



Greetings from the Virginia Primary Care Office & the State Office of Rural Health

As we continue to navigate through these unusual and challenging times this bi-weekly newsletter aims to serve as a meaningful source for the latest information, news, funding opportunities, and resources involving Virginia rural health. This newsletter is an attempt to categorize the most recent information applicable to our stakeholders for your reference. If you find this useful, please pass along to colleagues.

Information & Resources for Providers

The Virginia State Office of Rural Health is now on Facebook!

Please visit and "like" our page in order to stay informed in real-time and receive live updates on Virginia rural health issues and opportunities. Please share our Facebook page with others who might also find it to be a valuable resource.



[Visit the VA-SORH Facebook Page](#)

National Indian
Health Board



The National Indian Health Board has announced a request for applications for Tribal Telehealth mini-grants

Application Deadline: TONIGHT, July 21, 2020 by 11:59 PM ET

With funding from the Johns Hopkins University Center for American Indian Health, as part of the national Nick Kristof's C-19 Impact Initiative, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is offering 18 mini-grants to Tribes, Tribal organizations or inter-Tribal consortia in amounts up to \$10,000 each to assist with building capacity and responding to telehealth services and needs. The project period will run from approximately August 1 through December 31, 2020.

The application process is online and requires a workplan (template provided), letter of support and audit documentation.

[For More Information](#)

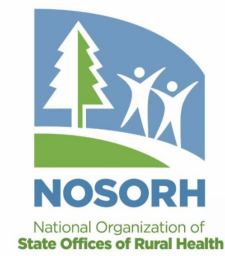
Federally recognized Tribes in Virginia include Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Upper Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Pamunkey Indian Tribe, and Rappahannock.

[To Apply](#)

2020 NOSORH Awards - Call for Nominations!

Nominations will be accepted until Friday, August 7 at 5:00 pm ET.

The Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2020 NOSORH Awards! These awards are a special way to recognize and celebrate the hard work and leadership of individuals and organizations dedicated to rural health. If your nominee is chosen for an award, you will be notified and invited to submit a short video clip for the virtual award ceremony during the NOSORH Annual Meeting on September 30, 2020.



The online nomination process is simple and only takes about 15 minutes to do! There are no limits to the number of nominations submitted.

If you have questions or would like to join the Awards Committee, please contact Beth Kolf, the Project Coordinator, at bethk@nosorh.org.

[To Make Your Nomination](#)

Virginia Poultry Workers See Victory In New COVID-19 Protection Rules

Hospital officials in Virginia this spring reported a spike in COVID-19 cases at the Perdue poultry processing plant in the Eastern Shore city of Accomack. As of last week, Virginia has become the first state in the nation to mandate coronavirus workplace safety rules. These new standards address the disparities faced by essential workers as they "are more likely to get COVID-19 than those who can stay at home, and the pandemic has taken a heavy toll on those who work at poultry processing plants." The poultry plants "account for about half, if not more, than the positive tests total on the Eastern Shore," Eastern Shore Rural Health System CEO Nancy Stern said.

[Link to NPR Story](#)

For Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities (FQHCs, RHCs, Free Clinics, Tribal):



CDC Social Media Tool Kit

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created this social media toolkit to help localize efforts in responding to the virus that causes COVID-19.

This toolkit provides messages and graphics to help: ensure current, correct messaging from a trusted source, create collateral materials, and share resources. All graphics and suggested messages are available for use on social media profiles and web pages.

Within this guide you will find information and suggested messages from our COVID-19 response. For more images and CDC content you can visit our [Communication Resources page](#). All social media content is public domain and free to use by anyone for any purpose without restriction under copyright law. Please remember to use the #COVID19 hashtag when tweeting out any COVID-19 related content.

[To Access Tool Kit](#)

State & Regional Resources

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Licensure and Certification (OLC) has updated its website to include additional resources about Ballad Health's Cooperative Agreement. The State Health Commissioner's Annual Decision Regarding the Ballad Health Cooperative Agreement and an interactive dashboard that displays metrics submitted by Ballad Health are available below (see "For More Information").

[For More Information](#)

Feedback from the public, in the form of questions, comments, or complaints about the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) active supervision of the cooperative agreement and Ballad Health's compliance with the terms of the cooperative agreement, including the Virginia Order and Letter Authorizing a Cooperative Agreement, is vital to VDH's ongoing active supervision efforts. If you'd like to submit a question, comment, or complaint to VDH's Cooperative Agreement staff please use this [form](#). Alternatively, you may reach VDH's Cooperative Agreement staff at **804-367-6630** or via email at OLC-CooperativeAgreement@VDH.Virginia.gov.

[Feedback Form](#)

Ballad Health has started PEERhelp, a support help line for people living with substance use issues

The PEERhelp line is open Monday - Friday from noon - 10 PM at 1-877-PEERHLP (1-877-733-7457)

Calls to the peer line are answered by Certified Peer Recovery Specialists who have experienced substance use issues and mental health challenges in their lives. They have a deep understanding of what you are going through and are here to provide emotional support, comfort and referrals to resources. All calls are confidential.

Call if you are experiencing: substance use issues, the need for recovery support, life challenging issues, problems with family or friends, loneliness, anxiety, depression, and/or other emotional or mental health challenges.



CDC COVID-19 One-Stop Shop Tool Kits

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a one-stop shop for COVID-19 related resources including videos, social media, PSAs, print resources, checklists, FAQs, and web resources. The resources are categorized by intended audience.



The categories are as follows: "Young Adults: 15 to 21," "Childcare Programs and Summer Camps," "Youth Sports," "K-12 Schools," "Businesses & Workplaces," "Community & Faith-Based Organizations," "General Public," "Domestic Travelers," "Shared & Congregate Housing," "Parks & Recreational Facilities," "Worker Safety & Support," "Colleges & Universities," "Older Adults and People at Higher Risk," and "People with Disabilities."

[To Access Tool Kits](#)

CDC Provided COVID-19 Video Series in ASL

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created and compiled a series of informative videos in American Sign Language (ASL). The videos, available on Youtube, provide viewers with relevant health and safety tips and answer common questions about COVID-19.

[To Access the ASL Video Series](#)

Identifying Vulnerable Rural Populations During COVID-19: The CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

The SVI offers an opportunity to quickly identify populations of rural residents that could most benefit from currently available resources - allowing you to address current need while also focusing on prevention.

With support from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, NOSORH developed an Issue Brief for SORH and other rural health stakeholders as a means of using data to target resources where they are needed most during COVID-19. The issue brief offers an overview of the SVI and how it's calculated, identifies indicators that highlights populations at high risk for spread of COVID-19 and indicators of those at high risk of infection.

[COVID-19 SVI Issue Brief](#)

