

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

# Estimation of COVID-19 Impact in Virginia

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

(data current to July 28<sup>th</sup>)

Biocomplexity Institute Technical report: TR 2020-092



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

# Who We Are

- 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



## Points of Contact

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# Overview

- **Goal:** Understand impact of COVID-19 mitigations in Virginia
- **Approach:**
  - Calibrate explanatory mechanistic model to observed cases
  - Project infections through the end of summer
  - 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:

- **Some VDH health districts continue to experience high activity, though growth rates have slowed in most; fewer districts show signs of surge compared to last week.**
- Given the experience of other states in the nation, it is crucial to maintain control.
- Recent model updates:
  - Identifying and adjusting timing of Surge integrated with scenario selection for "Best Fit" projection
  - New "Adaptive Fitting" approach has preliminary results
  - Added and updated analyses to act as early indicators of surge and look for indicators of control
- Similar signs of slowed growth evident across nation, though incidence levels remain high, some states still exhibiting rapid growth.
- The situation is changing rapidly. Models will be updated regularly.



# Model Configuration and Data Analysis

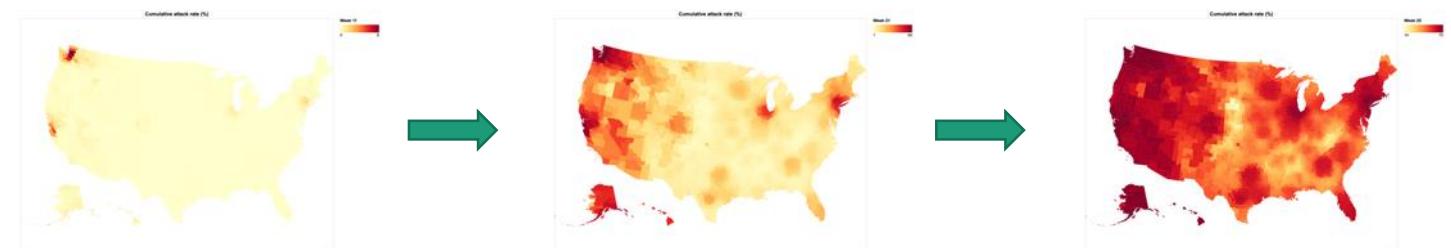
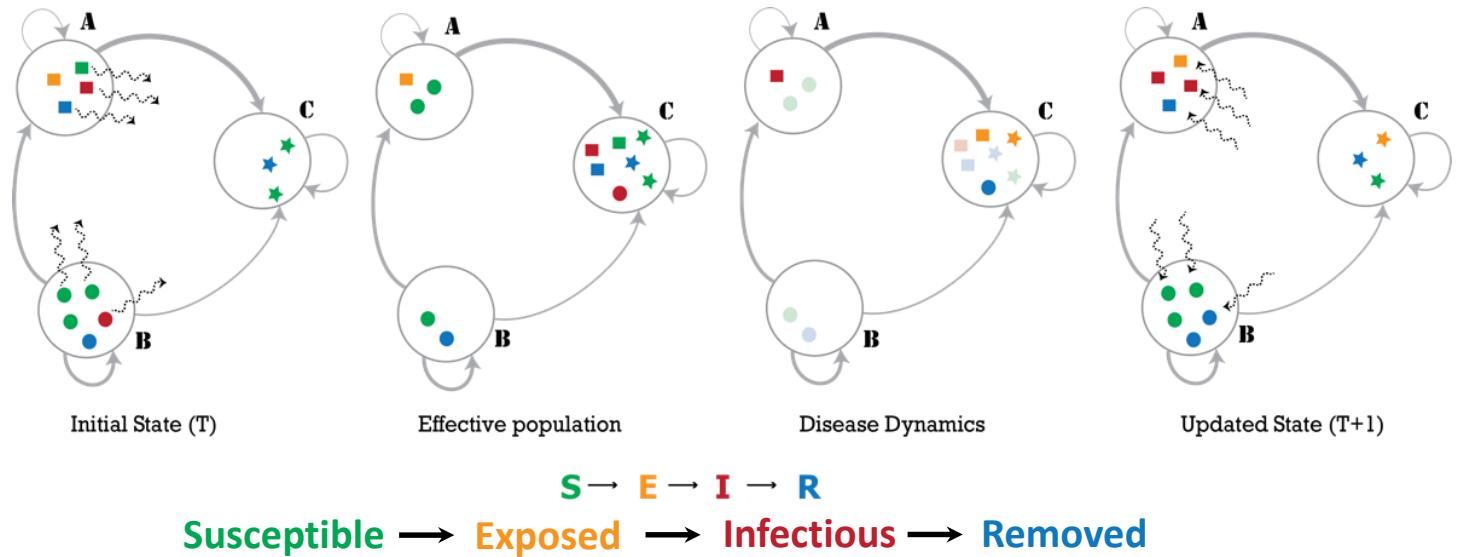
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# Simulation Engine – PatchSim

- Metapopulation model
  - Represents each population and its interactions as a single patch
  - 133 patches for Virginia counties and independent cities
- Extended SEIR disease representation
  - Includes asymptomatic infections and treatments
- Mitigations affect both disease dynamics and population interactions
- Runs fast on high-performance computers
  - Ideal for calibration and optimization



Venkatramanan, Srinivasan, et al. "Optimizing spatial allocation of seasonal influenza vaccine under temporal constraints." *PLoS Computational Biology* 15.9 (2019): e1007111.

# Model Configuration

- **Transmission:** Parameters are calibrated to the observed case counts
  - **Reproductive number:** 2.1 - 2.3
  - **Infectious period** (time of infectiousness before full isolation): 3.3 to 5 days
- **Initial infections:** Start infections from confirmed cases by county
  - Timing and location based on onset of illness from VDH data
  - Assume 15% detection rate, so one confirmed case becomes ~7 initial infections
- **Mitigations:** Intensity of social distancing rebound and control sustaining mitigations into the future are unknowable, thus explored through 5 scenarios

# Full Model Parameters

Parameter	Values	Description
Transmissibility ( $R_0$ ) <sup>1</sup>	2.2 [2.1 – 2.3]	Reproductive number
Transmission	Incubation period <sup>1</sup>	5 days
	Infectious period <sup>1</sup>	3.3 - 5 days
	Infection detection rate <sup>3</sup>	15%
	Percent asymptomatic <sup>1</sup>	50%
	Onset to hospitalization <sup>1</sup>	5 days
	Hospitalization to ventilation <sup>1</sup>	3 days
Resources	Duration hospitalized	8 days
	Duration ventilated <sup>2</sup>	14 days
	Percent hospitalized <sup>1</sup>	5.5% (~20% of confirmed)
	Percent in ICU <sup>1</sup>	20%
	Percent ventilated <sup>1</sup>	70%
	Percent Fatality	1.35%

1 CDC COVID-19 Modeling Team. "Best Guess" scenario. Planning Parameters for COVID-19 Outbreak Scenarios. Version: 2020-03-31.

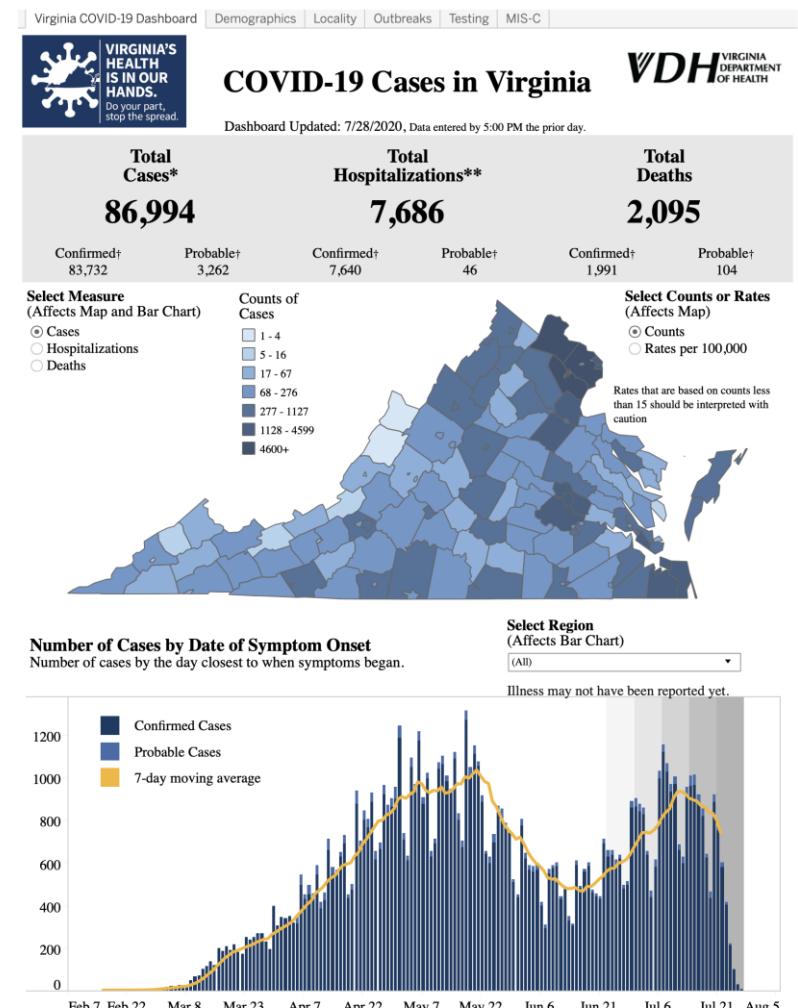
2 Up-to-date. COVID-19 Critical Care Issues. [https://www.uptodate.com/contents/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-critical-care-issues?source=related\\_link](https://www.uptodate.com/contents/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-critical-care-issues?source=related_link) (Accessed 13APRIL2020)

3 Li et al., *Science* 16 Mar 2020:eabb3221 <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/03/24/science.abb3221> (Accessed 13APRIL2020)

4 Personal communications, UVA Health and Sentara (~500 VA based COVID patients)

# Calibration Approach

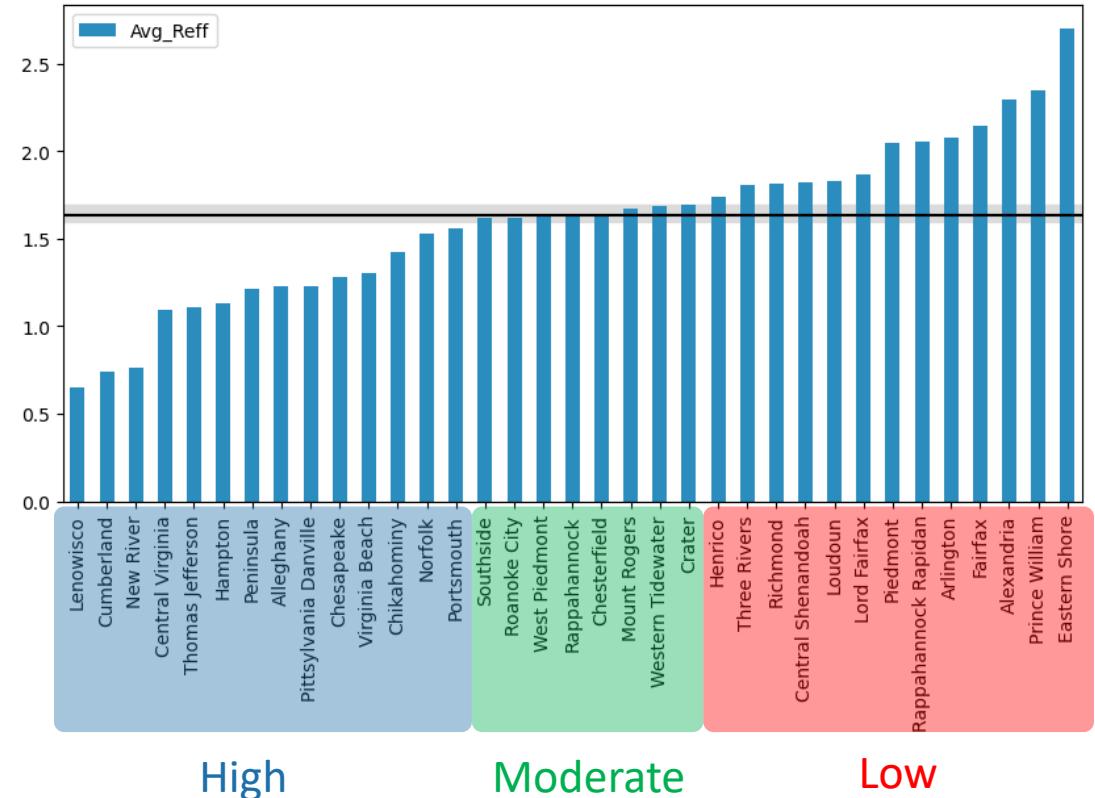
- **Data:**
  - County level case counts by date of onset (from VDH)
  - Confirmed cases for model fitting
- **Model:** PatchSim initialized with disease parameter ranges from literature
- **Calibration:** fit model to observed data
  - Search transmissibility and duration of infectiousness
  - Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) particle filtering finds best fits while capturing uncertainty in parameter estimates
- **Spatial Adjustments:** VDH districts grouped to 3 tiers of growth during the Pause, with similarly scaled reductions then applied to the groups of districts
- **Project:** future cases and outcomes using the trained particles



# Spatial Adjustments at District Level

## District Specific adjustments based on Growth during Pause

- Group districts by their mean growth from mid-April to mid-May (using model based  $R_{\text{eff}}$ )
- Assign reductions during Pause, and beyond, to members of these groups
- **Low** reduction = 40%
- **Moderate** reduction = 45% (previous level)
- **High** reduction = 55%



# Scenarios: Control

**Pause from Social Distancing:** Began on March 15<sup>th</sup>

- Lifted on May 15<sup>th</sup> (61 days), with two-week delay (75 days) for select counties\*
- **Intensity:** Social distancing pauses and significantly reduces case growth, this level varies by VDH Health District and is fit through an analysis of growth rate during the Pause

