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Resources

- [Sentinel XL S-3000 PAPR Units](#)
- [Personal Protection Equipment](#)
- [Improving Access to Influenza Countermeasures for U.S. Jurisdictions](#)

Communications

Site Visits Continue!

The coalition offers site visits to all members annually. These non-punitively visits review emergency operations plans, identify best practices in planning bring the wealth of the region's planning knowledge directly to the staff. The meetings are open to emergency managers and health district planners, last no more than an hour and can be scheduled between July and April of each fiscal year. If interested in participating, contact Amy Green, Medically Vulnerable Populations Coordinator, at agreen@vaems.org.

ESRD Emergency Hub

The ESRD Emergency Hub is designed to help people with kidney disease who are on dialysis or have received a transplant prepare for and stay safe during an emergency. Access free resources and tools created by kidney care and emergency management experts. Easily create, store, and find your treatment information, emergency resources and needed phone numbers for treatment centers and support organization. Receive critical information in real time based from trusted resources including your ESRD Network. Download the app or watch a video to learn more. Visit esrdemergencyhub.ipro.org.

Emergency Operations Planning

Regional Healthcare Coordination Center (RHCC) Activation

The Regional Healthcare Coordination Center (RHCC) is a result of the collaboration of healthcare entities in the eastern region of Virginia. The RHCC is designed to provide mutual aid to EVHC members. The RHCC is able to provide alerts when a member organization suffers an operational problem or disaster using the Virginia Healthcare Alerting and Status System (VHASS). Once a VHASS event is created it will notify members of the effect to healthcare

delivery in the region. RHCC can provide data to support healthcare response and recovery operations.

For more information regarding the RHCC and VHASS, contact the EVHC Program Office at (757) 963-0632 or via e-mail at evhc@vaems.org.

To activate the RHCC call (844) 757-7422.

***NEW* FBI Disrupts Ransomware Network Targeting Hospitals and Others**

John Riggi, AHA's national advisor for cybersecurity and risk, said, "The disruption and dismantlement of the HIVE ransomware by the FBI, the U.S. Department of Justice and international partners is welcome news and will help make hospitals safer against high-impact ransomware attacks, which have disrupted health care delivery and jeopardized patient safety. As U.S. Attorney General Garland stated, this coordinated international law enforcement action was assisted with victim cooperation, including hospitals, and through the robust exchange of cyberthreat information with the private sector. The AHA is proud to partner with all federal law enforcement, health care and national security agencies to facilitate and amplify the rapid and effective exchange of cyberthreat information with the field — to help defend health care and the nation against these sinister cyber threats." For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

Winter Weather Preparedness

Here are several quick steps to take to keep safe this winter.

- Have an emergency kit prepared with supplies such as an alternate fuel source for heating your home, flashlights and batteries in your home and car, blankets, food that needs no cooking or refrigeration, a 3-day supply of water, prescription medicines, a battery operated radio and flashlights, battery powered cell phone chargers, snow shovel etc. Learn more about preparing a winter preparedness plan by visiting, www.readyvirginia.gov.
- Winterize homes by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows. In addition, if using woodstoves or fireplaces to heat, remember to have them professionally serviced and cleaned.
- Check batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide monitors.
- Prepare vehicles with emergency supplies and have maintenance service as often as the manufacturer recommends.

Follow this [link](#) for more information.





Emergency Psychiatric Care That Finally Works for Patients Source

According to the Alameda Health System, up to 15% of emergency department visits now involve behavioral health emergencies, including substance use and mental health crises. Yet in managing these patients, too many hospitals adhere to historically inefficient care models that benefit few—and may actually cause patients’ symptoms to worsen. To improve emergency psychiatric care, we must first challenge the assumption that most behavioral health patients require inpatient admission as their disposition. Experience at Vituity suggests that with urgent interventions, as many as 80% of patients in behavioral health crisis can be stabilized and returned home or to outpatient care within 24 hours (that is, in less time than many are sitting waiting in EDs today). Follow this [link](#) for more information.

Active Shooter Planning and Response in a Healthcare Setting

According to Healthcare and Public Health Sector Coordinating Council, active shooter events in a healthcare setting present unique challenges: a potentially large vulnerable population, hazardous material (including infectious disease), locked units, special challenges (such as weapons and Magnetic Response Imaging (MRI) machines, as well as caregivers who can respond to treat victims. There is no single method to respond to an incident, but prior planning will allow you and your staff to choose the best option during an active shooter situation, with the goal of maximizing lives saved. The best way to save lives is to remove potential targets from the shooter’s vicinity. The article addresses some difficult choices that will need to be made in this document. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

Preparedness and Readiness

***NEW* WHO Update Critical Medicines for Radiological Emergency**

The World Health Organization (WHO) today updated its [list of medicines](#) that should be stockpiled for radiological and nuclear emergencies, along with policy advice for their appropriate management. These stockpiles include medicines that either prevent or reduce exposure to radiation, or treat injuries once exposure has occurred.

