



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

We sincerely wish that each of you are doing well and staying safe during these unusual and challenging times. If you and your place of business are like us, you have recently been inundated with information. This newsletter is an attempt to categorize the most recent information applicable to our stakeholders for your reference. Our intention is to help sort through the noise, not contribute to it. If you find this useful, please pass along to colleagues.

Information & Resources for Providers

APHA Advancing Racial Equity Webinar Series

Webinar #1 | Racism: The Ultimate Underlying Condition | June 9, 2:00 - 3:30 PM ET

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is hosting a webinar series to give an in-depth look at racism as a driving force of the social determinants of health and equity. The series will explore efforts to address systems, policies and practices designed to limit and shape opportunities for people of color. Our presenters will highlight collective and individual actions we can take to advance racial equity and justice.

Alarming disparities within the COVID-19 pandemic — such as higher hospitalizations and death rates among African Americans — are sadly predictable and highlight the urgent need to address the root causes of health inequities.

[Webinar Registration Link](#)

Webinars from the APHA 2015 series, "The Impact of Racism on the Health and Well-Being of the Nation" are available for viewing. The APHA encourages review of the 2015 webinar series in advance of the 2020 webinar series.

[2015 Webinar Series](#)

Just-In-Time COVID-19 ECHO for Primary Care Providers in Virginia



Virtual Sessions Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:00 - 9:00 AM ET until July 3, 2020

This Just-in-Time ECHO (Extensions for Community Health Outcomes) Learning Series for Primary Care is a state-wide partnership bringing you up-to-the-minute information and answering your questions about COVID-19. The goal is to facilitate collaboration and share best practices in a protected learning environment.

[Virginia Project ECHO Series Registration Link](#)

NRHA Creates Rural COVID-19 Technical Assistance Center

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) has created the Rural COVID-19 Technical Assistance Center in order to help rural healthcare providers overcome the unique challenges they face during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Technical Assistance Center will focus on two key areas: finance/reimbursement and operations/supplies.

[NHRA Announcement](#)

Provider Resources and Community Star Nominations for National Rural Health Day



The 10th annual National Rural Health Day (NRHD) is November 19, 2020. Resources, toolkits, and more will be provided by the NRHD headquarters and will become available leading up to November 19, 2020. Starting June 15, 2020, the NRHD headquarters will be accepting nominations for inspirational people, organizations, and communities to be featured in the 2020 book of Community Stars which will be released on NRHD, November 19, 2020.

[NRHD Resources and Nominations](#)

Rural Primary Care Tools and Resources for Managing Suicidal Ideation During COVID-19

A webinar presented by the Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network (MHTTC), the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH), and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) on June 2, 2020 is available for download. Providers can access the slides, recordings and resource links to learn more.

[Downloadable Webinar Materials](#)

Virtual Meetings Learning Community- June 10th at 4:00 PM ET

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) is hosting an online opportunity to identify challenges and solutions for hosting quality, engaging virtual meetings. NOSORH encourages staff in charge of developing this kind of content to attend.

[Email for an Invitation to Join](#)

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

More than \$1 Million in Government Funds Coming to Black Lung Clinic Program in Lee Co.

Congratulations to St. Charles Health Council of Stone Mountain Health Services! The US Department of Health and Human Services

has awarded \$1,072,356 for the Black Lung Clinic Program at St. Charles Health Council in Jonesville of Lee County, Virginia.

The purpose of the Black Lung Clinics Program is to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with occupationally-related coal mine dust lung disease through the provision of quality medical, outreach, educational, and benefits counseling services for active, inactive, retired, and disabled US coal miners. Services are available to patients and their families regardless of their ability to pay.



[Local News Article](#)

[Program Information](#)

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association COVID-19 Dashboard

With the support of hospital members, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) has launched a new online data dashboard to provide up-to-date statistics on the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations across the Commonwealth.



[COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

Rural Hospital Assistance Program Now Accepting Applications



The Center for Optimizing Rural Health (CORH) is accepting applications for the Rural Hospital Assistance Program from June 1 - July 31, 2020. CORH offers technical assistance to 30 rural hospitals each year to help address economic challenges, understand community needs and resources and find ways to ensure hospitals and communities can keep needed care locally. The application is open to all rural and CAH hospitals in the US.

[Application Portal](#)

Angel Flight East (AFE) Transporting PPE to Areas in Need

Angel Flight East has recently partnered with several groups to provide face shields and hand sanitizer to health facilities (please see details below). Last week, AFE pilots flew 3,600 pounds of sanitizer and 3,500 face shields to 8 different rural healthcare facilities. If this is something your organization could benefit from, AFE is happy to provide transportation for these supplies.



[PPE Resource Information](#)

Congressional Support Builds for Broadband Funding to Aid Telehealth

A group of Senators is throwing their support behind efforts to invest \$2 billion into broadband expansion in rural areas to expand telehealth adoption where it's most needed. The group this week introduced the Health Care Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act, which would set aside the money to support the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care (RHC) Program.

[Proposed Bill Details](#)

A Breakdown of the \$10 Billion Allocation to Rural Hospitals and Providers

[Fact Sheet](#)

State & Regional Resources

MATRC Telehealth Resources for COVID-19 Toolkit

The Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) has compiled a list of most frequently asked questions and most requested resources into a COVID-19 Toolkit. The Toolkit is updated on a daily basis.

[COVID-19 Toolkit](#)

