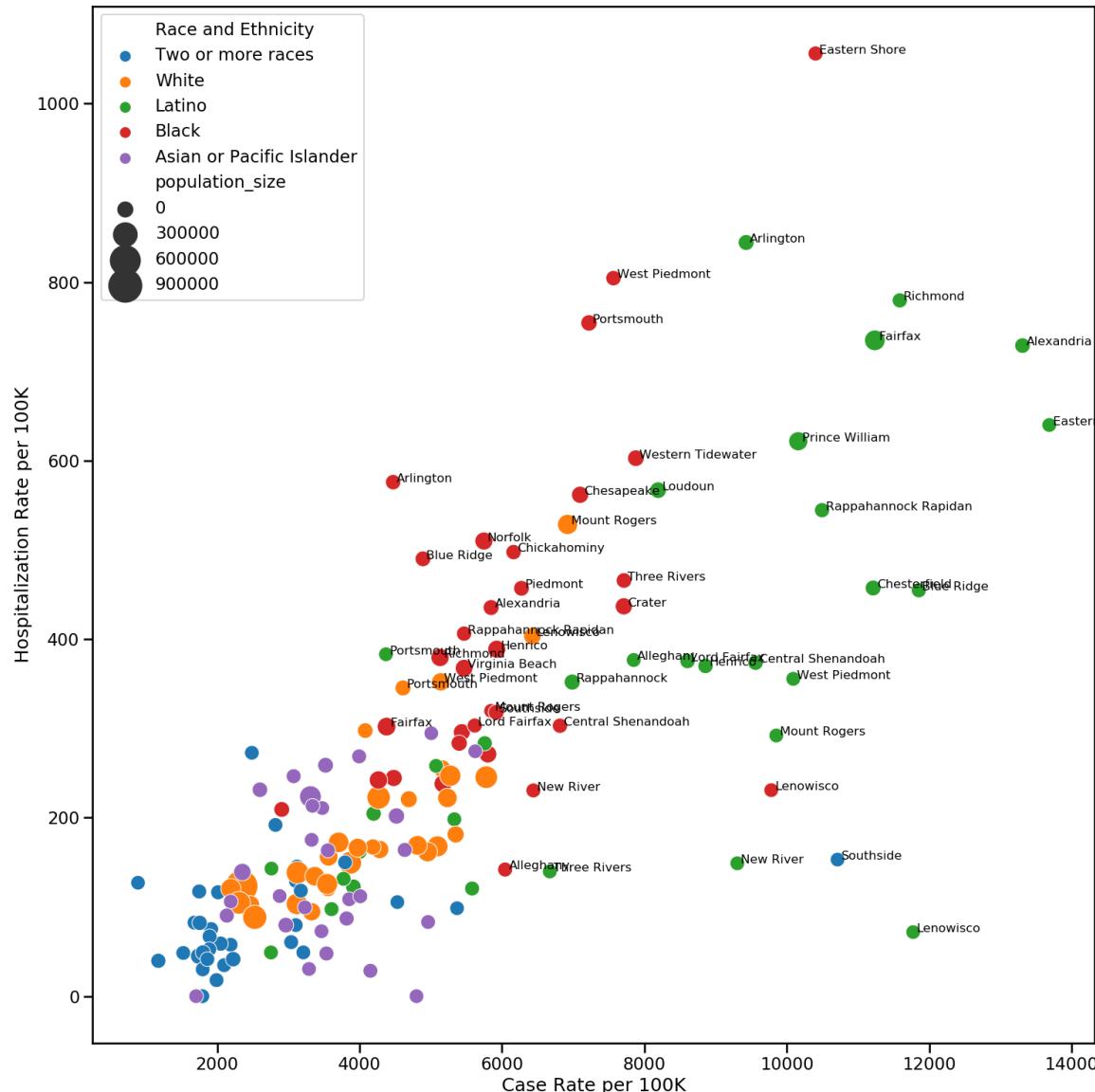
## Case Rate



## Death Rate



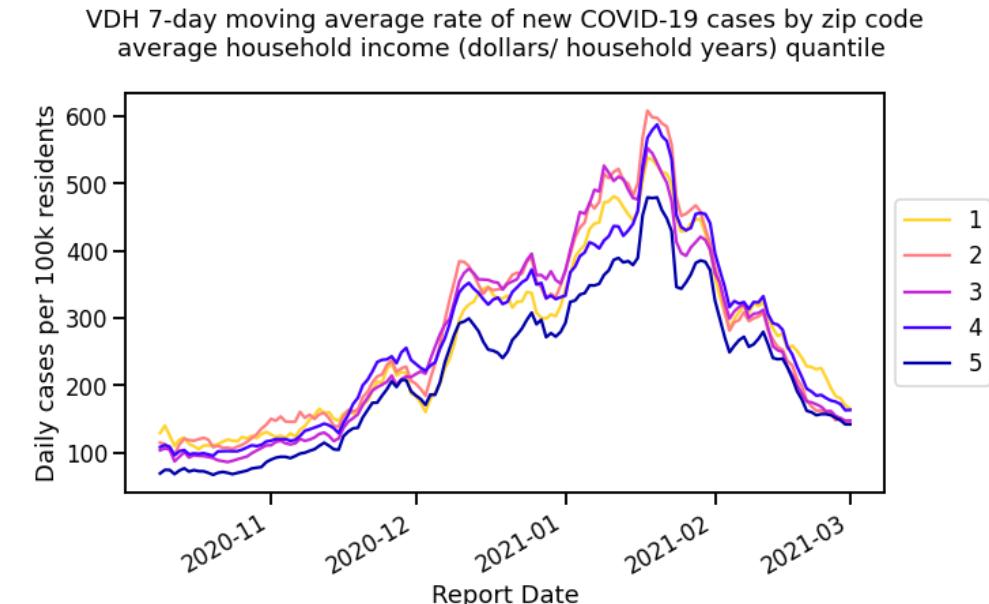
# Race and Ethnicity cases per 100K



## Rates per 100K of each Racial-Ethnic population by Health District

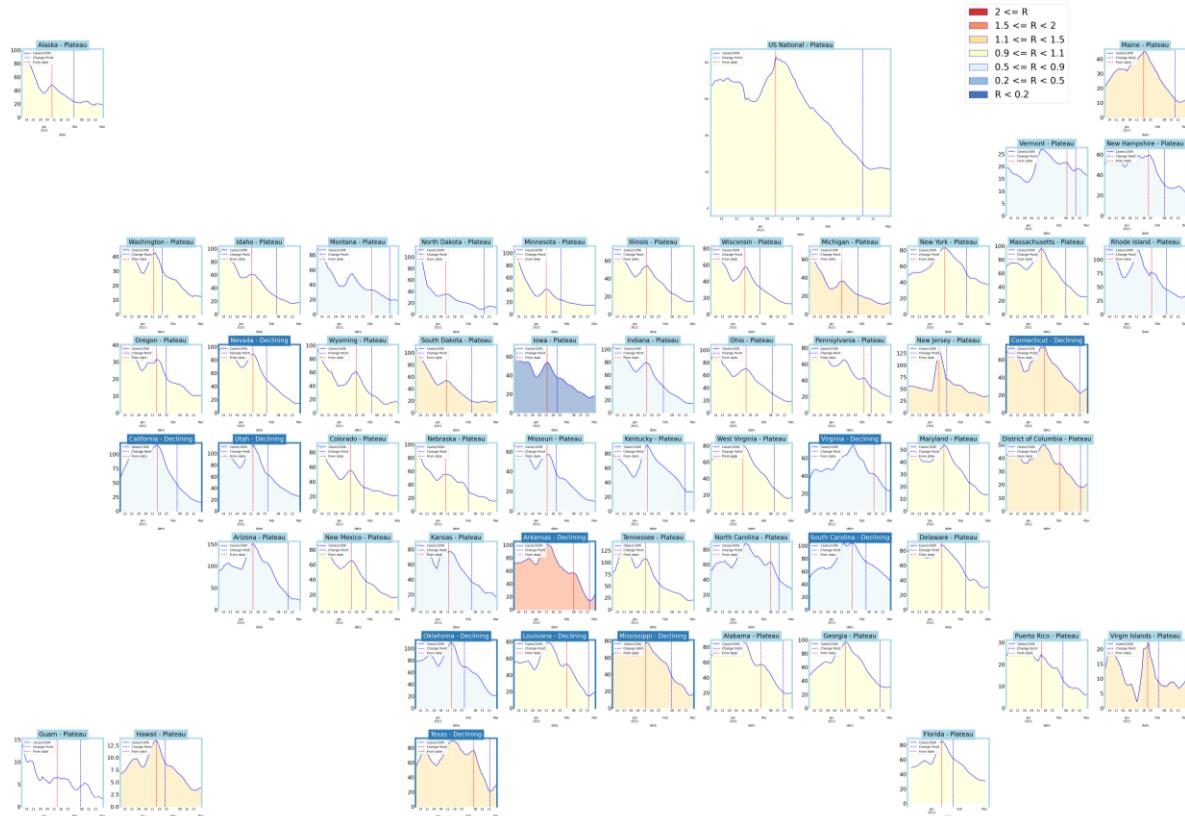
- Each Health District's Racial-Ethnic population is plotted by their Hospitalization and Case Rate
- Points are sized based on their overall population size (overlapping labels removed)

## Case rates by zip codes broken into income quintiles



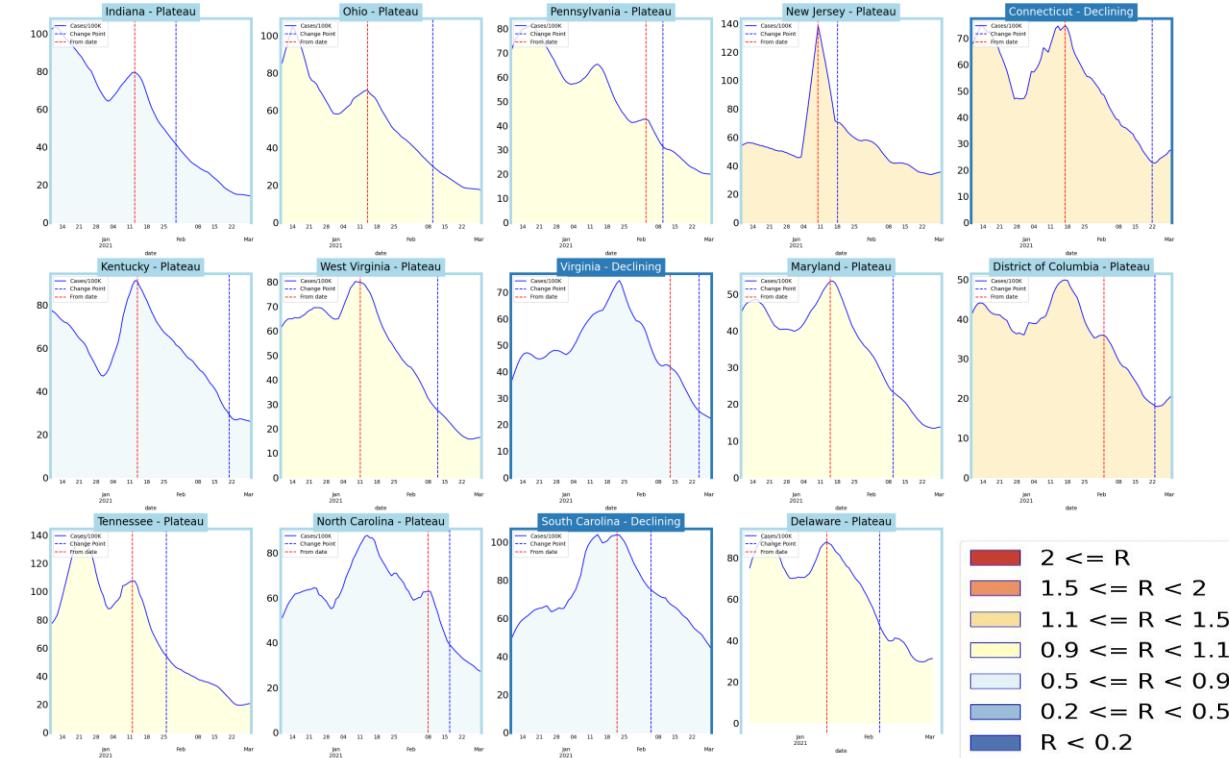
# Other State Comparisons

Trajectories of States



- All states are declining (11) or plateaued (43)
- Re ticks up in many states indicating possible return to growth
- Rates remain elevated, as more declines are level off

