



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

Virtual Telehealth Conference Series

When? Friday from 8:45 AM - 2:00 PM | June 19 - July 17, 2020



The Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) and the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center (NETRC) will be hosting a virtual conference, "Launching into Telehealth 2020," as the need for telehealth implementation has rapidly increased due to COVID-19. The conference will feature keynote speakers and multiple, diverse breakout sessions

[Webinar Registration Link](#)

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) COVID-19 Resources

FORHP has provided additional resources and funding sources for recipients of HRSA's rural health program to address concerns involving the COVID-19 pandemic. The FORHP encourages recipients and stakeholders to be proactive in emergency preparedness planning and to coordinate with partners at the state and local level in emergency response.

[FORHP COVID-19 Resources](#)



UVA doctors create tele-health technology, improving the lives of people with HIV, especially in rural areas

The American Academy of HIV Medicine and the Institute for Technology in Health Care have awarded the 2020 Caceres Award for Technology in HIV Practice to Dr. Rebecca Dillingham and Dr. Karen Ingersoll of the University of Virginia Ryan White Clinic for their PositiveLinks (PL) digital application. PL is a clinic-deployed, smartphone-based platform that provides tools and support to people with HIV to improve medication adherence and engagement with care. It includes a patient-facing app, a provider-facing app, a web portal for providers, and an on-line training system. The technology was developed to address the stigma, poor access to transportation, isolation, substance use, and mental health challenges facing many PWH in rural Virginia.

[Augusta Free Press News Article](#)

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

As of June 10th: Governor Northam Extends Executive Orders for Health Providers
On June 10th, the Governor announced the extensions of Executive Orders Fifty-Seven and Fifty-Eight, originally signed on April 17th and April 23rd, were due to expire June 10th

Executive Order Fifty-Seven

Executive Order Fifty-Seven, originally signed on April 17th, implements several policies designed to expand Virginia's health care workforce to assist with the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response. The order allows for the expanded use of telehealth and authorizes out-of-state licensees to provide in-state care at hospitals, nursing facilities, dialysis facilities, physician offices, and other health care facilities.

The order permits Virginia-licensed nurse practitioners and physician's assistants with two or more years of clinical experience to practice without a collaborative agreement. It also provides additional flexibility to hospitals in the supervision of interns, residents, and fellows, and allows hospitals to use fourth year medical students in the provision of care.

[Full Text of Amended Executive Order Fifty-Seven](#)

Executive Order Fifty-Eight

Executive Order Fifty-Eight, originally signed April 23rd, which helps ensure Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) members have continued access to care during the ongoing public health emergency.

The order waives copayments for individuals receiving coverage through the FAMIS program and streamlines admission to nursing facilities by suspending preadmission screening requirements. It also allows Medicaid members to obtain replacements for prosthetics, orthotics, and other durable medical equipment and supplies that are lost or damaged without requiring in-person verification or paperwork.

The order also extends the allowable timeframe that personal care, respite, and companion providers can work while background checks are conducted from 30 days to 60 days. Supervision and training requirements still apply. And the order waives the 30-day public notice and comment period requirements for the Department of Medical Assistance Services, which helps the agency to communicate immediate information on flexibilities in access to care to health care providers.

[Full Text of Amended Executive Order Fifty-Eight](#)

For assistance, resources from across state government, and up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Virginia, please visit virginia.gov/coronavirus.

Governor Northam Announces Expansion of Data Sharing Platform to Help Combat COVID-19

Opioid data-sharing platform leveraged to provide statewide visibility on virus outbreaks and availability of critical resources

On June 12th, Governor Ralph Northam announced that the Framework for Addiction Analysis and Community Transformation (FAACT), Virginia's cross-agency, cloud-based, data-sharing and analytics platform, is expanding to help the Commonwealth mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and

maintain an adequate supply of resources.

First launched by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), FAACT was instituted in 2018 and significantly expanded in 2019 to help Virginia communities confront the challenges posed by the opioid epidemic. In a single platform, FAACT combines data from a variety of state and local organizations to generate actionable insight about the contributing factors to opioid use and the most effective ways for communities to respond. Now, Virginia is using this framework to support its continued response to COVID-19.

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Health, Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association have joined the Commonwealth Data Trust and are sharing their data via the FAACT platform.

Data included within FAACT is updated frequently, in some cases, as often as every 15 minutes, to provide Virginia's leaders with near real-time information to make critical response decisions. As a result, the Commonwealth will be able to quickly identify hospitals in need of supplies and pharmaceuticals, hospitals and regions that have surge capacity (i.e. available hospital beds and ventilators or the ability to quickly stand up an overflow hospital), and locations with the largest outbreaks of COVID-19 cases.

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Application Deadline: July 20, 2020

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (RCORP-NAS). HRSA will award approximately 30 grants to rural consortia to reduce the incidence and impact of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

Successful RCORP-NAS award recipients will receive up to \$500,000 over a three-year period of performance to conduct a combination of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities designed to improve systems of care, family supports, and social determinants of health. While the focus of RCORP-NAS is primarily opioid use disorder (OUD), applicants may also choose to address additional substances of concern or substance use disorders (SUDs) among the target population. The target population is pregnant women, mothers, and women of childbearing age who have a history of, or who are at risk for, SUD/OUD and their children, families, and caregivers who reside in rural areas.

[HSRA RCORP Information](#)

Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital Recognized as a Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital

The Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital (RSMH) of Onancock, Virginia has been named a 2020 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. The annual award determines rural hospital performance by the results of iVantage Health Analytics' Hospital Strength INDEX®.



[Local News Article](#)

State & Regional Resources

[Grant Program Available for Local Governments to Support Agriculture and Forestry Industries](#)

Expedited award process and modified match requirements will increase program impact

Governor Ralph Northam today announced a new way for local governments to support agriculture- and forestry-based businesses during the COVID-19 emergency through the Governor’s Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund Planning Grant program.

Such initiatives could include funding for website development to connect growers and customers, shared refrigerated storage facilities, or offsetting last mile product delivery fees,” said Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Commissioner Dr. Jewel Bronaugh. “Individual communities can apply for grants of up to \$20,000, while two or more communities can apply jointly for up to \$35,000 in grant funding.”

[AFID Planning Grant Information](#)

[Email for Questions about the Program and Application Workshops](#)

“Blueprint for Getting Virginians Back to Work” Plan

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce has released a plan to address the health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic crisis faced by the nation. The plan relies on government and business leaders coming together to reduce the obstacles to reopen, while protecting workers, customers, and businesses. A key to being successful is providing Virginians with confidence in their safety at work and in public places through specific and consistent guidance. The “Blueprint for Getting Virginians Back to Work” provides recommendations on operating in the current economic climate and how to return stronger than before.



["Get VA Back to Work" Plan Details](#)



The 2020 National Rural Health Day Promotional Materials Released

National Rural Health Day is on November 19, 2020 this year. The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health have released the official 2020 National Rural Health Day logo and Save the Date postcard. They are both available to download.

[Downloadable NRHD Promotional Materials](#)