**Intensity of Rebound:** Some districts rebounded following initial relaxation of Pause

- **Steady:** Intensity of effective mixing remains steady from Pause as infection control practices moderate increased interactions
- **Light:** Effective mixing returns to 1/6<sup>th</sup> of pre-pandemic levels
- **Full Rebound:** Interactions return completely (100%) to pre-pandemic levels, as a reference

**Tracing and Isolation:** Increased Testing Capacity coupled with infection control measures can limit the period of infectiousness without isolation

- **Better Detection:** Observed relative reductions in days from onset to diagnosis applied to infectious period from (30% → 45% → 30%) and remain stable into future for projections

\* Select counties as mentioned by recent releases from Governor Northam's office  
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/may/headline-856741-en.html>  
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/may/headline-856796-en.html>

# Mitigation Scenarios: Surge

**Resurgence:** Much of the nation experiencing a resurgence

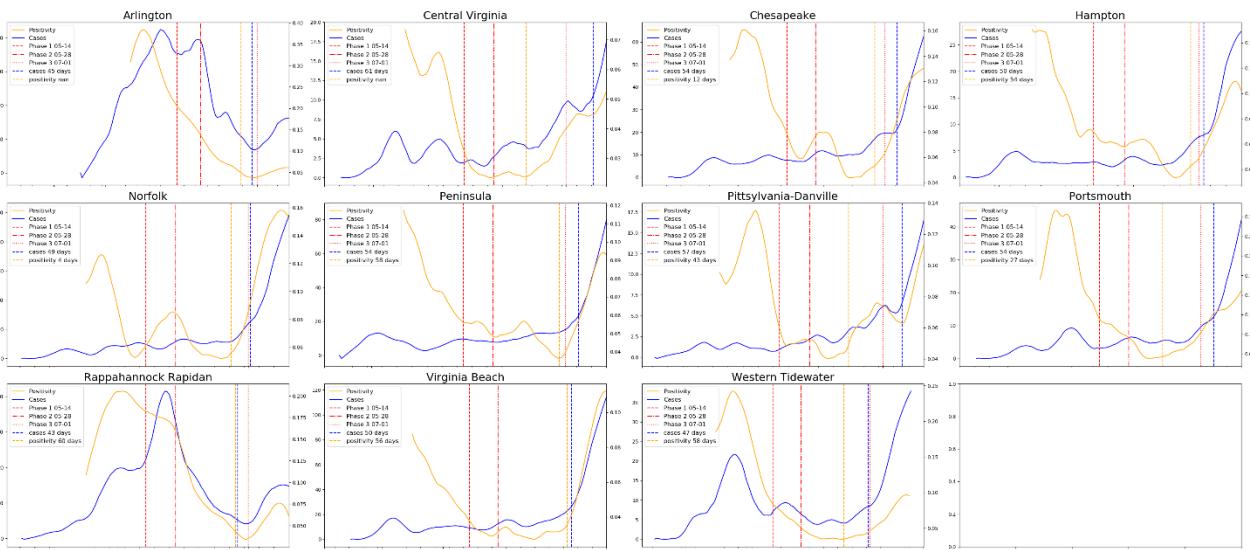
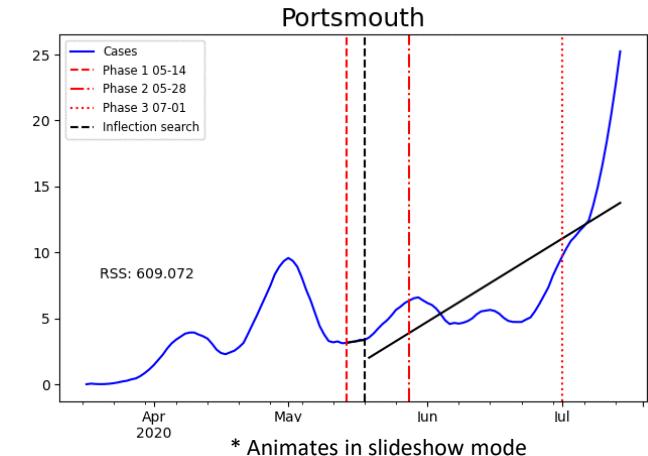
- Many districts in the Commonwealth also showing a resurgence
- 23 states surging: 28-day delay (avg) from relaxation to surge

**Intensity of Surge:** Difficult to predict with limited data

- **Strong Rebound:** Effective mixing returns 1/3 back to pre-pandemic levels

**Timing of Surge:** Past and Present

- Determine surging districts and timing through “hockey stick” fit
- Allow “Best Fit” method to select from “Surge” scenarios
- Default to July 29<sup>th</sup>, (28 days from July 1<sup>st</sup>) for districts not identified



Eleven districts: Compared to 12 last week

In: Central Virginia added

Out: Thomas Jefferson and Three Rivers

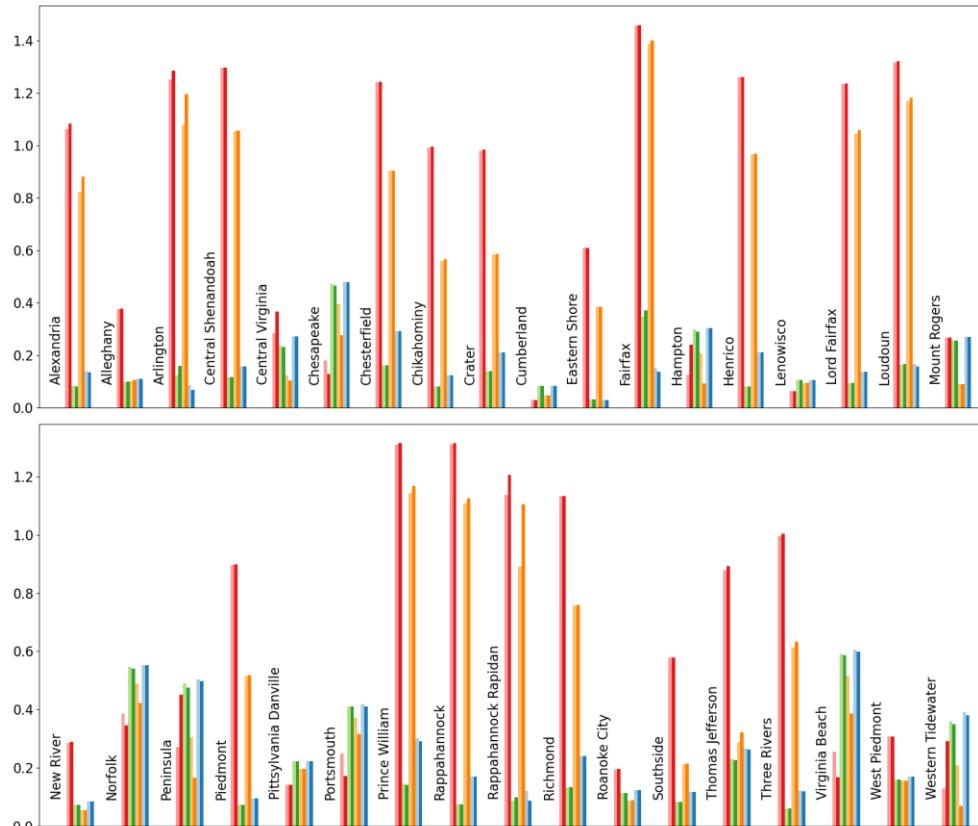
# Eight Scenarios for Projection

Abbr	Rebound Intensity	Better Detection	Surge	Name
LR	Light	No	No	LightRebound
LR-S	Light	No	Yes	LightRebound-Surge
LR-BD	Light	Yes	No	LightRebound-BetterDetection
LR-BD-S	Light	Yes	Yes	LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge
S	Steady	No	No	Steady
S-S	Steady	No	Yes	Steady-Surge
S-BD	Steady	Yes	No	Steady-BetterDetection
S-BD-S	Steady	Yes	Yes	Steady-BetterDetection-Surge

# Selection of Best Fitting Projection

Recent incidence by district (last week) is measured against all eight projections, one with least error is selected as the “Best Fit” projection

Legend:  
LightRebound (pink)  
LightRebound-Surge (red)  
LightRebound-BetterDetection (light green)  
LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge (green)  
Steady (orange)  
Steady-Surge (dark orange)  
Steady-BetterDetection (light blue)  
Steady-BetterDetection-Surge (blue)



Abbr	Name	# of Districts (last wk)
LR	LightRebound	3 (3)
LR-S	LightRebound-Surge	4 (4)
LR-BD	LightRebound-BetterDetection	15 (10)
LR-BD-S	LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge	1 (6)
S	Steady	4 (2)
S-S	Steady-Surge	4 (7)
S-BD	Steady-BetterDetection	1 (1)
S-BD-S	Steady-BetterDetection-Surge	3 (2)

- 12 districts have Surge projections as BestFit compared to 19 last week
- Mixed movement some towards “higher incidence” projections and some towards “lower incidence”

# Data Analysis Supporting Model

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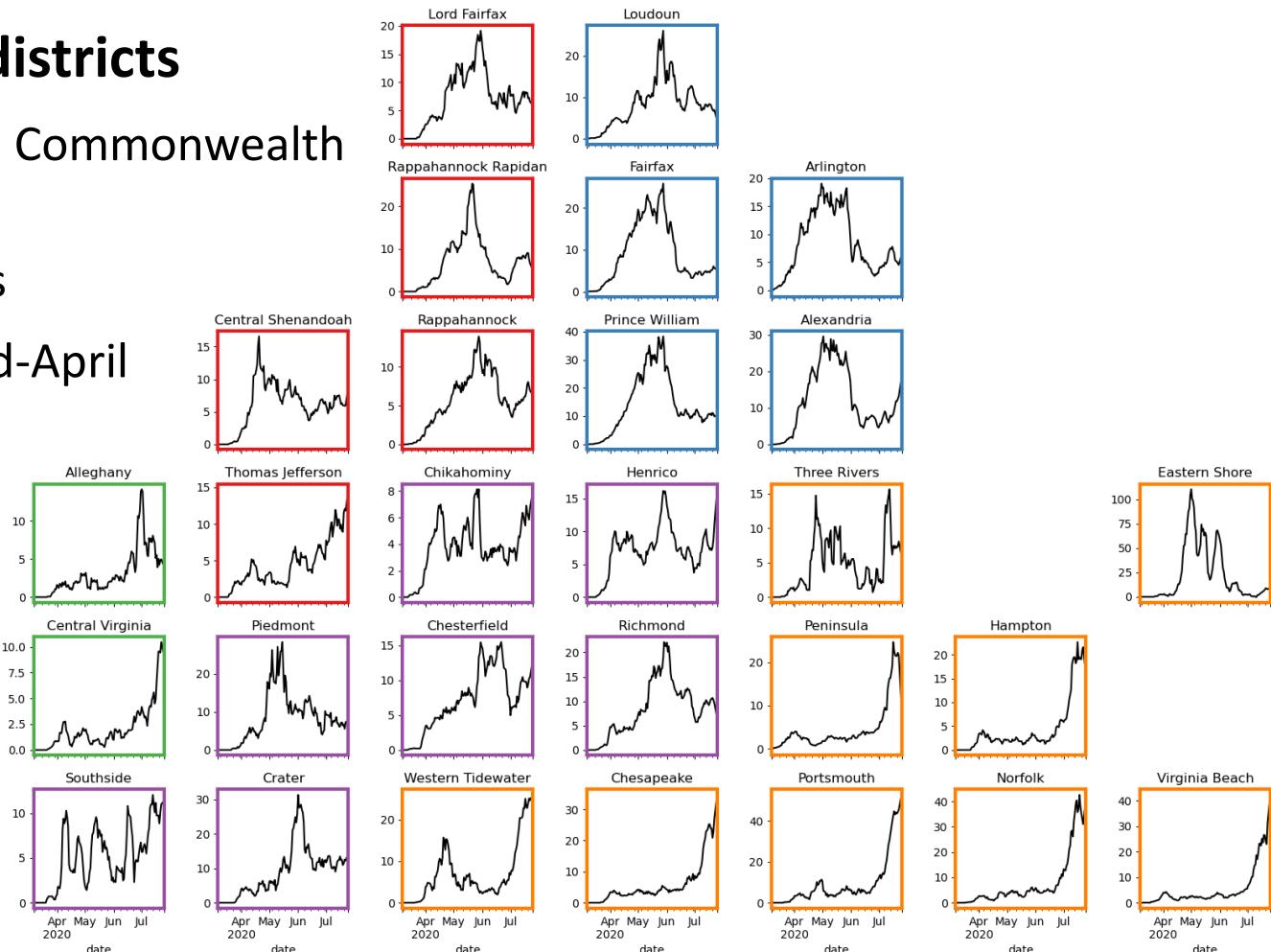


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# Case Rate (per 100k) by VDH District

## Sharp increases in some health districts

- Regions arranged to rough position in Commonwealth and colored by VDH Health Region
- Considerable variation across districts
- Some consistent behaviors during mid-April to mid-May during the Pause period
- Smoothed (Savitzky-Golay filter)



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# Estimating Effects of Social Distancing