Virginia and her neighbors



- VA remains in decline but many of her neighbors are shifting from decline to plateau, with some signs of a return to growth
- Rates remain elevated as rates of decline slow

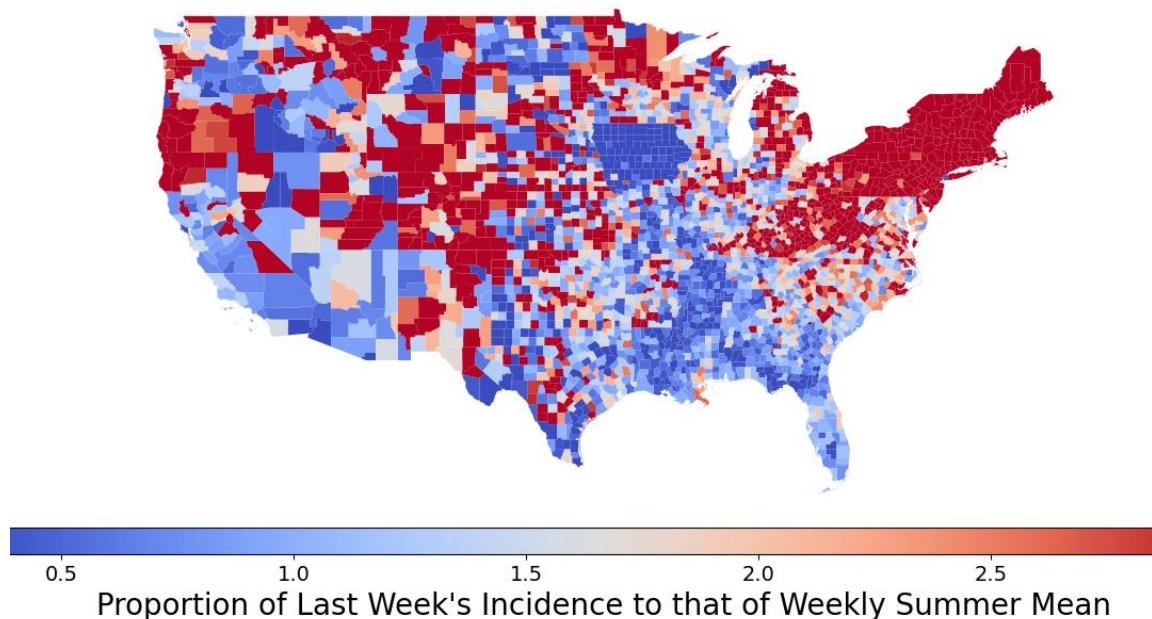


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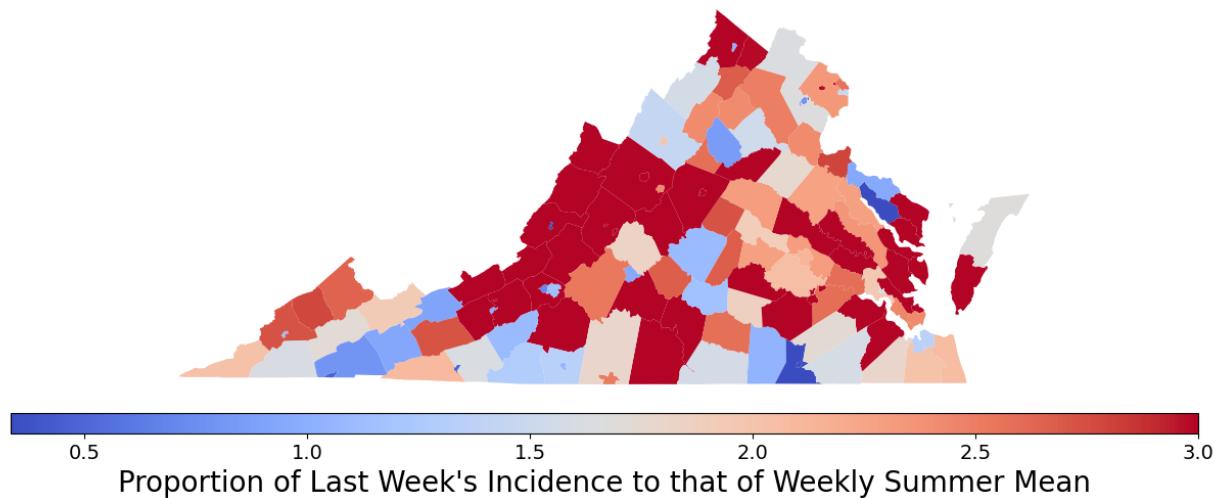
# Current Week vs. Summer Mean (June-Aug 2020)

Still some way to go to return to rates experienced during the summer of 2020 (June through August)

Recent Incidence Compared to Weekly Summer Mean by County  
Mean: 12.86; Median: 1.62; IQR: 0.8-3.3



Recent Incidence Compared to Weekly Summer Mean by County  
Mean: 3.16; Median: 2.41; IQR: 1.58-3.37



- 68% of US counties are above the summer mean case rate compared to 73% last week
- 88% of VA counties are above the average rate for the summer compared to 92% last week

# Zip code level weekly Case Rate (per 100K)

## Case Rates in the last week by zip code

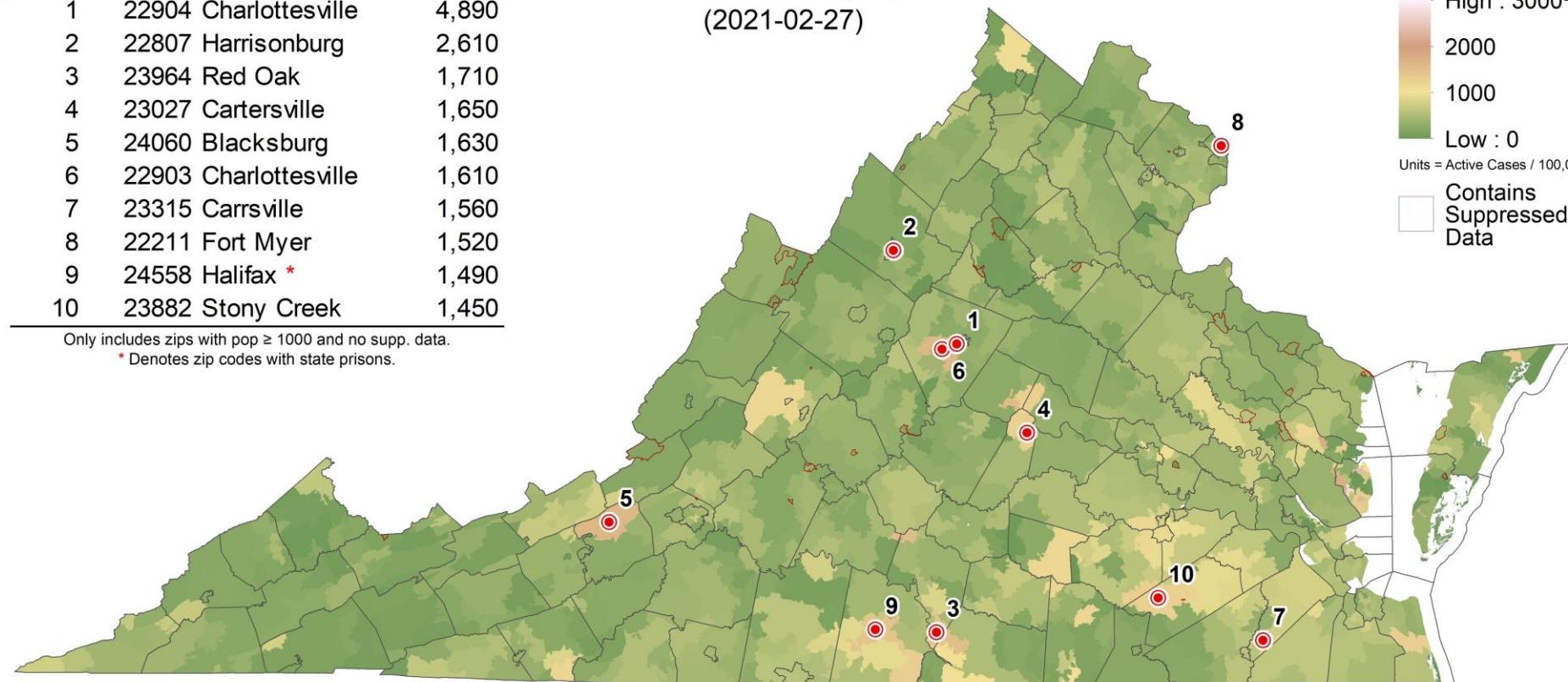
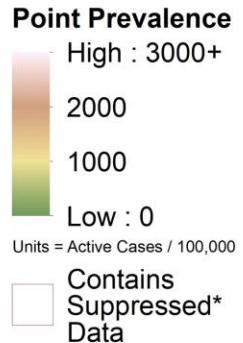
- Universities still dominate the top 10 list
- Concentrations of high rates scattered across the Commonwealth
- Some counts are low and suppressed to protect anonymity, those are shown in white

| Rank | Zip Code Name         | Prevalence |
|------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1    | 22904 Charlottesville | 4,890      |
| 2    | 22807 Harrisonburg    | 2,610      |
| 3    | 23964 Red Oak         | 1,710      |
| 4    | 23027 Cartersville    | 1,650      |
| 5    | 24060 Blacksburg      | 1,630      |
| 6    | 22903 Charlottesville | 1,610      |
| 7    | 23315 Carrsville      | 1,560      |
| 8    | 22211 Fort Myer       | 1,520      |
| 9    | 24558 Halifax *       | 1,490      |
| 10   | 23882 Stony Creek     | 1,450      |

Only includes zips with pop  $\geq 1000$  and no supp. data.

\* Denotes zip codes with state prisons.

Point Prevalence by Zip Code  
(2021-02-27)



Based on spatial empirical Bayes smoothed point prevalence for week ending 2021-02-27



# Risk of Exposure by Group Size

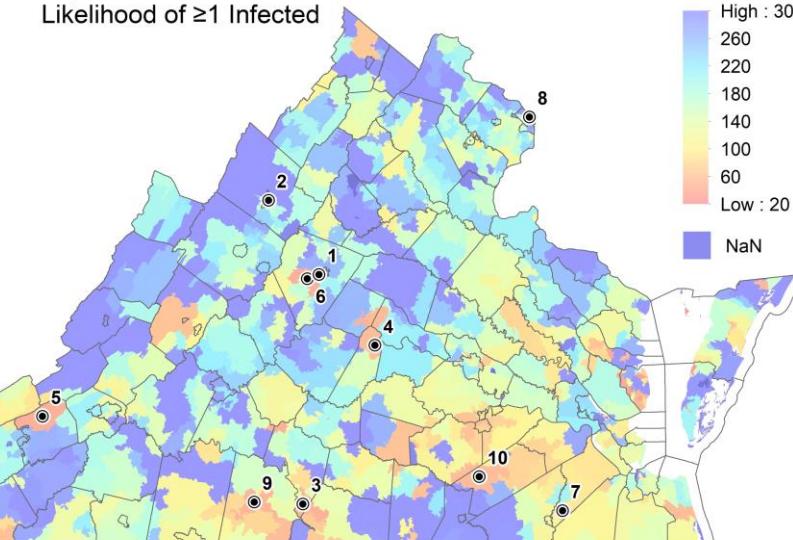
**Case Prevalence in the last week by zip code used to calculate risk of encountering someone infected in a gathering of randomly selected people (group size 25)**

- Assumes 3 undetected infections per confirmed case (ascertainment rate from recent seroprevalence survey)
- On left, minimum size of a group with a 50% chance an individual is infected by zip code (eg in a group of 14 in Charlottesville, there is a 50% chance someone will be infected)
- Some zip codes have high likelihood of exposure even in groups of 25

| Rank | Zip Code Name         | Size |
|------|-----------------------|------|
| 1    | 22904 Charlottesville | 14   |
| 2    | 22807 Harrisonburg    | 26   |
| 3    | 23964 Red Oak         | 40   |
| 4    | 23027 Cartersville    | 42   |
| 5    | 24060 Blacksburg      | 42   |
| 6    | 22903 Charlottesville | 43   |
| 7    | 23315 Carrsville      | 44   |
| 8    | 22211 Fort Myer       | 45   |
| 9    | 24558 Halifax *       | 46   |
| 10   | 23882 Stony Creek     | 47   |

Only includes zips with pop  $\geq 1000$  and no supp. data.  
\* Denotes zip codes with state prisons.

