



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

Updated COVID-19 Resources

Health District Highlight: New River Health District



The New River Health District has partnered with multiple local pharmacies and medical practices (17 total) to help administer vaccines throughout the district. These organizations have the relationships and the trust with the district's older, more vulnerable population and they are more local so that population doesn't have to travel to our main site in Christiansburg.

In order to reach the public, the New River Health District has relied on press releases, mainstream and social media, a call center/information hotline, and direct messaging through community partners. Direct outreach through their Business Continuity Team and School Liaison has been invaluable.

New River Health District Director, Dr. Noelle Bissell, credits the district's success to the "tremendous support of all of our localities and the New River Valley Public Health Task Force -- we have navigated the pandemic as a region and not 5 separate localities. The Blue Ridge Church has offered their space, which is a perfect set up for large scale vaccination efforts. I have a very dedicated public health staff and an amazing group of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers as well as an academic public health partnership with the VT MPH program."

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) COVID-19 Vaccination Resources



- [Vaccinate Virginia- VDH Vaccine Registration](#)
- [VDH COVID-19 Testing Sites Map](#)
- [VDH Updated Guidance on Testing for COVID-19](#) (Updated 12/14/2020)
- [VDH COVID-19 Vaccination Response](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Phase by Health District](#)
- [Find out which phase of the vaccination campaign you fall in](#)
- [Contact your Local Health District](#)

COVID-19 Communications Materials

- [The Language of Vaccine Acceptance](#) by de Beaumont
- Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC)- [Misinformation Alerts](#)
- [CDC Vaccination Communication Toolkit](#)
- PHCC [Upcoming Webinar](#)- Updates and Resources from CDC and Ad Council
- VDH "COVID-19 Vaccine: Facts not Fear" webinars
 - [Webinar tailored to the Behavioral & Mental Health Community](#) (2/2 at 7 PM)
 - [Webinar tailored to the Dental Community](#) (2/16 at 7 PM)

Additional COVID-19 Resources

- [HHS Adds Categories of Those Allowed to Administer COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

- [New National Strategy for COVID-19 Response](#)
- [HRSA Find A Health Center](#) (offering COVID-19 screening and testing)
- [NIH Assessment of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Data Systems](#)
- [CDC Vaccine Tracking System \(VTrckS\)](#)
- [COVID-19 FAQs and Funding for HRSA Programs](#)
- [COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment, and Vaccine Administration for the Uninsured](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Quick COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Survey



United Way of
Southwest Virginia

In partnership with Mount Rogers Health District, Cumberland Plateau Health District, Lenowisco Health District, Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps, Emory and Henry College, The University of Virginia at Wise, and Bluefield College, United Way is surveying employers in Southwest Virginia about COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

[To Access the Quick Survey](#)

The CHART Model explained

Are you wondering how your hospital could benefit by participating in the Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model?

In this video, Chris Peterson, the former Deputy Director of MD's HSCRC, does a good job of simplifying the payment for the CHART Community Track. He discusses why the CHART Community Track would be valuable to payers, outside of CMS, and the discount in the context of all other adjustments the methodology uses.

[To Watch the Video](#)



Virginia Governor Ralph Northam Named 2021 Appalachian Regional Commission States' Co-Chair

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam has been selected to serve as the Appalachian Regional Commission's States' Co-Chair for 2021. As part of ARC's unique federal-state partnership structure, the states' co-chair works with the federal office of the ARC and fellow Appalachian state governors to invest in economic growth and development across the Region.

[To Access the Press Release](#)



[Check out the Healthy Places, Healthy Lives data dashboard](#)

For many Americans the neighborhood in which they live has a significant impact on their

opportunity for optimal health. However, most measures of community characteristics and health outcomes are made at the county or metro level. These often hide vulnerable populations, diluting their impact in mapping and analysis.

Healthy Places, Healthy Lives bridges this gap by combining robust, Census Tract-level, measures into a single visualization. For health outcomes, the visualization uses life expectancy estimates created by the United States Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP). For neighborhood characteristics the visualization incorporates the Health Opportunity Index (HOI), a Census Tract-level index comprising 13 Social Determinant of Health (SDOH) indicators, created by the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity.

[Explore the Data](#)

NOSORH Grant Writing Institute to Launch in March



Registration Deadline: February 26, 2021

NOSORH invites rural stakeholders to learn grant writing skills to find funding to make a difference to improve health in your community. The NOSORH Grant Writing Institute is a 9-session webinar series covering all aspects of basic grant writing from getting started, grant budgets, finding data, program evaluation and identifying funding sources. The sessions include resources to build a grant portfolio. Participants are provided one-to-one support for grant seeking challenges. All sessions are conducted live and recorded, a forum encourages student interaction, and a certificate is offered for those completing the course.

[For More Information and to Register](#)



Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance won \$900,000 in federal funds to establish Eastern Shore Telehealth Consortium

The mission of the Eastern Shore Telehealth Consortium is to increase access to healthcare for all people on the Eastern Shore by offering a telemedicine delivery model and supporting virtual health projects. The vision is for telehealth to contribute to better health and well-being for all populations in Virginia's Eastern Shore Communities.

[For More Information](#)



VA Seeking Nominations for Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee

Nomination Deadline: February 19, 2021

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as members of the Veterans' Rural Health Advisory Committee (VRHAC). The VRHAC advises the VA Secretary on ways to improve and enhance access to services for veterans in rural areas.

[For More Information](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2021

The need for social distancing during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic isn't stopping the VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence from hosting the tenth annual Virginia Patient Safety Summit as a virtual event. The virtual summit will celebrate 10 years of statewide collaboration on patient and staff safety, quality, and patient experience improvement work and is **free** for all participants.

To Register

Challenges for Critical Access Hospitals and Alternatives to Hospital Closure

The North Carolina Rural Health Research and Policy Analysis Center released two policy briefs based on a national survey of Critical Access Hospital (CAH) executives. One looks at health system challenges CAHs face while the other examines the executives' thoughts on the viability of various alternatives to hospital closures.

For More Information

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

The Virginia State Loan Repayment Program (VA-SLRP) application cycle is now open!



Application Deadline: March 31, 2021

VA-SLRP is operated by the Virginia Department of Health-Office of Health Equity (VDH-OHE) providing a non-taxed incentive to qualified medical, dental, behavioral health and pharmaceutical (pharmacists) professionals in return for a minimum of two (2) years of service at an eligible practice site in one of the federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in a qualified field of practice in Virginia. There is a total of \$2,465,000 in available funding.

For more specific details, please call (804) 864-7431 or email olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov.

Updated Program Flyer

For More Information and to Apply



Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 in startup funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns to implement the Community Heart & Soul model.

Learn about this new funding opportunity during the **Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program Information Webinar** on **Wednesday, February 17 at 2pm ET**. Participants will get details on the grant program and guidance for a successful application. Sue Lessard, Town Manager in Bucksport, Maine will share her experience with Community Heart & Soul and its benefits. The webinar will be recorded for later viewing.

[For More Information](#)

[To Register for the Webinar](#)



USDA Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

Application Deadline: March 22, 2021

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will award grants of up to \$250,000 each for projects related to housing, community, and economic development. Points will be awarded to applications proposing efforts at prevention, treatment, and recovery for substance use disorder. Eligible applicants include public and nonprofit community-based housing and development organizations and federally-recognized tribal governments.

[For More Information](#)

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