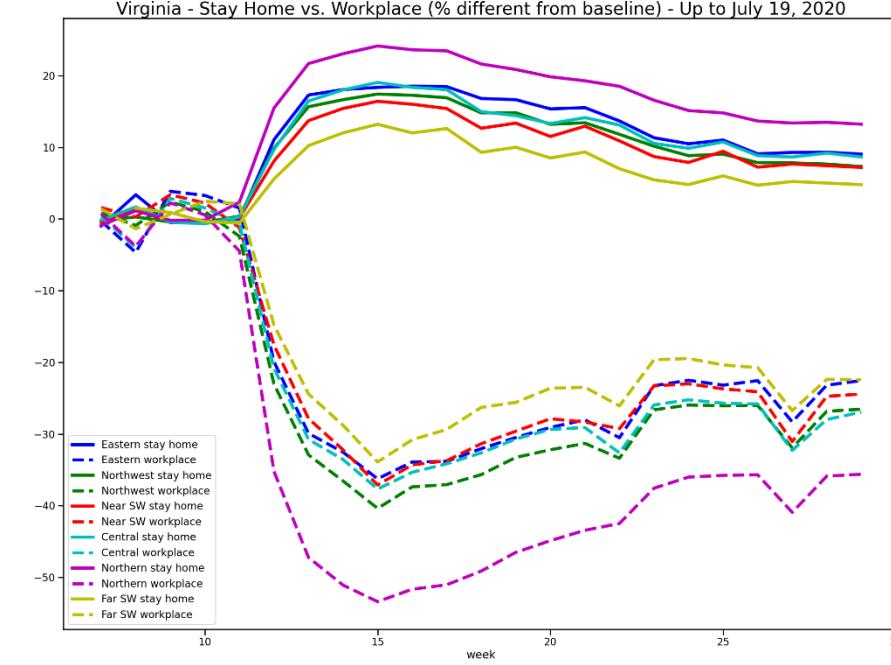
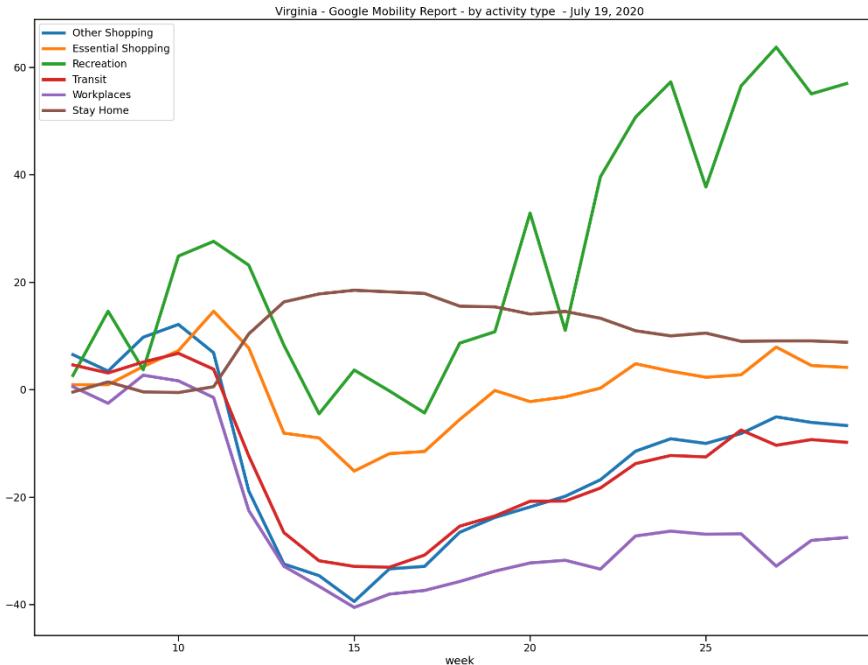
**Mobility data shows pause mid-March, slow rebound starting in May**

**Google Mobility data shows continued slow rebound**

(as of July 19<sup>th</sup>)

<https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>

- Continued reduction of those staying at home, very slow and stable reductions
- Other activities show vaster increases with grocery / retail nearly back to baseline
- Parks and recreation show significant increase



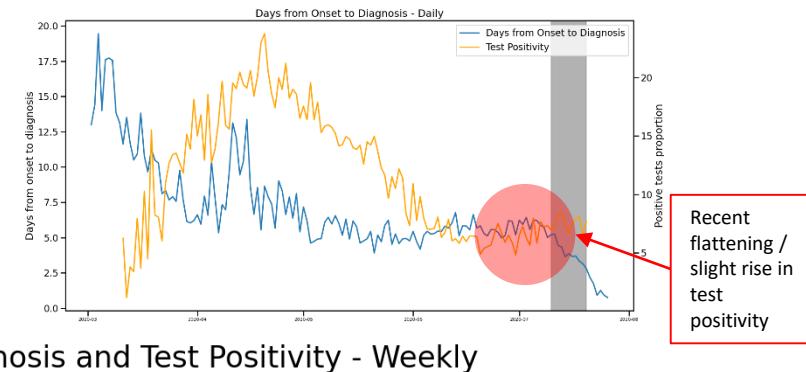
# Changes in Case Detection

## VDH data show changes in time from Symptom Onset to Diagnosis

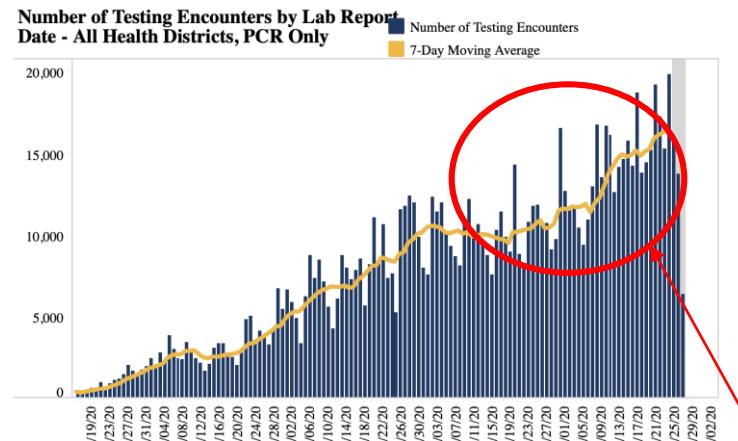
Days to Diagnosis dropped but rebounding

- Mid March to Late April = 8.0 days
- Late April to Mid May = 5.9 days (26% lower)
- Mid May to early June = 5.0 days (38% lower)
- Early June to mid July = 5.7 days (29% lower)

Test positivity vs. Onset to Diagnosis

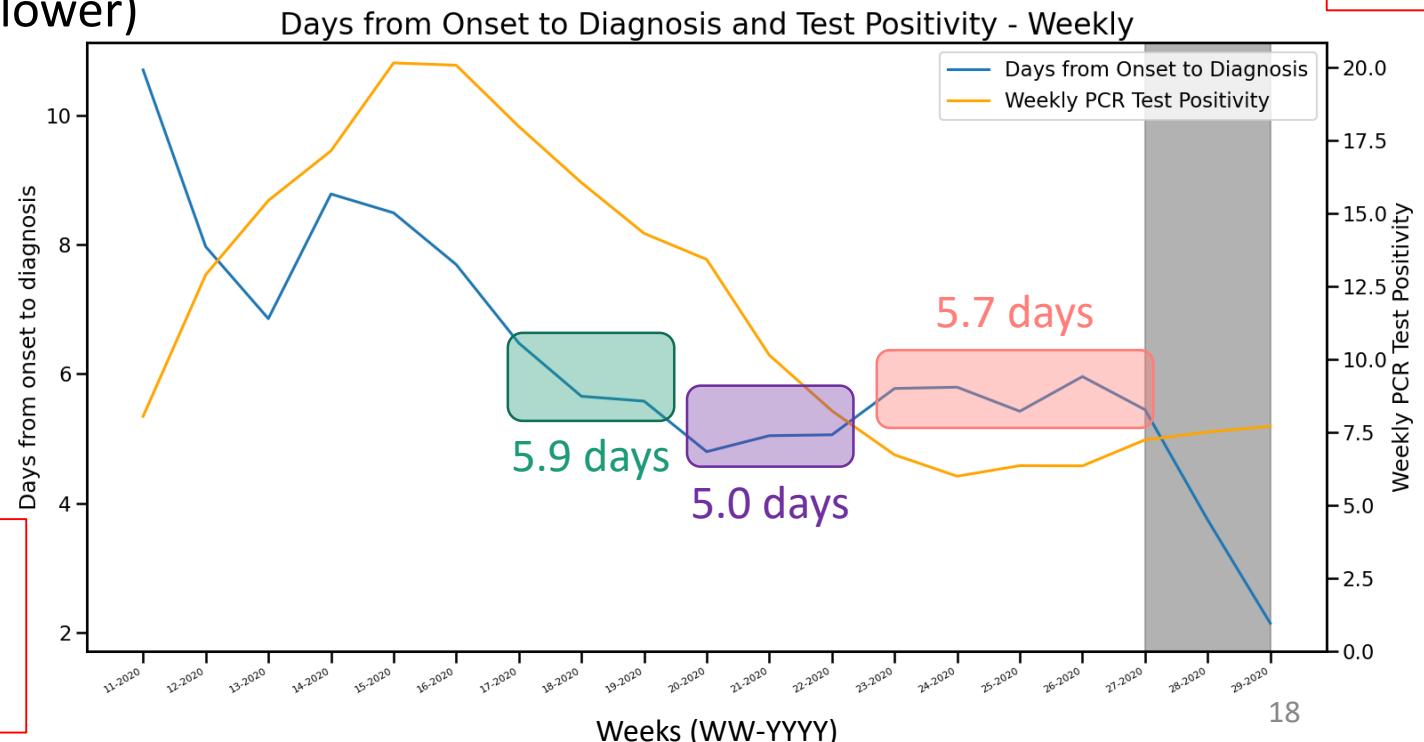


Testing Encounters and test positivity have steadied and increased



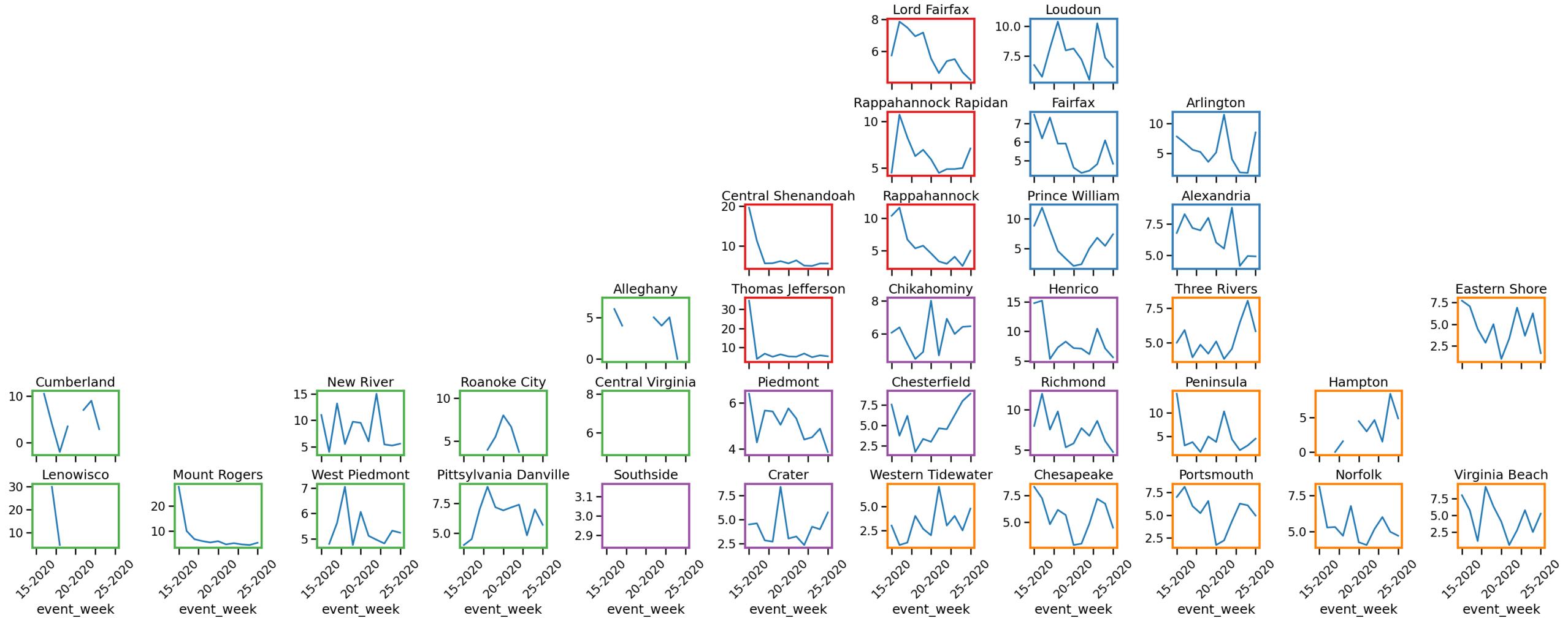
29-Jul-20

Accessed 8am July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>



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# Changes in Case Detection\* – by district