Group Size Needed for 50% Likelihood of  $\geq 1$  Infected

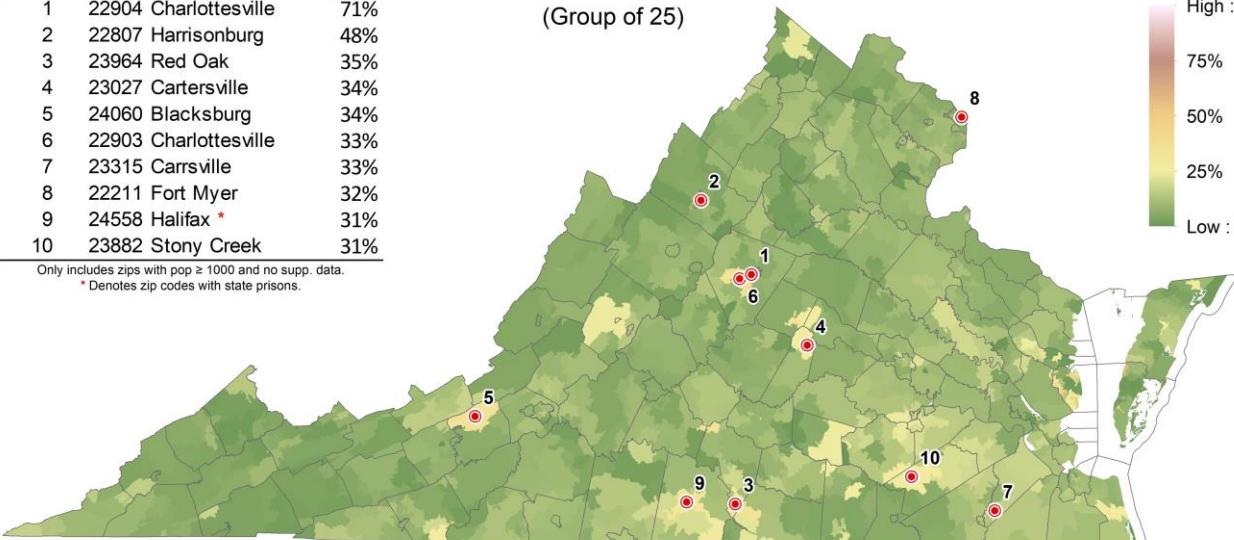


Group Size Rank Zip Code Name Likelihood

| Group Size  | Rank | Zip Code Name         | Likelihood |
|-------------|------|-----------------------|------------|
| High : 300+ | 1    | 22904 Charlottesville | 71%        |
| 260         | 2    | 22807 Harrisonburg    | 48%        |
| 220         | 3    | 23964 Red Oak         | 35%        |
| 180         | 4    | 23027 Cartersville    | 34%        |
| 140         | 5    | 24060 Blacksburg      | 34%        |
| 100         | 6    | 22903 Charlottesville | 33%        |
| 60          | 7    | 23315 Carrsville      | 33%        |
| Low : 20    | 8    | 22211 Fort Myer       | 32%        |
| Nan         | 9    | 24558 Halifax *       | 31%        |
|             | 10   | 23882 Stony Creek     | 31%        |

Only includes zips with pop  $\geq 1000$  and no supp. data.  
\* Denotes zip codes with state prisons.

Likelihood of  $\geq 1$  Infected Members (Group of 25)



# Current Spatial Hot Spots

| Spot | Zip Code | Name            | Conf. |
|------|----------|-----------------|-------|
| 1    | 22904    | Charlottesville | 99%   |
| 2    | 22807    | Harrisonburg    | 99%   |
| 3    | 24060    | Blacksburg      | 99%   |
| 4    | 22903    | Charlottesville | 99%   |
| 5    | 24558    | Halifax         | 95%   |
| 6    | 23055    | Fork Union      | 90%   |
| 7    | 23964    | Red Oak         | 90%   |
| 8    | 23456    | Virginia Beach  | 90%   |

Only includes zips with pop  $\geq 1000$  and no supp. data.

\* Denotes zip codes with state prisons.

Hot Spots compare the weekly case prevalence to nearby zip codes to identify areas with statistically significant deviations

Point Prevalence Hot Spots by Zip Code  
(2021-02-27)

- Getis-Ord Gi\* HotSpots
- Cold Spot - 99% Confidence
  - Cold Spot - 95% Confidence
  - Cold Spot - 90% Confidence
  - Not Significant
  - Hot Spot - 90% Confidence
  - Hot Spot - 95% Confidence
  - Hot Spot - 99% Confidence



Based on global empirical Bayes smoothed point prevalence for week ending 2021-02-27



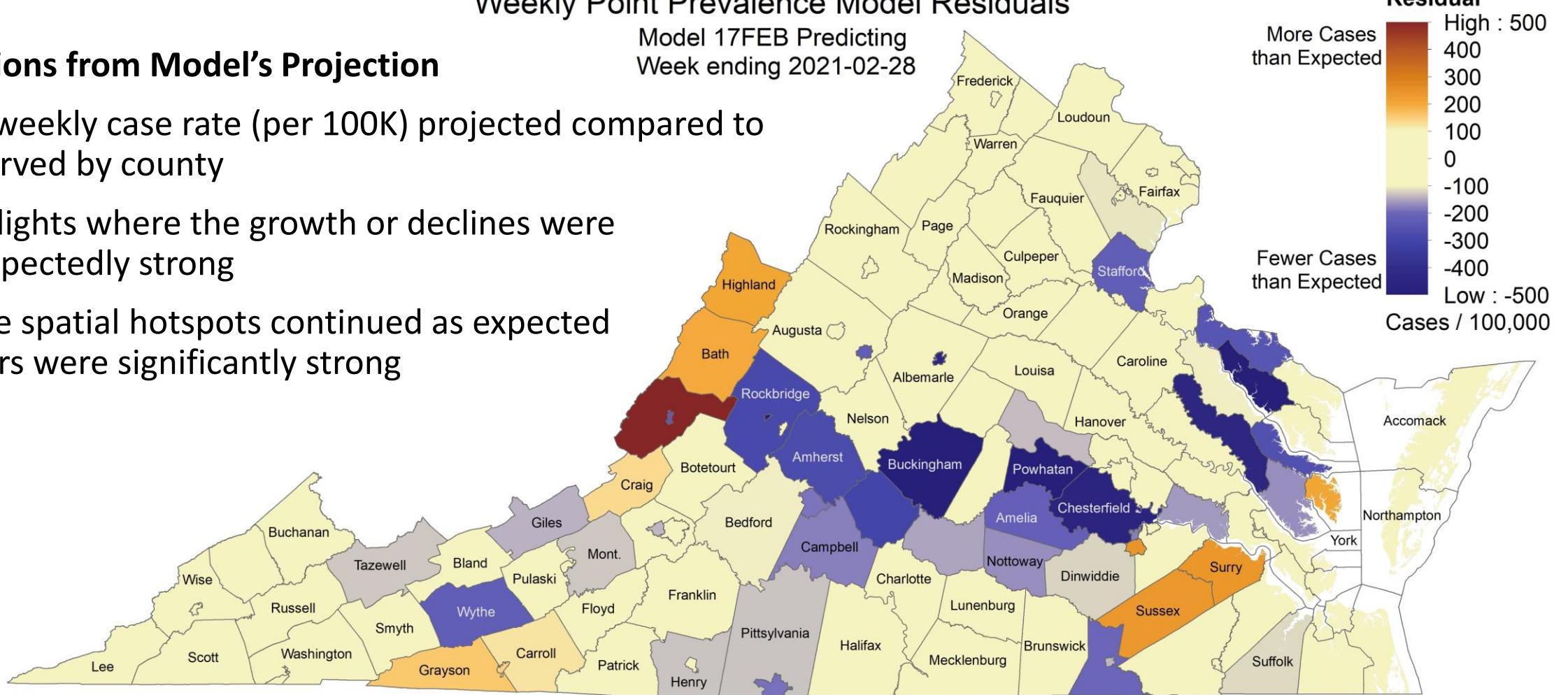
# Current Spatial Hot Spots

## Deviations from Model's Projection

- The weekly case rate (per 100K) projected compared to observed by county
- Highlights where the growth or declines were unexpectedly strong
- Some spatial hotspots continued as expected others were significantly strong

Weekly Point Prevalence Model Residuals

Model 17FEB Predicting  
Week ending 2021-02-28



Moran's I = 0.013888, P-Value = 0.774353  
No Residual Autocorrelation Detected



# Model Update – Adaptive Fitting

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# Adaptive Fitting Approach

**Each county fit precisely, with recent trends used for future projection**

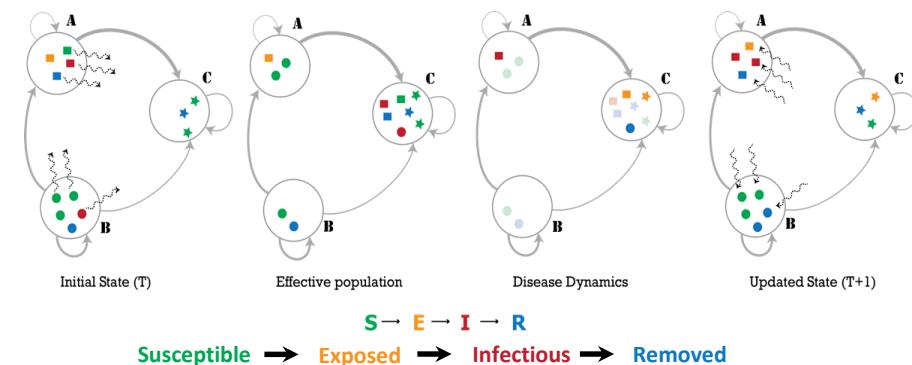
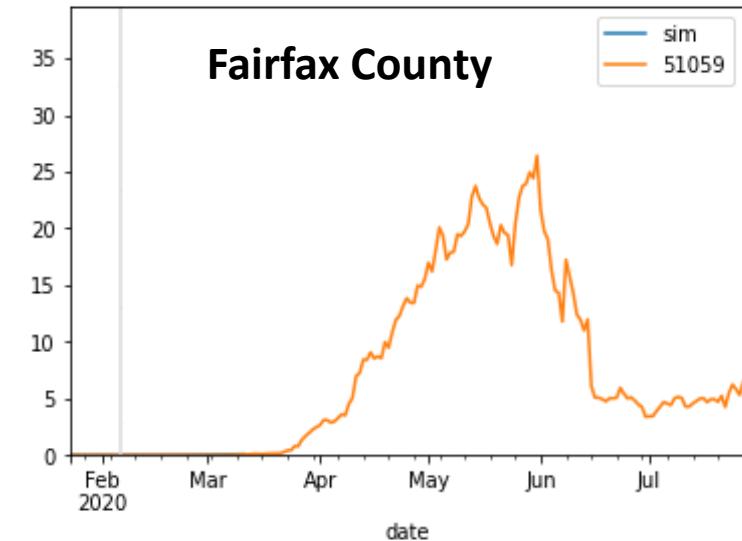
- Allows history to be precisely captured, and used to guide bounds on projections

