

## **Moderator Guide COVID-19 Operational**

**[2:00]** Cold Open Content (All Stations Produce)

### **7:02 Welcome/Introductions**

Thanks for joining us I am Karen McNew, for the next hour we will have a community conversation about COVID-19 and answer some of the questions many of you have given us.

**[Introduce panel members with Molly O'Dell last as she will begin our conversation.]**

Our panel is made up of leaders from our medical community including:

- Dr. Steve Pasternak, MD, Medical Director of Emergency Services for Lewis Gale
- Dr. Thomas Martin, MD, Chief of Medicine at the Salem V-A
- Dr. Paul Skolnik, MD, Chair of Department of Medicine, Infectious Disease physician
- And Dr. Molly O'Dell, MD, Director of Communicable Disease Control for the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health District, The Virginia Department of Health

Dr. O'Dell, give us a snapshot of confirmed COVID-19 testing and confirmed cases in our region AND can we gather any insight as to when we can expect to see a peak in cases and hopefully a decline?

**[2:00]** Molly O'Dell gives overview of what our region is experiencing with COVID-19

*[<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>] Will gather latest numbers for our region on Monday 4/6 for full screen graphics]*

We all have questions about COVID-19 and tonight we hope to provide some information that is useful for keeping all of us healthy and safe. **[Some Common Questions Below]**

- Our first question focuses on preparation for an increase in patients being sent to the hospital with COVID-19. If we see a surge of Intensive Care Unit patients in the coming weeks, are we prepared?
- There have been a lot of questions about testing, the slowness of it and the challenges it can create. What is the status of testing and should we expect broader testing in the future?
- Please elaborate on the importance of following social distancing, limiting numbers of people gathering and hand washing?
- This is a virus that doesn't know borders as far as rural versus urban, county to county -- Is responding to this virus more challenging for rural areas versus a more urban area like Roanoke? Some people may feel like precautions aren't as important if they aren't "seeing it" in their communities.
- What is being done to make sure the thousands of health care workers in our region are being kept safe? Are we seeing any sickness/exposure in more workers now?
- We often feel helpless and wonder what we can do during times like this. Is there anything you would ask of our viewers tonight?

We'll take a break and then continue our community conversation – We'll be right back.

**Hard Out 7:28 – [2:00]**

**Resume special programming [7:30]**

Welcome back – for those of you just joining us we have a panel of physician leaders in our region answering your questions about COVID-19 and its impact on the community with information we all need to know about how to stay safe.

Thank You for watching. Broad CTA for learning more information. Do all broadcast outlets link to VDH prominently on-line? We could suggest logging on to your station's website for more information?

**Hard Out [7:58]**