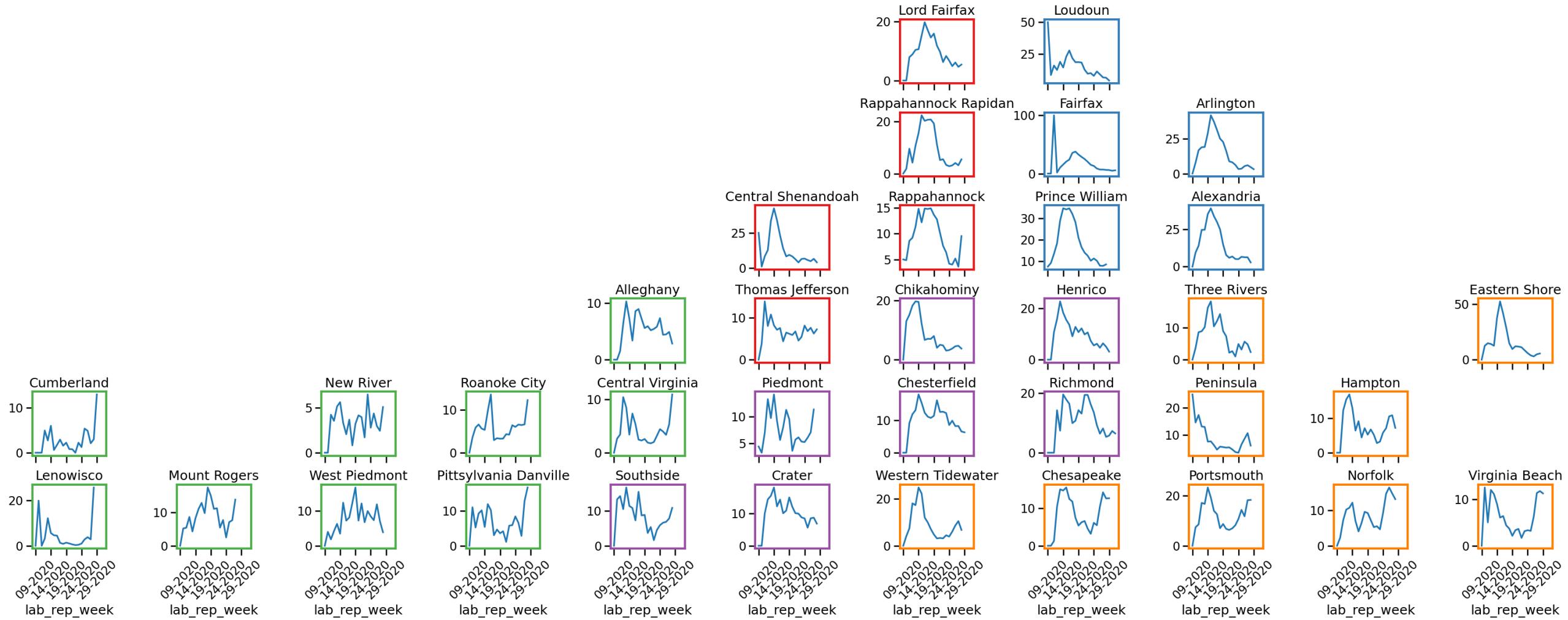


\*up to the early July when data is stable



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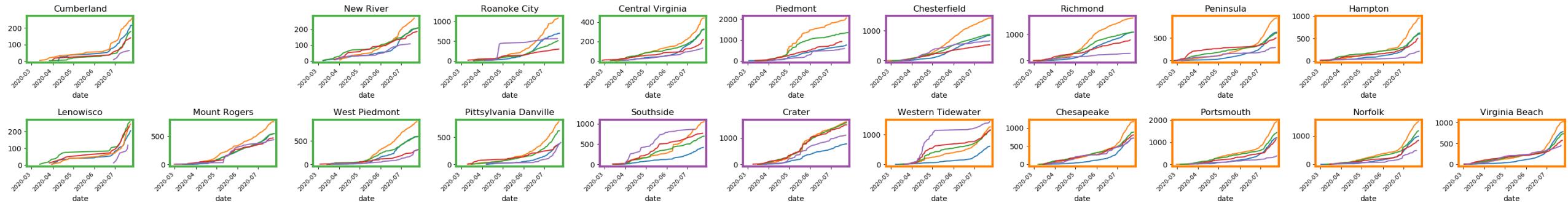
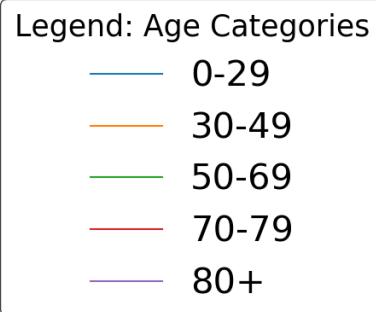
# Changes in Test Positivity – by district



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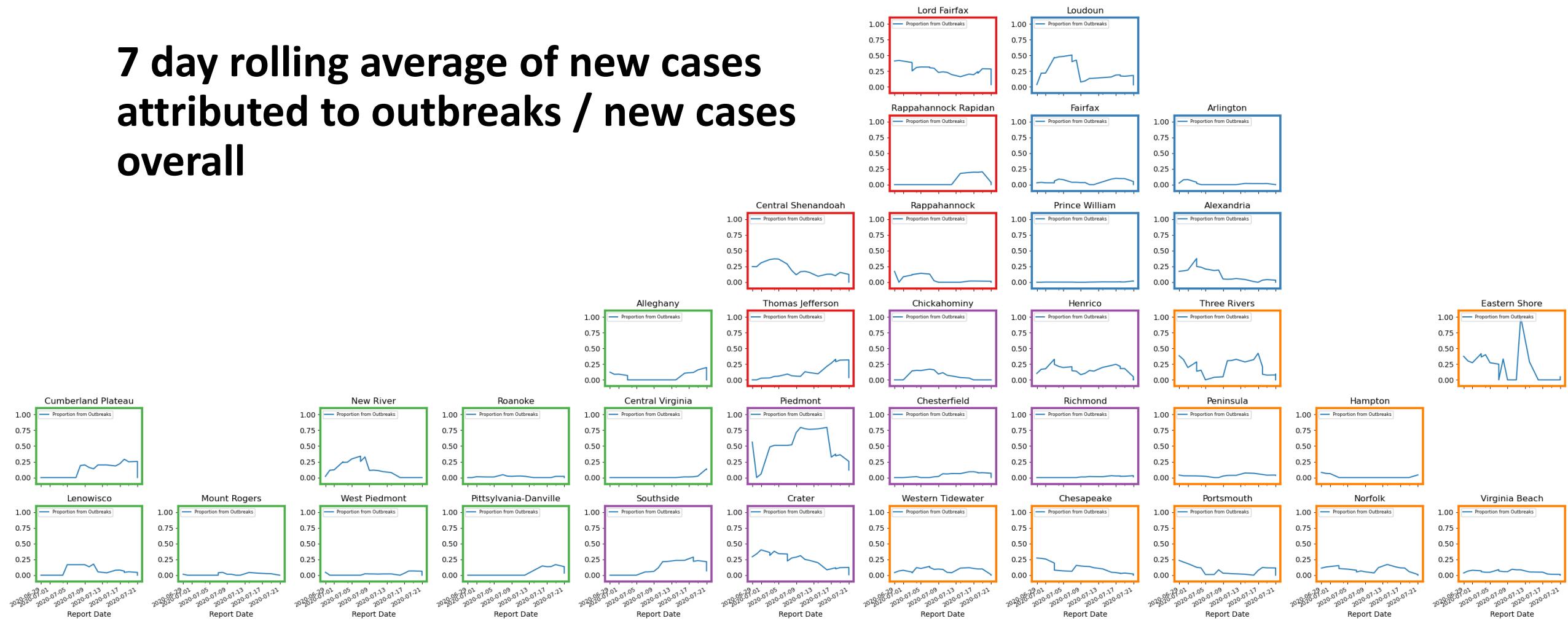
# Case Attack rate (per 100k) by Age-group and District

**VDH data show changes in age attack rates in some surging districts**



# Proportion of Cases related to Outbreaks – by district

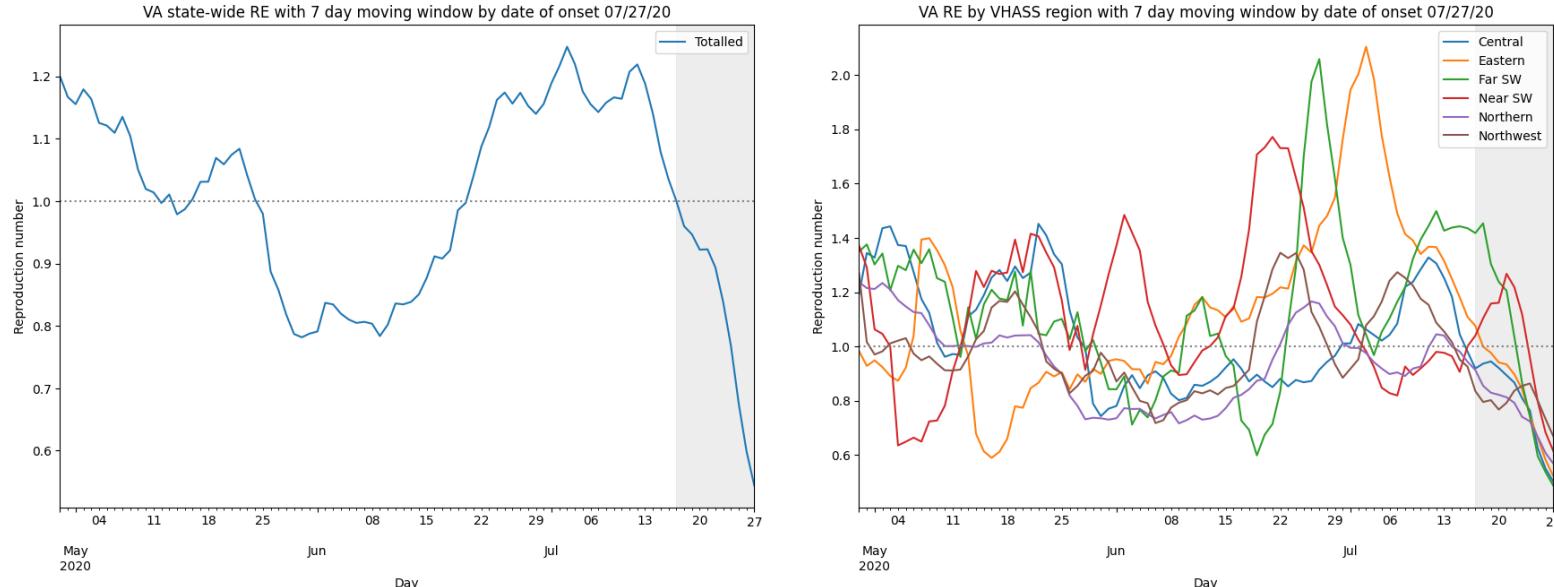
**7 day rolling average of new cases attributed to outbreaks / new cases overall**



# Estimating Daily Reproductive Number

July 18<sup>th</sup> Estimates

Region	Current $R_e$	Diff Last Week
State-wide	0.960	-0.133
Central	0.937	-0.216
Eastern	0.999	-0.274
Far SW	1.454	0.129
Near SW	1.104	0.230
Northern	0.855	0.003
Northwest	0.795	-0.279



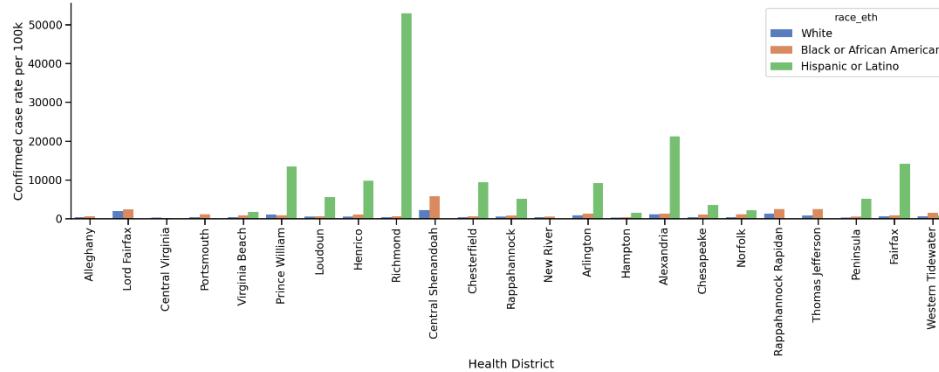
## Methodology

- Wallinga-Teunis method as implemented in EpiEstim<sup>1</sup> R package
  - Based on Date of Onset of Symptoms
  - Uses serial interval to estimate  $R_e$  over time: 6 days (2 day std dev)
- Recent Estimates subject to revision as more data comes in**
- Date of onset unstable in last 7-14 days

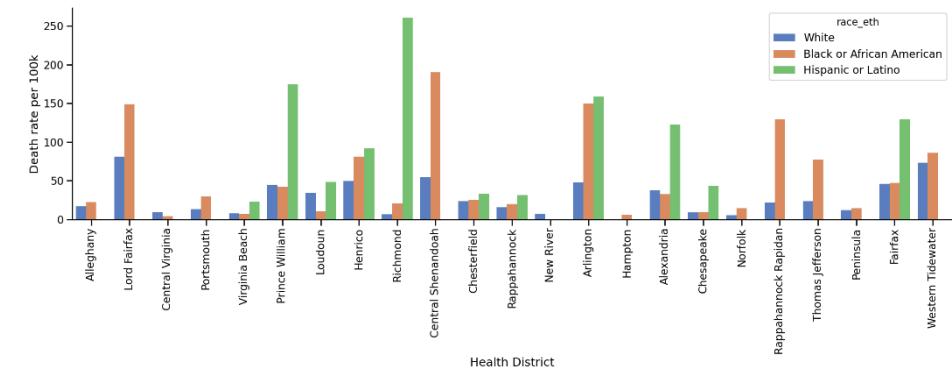
1. Anne Cori, Neil M. Ferguson, Christophe Fraser, Simon Cauchemez. A New Framework and Software to Estimate Time-Varying Reproduction Numbers During Epidemics. American Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 178, Issue 9, 1 November 2013, Pages 1505–1512, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwt133>

