



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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RICHMOND, VA 23218

Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP
State Health Commissioner

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March 7, 2018

Dear Long-Term Care Colleague:

We are pleased to announce our continued support for an initiative that will assist every licensed nursing home in Virginia to prepare and respond to disasters and emergency events. The Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program, a partnership between the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA), initiated a project in 2015 that was funded through the Federal Hospital Preparedness Program. This partnership engaged Russell Phillips & Associates to develop a statewide long-term care mutual aid plan (LTC-MAP), which included a site visit to each licensed nursing home in Virginia.

Russell Phillips & Associates developed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) representing a voluntary agreement among long-term care facilities to lend support to each other in a disaster. This MOU was founded on the well-established principle of mutual aid—a standard of care in most emergency response disciplines.

The MOU establishes a course of action and an agreed commitment among long-term care facilities to assist each other as needed in the time of a disaster and provides a framework for the following:

- Providing or sharing supplies, equipment, transportation, and staff with a facility when a disaster overwhelms their own community or exceeds the capability of their internal emergency operations plans
- Coordinating with local, regional, and state response agencies
- Utilizing pre-designated evacuation locations for residents during a disaster.

The VDH Offices of Licensure & Certification and Office of Emergency Preparedness, VHHA, Leading Age Virginia, and the Virginia Health Care Association support the MOU.

In the near future, a representative from one of the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program regional healthcare coalitions will be reaching out to your facility to provide you additional information about participation. In the interim, you may review a copy of the MOU and associated documents by visiting <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-preparedness/longtermcare>.

We strongly encourage all eligible facilities to take advantage and become active, supportive members of this MOU; and we look forward to continued work on this initiative. For information regarding the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program, Regional Healthcare Coalitions, or the LTC-MAP, please feel free to reach out to any of the contacts provided on the enclosed list.

Sincerely,



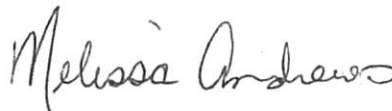
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State Health Commissioner



Sean Connaughton
President & CEO
Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association

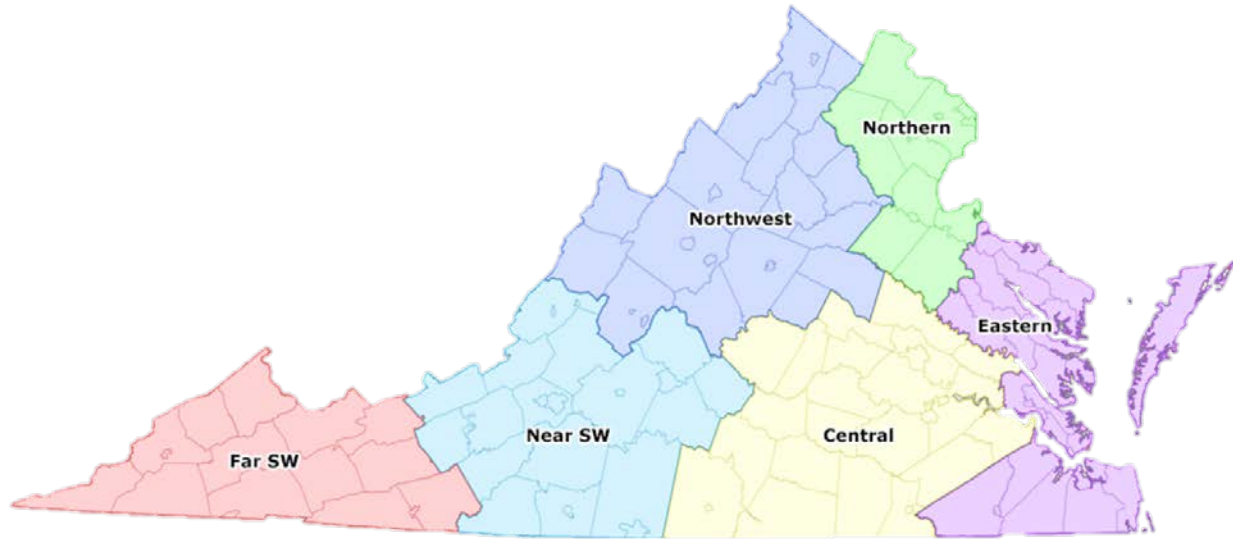


Keith Hare
President & CEO
Virginia Health Care Association



Melissa Andrews
President & CEO
LeadingAge

Enclosure



Virginia Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan Healthcare Coalition Points of Contact

Region	Healthcare Coalition	Contact
Central	Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition	Pete Svoboda pete.svoboda@central-region.org
Eastern	Eastern Virginia Healthcare Coalition	Michelle Cowling mcowling@vaems.org
Far SW	Far Southwest Healthcare Coalition	Alayna Hubble farswrhcc@bvu.net
Near SW	Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance	Robert Hawkins rhawkins@vaems.org
Northern	Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance	Mary Laurel Castle marylaurel.castle@novaha.org
Northwest	Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition	Rebecca Chester medvulpopulations@nwrhcc.org
Statewide	Virginia Department of Health	Patrick Ashley patrick.ashley@vdh.virginia.gov
Statewide	Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association	Kelly Parker kparker@vhha.com Matthew Marry mmarry@vhha.com