



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

Help us make your community healthier! The Virginia Office of Health Equity and Virginia Department of Health are conducting a survey in order to fuel discussion about how to improve the Primary Care system for all Virginians. Please encourage your community members and stakeholders to participate in the survey.



[Primary Care Needs Assessment Survey](#)

Information & Resources for Providers

Roundtable focused on maternal health disparities, COVID-19 impacts

On August 27, 2020, Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger hosted a roundtable with maternal and community health professionals. According to a release, they discussed the challenges maternal and community health care providers have been facing during the pandemic and the additional support they would like to see in a federal relief package.

[Link to News Article](#)

HHS Awards over \$35 Million to Rural Health Programs.

On August 20, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded over \$35 million to more than 50 rural organizations across 33 states as part of a sustained federal effort to increase access to high quality care in rural communities.

[For More Information](#)

Catch-Up to Get Ahead on Childhood Immunizations

In support of National Immunization Awareness Month, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services recently launched Catch-Up to Get Ahead: A National Immunization Initiative for Children. This campaign aims to increase childhood immunization rates in the wake of significant declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Catch-Up to Get Ahead Toolkit provides messages and graphics to help spread awareness about catching up on childhood immunizations during the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic.

[Catch-Up to Get Ahead Toolkit](#)



2020 Census

Deadline: September 30, 2020

The Census Bureau is ending field data collection by Sep. 30, 2020. Current estimates show that nearly 4 in 10 Americans have yet to be counted. Promote and encourage filling out the Census response form online at <https://my2020census.gov>, the easiest and fastest way to get counted. Responses are also accepted by phone by calling 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Español).

[2020 Census Form](#)

The National Council for Behavioral Health has assembled virtual sessions to help guide us through these trying times



September 16, 2020 at 3 PM ET and September 23, 2020 at 3 PM ET

Audience: Leaders within the community and at partner organizations

Topics:

- How to lead through a crisis in a Resilience-Oriented Trauma-Informed way.
- Creating a safe, calm, and secure environment with supportive care for staff and clients.
- Establishing a healing, hopeful, honest, and trusting relationships within the community and system.
- Creating a resilience-oriented, trauma-Informed work culture to facilitate trauma-informed practices with clients.

[To Register](#)



2020 Mental Health America (MHA) Annual Conference

September 3-4, 2020

The National MHA's 2020 Annual Conference is themed COVID-19, Mental Health, and the Need for Equity. The conference will now be completely virtual.

[For More Information](#)

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



Join 3RNet for the 2020 Academy "Recruiting for Retention Hierarchy: Strategically Market Using Candidate Motivations," a free six-part webinar series

Starting Tuesday, October 6, 2020

There are a lot of options for recruitment education, but the 3RNet Recruiting for Retention Academy is the only online training specific to rural and underserved communities. The Virginia

Office of Health Equity is offering the 3RNet 2020 Academy webinar series at no charge.

If you have any questions please contact 3RNet at info@3rnet.org or 1-800-787-2512 or Olivette Burroughs at 804-864-7431 or olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov.

Registration Code: VIRGINIASORH!

[For More Information](#)

[Link to Register](#)

State & Regional Resources

Federal Resources to Improve Living at Home in Rural Areas

On Wednesday, three federal departments – the Departments of Health & Human Services, Agriculture, and Housing and Urban Development – released a joint informational bulletin summarizing the federal resources available to improve home safety for older adults and people with disabilities in rural areas. It describes how states can improve accessibility of home environments through Medicaid, programs that can facilitate home repair and modification, initiatives to reduce and prevent falls, resources to support aging in place, and loan opportunities for mortgages and housing repair.

[For More Information](#)

Get Ready For Back To School 2020 With MHA

Many children who return to school will be lonely, having been isolated for months. Many who remain at home will feel even lonelier and more isolated as they see members of their peer group out and about. Loneliness can translate to poor sleep, high blood pressure, greater risk of suicidal ideation, and even alcohol and drug use. Depression, anxiety, and fear can also increase.



Mental Health America (MHA) has developed its 2020 Back to School Toolkit with this and more in mind to help students, parents, and school personnel navigate the uncharted waters of COVID-19.

[MHA Back to School Toolkit](#)

Coronavirus Data Hub

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) launched a website in July with data on the COVID-19 response at federal, state, and local levels. The hub includes estimated and reported hospital capacity by state, with numbers updated daily.

[Coronavirus Data Hub](#)

"Lessons Learned as Virginia's Youngest Government Official"

The Daily Yonder recently featured an article by Jack "Alex" White of Page County, Virginia. White is a college sophomore proving his point by serving on

the county's Economic Development Authority. Learn more about White's accomplishments and contributions to Virginia's rural community in the article below.



[Link to Article](#)

"Like" us on Facebook to receive live updates on Virginia rural health issues and important messages from our community partners on your Facebook News Feed.



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