# Impact of Race / Ethnicity & Outbreaks

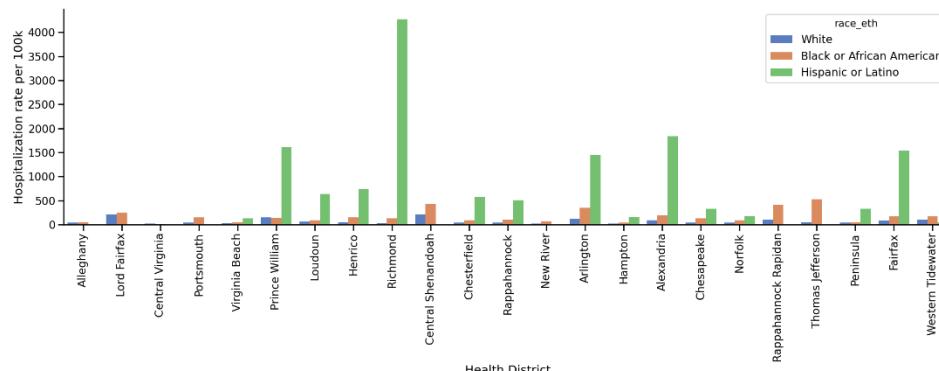
**Confirmed Case Rate**



**Death Rate**



**Hospitalization Rate**



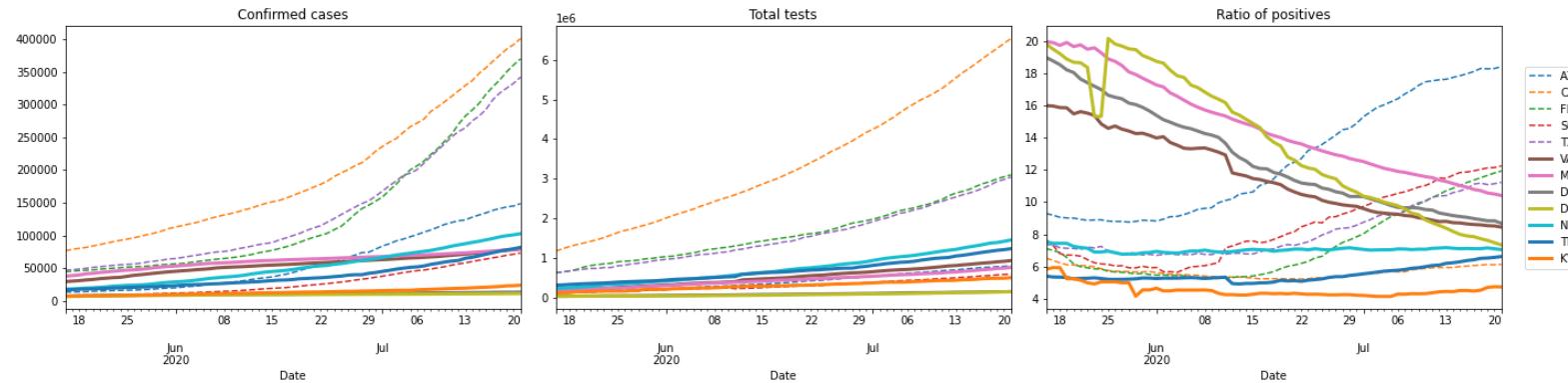
## Different Races and Ethnicities disproportionately affected

- Hispanic population bears large burden of disease compared to population size

## Outbreak Events are hard to predict and affect model fits

- Eastern Shore has 60% of cases from 10 outbreaks
- Fairfax most outbreaks but relatively low proportion

# Other State Comparisons



## Several Surging states show signs of slowing

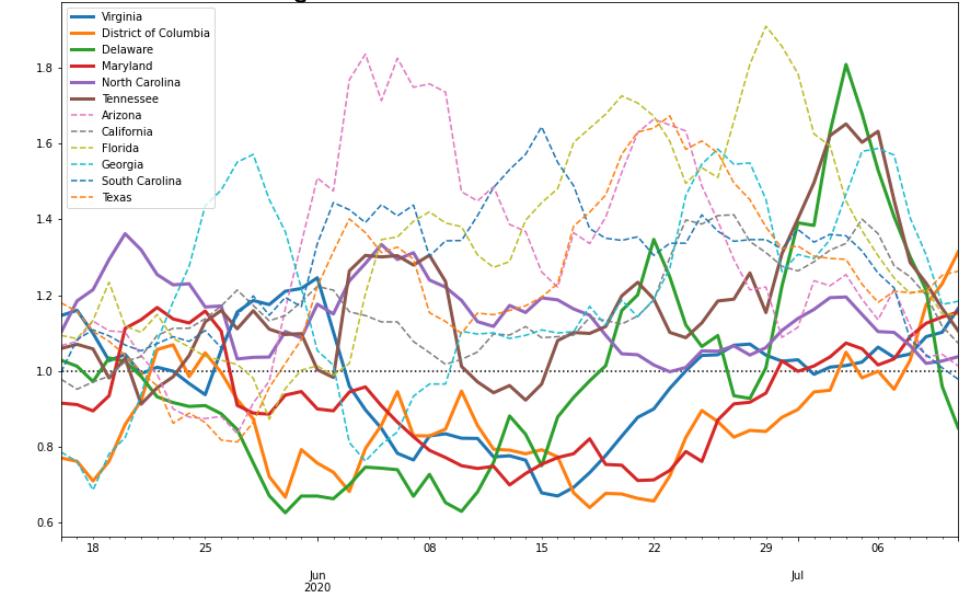
- Many of the states that have been surging for weeks have experienced a plateau or reduction in daily incidence in the past week

## R<sub>e</sub> Estimates for VA and neighbors mainly stable or down

- Virginia and others still above 1
- Only DC shows sharp rise, others stable or declining

**Signs of resurgence:** Plateauing or increase in test positivity and R above 1 for several weeks

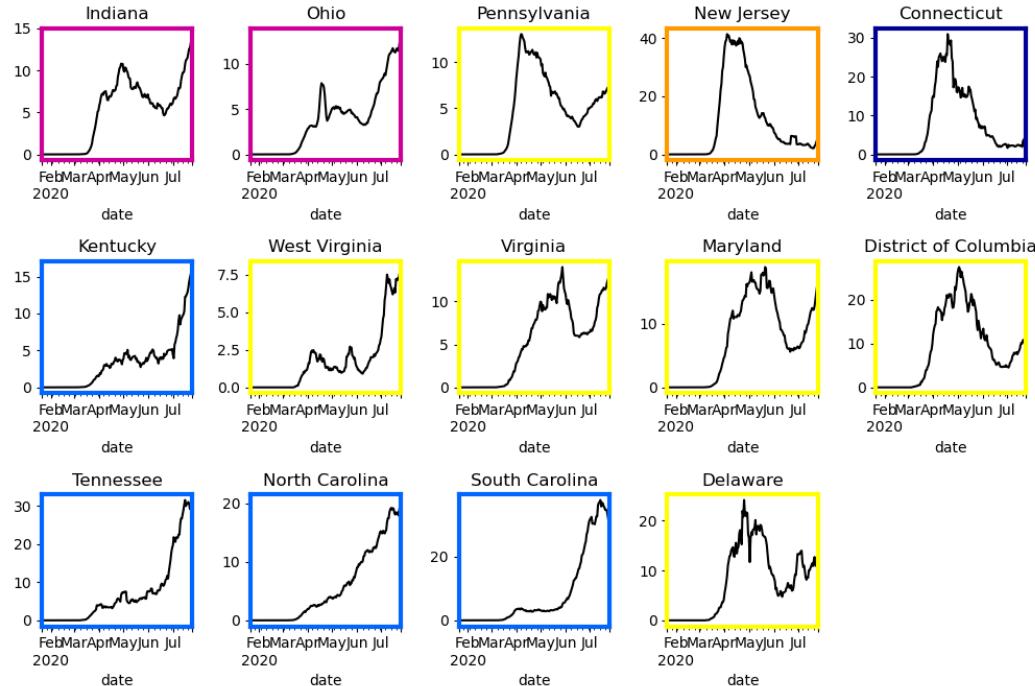
## Estimated R<sub>e</sub>\* for surging States and Neighbors



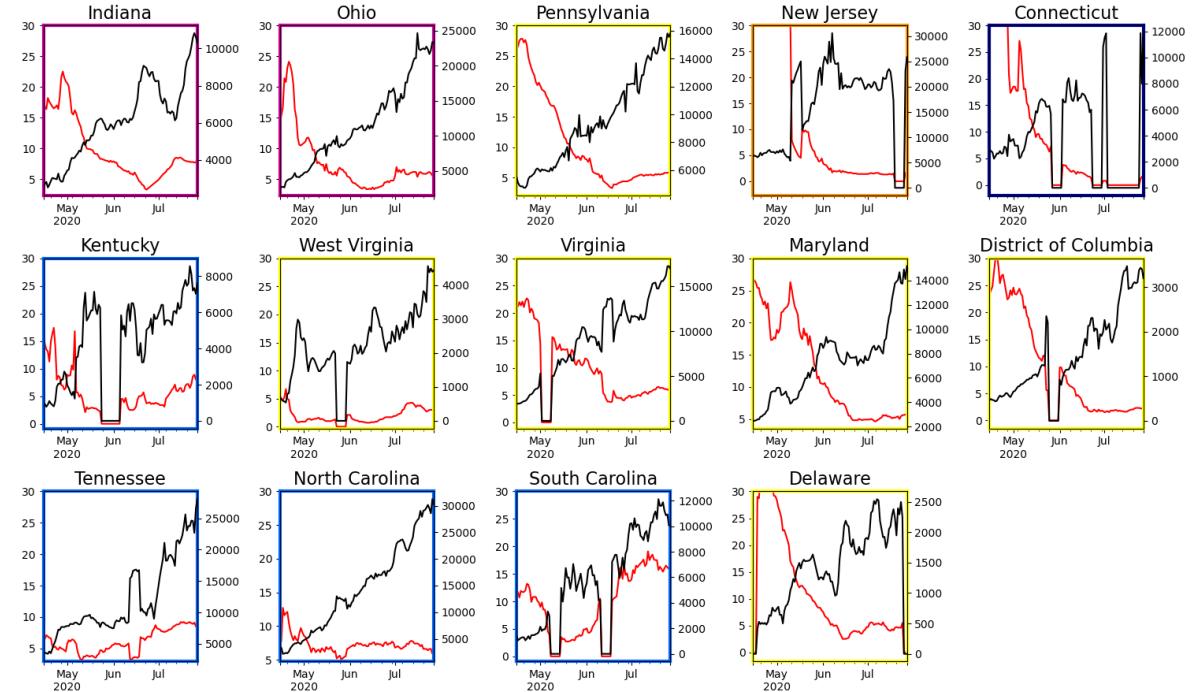
\* Based on confirmed cases per day

# Other State Comparisons

Case Rate per 100K population



Tests per Day and Test Positivity



# Model Results

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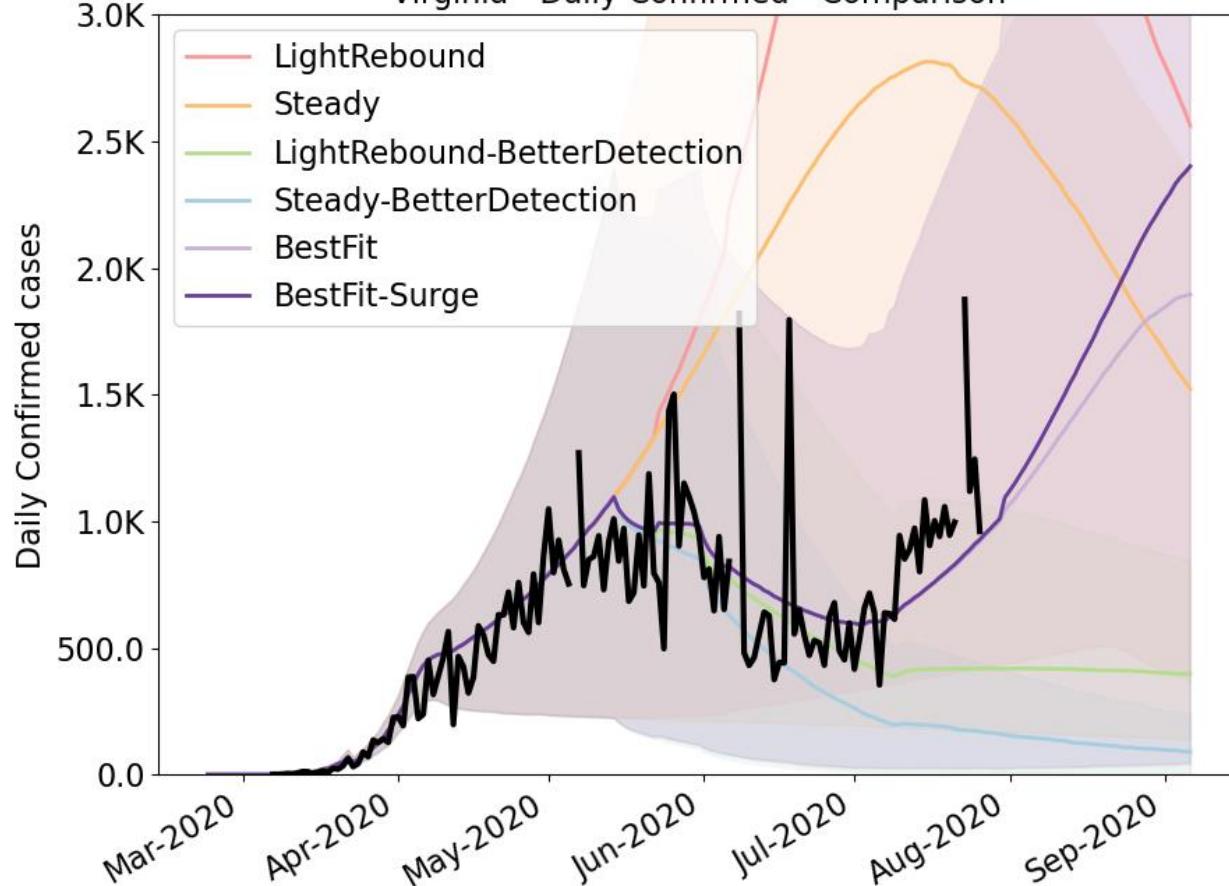
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# Outcome Projections