“In radiation emergencies, people may be exposed to radiation at doses ranging from negligible to life-threatening. Governments need to make treatments available for those in need – fast,” said Dr Maria Neira, WHO Acting Assistant Director-General a.i, Healthier Populations Division. “It is essential that governments are prepared to protect the health of populations and respond immediately to emergencies. This includes having ready supplies of lifesaving medicines that will reduce risks and treat injuries from radiation.” This publication supersedes the [2007](#)



WHO report on the development of national stockpiles for radiation emergencies. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

***NEW* Health Care Workers Struggle To Recall Emergency Codes**

The study surveyed 304 employees, testing them on codes for 14 emergencies. On average, participants could identify the correct emergency codes 44% of the time. Codes for fire, infant abduction and cardiac arrest were the most well-known.

“The results of our study suggest a prompt response to such incidents is likely to be poor, as most employees were unaware of the meanings or actions of these notifications,” said Taylor. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

2022 National Preparedness Report

The “2022 National Preparedness Report” summarizes progress made, and challenges that remain, in building and sustaining the capabilities needed to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats, hazards and incidents that pose the greatest risk to the nation. For this report, FEMA examined the incidents of 2021 to draw broader conclusions about national risk and capability gaps and identified management opportunities to build those capabilities and reduce risk. This annual report offers all levels of government, tribes, the private and nonprofit sectors, and the public practical insights into preparedness that support decisions about program priorities, resource allocations, and actions that can create more resilient communities. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

Virginia Emergency Management Symposium

The Virginia Emergency Management Symposium is an annual event that is co-sponsored by the Virginia Emergency Management Association and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. The Symposium provides a forum to discuss current trends and topics and share information about the latest tools and technology in emergency management and homeland security. Sessions encourage stakeholders at all levels of government, the private sector, public health and related professions to exchange ideas and collaborate to protect lives and property from disaster.

The theme for 2023 is "Change? Challenge Accepted!" and was chosen because, emergency managers in all sectors and at every level have shown what it means to be resilient, by applying lessons learned from the response to the pandemic and other incidents and subsequently changing the way emergency management functions across the board. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).



National Weather Service Briefs

EVHC is encouraging all facilities to sign up for National Weather Service delivered weekly directly to you. Please note these weekly briefings will be suspended during times when NWS delivers other weather specific briefings focusing on high impact weather events (e.g. severe weather and coastal storms).

To sign up:

- Gather all email addresses for your organization that need to receive NWS briefings.
- Email your list to AKQ-REPORT@NOAA.GOV
- Include “NWS Wakefield Weekly Briefing Signup” in subject line.

Wakefield NWS will process these requests and you should begin receiving the briefings within 3-5 business days.

2023 Preparedness Summit

The 2023 Preparedness Summit is scheduled for April 24-27, 2023, in Atlanta. The 2023 theme, “Recover. Renew: Reprioritizing All-Hazards Preparedness,” will provide an opportunity to revisit pressing issues in preparedness and share resources, shape policies, and build skills to mitigate a variety of threats. More information about the event is available on the [Preparedness Summit website](#).

Regulatory News and Updates

NEW CMS Posting Citations Under Dispute

As part of CMS’s commitment to transparency, consumers should have as much information about nursing homes as possible to support their healthcare decisions. Allowing consumers to see all of the citations a facility receives regardless of whether they are under IDR/IIDR is consistent with our commitment to transparency and also enhances accountability and oversight of nursing homes.

Therefore, CMS will post deficiency citations under IDR/IIDR in each section of Nursing Home Care Compare that currently displays citations, and will indicate if a citation is under dispute. If, based on the results of the IDR/IIDR process, the citations are upheld, they will remain posted and will be included in the calculation of the facility’s star rating if applicable. If the citations are overturned (i.e., removed), they will be removed from the website. If the level of scope or severity of a citation is reduced, the citation will be displayed at the reduced level. We note that on average, the majority of citations (approximately 75%) do not change after completion of the IDR/IIDR process. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).