**Model:** An alternative use of the same meta-population model, PatchSim

- Allows for future “what-if” Scenarios to be layered on top of calibrated model
- Eliminates connectivity between patches, to allow calibration to capture the increasingly unsynchronized epidemic

**External Seeding:** Steady low-level importation

- Widespread pandemic eliminates sensitivity to initial conditions
- Uses steady 1 case per 10M population per day external seeding



# Using Ensemble Model to Guide Projections

Ensemble methodology that combines the Adaptive with machine learning and statistical models such as:

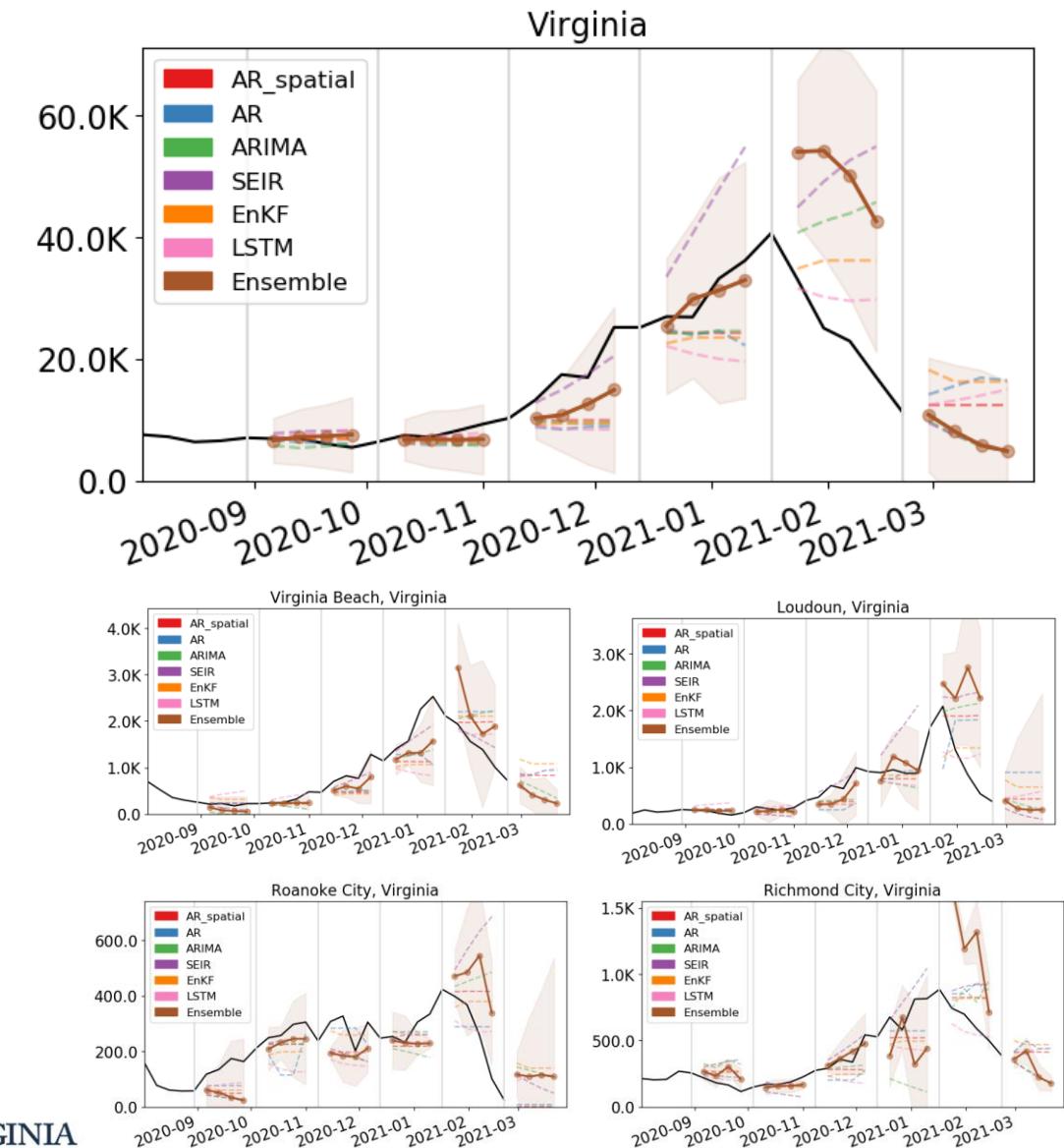
- Autoregressive (AR, ARIMA)
- Neural networks (LSTM)
- Kalman filtering (EnKF)

Weekly forecasts done at county level.

Models chosen because of their track record in disease forecasting and to increase diversity and robustness.

Ensemble forecast provides additional ‘surveillance’ for making scenario-based projections.

Also submitted to CDC Forecast Hub.



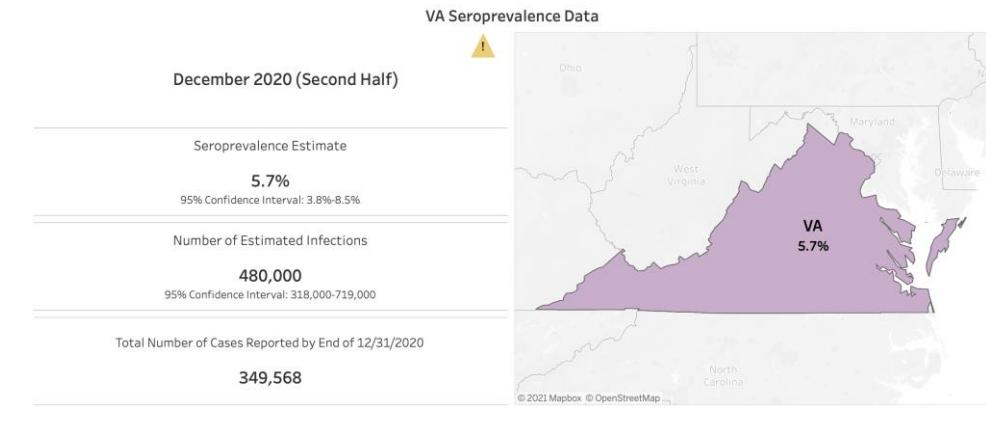
# Seroprevalence updates to model design

**Several seroprevalence studies provide better picture of how many actual infections have occurred**

- CDC Nationwide Commercial Laboratory Seroprevalence Survey estimated 5.7% [3.8% – 8.5%] seroprevalence as of Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4.6% a month earlier

**These findings are equivalent to an ascertainment ratio of ~2x in the future, with bounds of (1.3x to 3x)**

- Thus for 2x there are 2 total infections in the population for every confirmed case recently
- This measure now fully tracks the estimated ascertainment over time
- Uncertainty design has been shifted to these bounds (previously higher ascensions as was consistent earlier in the pandemic were being used)



# Calibration Approach

- **Data:**
  - County level case counts by date of onset (from VDH)
  - Confirmed cases for model fitting
- **Calibration:** fit model to observed data and ensemble's forecast
  - Tune transmissibility across ranges of:
    - Duration of incubation (5-9 days), infectiousness (3-7 days)
    - Undocumented case rate (1x to 7x) guided by seroprevalence studies
    - Detection delay: exposure to confirmation (4-12 days)
  - Approach captures uncertainty, but allows model to precisely track the full trajectory of the outbreak
- **Project:** future cases and outcomes generated using the collection of fit models run into the future
  - **Mean trend from last 7 days of observed cases and first week of ensemble's forecast used**
  - Outliers removed based on variances in the previous 3 weeks
  - 2 week interpolation to smooth transitions in rapidly changing trajectories

## COVID-19 in Virginia:

| Cases, Hospitalizations and Deaths   |                          |                           |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Total Cases*   | Total Hospitalizations** | Total Deaths              | Confirmed†                               | Probable†            | Confirmed†           |  |  |  |  |
| <b>580,108</b>   | <b>24,354</b>            | <b>9,326</b>              |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| (New Cases: 1,549)^\wedge  |                          |                           | Confirmed†<br>456,462                    | Probable†<br>123,646 | Confirmed†<br>23,086 |  |  |  |  |
| Outbreaks  |                          |                           |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| Total Outbreaks*   |                          | Outbreak Associated Cases |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| <b>2,647</b>   |                          | <b>65,272</b>             |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| * At least two (2) lab confirmed cases are required to classify an outbreak.           |                          |                           |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| Testing (PCR Only)   |                          |                           |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| Testing Encounters PCR Only*   |                          |                           | Current 7-Day Positivity Rate PCR Only** |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| <b>5,946,972</b>   |                          |                           | <b>6.6%</b>                              |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| * PCR" refers to "Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction laboratory testing." |                          |                           |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children  |                          |                           |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| Total Cases*   |                          | Total Deaths              |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |
| <b>36</b>  |                          | <b>0</b>                  |  |                      |                      |  |  |  |  |

\*Cases defined by CDC HAN case definition: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00432.asp>

Accessed 9:00am March 3, 2021

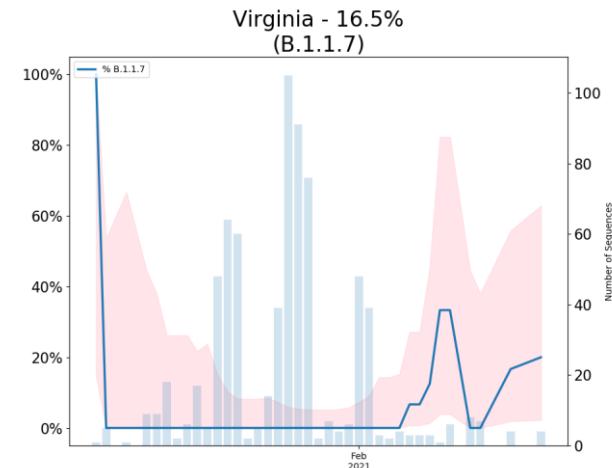
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

# Scenarios – Seasonal Effects

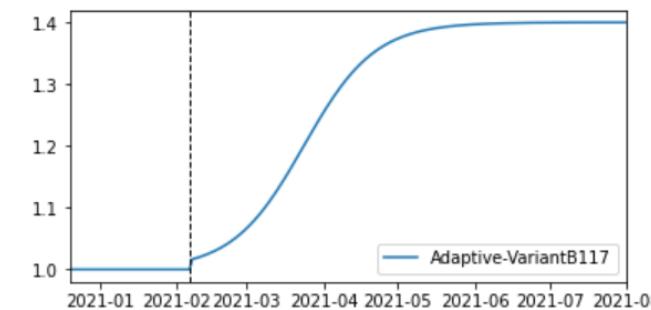
- Variety of factors continue to drive transmission rates
  - Seasonal impact of weather patterns, travel and gatherings, fatigue and premature relaxation of infection control practices.
- Plausible levels of transmission can be bounded by past experience
  - Assess transmission levels at the county level since May 2020
  - Use the highest and lowest levels experienced (excluding outliers) as plausible bounds for levels of control achievable
  - Transition from current levels of projection to the new levels over 2 months
- New planning Scenarios:
  - **Best of the Past:** Lowest level of transmission (10<sup>th</sup> percentile)
  - **Fatigued Control:** Highest level of transmission (95<sup>th</sup> percentile) increased by additional 5%