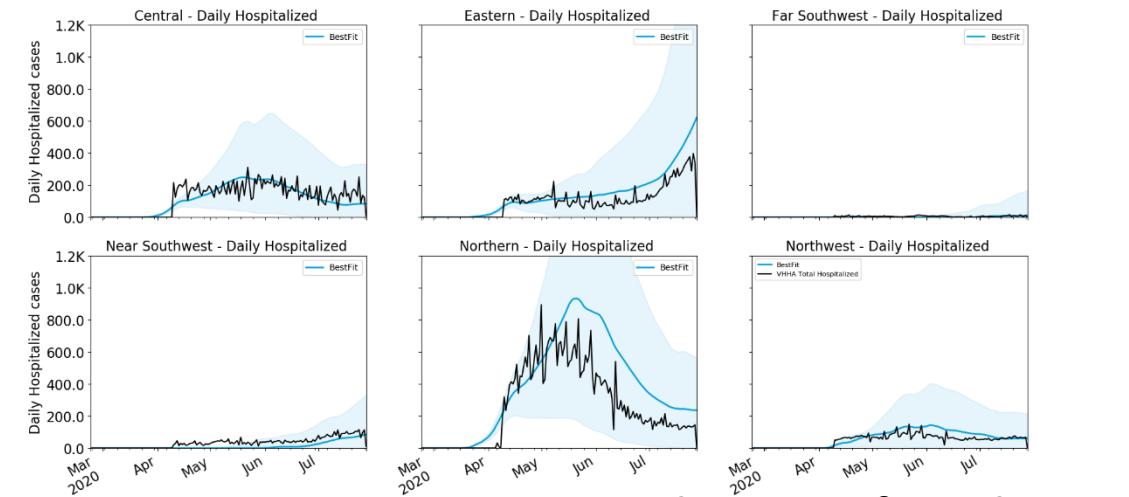
## Confirmed cases

Virginia - Daily Confirmed - Comparison

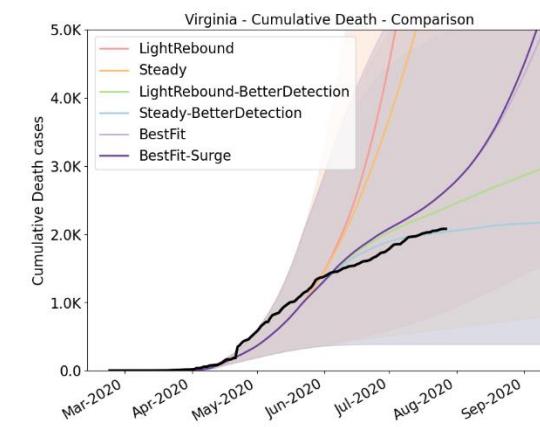


## Hospital occupancy

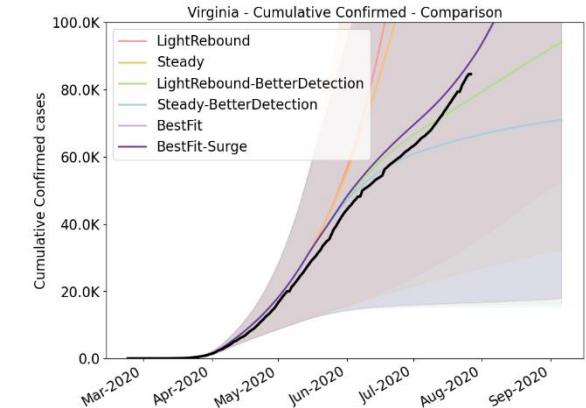
Virginia: Daily Total Confirmed Hospitalized Versus Sim - 8 Day Rolling



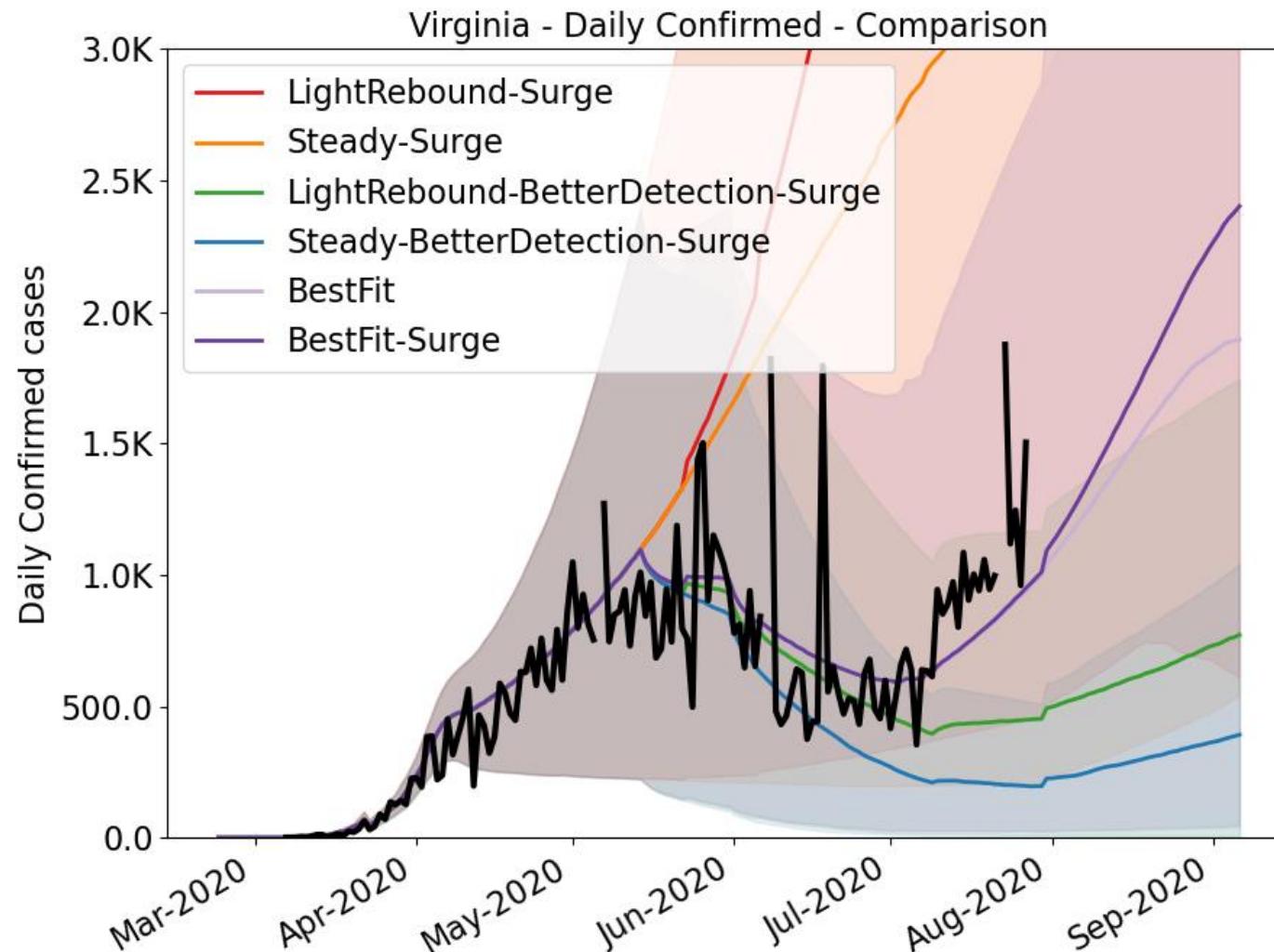
## Deaths



## Cumulative Confirmed cases



# Outcome Projections – with Surge



## Weekly New Confirmed Cases\*

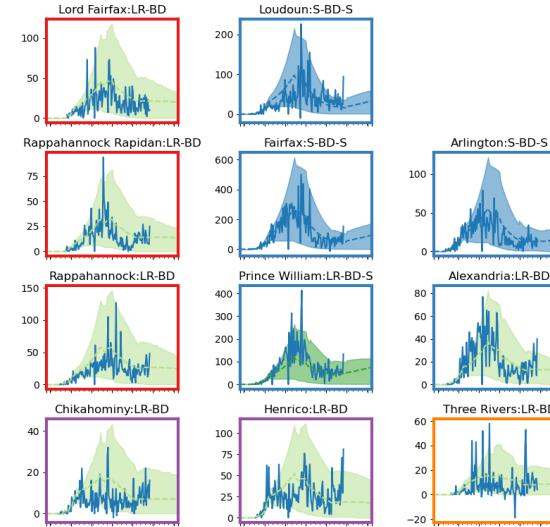
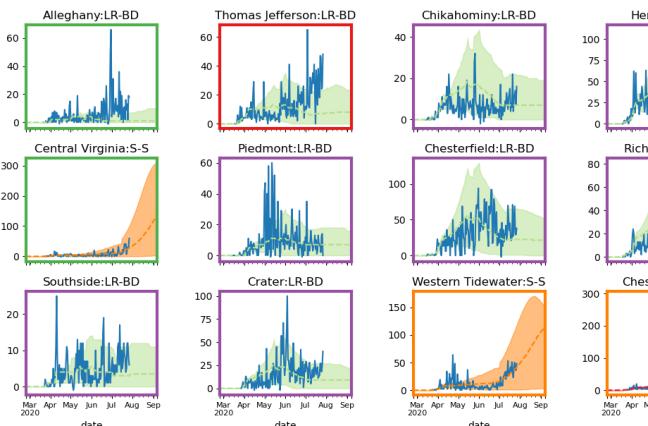
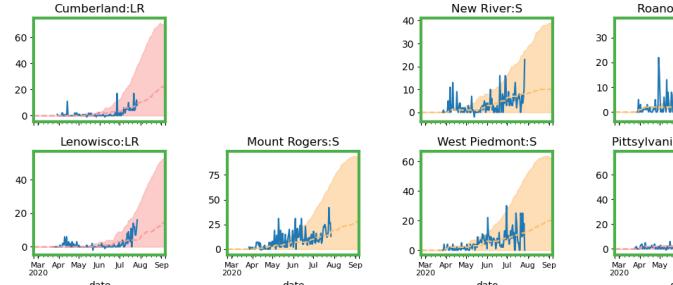
Week Ending	Best Fit	Best Fit w/ Surge
7/19/20	4,965	4,996
7/26/20	5,770	5,819
8/2/20	6,742	6,847
8/9/20	8,001	8,510
8/16/20	9,341	10,266
8/23/20	10,720	12,168
8/30/20	12,017	14,124
9/6/20	12,926	15,858

\*Numbers are medians of projections

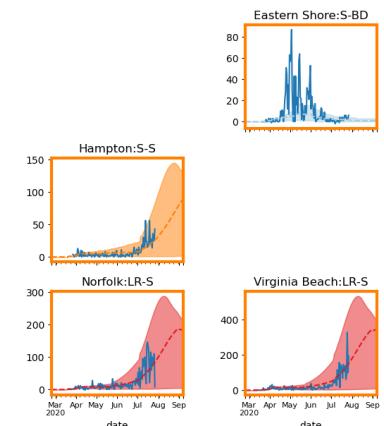
# District Level Projections - Daily

## Best fitting projections by District

- Projections that best fit recent trends
- Daily confirmed cases by Region (blue solid) with simulation at the region level (black dotted)
- Projection color consistent with other and abbreviated in title



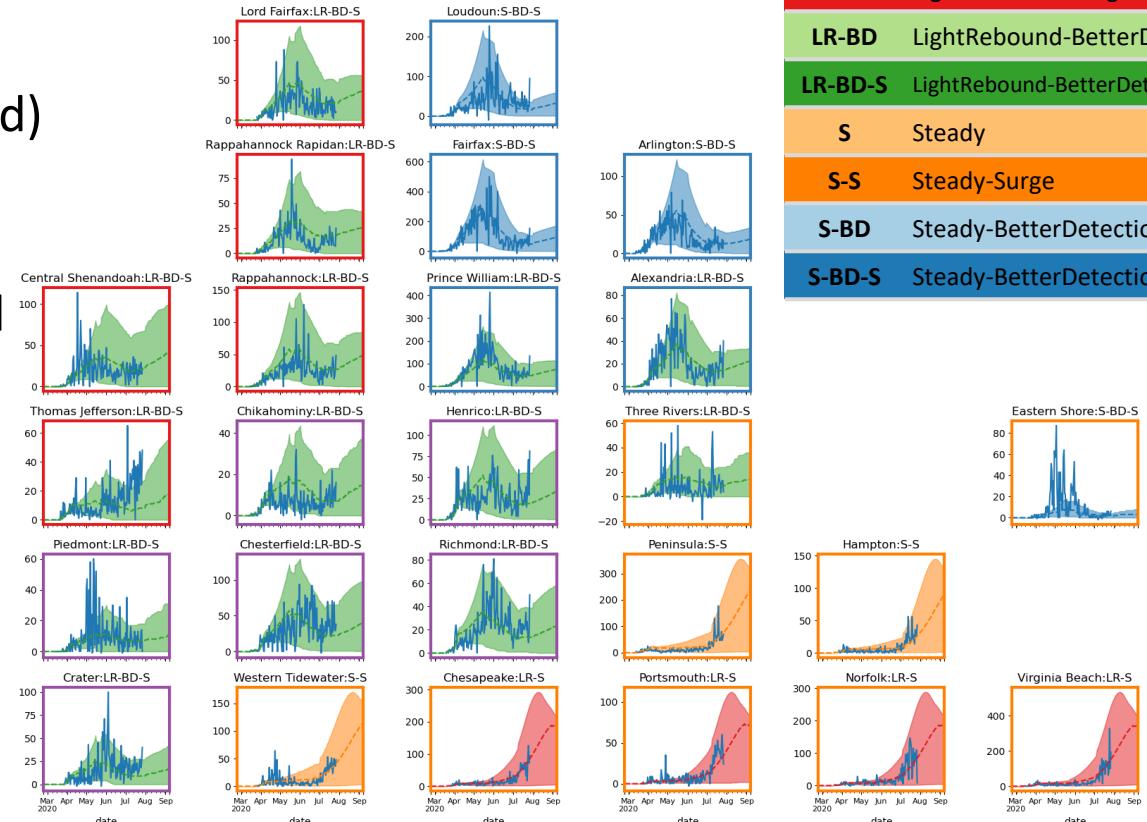
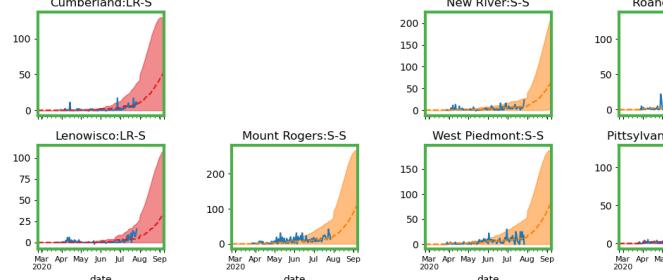
Abbr	Name	# of Districts (last wk)
LR	LightRebound	3 (3)
LR-S	LightRebound-Surge	4 (4)
LR-BD	LightRebound-BetterDetection	15 (10)
LR-BD-S	LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge	1 (6)
S	Steady	4 (2)
S-S	Steady-Surge	4 (7)
S-BD	Steady-BetterDetection	1 (1)
S-BD-S	Steady-BetterDetection-Surge	3 (2)