***NEW* Telehealth Policy Updates**

Federal legislation continues to expand and extend telehealth services for rural health, behavioral health, and telehealth access options, including from the home and audio-only for Medicare beneficiaries, beyond the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. This includes: Rural health, Behavioral health, Extensions of telehealth access options. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

U.S. Department of Labor Request Injury and Illness Data

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is reminding employers that the agency is collecting calendar year 2022 Form 300A data. Employers must submit the form electronically by March 2, 2023. Establishments under Federal OSHA jurisdiction can use the [ITA Coverage Application](#) to determine if they are required to electronically report their injury and illness information to OSHA. Establishments under State Plan jurisdiction should contact their [State Plan](#). Employers must connect their [Injury Tracking Account](#) to a [Login.gov](#) account to submit their 2022 workplace injury and illness data. Watch the [video](#) to learn how. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

ASPR Strategic Plan for 2022-2026

This document lays out ASPR's strategic goals and objectives and reflects the approach we will take to help the country prepare for, respond to, and recover from whatever comes next—no matter what that might be. In recognition of the increasing magnitude and scope of what we do, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra recently elevated ASPR from an HHS Staff Division to an Operating Division (OpDiv) and renamed us the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response. Becoming an OpDiv gives ASPR additional administrative tools to enhance our ability to respond to current and future public health emergencies. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

2023 Session: House Bill No. 646 Nursing Home Standards

Shall establish staffing and care standards in nursing homes to require a minimum of direct care services to each resident per 24-hour period as follows: (i) a minimum of 2.8 direct care hours provided by a nurse aide per resident, per day; (ii) a minimum of 1.3 direct care hours provided by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse per resident, per day; and (iii) a minimum of 0.75 hours out of total 4.1 required direct hours provided by a registered nurse per resident, per day. Any facility that fails to maintain staffing levels sufficient to comply with this subdivision



shall be ineligible to accept new patients; and 31. Shall require nursing homes to provide quarterly staff training on first aid, medication administration, and compliance with nursing home policies and procedures. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

Exercises and Training

OSIG Finds Lessons Learned Not Implemented During I-95 Snow Incident

In its audit of the 2022 I-95 Snow Incident, OSIG found that the Commonwealth did not apply lessons learned from a previous snow incident. For more information, please use the following [link](#).

Lessons Learned Orange County Water Interruption

In February 2017, a “Do Not Use, Do Not Drink” order was issued by the Orange County Department of Public Health in consultation with the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) which created a community-wide emergency for drinking water and sanitation concerns. OWASA proactively communicated the situation in concert with participating agencies to warn the public, while the Orange County Emergency Management Program supported the community through water distribution points and other functions. For more information, please use the following [link](#).

Lessons Learned Seattle Bus Collision

On September 24, 2015 at approximately 11:00 AM Seattle Police and Fire Dispatch Centers began receiving calls about a collision between a charter bus and a Ride the Duck vehicle on the Aurora Bridge. Callers were reporting mass injuries and a complete blockage of the bridge. Seattle Fire activated their Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Plan, deploying the MCI team who arrived at the scene 11:15 AM. Seattle Police arrived on scene to provide traffic control as the MCI team addressed the injured passengers. For more information, please use the following [link](#).

Lessons Learned Oregon MCI Hospital & EMS AAR

Winter conditions [Feb. 21](#) contributed to a series of crashes on Interstate 84 about 21 miles east of Pendleton that involved hundreds of travelers and a massive emergency response. Oregon State Police and the Oregon Department of Transportation reported the wrecks stretched 1.75 miles and involved more than 170 vehicles. The crashes shut down the westbound and eastbound lanes of the freeway in Eastern Oregon. OSP reported 17 patients were transported from the crash scene with an additional two who were transported after they arrived at the Pendleton Convention Center, which served as a reunification hub for people in the crash. For more information, please use the following [link](#).



Upcoming Training

VHASS Events Calendar

As the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP) continues to develop and deploy statewide training and education offerings – we redesigned our [Events Calendar](https://vhass.org/events/) (<https://vhass.org/events/>) on the [VHASS.org](https://vhass.org) website to provide a consistent location to market these opportunities.

The redesigned page includes multiple view options (list, month, day), keyword search box, search by date feature, preview and full detail display capabilities, as well as a “subscribe to calendar” feature which provides the ability to import the VHEMP Events calendar to your work or personal calendars. Please see the attached images for illustration.

Infection Control

Virginia COVID-19 Cases and Testing Count

Cases by Date of Illness (1/22 – 1/28): 8,369	Death: 9
Cases by Date of Illness (1/15 – 1/21): 9,887	Death: 17

Source: Virginia Department of Health. VDH is closely monitoring and investigating cases of the novel coronavirus in the Commonwealth and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children ([MIS-C](#)). Follow [link](#) for more detailed information. (Data as of February 1, 2023)

Virginia Vaccine Summary

Total Doses Administered: 18,285,218 Fully Vaccinated: 6,330,629
% of Population Fully Vaccinated: 73.7%
People with Booster/Third Dose: 5,239,282

Source: Virginia Department of Health. People vaccinated with two doses of 2-dose vaccine or a one dose of a single dose vaccine are included. Follow [link](#) for more detailed information. (Data as of February 1, 2023)

COVID-19 VHHA – Hospital COVID Data

Currently Hospitalized: 681



Hospitalized in the ICU with confirmed COVID positive test: 87

Source: Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association. VHASS status board data is used at the state level for COVID surge modeling and emergency management. Follow this [link](#) for more detailed information. (Data as of February 1, 2023)