# Scenarios – Novel Variants

- Several novel variants of SARS-CoV2 are being tracked
  - Some are more transmissible, some may escape immunity from previous natural infection and/or vaccination, others may be more severe
- New Variant B.1.1.7 is best understood and is in Virginia
  - **Transmission increase:** [Several different studies](#) have estimated the increase in transmission to be 30-55%, we use 40% increase from the current baseline projection
  - **Emergence timing:** Gradually assumes predominance over the next 6 weeks, reaching 50% frequency in late March as estimated in a recent [MMWR report from CDC](#) and refined by [Andersen et al.](#)
- Variant planning Scenario:
  - **VariantB117:** Current projected transmissibility increases gradually over 4 months to level 40% more transmissible



Estimated frequency from public genome repository with added analysis: 16.5%



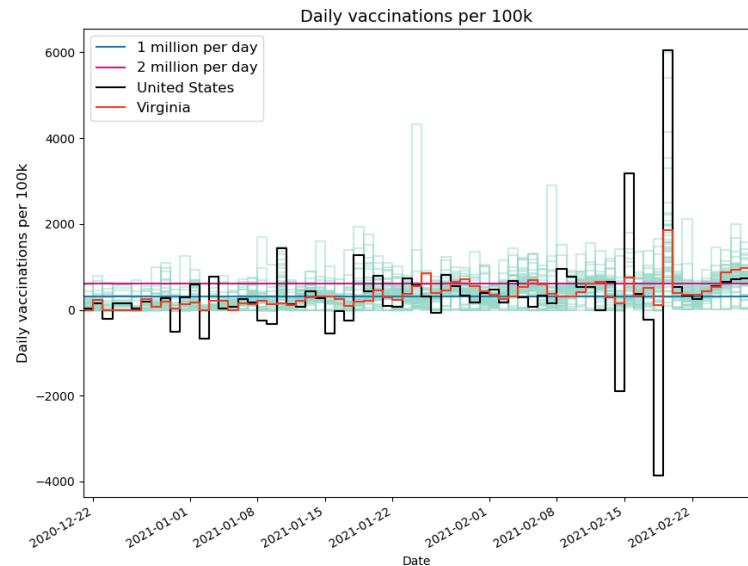
Current frequency used in model: 16.7%

# Scenarios – Vaccines

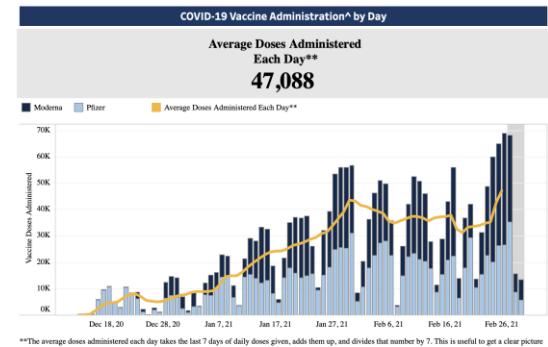
- Vaccination has started, and efforts are underway to increase its pace
  - Exact achievable rollouts and level of coverage are unknown, though coming into focus
- Vaccine efficacy varies over course of vaccine
  - FDA EUAs show 50% efficacy achieved 2 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> dose, and 95% 2 weeks after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose
  - Assuming 3.5 week (average of Pfizer and Moderna) gap between doses
- Vaccine hesitancy poses a future problem
  - Currently demand far outpaces supply so we assume all courses will be administered until we reach the hesitancy threshold, for 50% this is several months in the future.

Current rollouts and scenarios inspired by  
MIDAS Network COVID-19 Scenario Hub:  
<https://github.com/midas-network/covid19-scenario-modeling-hub>

## VA Vaccination Rates



Lines represent 1M & 2M total doses administered a day (rate of 303/100K & 606/100K)



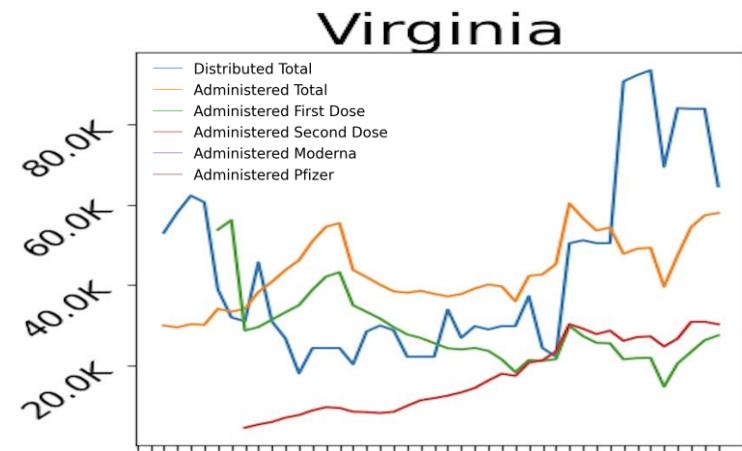
Accessed 8:30pm March 2, 2021  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine-summary/>

# Scenarios – Vaccines

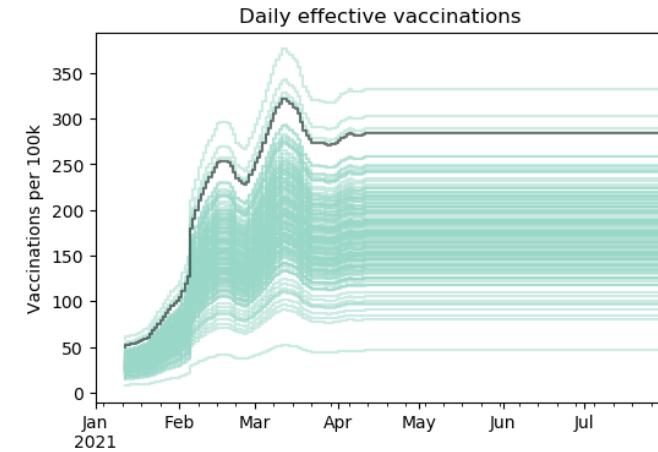
- Administration schedule uses actual administration and expected for the future
  - Use history of state-specific doses administered as captured by [Bloomberg](#) (up to Jan 19<sup>th</sup>) and [CDC](#) (Jan 20<sup>th</sup> and on)
  - Vaccination rate specific to each county (as obtained through VDH dashboard) vax data in data package
  - Future courses based on sustaining daily average of most recent week
    - **Rate:** 299 **FIRST DOSES** per 100K per day or a total of ~25K 1<sup>st</sup> doses per day, which is up from last week's levels
    - **Total Amount:** This pace leads to eventually reaching 50K administered a day, implying 25K fully vaccinated a day
    - **Location:** Per capita distribution across all counties

Current rollouts and scenarios inspired by MIDAS Network COVID-19 Scenario Hub: <https://github.com/midas-network/covid19-scenario-modeling-hub>

## Fluctuations in dosages over time



## Modeled Vaccine Induced Immunity



All VA counties, state in black

# Scenarios – Seasonal Effects and Vaccines

Three scenarios combine these seasonal effects and use the updated vaccine schedule

- **Adaptive:** No seasonal effects from base projection
  - If things continue as they are
- **Adaptive-FatigueControl:** Fatigued control seasonal effects
  - If we revert to slightly worst transmission experienced in last 6 months
- **Adaptive-BestPast:** Best of the past control seasonal effects
  - If we revert to best control experienced in last 6 months
- **Adaptive-VariantB117:** Boosting of transmissibility from the emergence of B.1.1.7
  - If new variants begin to predominate and boost transmission, this assumes current seasonal affects remain the same (eg like Adaptive)
- **Adaptive-FatigueControl-VariantB117:** Fatigued control and txm boost from B.1.1.7
- **Adaptive-BestPast-VariantB117:** Best of the past control vs. txm boost from B.1.1.7

Counterfactuals with no vaccine (“NoVax”) are provided for comparison purposes



# Model Results

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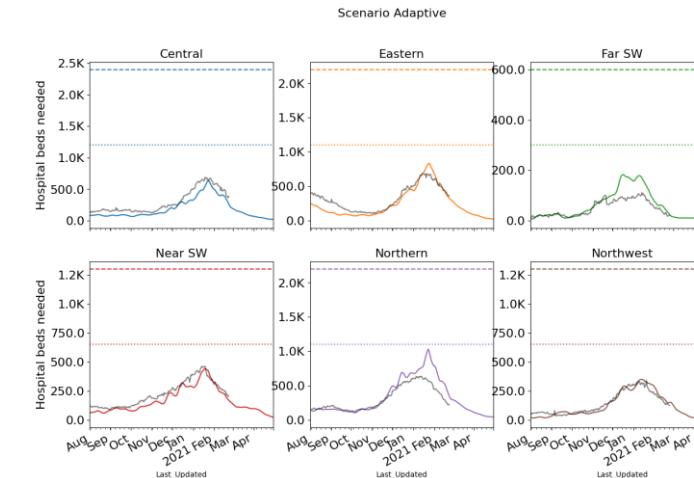
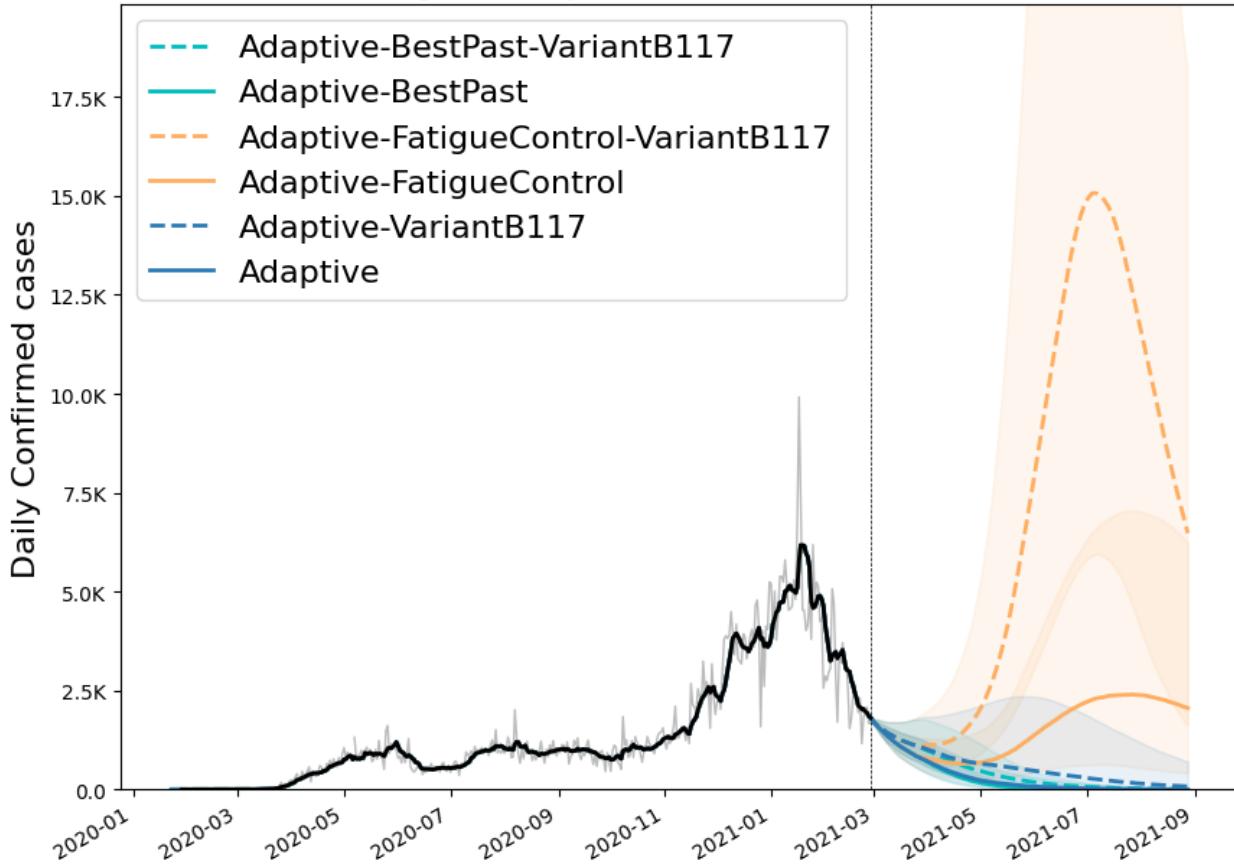
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# Outcome Projections

