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VAGEMSA Updates

Next Meeting: VAGEMSA will hold a virtual membership meeting on **Friday, December 11, at 10:30** via Microsoft Teams. We hope to see everyone there! - [VAGEMSA Meeting Agenda \(12-11-2020\)](#)

Join on your computer or mobile app: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only): [+1 804-294-1932,,709325767#](#) with Phone Conference ID: 709 325 767#

Presentations for Membership Meeting:

Arlington Fire Department Whole Blood Program: Recent studies have shown tremendous benefits to the patient when whole blood is used in emergent transfusion in lieu of blood products. Chief Anne Marsh (Arlington County, cc'd here) will provide a brief overview of the whole blood program that has been implemented in Arlington and Loudoun Counties.

Newport News Fire Department Crisis Teams: Jim Gower, will be conducting a presentation on their new program in development for the response to mental health calls. The NNF program will be sending a CSB worker and EMS provider out together to mental health patients with a CIT officer. This will be used in lieu of just sending police officers to deal with mental health patients.

Membership Dues: First and foremost, special thanks to all of our member organizations who have paid their annual membership dues (\$100). ***We need your help, PLEASE- If your agency hasn't paid the annual dues for FY21, make sure to do so as soon as reasonably possible.*** If you are unsure or need another copy of the invoice, contact Treasurer Ray Whatley (treasurer@vagemsa.org), and he will be happy to provide another copy. VAGEMSA traditionally runs a low treasury balance, reinvesting the available funds immediately back into the organization. Our two sizeable revolving expenses are our General Assembly lobbying fees and our annual EMS Symposium contribution. We really appreciate everyone's help and consideration to keep the membership dues current.

Membership Recruitment: One of this year's organizational goals is to increase the size of our membership. If you know of an organization who could benefit from or would like to become a member of VAGEMSA, please reach out to them and encourage them to join. Please contact Second Vice President Brian Hricik (second.vicepresident@vagems.org).

Membership application: [VAGEMSA Application Download](#)

VAGEMSA Shirts: We have established a business relationship with an embroidery vendor who is ready to start selling shirts and other items with the VAGEMSA logo. The first few we have received to date are very nice quality and reasonably priced. Order Form: [VAGEMSA Shirt Order Form](#)

VAGEMSA COINS: We have VAGEMSA coins available for purchase. Please see any VAGEMSA executive committee member to purchase a coin.

Virginia EMS News

Commonwealth of Virginia COVID-19 Vaccination Plan (Interim Draft) – [More Information](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Survey - The Virginia Office of EMS is reaching out to gauge EMS providers' willingness to receive an FDA approved COVID-19 vaccine and investigate what may be causing any hesitations. The survey will take 1 to 5 minutes to complete - [Survey Link](#)

House Health Welfare and Institutions – VDH Vaccine Presentation – Dr. Lilian Peake State Epidemiologist with VDH made a presentation to House Health Welfare and Institutions Committee on VA COVID Vaccine plans. Follow the link and go to November 30 at 1:00 pm on the calendar to see the presentation. <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/house/committees/commstream.html>

August 2020 Quarterly Report to the State EMS Advisory Board – [More Info](#)

"Make the Call" Mental Health and Wellness Campaign media toolkit - [More info](#)

Digital Certification Cards - The Office of EMS is pleased to introduce digital certification cards to EMS providers, EMS physicians and EMS agency leadership. Remember the days when you had to carry your printed certificate around and hope not to lose it? Those days are gone! - [More Information](#)

EMS Medical Director Ce Workshops - The OEMS will be hosting Operational Medical Director CE Workshops via web conferencing. Registration is required. For more information on the upcoming schedule and to register, visit: [OMD Workshops](#)

National EMS News

COVID-19 Resources -

- The Resuscitation Academy's 10 Steps for EMS Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic – [More Information](#)
- Interim CDC Guidance on Exposure Definitions and Quarantine of Healthcare Workers Exposed to Patients with COVID-19 – [More Information](#)
- Tracker map created by ESRI, in concert with the World Health Organization, and John Hopkins University – [More Information](#)
- The NETEC (National Ebola Training and Education Center) has created a COVID-19 video on donning and doffing PPE – [More Information](#)
- The DHS National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC) develops a daily monitoring list. Email CWMD.NBIC@hq.dhs.gov if you are interested in being added to their daily email distribution.
- [IAFC \(International Association of Fire Chiefs\) survey tool](#) and [IAFC mapping application](#)
- The complete list of the EMS-related resources from the Task Force can be accessed through the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#).

AHA Recommends Bystander Alerting - The American Heart Association (AHA) recently updated their recommendations for CPR and emergency cardiovascular care to include bystander alerting technology. This change by the AHA recognizes the importance of early intervention during cardiac arrests and encourages pre-hospital EMS agencies to consider the benefits of pre-arrival bystander CPR. Take a moment to review the [AHA's new guidelines](#) and consider ways that your agency can implement them.

EMS Counts Act - Earlier in October, Representatives Susan Wild (D-PA) and Fred Keller (R-PA) introduced the EMS Counts Act of 2020 (H.R. 8592), which directs the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to include cross-trained firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics as EMS personnel. These data from the BLS are routinely used for federal planning purposes and must be accurate. See the IAFC Blog for more information on the EMS Counts Act. – [More Information](#)

CMS Releases COVID Reporting Rules - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released new reporting and auditing rules for agencies that received funds through the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund. Agencies that received more than \$10,000 in funds must report information to CMS on how these funds were used and on other aspects of the agency's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. For more information on this reporting process. - [More Information](#)

**Thank you for your support for VAGEMSA and
be safe in your daily work and jobs!**