***NEW* CDC Website To Find Free COVID Testing**

Today CDC launched the COVID-19 Testing Locator website, which will allow consumers to search for free COVID-19 testing sites near them. The locator is part of the CDC Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) program, which provides access to COVID-19 testing, focusing on communities at a greater risk of being impacted by the pandemic, people who do not have health insurance, and surge testing in state and local jurisdictions. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

***NEW* NIOSH Crowdsourcing Competitions for Respirator Fit Evaluations**

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) launched its latest crowdsourcing competition, the [Respirator Fit Evaluation Challenge](#). This multi-phase prize challenge offers \$350,000 in total prize money for novel solutions to improve respirator fit testing practices. The Challenge is a collaboration between NIOSH, Capital Consulting Corporation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

CMS Urges Timely Patient Access to COVID-19 Vaccines, Therapeutics

CMS is also reemphasizing the need for providers and suppliers to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations, including any updated COVID vaccines, as they provide the best defense against severe illness, hospitalization, and death from the virus.

CMS is encouraging nursing homes, in particular, to increase their vaccination efforts and review and reinforce their infection control protocols. CMS requires nursing homes to educate residents and staff on the risks and benefits of the COVID vaccines and offer to administer the vaccine. In addition, in consultation with their physician and family, nursing homes should ensure residents who test positive for COVID-19 receive appropriate treatments. For more information please utilize the following [link](#).

Virginia Department of Health Announces Availability of Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines for Pediatric Patients Ages Six Months and Older

Parents of young children in Virginia are now able to seek a free bivalent pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for their children aged six months and older, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH)



announced today, following the recommendation of the vaccines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on December 9. Both bivalent vaccines target the original strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that first emerged in Wuhan, China in late 2019 and the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants of the Omicron variant that emerged in the United States in November 2021.

VDH advises parents to discuss this option with their child's healthcare provider. Vaccination opportunities may be found at [Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://www.vaccinate.virginia.gov). Information about all the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for administration in the U.S. is available at the VDH COVID-19 vaccine website. The Vaccinate Virginia Call Center is an additional source of information; call (877) VAX-IN-VA – (877) 829-4682 – Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information is available in English, Spanish and more than 100 other languages. TTY users should call 7-1-1. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak 2022: Situation Summary

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is urging healthcare providers in the U.S. to be alert for patients who have rash illnesses [consistent with monkeypox](#), regardless of whether they have travel or specific risk factors for monkeypox and regardless of gender or sexual orientation. CDC is working with state and local health officials to identify people who may have been in contact with individuals who have tested positive for monkeypox, so they can [monitor their health](#). Follow this [link](#) for more information ([Signs and Symptoms](#)). ([Outbreak Map](#)).

Increase in Pediatric Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infections

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to notify clinicians and public health authorities of a recent increase in pediatric invasive group A streptococcal (iGAS) infections. In November 2022, CDC was notified of a possible increase in iGAS infections among children at a hospital in Colorado. Potential increases in pediatric iGAS cases in other states were subsequently noted by contributors to the Infectious Diseases Society of America's provider-based Emerging Infections Network and by certain jurisdictions participating in CDC's Active Bacterial Core Surveillance System (ABCs). This increased number of pediatric iGAS cases in some jurisdictions has occurred in the setting of increased circulation of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2, and other respiratory viruses. While the overall number of cases has remained relatively low and iGAS infections remain rare in children, CDC is investigating these reports. Follow this [link](#) for more information.



Resources

Sentinel XL S-3000 PAPR Units

EVHC is offering ILC Dover Sentinel XL HP PAPR Systems to members free of charge. This is a blower-assisted air purifying respirator that includes a head cover, battery pack, hoses and other components. Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) Conversion kits are also available for the PAPR units. If you have interest please contact Ben Cibock, EVHC Inventory and Management Specialist at bcibock@vaems.org.

Personal Protection Equipment

If anyone is in need of PPE as they continue COVID response efforts, contact Ben Cibock, EVHC Interim RHCC Manager at bcibock@vaems.org. Items provided would be at no cost to our members.

- N-95 Mask
 - Face Shields
 - Hair Covers
 - Shoe Covers
 - Adult Surgical Masks
 - Isolation Gowns
 - Lysol Wipes
-

Improving Access to Influenza Countermeasures for U.S. Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions should work with their [ASPR Regional Teams \(Region 3\)](#) to initiate any requests for Tamiflu through the SNS. HHS is committed to ensuring that jurisdictions receive the assistance they need without affecting our nation's preparedness for a potential pandemic flu. To determine the expiration date for extended but not relabeled Tamiflu products, find the lot number on the product label and refer to the table using this [link](#) to identify the corresponding expiration date.