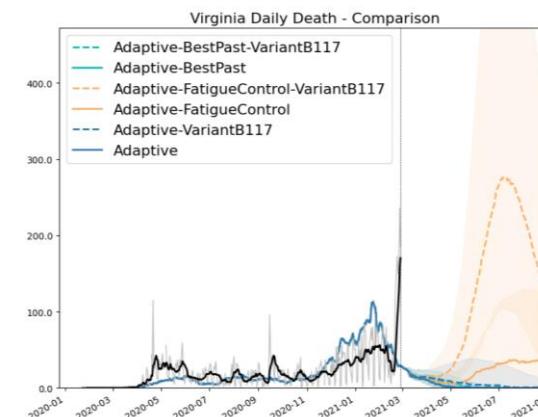
## Estimated Hospital Occupancy

### Confirmed cases

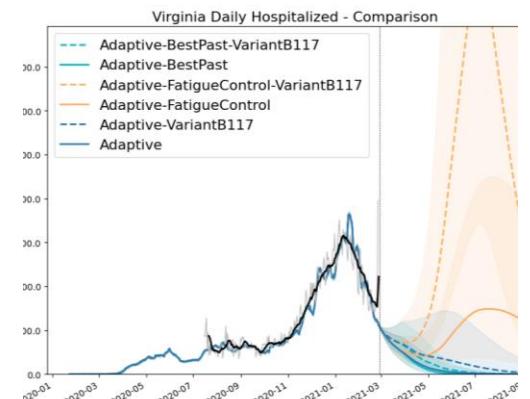
Virginia Daily Confirmed - Comparison



### Daily Deaths



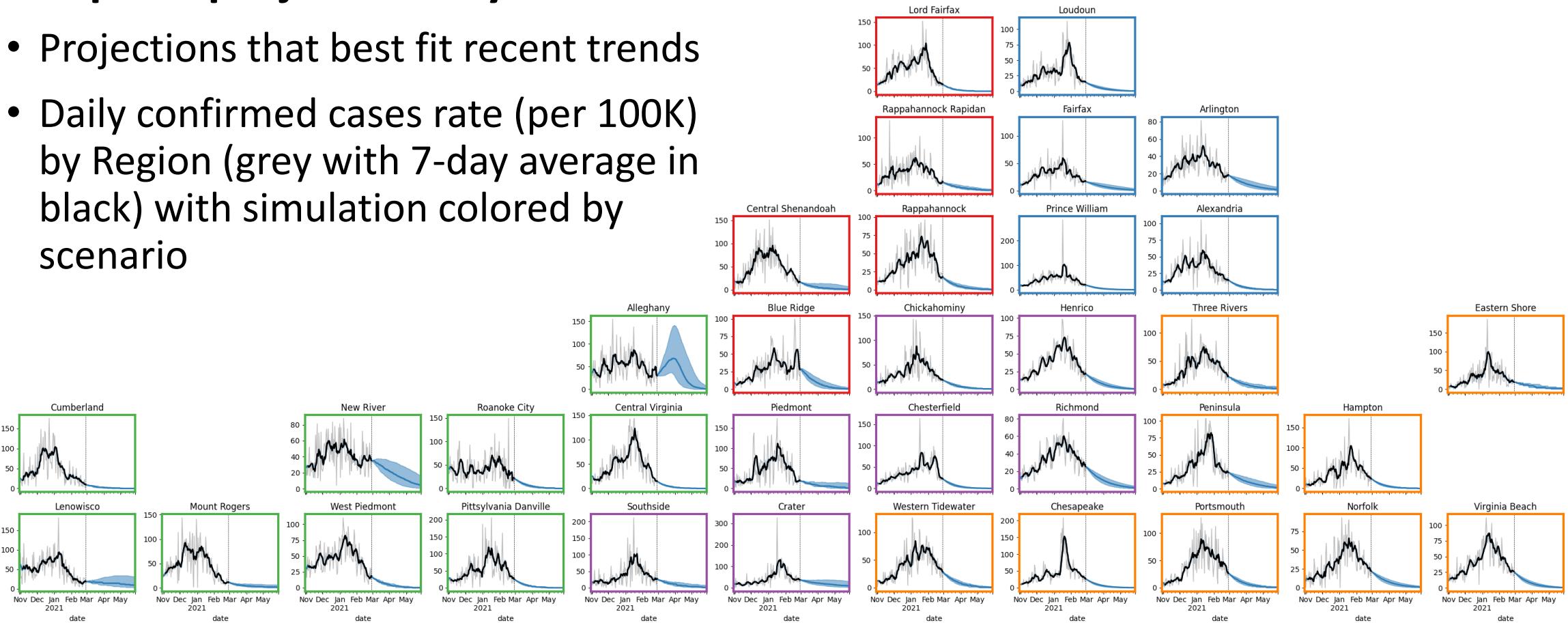
### Daily Hospitalized



# District Level Projections: Adaptive

## Adaptive projections by District

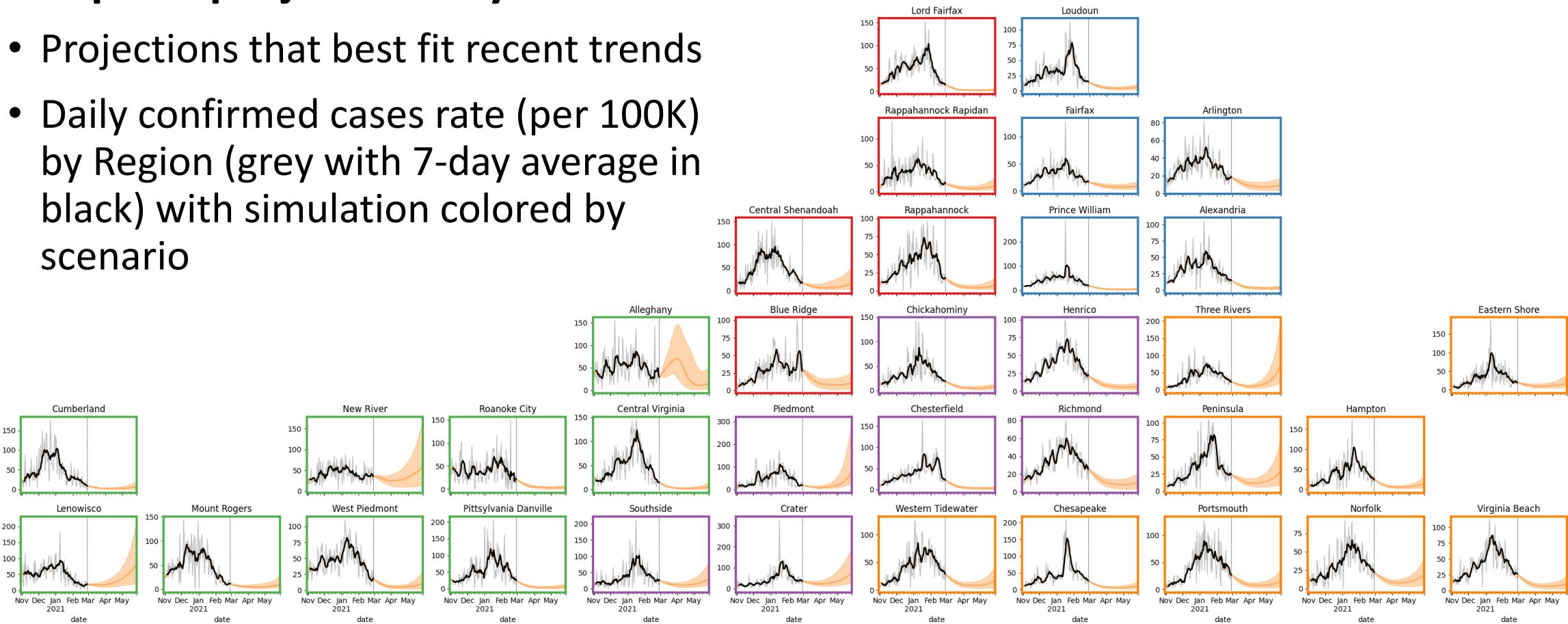
- Projections that best fit recent trends
- Daily confirmed cases rate (per 100K) by Region (grey with 7-day average in black) with simulation colored by scenario



# District Level Projections: Adaptive-FatigueControl

## Adaptive projections by District

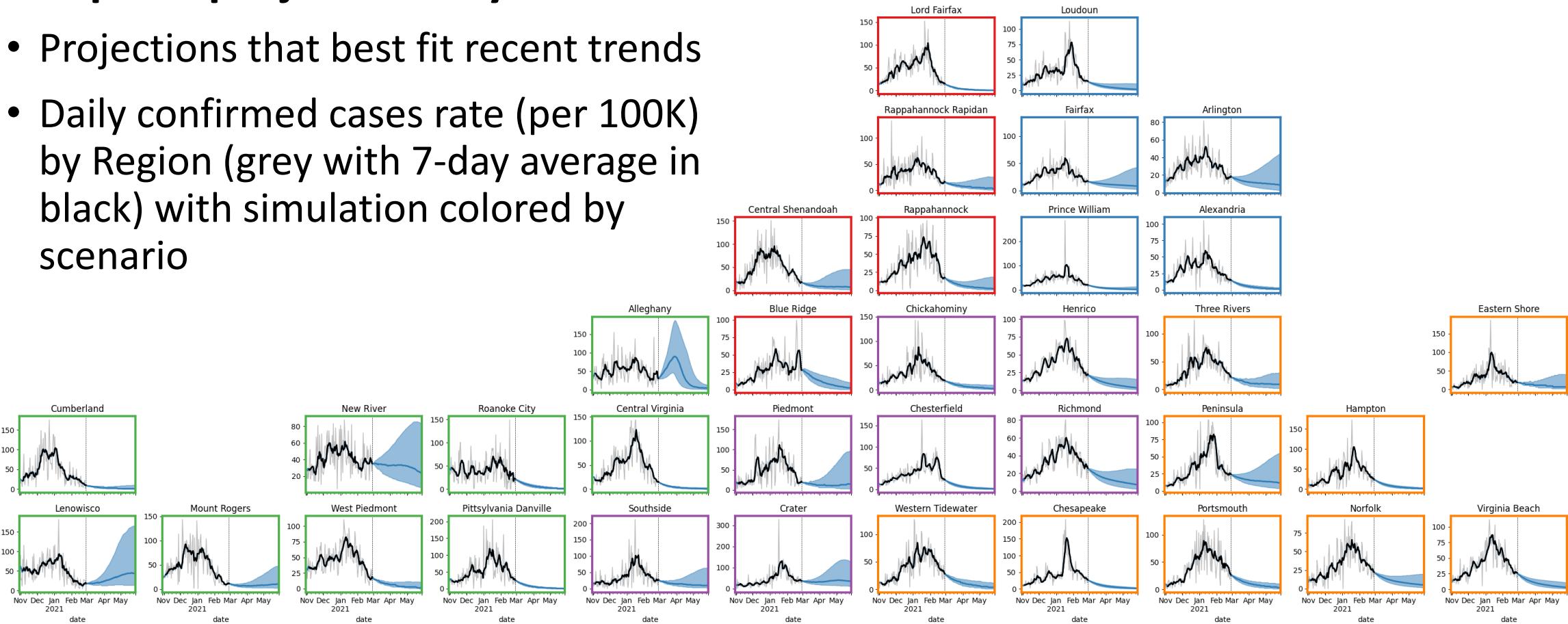
- Projections that best fit recent trends
- Daily confirmed cases rate (per 100K) by Region (grey with 7-day average in black) with simulation colored by scenario



