

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS
STORM-RELATED HEALTH ISSUES**

The Virginia Department of Health has joined other state agencies in activating emergency staff to protect the health and safety of Virginians from the potentially damaging effects of Tropical Storm Hanna. VDH staff is preparing to work around the clock to provide resources for Virginians should health related issues arise.

“We are not only concerned about the immediate impact of the storm on our residents but the health challenges that may follow,” said State Health Commissioner Karen Remley, M.D., MBA. “We want to ensure that residents will continue to have safe drinking water, know the proper way to store food should there be a power outage and avoid injury during a storm and during cleanup.”

The Virginia Department of Health’s Web site can help guide citizens in protecting their health in the face of an approaching hurricane or tropical storm. The Web site, www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/Alerts/Hurricanes/index.htm, includes information in English and Spanish on preparing an emergency supply kit as well as tips to protect your family and pets.

For more information on health related issues that arise during and after hurricanes, as well as emergency preparedness and planning, contact the communications department to talk with a VDH expert.

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