**VDH Partners Call, 10:00, 25 Sep 2020:**

Notes and slides from previous meetings are available at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-preparedness/emergency-preparedness/covid-19-information/>

**Introduction and COVID-19 Case Count Update (Suzi Silverstein):**

Virginia Cumulative Totals as of Sep 25:

* Cases: 144,433
* Hospitalizations: 10,806
* Deaths: 3,136

**Halloween Guidance (Rachel Ellick):**

* CDC Released guidance for Halloween and other fall holidays, earlier this week.
  + <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>
* VDH’s Guidance incorporates the CDC guidance and is available at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/09/VDH-Interim-Guidance-for-Halloween-Events-2.pdf>
* This document can also be found by going to the VDH COVID-19 home page, clicking on Community, Work, School, then clicking on “Public Outdoor Spaces”
* Overview of VDH’s Halloween guidance:
  + Defines Low, Moderate, and High Risk activities related to traditional Halloween celebrations
  + Defines how COVID-19 is spread and how to avoid risk of spread altogether
  + Some activities are higher risk than others.
  + Trick or Treating done outdoors with social distancing can be safer if individually wrapped candies given out in such a way that 6-foot distance is maintained
  + Higher risk activities include parties, haunted houses, hay rides, and other activities where people are closer than 6 feet, or where masks are not worn etc.
* Reminder that all public gatherings and entertainment venues are still subject to the Governor’s Phase 3 restrictions

**MRC Update (Meagan Doran):**

* 12,187 Deployable MRC Volunteers as of today
* Over 75,000 hours of volunteer work between March and June
* $2.2 million worth of man hours
* Continue to support Testing, Contact Tracing, staffing for Long Term Care Facilities
* We are training volunteers to get them ready for mass vaccination events.

**Health Equity Update (Karen):**

* Communications services for deaf and hard of hearing has been extremely busy this year
* Always include a channel for accommodations and ensure that information is available for attendees of conferences, meetings etc.
* Sign language interpretation – can be done through video remote systems, allowing for social distances
* Information on accessibility guidance can be found at va.emergency.gov and search for communication accessibility
* Information also available at www.vddhh.virginia.org
* Health Equity guidebook is available on the VDH website. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/office-of-health-equity/covid-19-health-equity-guidebook/>
* IT accessibility info can be found at: <https://section508.gov/>
* Karen also offered to be a resource: [karen.brimm@vddhh.virginia.gov](mailto:karen.brimm@vddhh.virginia.gov)

**OEP update (Bob Mauskapf):**

* Vaccine Workgroup comprised to plan for receipt and administration of vaccines
* Planning team includes multiple VDH offices, and VDEM, including Health Equity representation
* Plan has been drafted and is in review at this time
* There will be a seminar in October for participants that will be key to the plan
* There is also a Vaccine Advisory Group made up of a large number of external stakeholders and subject matter experts that are reviewing VDH plan documents and providing feedback
* Received approval for CARES act funding to support the vaccination efforts
* Press conference this morning that both the Governor and First Lady tested positive for COVID-19. Governor is asymptomatic, First Lady has minor symptoms
* Both the Governor’s mansion and Patrick Henry Building are closed for deep cleaning

**Q&A Session:** No Questions.

**Next Meeting: Friday, Oct 2.**

**Topics for the next meeting:**

* Contact tracing updates
* K-12 updates
* Social Media Project