

must quarantine while they wait days for their results.

“This is about expanding testing and saving you money,” Northam said.

Pastor Keith Jones, of Shiloh Baptist Church in Norfolk, spoke at the briefing about a collaborative effort by faith and community leaders along with the Norfolk Health Department to create a video and otherwise get the word out to at-risk communities about COVID-19 testing.

The effort came about after the health department starting in April contacted more than 700 residents of public housing in an attempt to spread the word about the need to get tested for the virus if they had symptoms.

Only four people requested testing after that effort, Jones said.

The video, which was screened during the briefing, shows a number of pastors and other community leaders getting a COVID-19 test and talking about the need to get tested.

Jones said a group of leaders has been meeting regularly to share information during the crisis.

“Our question was how do we care

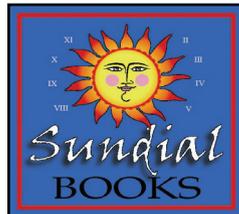
for a community that has been chronically underserved” and as result has “an age-old mistrust” of health care, Jones said.



Pastors have spoken about testing from their pulpits and testing has been conducted at churches, which Jones called “places of trust.”

Around 1,188 people have been tested in the area since the initiative began.

Northam said the Hampton Roads initiative “will be a model for the rest of Virginia.”



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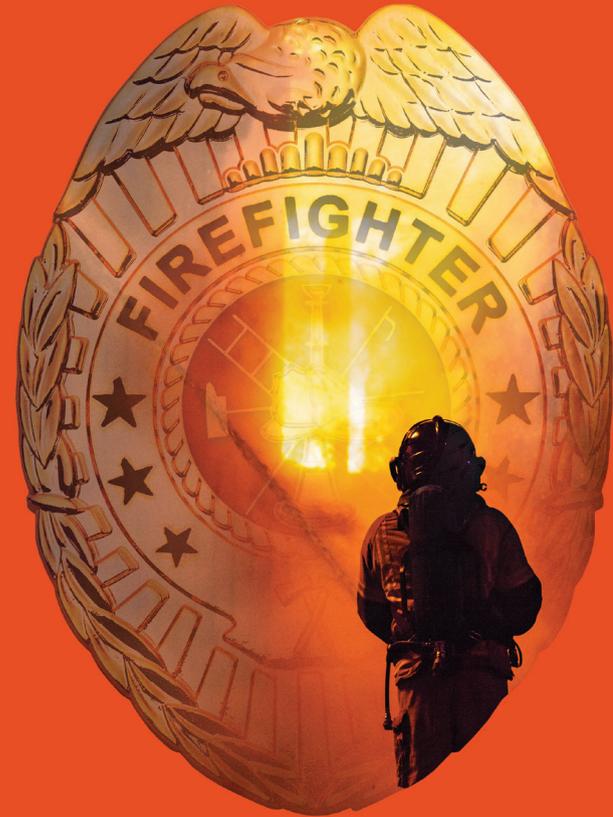
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