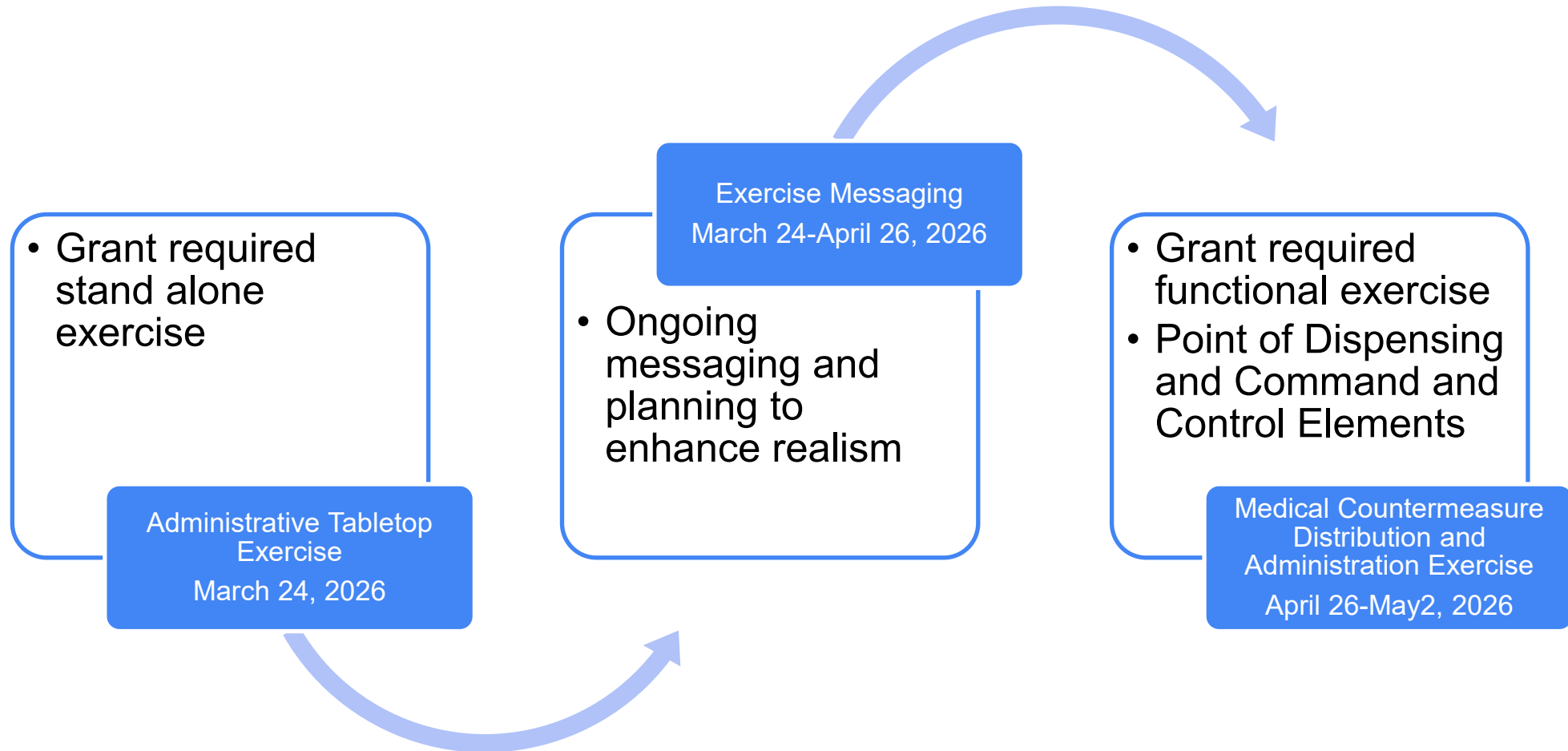


Requisite Cardinal

Administrative Tabletop Exercise
2026 Public Health Preparedness Summit

Requisite Cardinal “Big Picture”



Exercise Overview

- Discuss various fiscal, legal, and administrative authorities and practices governing funding, procurement, contracting, and hiring.
- Discuss how these authorities can be modified, accelerated, and streamlined during an emergency to support public health preparedness, response, and recovery at state, territorial, local, and tribal levels of government.



