



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Health

B. Cameron Webb, MD, JD
State Health Commissioner

Maria Beermann-Foat, PhD, NRP
Director

Office of Emergency Medical Services
109 Governors Street, Mezzanine Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

804-888-9100
1-800-523-6019 (Va. only)

Dear EMS Professional,

During EMS week, we recognize and honor the extraordinary individuals who dedicate their lives to emergency medical services across our state. This week provides an important opportunity to acknowledge the commitment, compassion and professionalism you bring to your community every day.

This year's EMS week theme, "Improving Outcomes, Together," reflects the collaborative spirit that defines this profession and the clinicians, who are a critical part of an interconnected system of care, working alongside each other to deliver timely, lifesaving support when it matters most. Through teamwork, innovation and shared purpose, you help improve outcomes for patients, families and entire communities every day.

Whether responding to medical emergencies, major incidents, natural disasters or routine calls for assistance, EMS providers consistently demonstrate professionalism under pressure and compassion in moments of uncertainty. Your ability to make rapid decisions, provide expert care, and offer reassurance during difficult circumstances represents the very best of public service. Despite these challenges of an ever-evolving healthcare landscape, increasing call volumes, workforce recruitment and retention, you continue to answer the call with dedication, courage and an enduring commitment to excellence.

We recognize that the strength of EMS extends far beyond emergency response. You are educators, administrators, advocates, problem-solvers, and trusted members of the communities you serve. Your work improves public health, supports healthcare systems and strengthens the safety and well-being of countless individuals across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

During EMS week, my staff and I, with the Virginia Department of Health Office of EMS, extend our deepest gratitude to you for contributing to the success of our statewide EMS system. Your service makes a lasting impact, and your commitment to improving outcomes together truly makes a difference. Thank you for your professionalism, sacrifice and your continued dedication to serving others.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Beermann-Foat".

Maria Beermann-Foat, PhD, NRP
Director
Virginia Office of EMS