# District Level Projections: Adaptive-VariantB117

## Adaptive projections by District

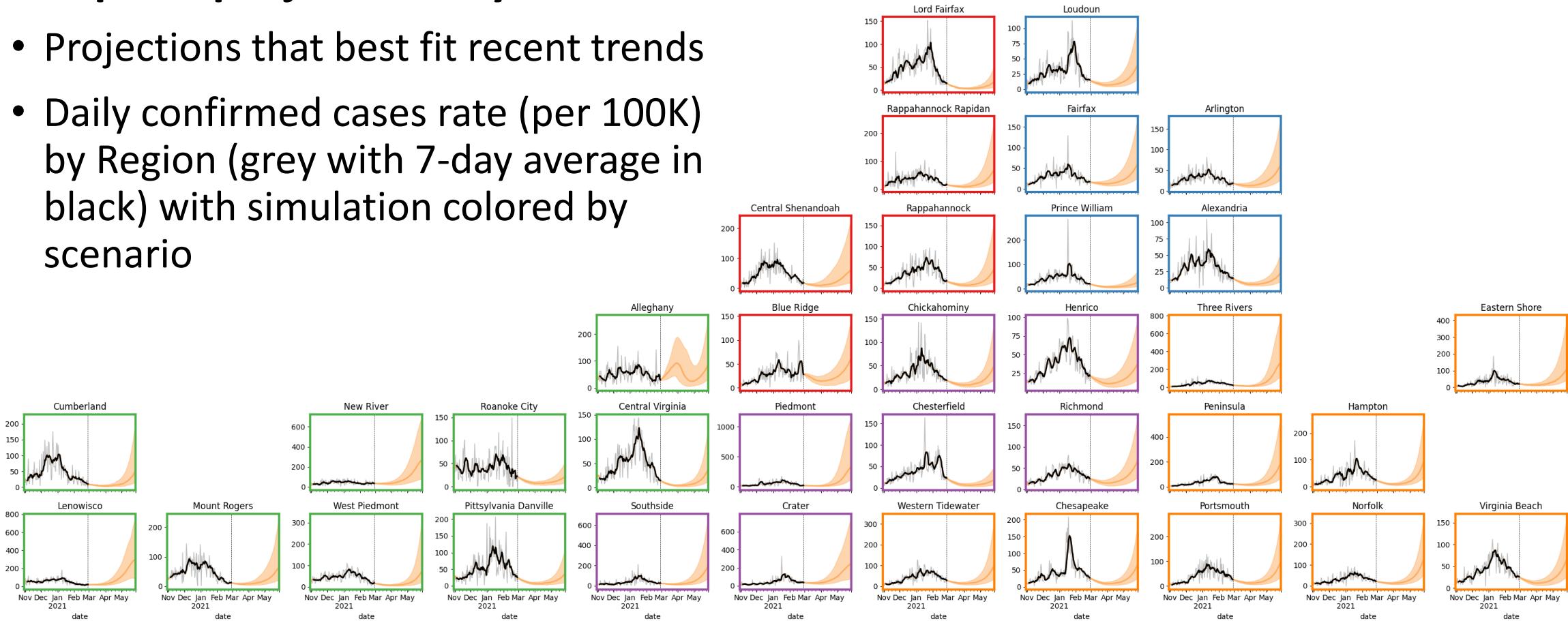
- Projections that best fit recent trends
- Daily confirmed cases rate (per 100K) by Region (grey with 7-day average in black) with simulation colored by scenario



# District Level Projections: Adaptive-FatigueControl-VariantB117

## Adaptive projections by District

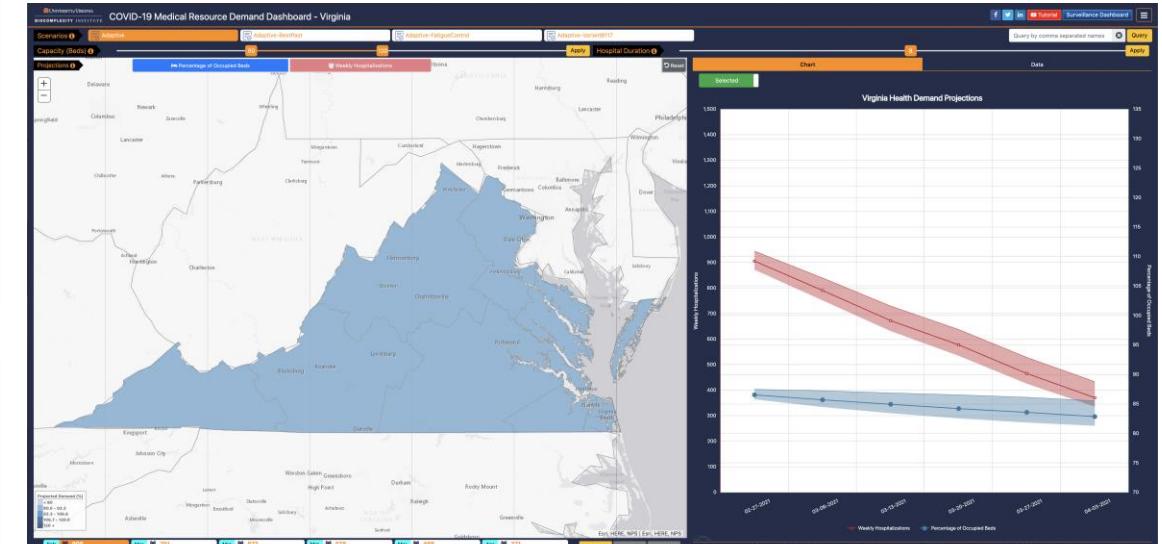
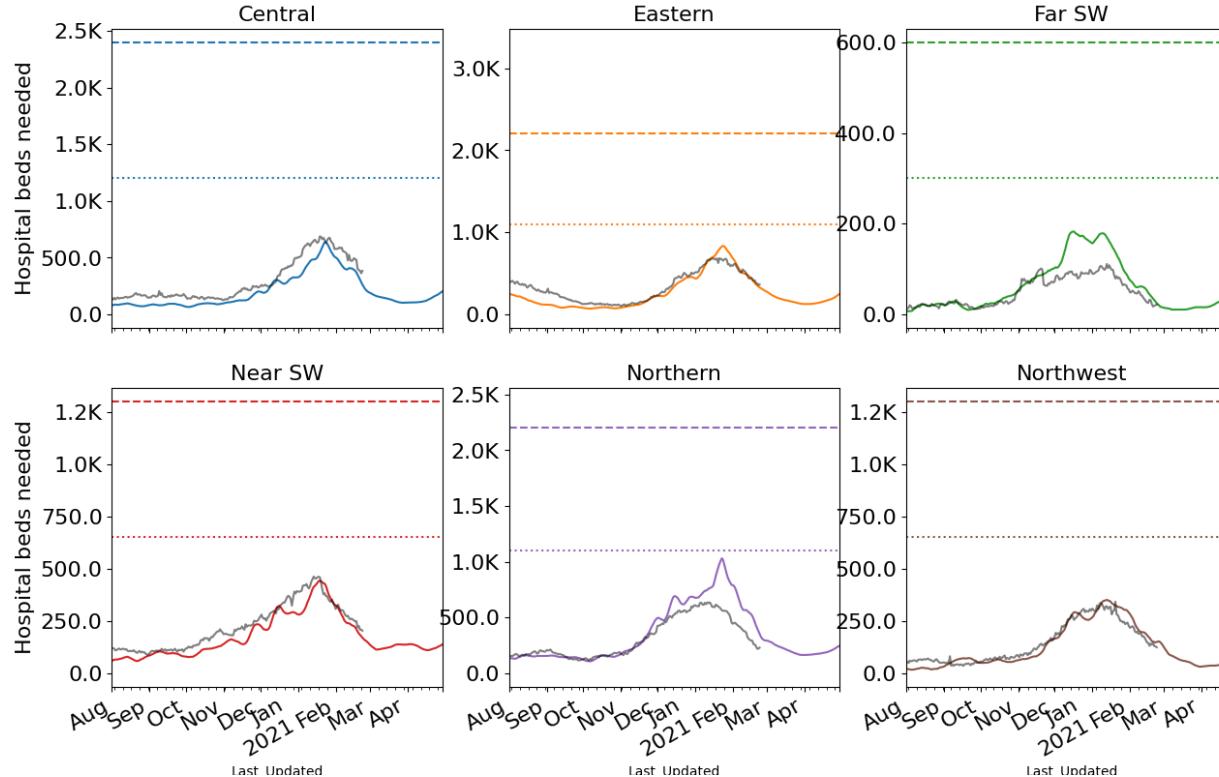
- Projections that best fit recent trends
- Daily confirmed cases rate (per 100K) by Region (grey with 7-day average in black) with simulation colored by scenario



# Hospital Demand and Bed Capacity by Region

## Capacities\* by Region – Adaptive-FatigueControl-VariantB117

COVID-19 capacity ranges from 80% (dots) to 120% (dash) of total beds



<https://nssac.bii.virginia.edu/covid-19/vmrddash/>

## If Adaptive-FatigueControl-Variant scenario:

- Surge bed capacity is unlikely to be reached in coming 4 months

\* Assumes average length of stay of 8 days  
3-Mar-21

# Weekly Cases and Hospitalizations

**Weekly confirmed cases**

| Week Ending | Adaptive | Adaptive-Fatigued Control | Adaptive-BestPast | Adaptive-VariantB117 | Adaptive-Fatigued Control -VariantB117 |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| 2/28/21     | 13,381   | 13,380                    | 13,380            | 13,380               | 13,380                                 |
| 3/7/21      | 10,897   | 10,898                    | 10,904            | 11,074               | 11,079                                 |
| 3/14/21     | 8,856    | 8,868                     | 8,878             | 9,642                | 9,642                                  |
| 3/21/21     | 7,256    | 7,278                     | 7,292             | 8,568                | 8,559                                  |
| 3/28/21     | 5,989    | 6,073                     | 5,990             | 7,779                | 7,870                                  |
| 4/4/21      | 4,935    | 5,433                     | 4,824             | 7,069                | 7,809                                  |
| 4/11/21     | 3,921    | 5,014                     | 3,669             | 6,300                | 8,073                                  |
| 4/18/21     | 3,052    | 4,680                     | 2,695             | 5,566                | 8,824                                  |
| 4/25/21     | 2,352    | 4,571                     | 1,906             | 5,050                | 10,496                                 |
| 5/2/21      | 1,783    | 4,683                     | 1,308             | 4,672                | 13,295                                 |
| 5/9/21      | 1,364    | 5,108                     | 902               | 4,400                | 17,720                                 |
| 5/16/21     | 1,078    | 5,856                     | 603               | 4,126                | 24,495                                 |

**Weekly Hospitalizations**

| Week Ending | Adaptive | Adaptive-Fatigued Control | Adaptive-BestPast | Adaptive-VariantB117 | Adaptive-Fatigued Control -VariantB117 |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| 2/28/21     | 919      | 919                       | 919               | 919                  | 919                                    |
| 3/7/21      | 719      | 719                       | 719               | 730                  | 730                                    |
| 3/14/21     | 597      | 599                       | 599               | 646                  | 646                                    |
| 3/21/21     | 471      | 472                       | 473               | 582                  | 582                                    |
| 3/28/21     | 373      | 377                       | 373               | 503                  | 508                                    |
| 4/4/21      | 314      | 340                       | 307               | 453                  | 510                                    |
| 4/11/21     | 244      | 314                       | 223               | 401                  | 526                                    |
| 4/18/21     | 161      | 290                       | 140               | 356                  | 583                                    |
| 4/25/21     | 125      | 282                       | 102               | 319                  | 717                                    |
| 5/2/21      | 93       | 293                       | 67                | 296                  | 950                                    |
| 5/9/21      | 77       | 323                       | 47                | 266                  | 1,254                                  |
| 5/16/21     | 54       | 369                       | 26                | 258                  | 1,734                                  |



# Key Takeaways

Projecting future cases precisely is impossible and unnecessary.