Objectives

- **Contracting:** Discuss/develop and include strategies to expedite the contracting approval process for the purchase of services during an emergency into plans.
- **Procurement:** Discuss/develop and include the processes to procure supplies needed to support emergency responses into plans.
- **Receiving/Accepting Emergency Funds:** Discuss/develop and include strategies to expedite process(es) for accepting emergency preparedness funding into plans.
- **Surge Staffing:** Discuss/develop and include strategies to expedite process(es) for hiring and/or reassigning staff and volunteers to support surge staffing needs during responses into plans.

Exercise Artificialities

- Admin TTX is using a condensed scenario narrative to allow for Admin prep focus.
- Exercise communication and coordination will be limited to participating exercise organizations and venues
- Real-world emergencies will always take priority
- Scenario timelines have been changed to enhance exercise discussions
- Some scenario items will be occurring or have occurred outside the scope of the administrative TTX.

Exercise Guidelines

- **Don't fight the scenario!**
- **Take it seriously**
- This is an open no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected and open discussion is encouraged.
- Decisions are not precedent setting; consider different approaches and suggest improvements.
- Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions that could improve response efforts.
- **Problem-solving efforts should be the focus.**

Roles and Responsibilities



Players: Personnel who have an active role in discussing or performing their regular roles and responsibilities during the exercise. Players discuss or initiate actions in response to the simulated emergency.



Facilitators: Moderate discussions. They also provide additional information or resolve questions as required and keep exercise discussions moving.



Evaluators: Are assigned to observe and document certain objectives during the exercise. Their primary role is to document player discussions, including how and if those discussions conform to plans, policies, and procedures.

Scenario Update

November 2025

- The fall bird migration season shows high traffic migration patterns across Virginia as waterfowl move south for the winter along the Atlantic Flyway. Reports of several mortality events associated with vultures (and other raptors), shorebirds, and waterfowl prompt the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to perform additional surveillance testing.



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December 2025

- With the increase of positive H9N5 reports in wild birds across the state, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) strongly promotes enhanced flock biosecurity to protect the health of both commercial poultry and backyard flocks. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is amplifying animal health messages from VDACS and DWR and sharing messages about ways to protect human health with a variety of audiences.



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December 2025 Cont.

- During the week of December 13, there are reports of a commercial poultry farm near Harrisonburg, VA and a backyard flock in a mixed-use farm in James City County experiencing unusual deaths among their domestic birds.
- The backyard flock has also reported a significant decrease in egg production. The commercial flock tested non-negative at a VDACS laboratory with confirmatory testing pending at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory.
- Based on the non-negative result, VDACS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) program completed rapid depopulation of the commercial flock within 24 hours.
- Composting is ongoing, to be followed by cleaning, disinfection, and environmental testing prior to restocking.



December 2025 Cont.

- The investigation of morbidity and mortality within the backyard flock at the mixed-use farm by VDACS and USDA APHIS-VS identified not only birds from the free-ranging backyard flock but also non-avian species exhibiting influenza-like illness.
- Bird species present on site include ducks, geese, chickens, and Guinea fowl. The farm has a pond that the wild birds and backyard flock both have access to.



December 2025 Cont.

- Remaining domestic birds at the farm were depopulated. Specimens were collected from ill domestic animal species, livestock, and wildlife at the farm.
- The testing revealed positive H9N5 results in cats, cattle, and goats, in addition to the birds from the backyard flock.
- Expanded testing is conducted in the area by the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) program, resulting in the detection of H9N5 positive foxes and raccoons.



January 2026

- By January 7, the virus has been detected in goats, cattle, cats, peridomestic wildlife, backyard flocks, and commercial poultry in every health region. VDH, in coordination with VDACS, sends out messaging to farm workers about potential risks and safety precautions (including the use of PPE and other protective measures) and what to do if they or their animals become sick.



January 2026 Cont.



As the number of cases continue rising in birds, livestock, and wildlife species, there is growing concern for transmission to humans.



Throughout January, there has been steady reporting of farm workers experiencing respiratory symptoms.