# District Level Projections – Daily with Surge

## Best fitting projections by District

- Projections that best fit recent trends with Surge assumed for all districts
- Daily confirmed cases by Region (blue solid) with simulation at the region level (black dotted)
- Projection color consistent with other and abbreviated in title

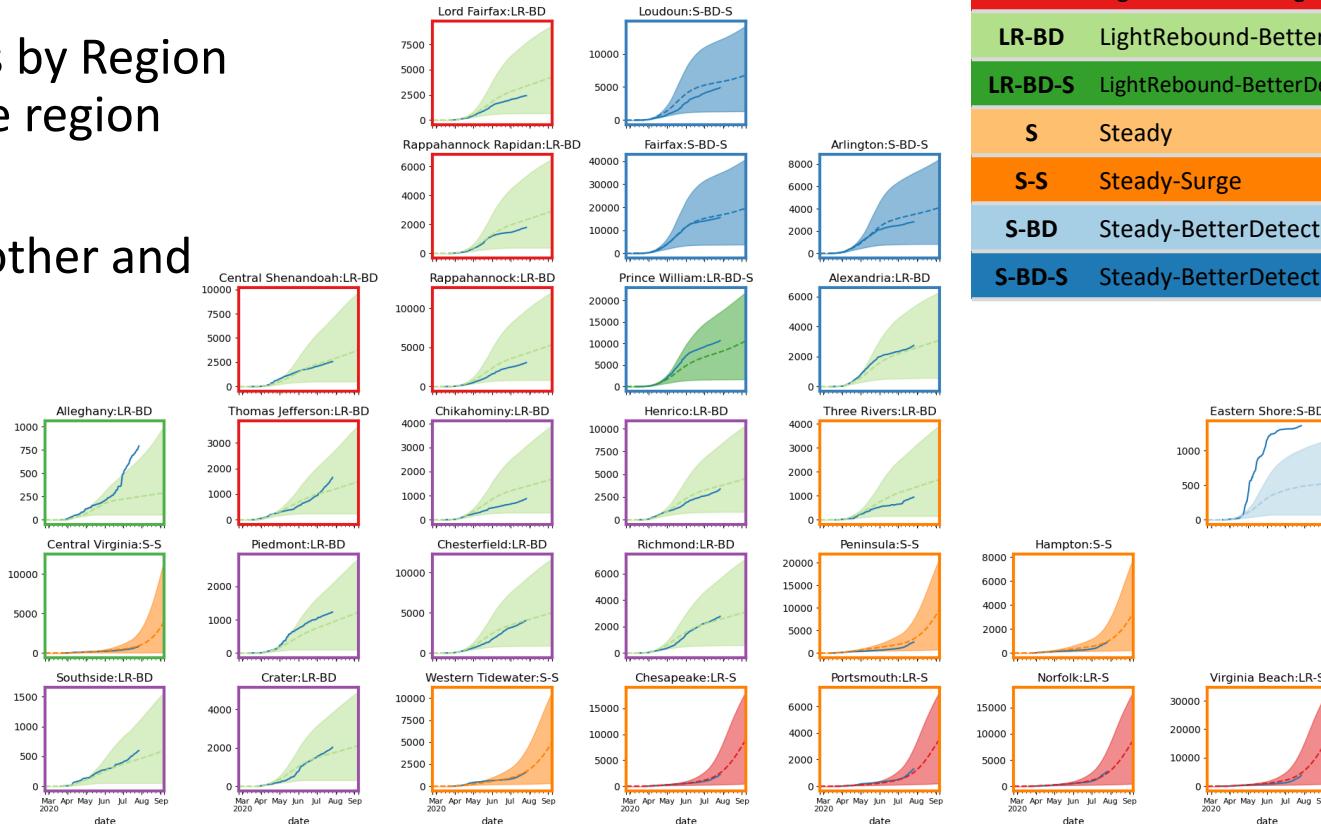
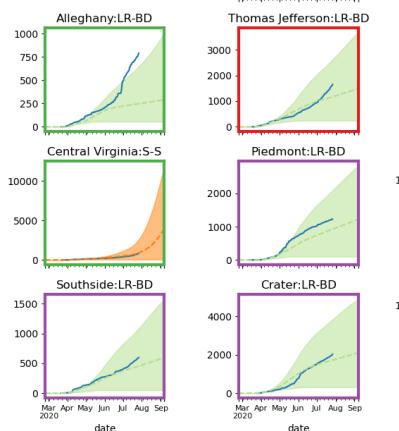
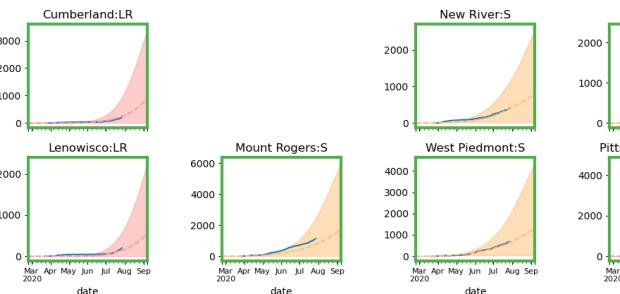


Abbr	Name	# of Districts (last wk)
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LR-BD-S	LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge	1 (6)
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S-S	Steady-Surge	4 (7)
S-BD	Steady-BetterDetection	1 (1)
S-BD-S	Steady-BetterDetection-Surge	3 (2)

# District Level Projections - Cumulative

## Best fitting projections by District

- Projections that best fit recent trends
- Daily cumulative confirmed cases by Region (blue solid) with simulation at the region level (black dotted)
- Projection color consistent with other and abbreviated in title

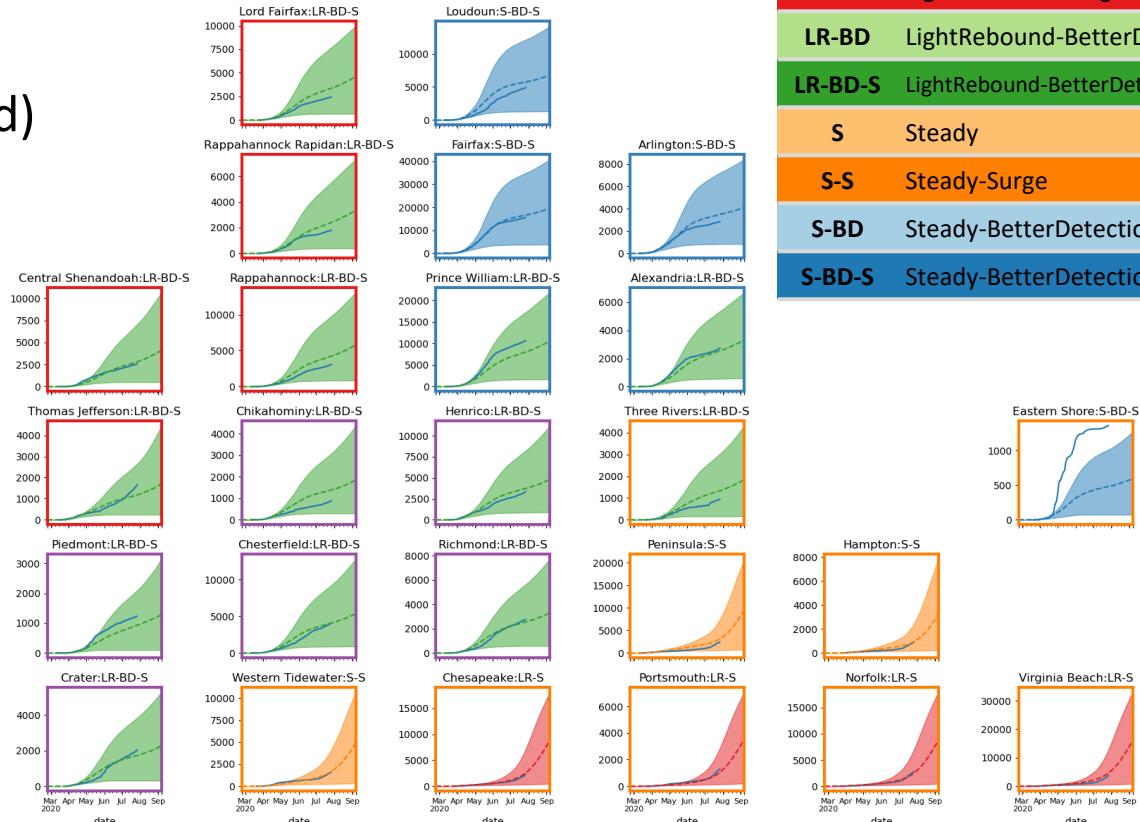
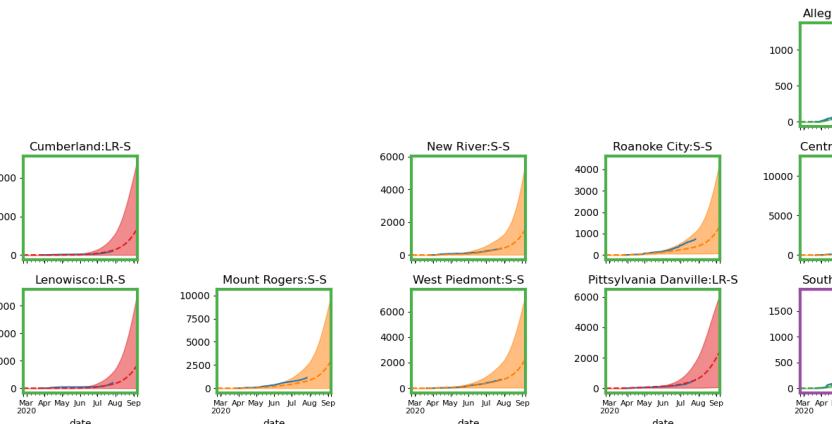


Abbr	Name	# of Districts (last wk)
LR	LightRebound	3 (3)
LR-S	LightRebound-Surge	4 (4)
LR-BD	LightRebound-BetterDetection	15 (10)
LR-BD-S	LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge	1 (6)
S	Steady	4 (2)
S-S	Steady-Surge	4 (7)
S-BD	Steady-BetterDetection	1 (1)
S-BD-S	Steady-BetterDetection-Surge	3 (2)

# District Level Projections – Cumulative with Surge

## Best fitting projections by District

- Projections that best fit recent trends with Surge assumed for all districts
- Daily confirmed cases by Region (blue solid) with simulation at the region level (black dotted)
- Projection color consistent with other and abbreviated in title

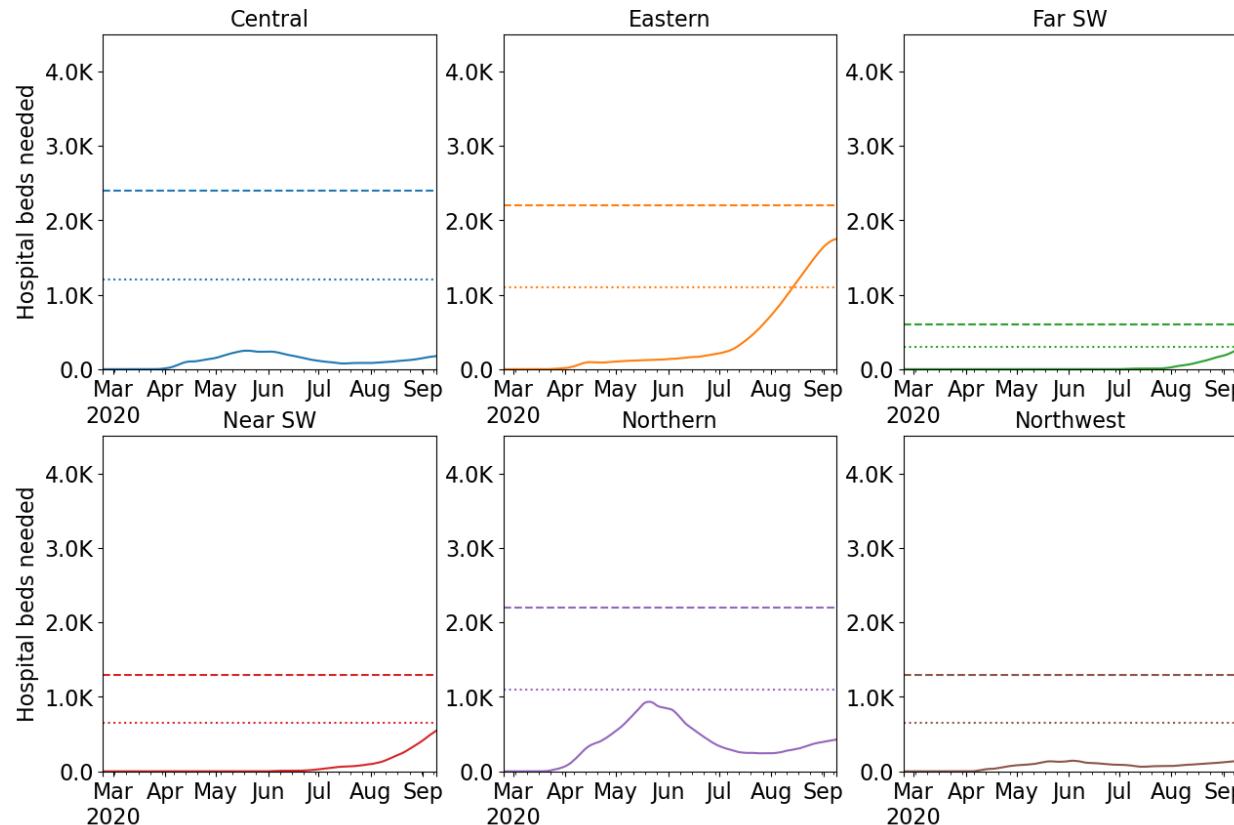


Abbr	Name	# of Districts (last wk)
LR	LightRebound	3 (3)
LR-S	LightRebound-Surge	4 (4)
LR-BD	LightRebound-BetterDetection	15 (10)
LR-BD-S	LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge	1 (6)
S	Steady	4 (2)
S-S	Steady-Surge	4 (7)
S-BD	Steady-BetterDetection	1 (1)
S-BD-S	Steady-BetterDetection-Surge	3 (2)