Even without perfect projections, we can confidently draw conclusions:

- **Case rate growth in Virginia continues to decline with a few hotspots emerging**
- VA mean weekly incidence down to 19/100K from 23/100K, US levels decline (to 18 from 19 per 100K)
- Significant progress made in last month, however 88% of VA counties above mean rate of Summer 2020
- Projections continue to be down across Commonwealth
- Recent updates:
  - Adjustment to death outcome modeling to correct for delays in reporting, higher resolution hospital data incorporated for hospital calibration
  - Ascertainment rate adjusted to better capture total infections to date
  - Further updates to vaccination schedules, with fitting now including partially vaccinated population and future vaccinations based on current levels instead of goals
- The situation is changing rapidly. Models continue to be updated regularly.



# References

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Arindam Fadikar, Dave Higdon, Jiangzhuo Chen, Bryan Lewis, Srinivasan Venkatramanan, and Madhav Marathe. Calibrating a stochastic, agent-based model using quantile-based emulation. *SIAM/ASA Journal on Uncertainty Quantification*, 6(4):1685–1706, 2018.

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Google. COVID-19 community mobility reports. <https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>

Biocomplexity page for data and other resources related to COVID-19: <https://covid19.biocomplexity.virginia.edu/>



# Questions?

## Points of Contact

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# Supplemental Slides



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# Date of Onset Reproductive Number

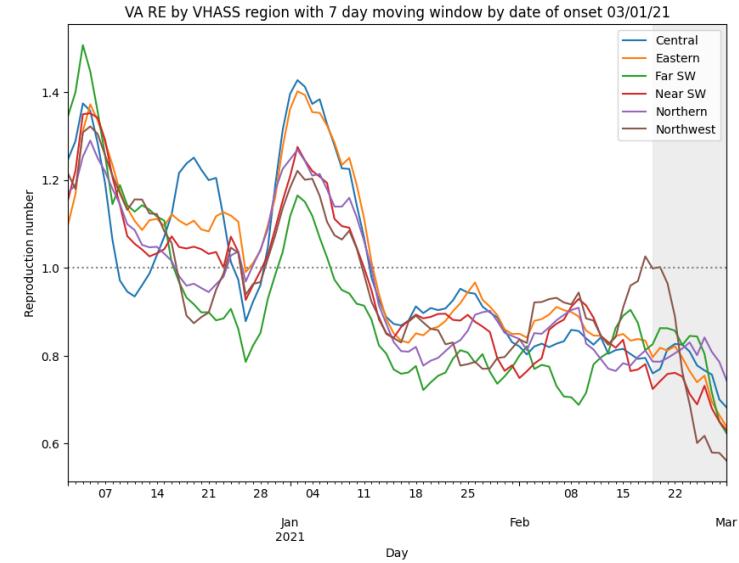
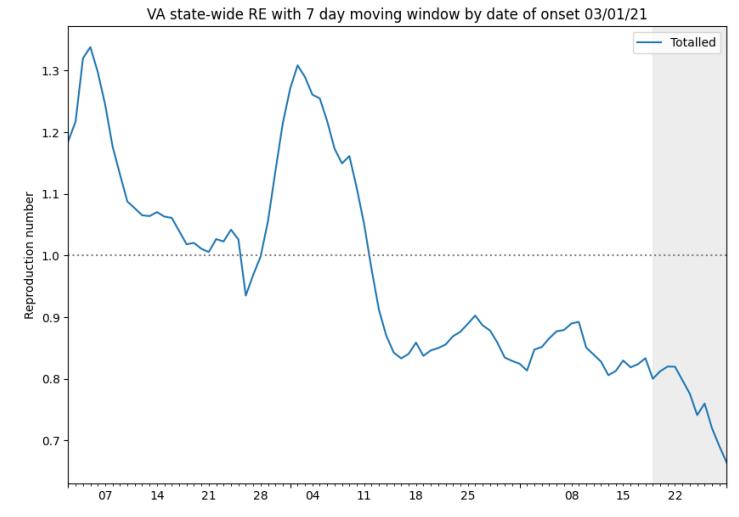
Feb 20<sup>th</sup> Estimates

| Region     | $R_e$ | Date of Onset | Date Onset Diff |
|------------|-------|---------------|-----------------|
|            |       | Last Week     |                 |
| State-wide | 0.812 |               | 0.011           |
| Central    | 0.770 |               | -0.058          |
| Eastern    | 0.818 |               | 0.003           |
| Far SW     | 0.863 |               | 0.125           |
| Near SW    | 0.742 |               | -0.057          |
| Northern   | 0.786 |               | 0.016           |
| Northwest  | 1.002 |               | 0.179           |

## Methodology

- Wallinga-Teunis method (EpiEstim<sup>1</sup>) for cases by date of onset
- Serial interval: 6 days (2 day std dev)
- Recent estimates may be unstable due to backfill

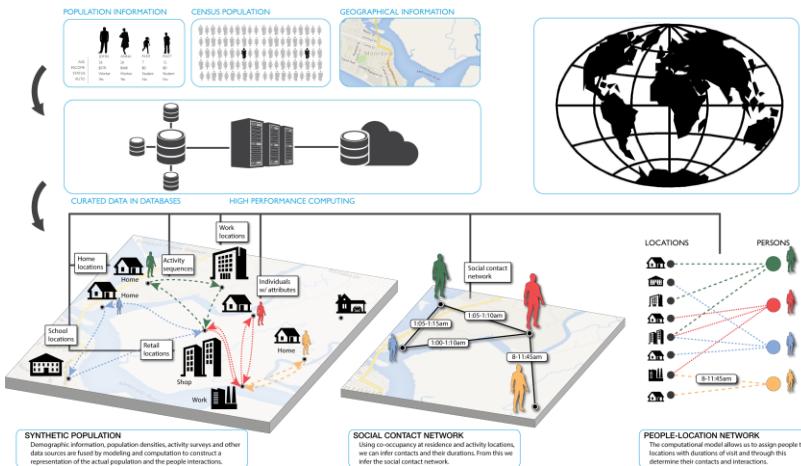
1. Anne Cori, Neil M. Ferguson, Christophe Fraser, Simon Cauchemez. A New Framework and Software to Estimate Time-Varying Reproduction Numbers During Epidemics. American Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 178, Issue 9, 1 November 2013, Pages 1505–1512,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwt133>



# Agent-based Model (ABM)

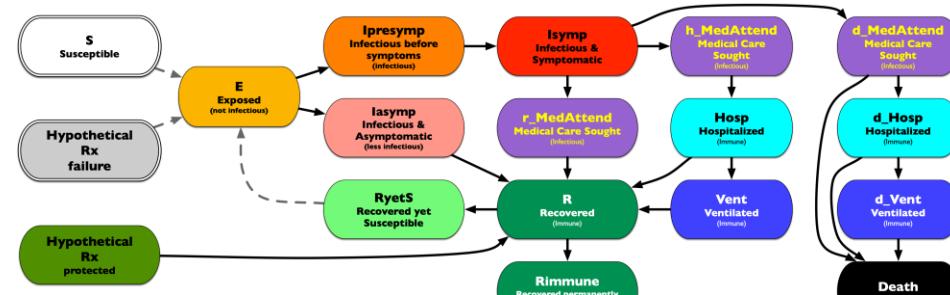
## EpiHiper: Distributed network-based stochastic disease transmission simulations

- Assess the impact on transmission under different conditions
- Assess the impacts of contact tracing



### Synthetic Population

- Census derived age and household structure
- Time-Use survey driven activities at appropriate locations



### Detailed Disease Course of COVID-19

- Literature based probabilities of outcomes with appropriate delays
- Varying levels of infectiousness
- Hypothetical treatments for future developments

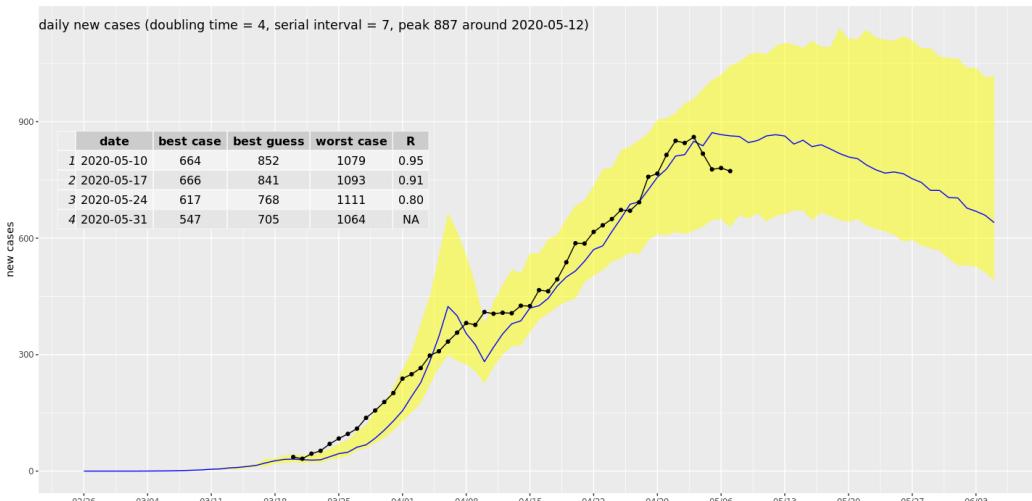


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# ABM Social Distancing Rebound Study Design

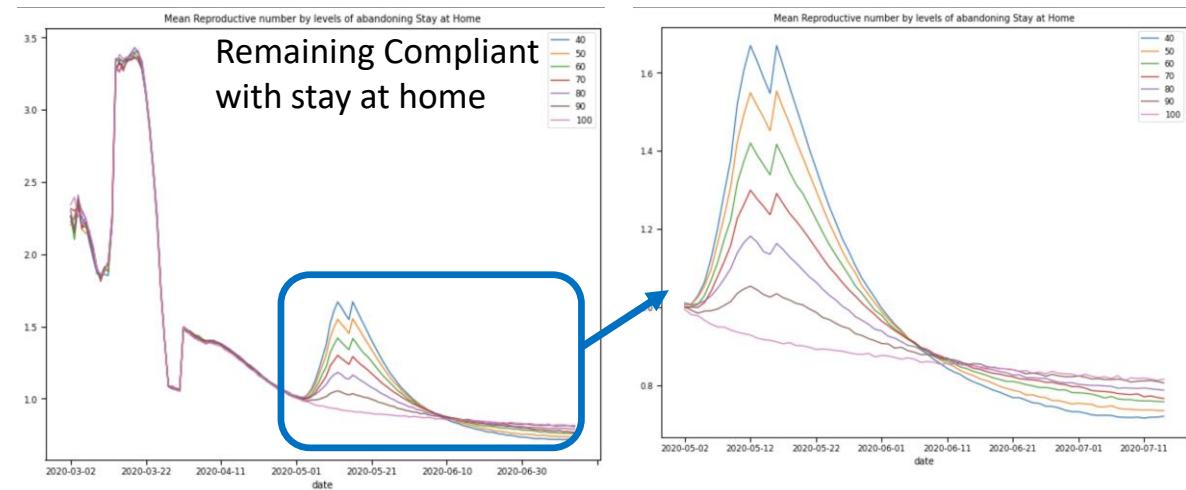
## Study of "Stay Home" policy adherence

- Calibration to current state in epidemic
- Implement “release” of different proportions of people from “staying at home”



### Calibration to Current State

- Adjust transmission and adherence to current policies to current observations
- For Virginia, with same seeding approach as PatchSim



### Impacts on Reproductive number with release

- After release, spike in transmission driven by additional interactions at work, retail, and other
- At 25% release (70-80% remain compliant)
- Translates to 15% increase in transmission, which represents a 1/6<sup>th</sup> return to pre-pandemic levels