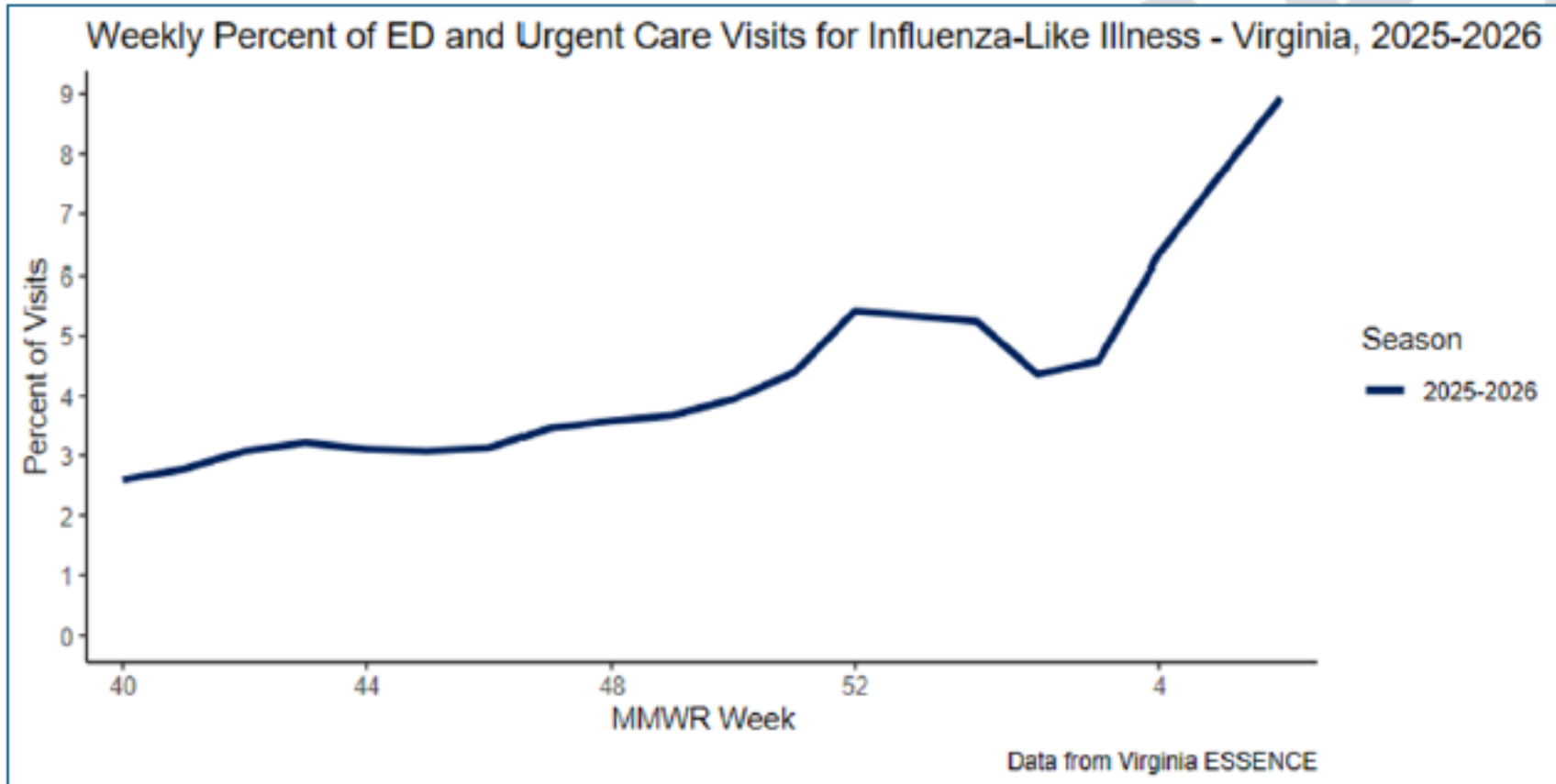
The Division for Consolidated and Laboratory Services (DCLS) is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to validate testing and sequencing for the novel influenza virus.

February 2026

- On February 5, a farm worker from a mixed-use farm in New Kent is hospitalized in Richmond with flu-like illness and gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms.
- Symptoms for the case began on January 31 and initial testing at the hospital shows the patient is positive for Flu A and no pathogens were detected on the BioFire GI panel. The farm worker denies handling birds on the farm but does work with goats and cattle.



February 2026 Cont.



*The data provided in this graph are fictional and not representative of the current 2025-2026 Flu season.

March 2026

- During the week ending March 14, the Lord Fairfax Health District (LFHD) receives a call from an emergency department about a patient who works with a goat grazing company. The patient has conjunctivitis, GI symptoms, and ILI.
- The local hospital reaches out to their local epidemiologist due to the nature of the symptoms and the person's line of work.
- LFHD speaks with the patient, who mentions using the goats on several large and small mixed-use farms with poultry and other farm animals recently throughout Virginia's Northern and Northwest health regions.



