



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

To: School Division Superintendents

From: Honorable Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education
Honorable Daniel Carey, MD, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Date: August 17, 2021

Subject: Virginia Youth Survey

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), in collaboration with the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (Foundation), administers the Virginia Youth Survey to assess knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding health indicators among youth in Virginia. The data gathered in this survey provides valuable information to assist state agencies and communities as they implement prevention programs, apply for grants and work to reduce future chronic diseases.

The Virginia Youth Survey is administered with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC selects schools to participate utilizing a random sampling method based on Virginia's school enrollment data. The CDC also provides validated survey questions for use in all states to allow for comparison. The survey is designed to be completed in one class period.

It is important for the VDH and the Foundation to continue to assess the outcomes of their prevention efforts in order to report those to the General Assembly. Through these and future surveys, they will be able to determine the types of initiatives that prove to be the most successful and deserve to be replicated.

In support of this initiative, and in compliance with the requirement for participation as outlined in the *Code of Virginia*, we urge each of the selected schools to fully support the administration of the Virginia Youth Survey. It is our hope this collaborative effort will provide an efficient means to collect this important data.

Handwritten signature of Daniel Carey, MD, MHCM.

Daniel Carey, MD, MHCM
Secretary of Health & Human Resources

Handwritten signature of Atif M. Qarni.

Atif Qarni
Secretary of Education