# Hospital Demand and Capacity by Region

## Capacities by Region – BestFit-Surge

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



- Based on current best fits with potential surge
  - Eastern region exceeds 80% capacity in mid-August, current model keeping pace with observed increases in Eastern region
  - Multiple regions (Near SW, Far SW, Eastern and Northern) may near their capacity in September
  - Northern may begin to rise again at the end of July
- Activity in neighboring states and reopening of schools/universities may make this more likely

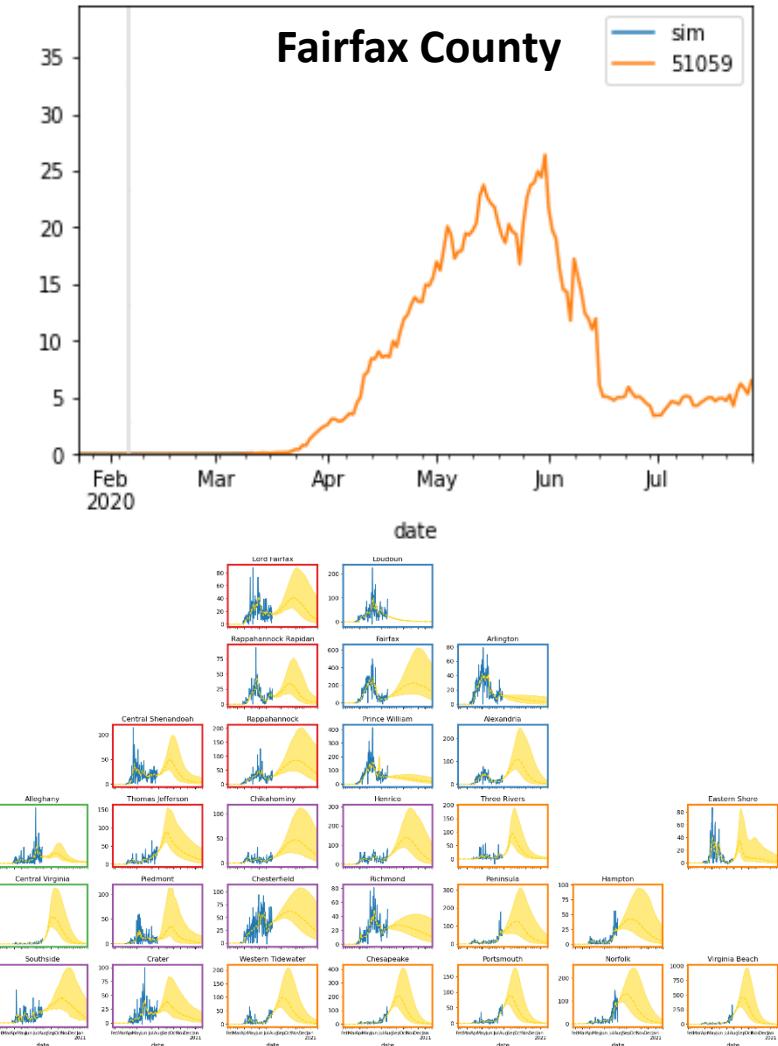
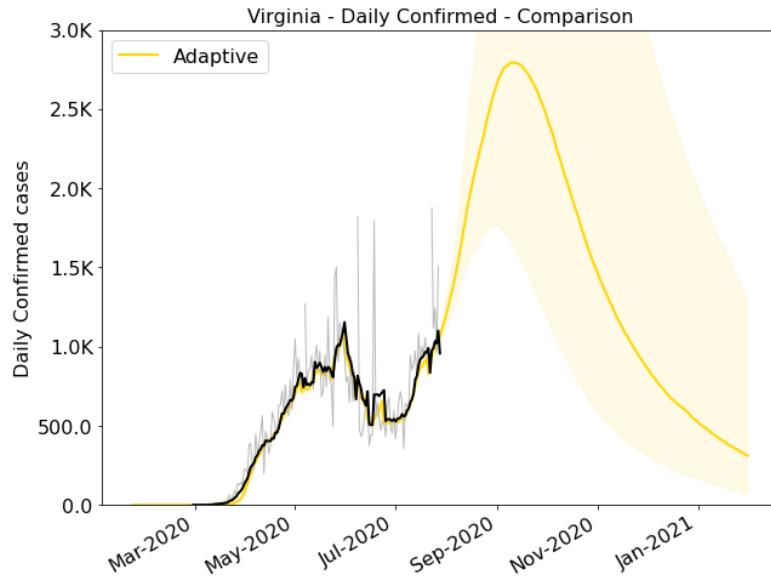
\* Assumes average length of stay of 8 days



# Preliminary Use of Adaptive Fitting for Calibration

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

- Rather than a few scenarios used to represent all courses, the daily transmission rate is fitted in a county-specific SEIR model
- Allows history to be precisely captured, but can still layer in future projection scenarios
- Uncertainty obtained by sweeping over impacts of testing rate and other disease parameters



# Key Takeaways

Projecting future cases precisely is impossible and unnecessary.

Even without perfect projections, we can confidently draw conclusions:

- **Some VDH health districts continue to experience high activity, though growth rates have slowed in most; fewer districts show signs of surge compared to last week.**
- Given the experience of other states in the nation, it is crucial to maintain control.
- Recent model updates:
  - Identifying and adjusting timing of Surge integrated with scenario selection for "Best Fit" projection
  - New "Adaptive Fitting" approach has preliminary results
  - Added and updated analyses to act as early indicators of surge and look for indicators of control
- Similar signs of slowed growth evident across nation, though incidence levels remain high, some states still exhibiting rapid growth.
- The situation is changing rapidly. Models will be updated regularly.

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- Google. COVID-19 community mobility reports. <https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>
- Cuebiq: COVID-19 Mobility insights. <https://www.cuebiq.com/visitation-insights-covid19/>
- Biocomplexity page for data and other resources related to COVID-19: <https://covid19.biocomplexity.virginia.edu/>

# Questions?

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# Supplemental Slides



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# Recent Parameter Validation

New York State announced sero-prevalence survey results on May 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 15,000 antibody tests conducted randomly through the state at grocery stores
- **Total Attack Rate:** 12.3%

## Estimation of undetected infections

- Total infections in NY = 2.46M, total of 300K confirmed cases
- Confirmed case detection = 12% of infections (close to 15% used in model)

## Estimation of hospitalizations from infections

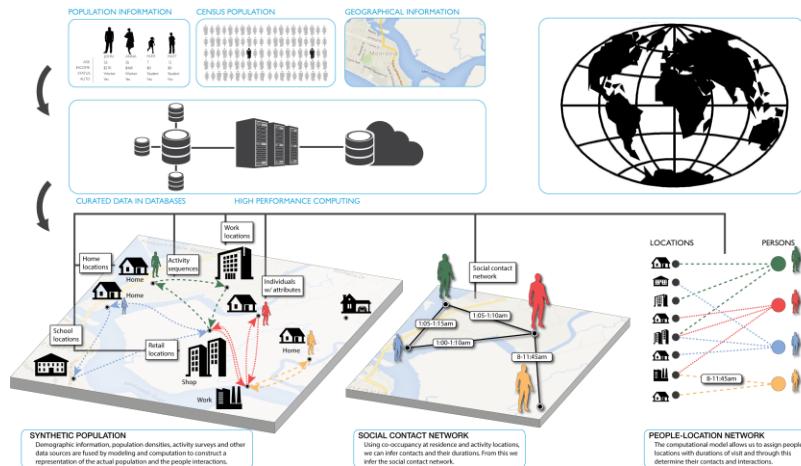
- Total infections in NY = 2.46M, total of 66K hospitalizations
- Hospitalizations = 2.7% of infections (close to 2.25% used in model)



# Agent-based Model (ABM)

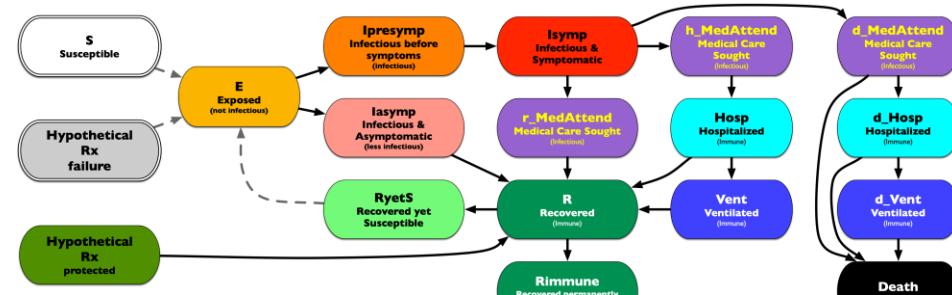
## EpiHiper: Distributed network-based stochastic disease transmission simulations

- 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

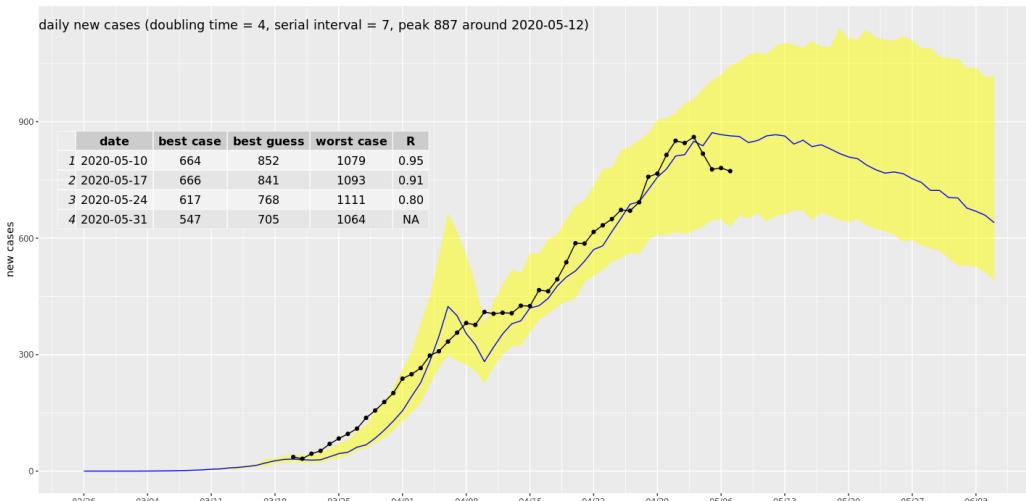


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# ABM Social Distancing Rebound Study Design

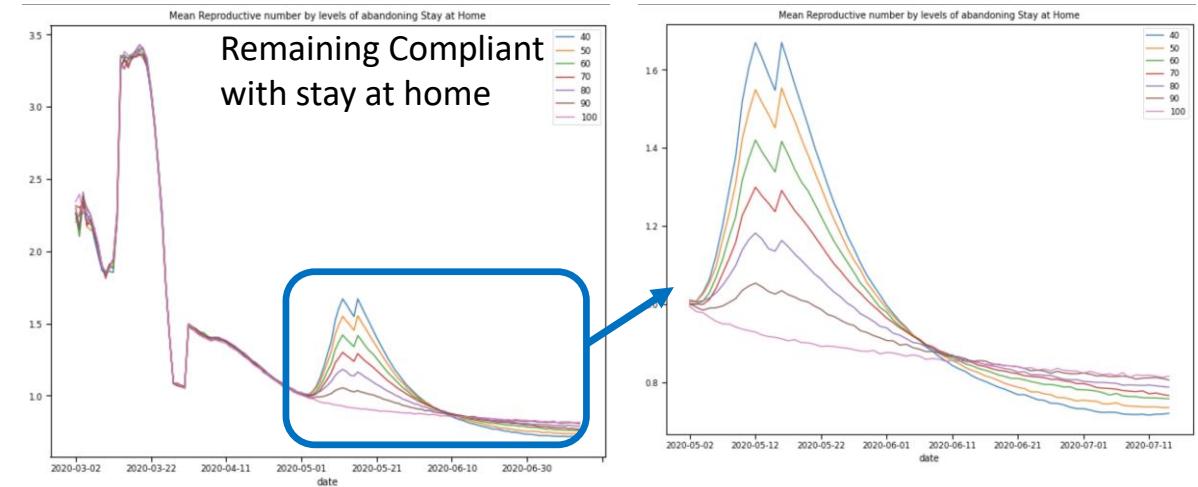
## Study of "Stay Home" policy adherence

- 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

# Medical Resource Demand Dashboard

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