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March 2026 Cont.



While investigating this patient's close contacts for monitoring, LFHD determines that the patient attended the Mid-Atlantic Grazing Conference during his infectious period. The conference was attended by a few hundred people from all over Virginia and the surrounding states.



The LHD is unable to obtain a comprehensive list of people who attended the event. LFHD and VDH Central Office contact VDACS to discuss the situation and inform them about the sick goats on a farm that was visited as part of the conference.



VDACS reaches out to the farm and begins collecting specimens for testing and confirms that some goats on the farm have illness compatible with H9N5 infection. The test results from VDACS identify that the goats are non-negative for H9N5.

March 2026 Cont.



VDH issues an Epi-X alert to other states notifying them of the potential conference exposure to a confirmed human case of H9N5.



States with suspected human cases linked to this event are requested to contact VDH.

March 2026 Cont.

- Based on the high rate of hospitalizations among human cases, the continued increase in reported cases, and the potential for person-to-person transmission, the State Health Commissioner has issued a declaration of a Communicable Disease of Public Health Threat.

Region	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Eastern	3	2	0
Central	2	1	0
Northern	3	0	0
Northwest	4	0	0
Southwest	5	2	0
Other States	1	1	0
Total Cases	18	6	0

March 2026 Cont.



HHS and other federal partners begin vaccine development; the estimated time for vaccine availability is unknown.



Other states begin to report cases.



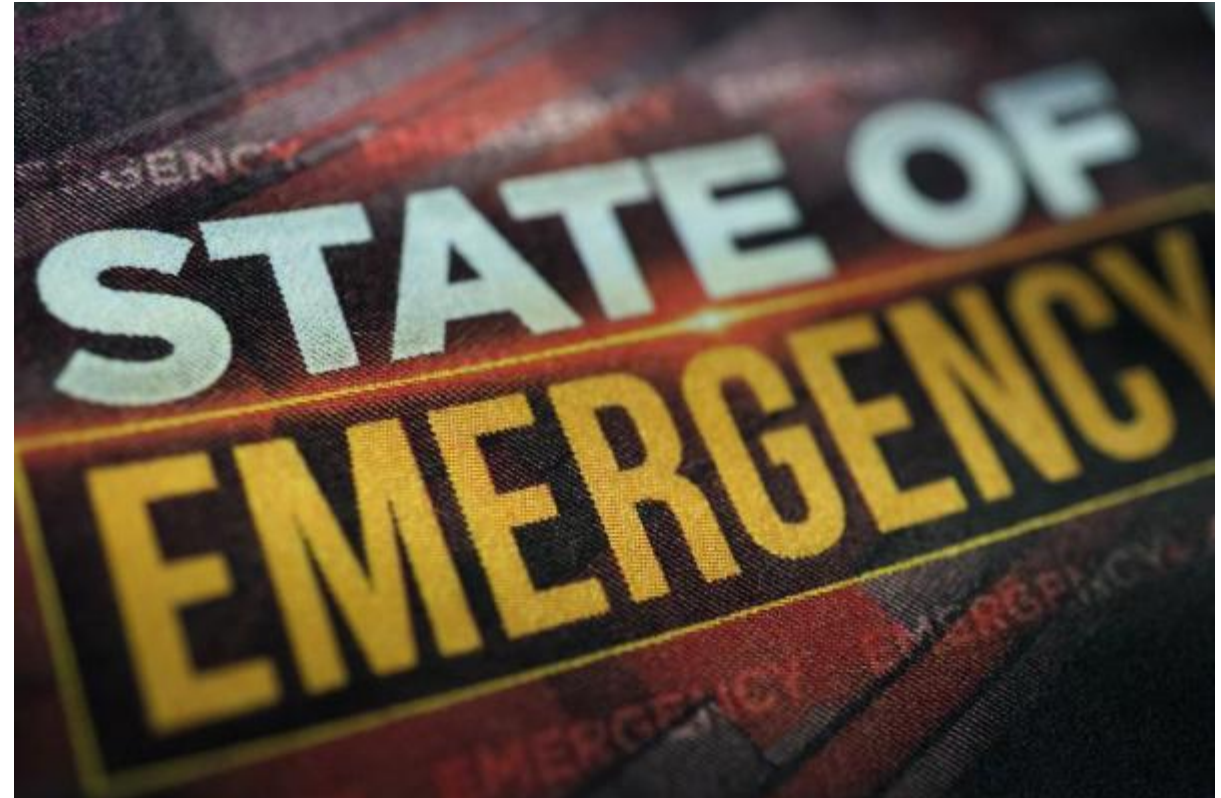
HHS asks pharmaceutical companies to begin scaling antiviral production for high-risk individuals, as some antivirals (Tamiflu and Relenza) are effective against severe outcomes.



The State Health Commissioner has submitted a request to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) for influenza antivirals as pharmacies and healthcare facilities begin to report difficulty obtaining the medications.

March 2026 Cont.

- At the request of the State Health Commissioner and the State Coordinator of Emergency Management, the Governor has issued an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the Commonwealth.
- The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has activated the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) and the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC).



March 2026 Cont.

- On March 24, 2026, Virginia receives notification from the federal government that funds have been released to support Virginia and increase preparedness of surrounding states.
 - The Commonwealth has been allotted:
 - **\$7,000,000 in initial funds**
 - **\$3,000,000 as a future allocation**



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March 2026 (Cont.)

- The Federal Government has also activated the Defense Production Act to aid in increasing the supply of Anti-Viral countermeasures available
- Increased delivery of Anti-Viral Countermeasures should begin to arrive in the state in mid-April and should be available for distribution and dispensing to districts the week of **April 26-May 2.**



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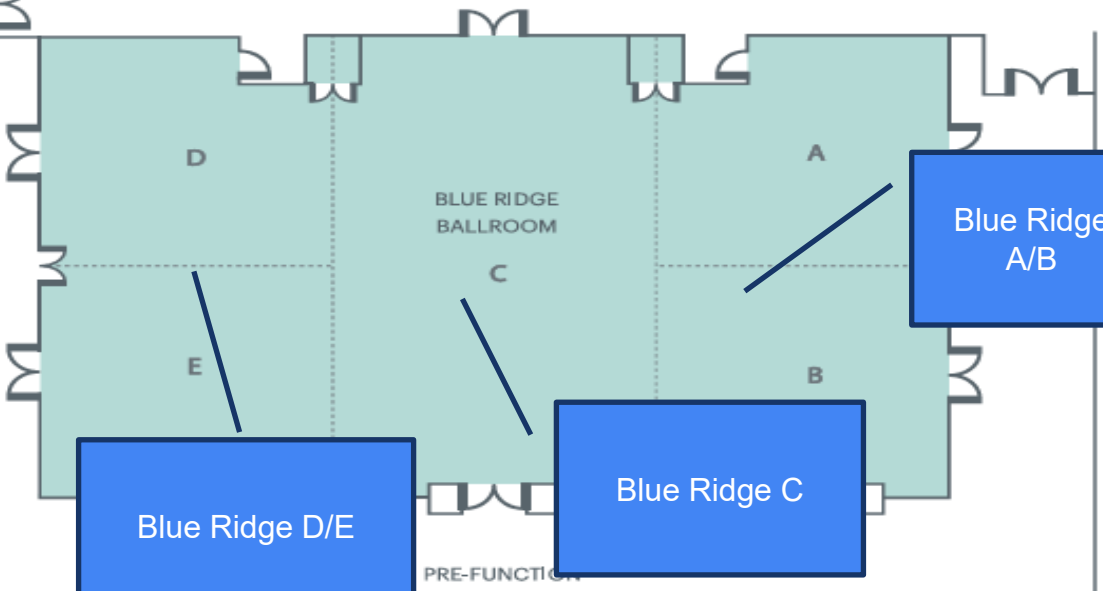
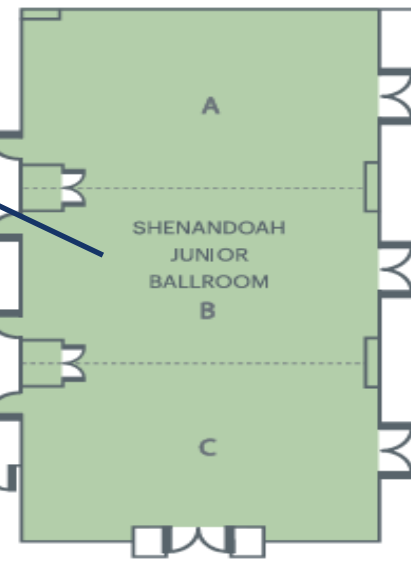
Disclaimer

- The scenario described above is entirely fictional and should be regarded as such. There have been no known detections of HPAI Influenza A in goats or dairy cattle in Virginia to date. In 2024, there were detections of H5N1 HPAI Influenza A; genotype B3.6, in neonatal goat kids on a Minnesota farm. A recent Canadian study demonstrated that goats are susceptible to H5N1 infection, with transmission to offspring occurring through nursing. This study underscores the need for increased surveillance of HPAI Influenza A viruses in ruminant livestock.

Time	Topic	Location
2:30pm-3:00pm	Administrative Preparedness Exercise Introduction and Overview	Chesapeake Ballroom
3:00pm-3:10pm	Break & Transition Into Breakout Rooms	
3:10pm-5:00pm	Administration Tabletop Exercise Group Discussions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Region 	Blue Ridge AB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Region 	Blue Ridge C
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Region 	Chesapeake AB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest Region 	Blue Ridge DE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwest Region 	Chesapeake C
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Office 	Shenandoah ABC
5:00pm-5:30pm	Exercise Hotwash	Breakout Rooms
5:30pm	Adjourn	

Shenandoah
A/B/C

REYNOLDS
EXECUTIVE
BOARDROOM



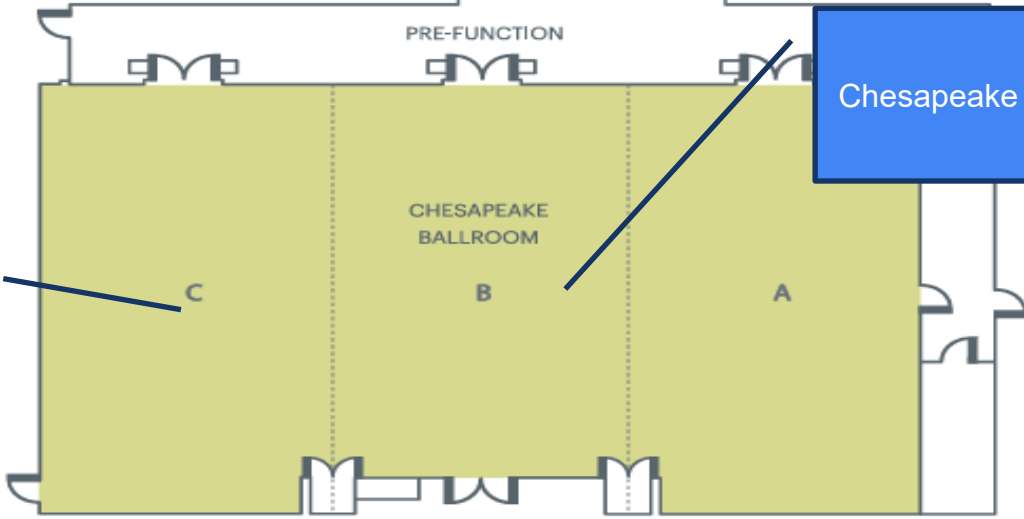
Blue Ridge
A/B

Blue Ridge D/E

Blue Ridge C



Chesapeake C



Chesapeake A/B

What's Next?

- Begin transition to assigned breakout room
- Exercise play will start at 3:10 pm
- Once in breakout room
 - Facilitators will provide an opportunity to organize, provide an overview of questions and monitor time in the room, NOT provide answers.
 - All scenario information has been given
 - Players will then begin to discuss and answer exercise questions in the Situation Manual
 - Document ALL responses
 - If you need someone in another room, GO GET THEM or send a Runner and get the answer

Huh?

- Get seated as soon as possible after break/transition
- Ensure you have a copy of the Situation Manual (SITMAN)
- **We have limited time**
- **Administrative Preparedness, is the primary focus however, Everyone has a stake in this function**
- Engage in the discussion
- **Document your moves**, Use a “parking lot” for major or stalemated issues.
- Use “EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE” on any calls, emails, or other communications related to exercise play
- Complete participant feedback!

FREE PLAY

- Even though everyone has a stake in administrative preparedness, the potential for some other staff in the rooms to perceive that they don't, therefore, each facilitator will have a special packet of Incident Management related tasks/questions, that may be given to those staff to discuss, this is FREE PLAY and is not being evaluated and is also anticipated to help the coordinators/others have some extra planning time for their roles in the April 26-May 2, evolution

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	• Southwest Region	Chesapeake C
	• Central Office	Shenandoah ABC
5:00pm-5:30pm	Exercise Hotwash	Breakout Rooms
5:30pm	Adjourn	

BREAK & Transition to Breakout Rooms

20 Minutes