

REPORT OF THE

**Joint Subcommittee to Study
Pandemic Response and
Preparedness
(SJR 10, 2022) and 2024
Appropriation Act, Item 6.D.**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 6

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2025**

**MEMBERS OF THE
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS**

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Co-Chair
Delegate Candi Mundon King, Co-Chair
Senator Barbara Favola
Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi
Senator David Suetterlein
Delegate Debra D. Gardner
Delegate Irene Shin
Delegate Mark D. Sickles
Delegate Richard C. (Rip) Sullivan, Jr.
Delegate Michael Webert
The Honorable Terrance Cole
The Honorable Stephen E. Cummings
The Honorable Karl Hade
The Honorable S. Chris Jones
The Honorable John Littel
The Honorable Karen Merrick
The Honorable Aimee Rogstad Guidera
Kathleen Deel
Tara Dickerson-Anderson
Jacqueline Grice
Heather Jones, M.D.
Lisa Lucas-Burke
Martha Mugler
Jennifer W. Siciliano

Staff

Amigo R. Wade
Lauren P. Waller
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Division of Legislative Services

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Executive Summary

Senate Joint Resolution 10 (SJR 10), passed during the 2022 legislative session, established the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth (the Joint Subcommittee). The Joint Subcommittee was tasked with examining existing laws in the Commonwealth and developing recommendations regarding the pandemic response and future needs of the Governor, the General Assembly, local governments, public and private health care systems and other facilities and providers, health districts, the judicial system, K-12 and higher education systems, and the business regulatory system. SJR 10 also provided for approximately \$300,000 to pay for consulting services and initially required the Joint Subcommittee to complete its work by September 1, 2023. To better carry out its charge, the Joint Subcommittee organized itself into the following subject matter subcommittees:

Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

- 1) Scope of the Governor's power
- 2) General Assembly and local governments
- 3) Judicial system
- 4) Meeting rules: Freedom of Information Act; common interest communities; corporate entities; and the business regulatory system

Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency Management

- 1) Public and private health care systems
- 2) Emergency management and public health care systems

Subcommittee #3 Education

K-12 and higher education systems and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness.

On January 12, 2024, the Joint Subcommittee contracted with Tidal Basin Government Consulting, LLC (Tidal Basin) to deliver an After Action Report (AAR). Between January and September 2024, Tidal Basin developed the AAR, which included reviewing 250 documents and 429 survey responses from individuals who were engaged in the Commonwealth's responses to the pandemic between 2020 and 2023 and conducting 47 interviews with individuals representing 19 state agencies and partner organizations. In addition, as a component of the study, a public survey was posted on the Joint Subcommittee's website between August 5, 2024, and September 30, 2024, allowing the community to share comments and questions with the Joint Subcommittee related to the Commonwealth's response to the pandemic. A total of 432 responses were received, representing all regions of the Commonwealth.

On September 30, 2025, Tidal Basin submitted the initial AAR to the Joint Subcommittee. The report organized its observations into 12 focus areas generated from data collected relating to the Commonwealth's response to the pandemic through document analysis, surveys, and interviews. The focus areas are as follows:

1. Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations
2. Communications
3. Education
4. Financial Management

5. Judicial/Policy/Regulatory
6. Logistics
7. Operations
8. Planning
9. Public Health/Local Health Districts
10. Public-Private Partnerships
11. Technology
12. Volunteer and Donations Coordination

From the observations, Tidal Basin developed a total of 58 recommendations. The observations and the attendant recommendations were assigned to each of the subject matter subcommittees for review. Prior to that review, staff of the Division of Legislative Services developed a range of policy options for each recommendation for the subcommittees to consider. The three subcommittees met during October 2024 to determine which recommendations to present to the full Joint Subcommittee for approval.

Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

A total of 21 recommendations and 35 policy options were assigned to this subcommittee. Upon review of the recommendations and policy options, the subcommittee voted to recommend six legislative actions, four requests to state agencies to perform additional review, and one budget amendment.

Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency Management

This subcommittee was assigned a total of 31 recommendations and 91 policy options. Upon review of the recommendations and policy options, the subcommittee voted to recommend six legislative actions, one request to a state agency to perform additional review, two budget amendments, and 19 best practice recommendations.

Subcommittee #3 Education

This subcommittee was assigned a total of six recommendations and 13 policy options. Upon review of the recommendations and policy options, the subcommittee voted to recommend four legislative actions and one budget amendment.

Conclusion

The Joint Subcommittee met on January 6, 2025, to receive the recommendations from each of the subcommittees. Members voted unanimously to adopt each subcommittee's range of action items. After establishing the final package of recommendations for legislation, additional study, and budget amendments, the Joint Subcommittee concluded its work.

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meeting #1 - April 5, 2023

Richmond, Virginia

The Joint Subcommittee met in Richmond with Senator Scott A. Surovell presiding. The meeting began with roll call and introduction of Joint Subcommittee members followed by procedural discussions, subcommittee assignments, and updates from the Division of Legislative Services (DLS).

Election of Co-Chairs

Pursuant to SJ 10 (Surovell, 2022), the Joint Subcommittee elected two of its legislative members as chairman and vice-chairman at its first meeting. The Joint Subcommittee elected Senator Surovell and Delegate R. Lee Ware unanimously as co-chairs once a quorum was met.

Proposed Subcommittees and Assignments

Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services

Mr. Wade presented an overview of plans for structuring subcommittees and proposed creating three subcommittees for reviewing information received by consultants. The proposed subcommittees, as adopted, were:

- **Education Subcommittee:** Senator T. Montgomery Mason; Senator David Suetterlein; Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn; Delegate Nicholas J. Freitas; the Honorable Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education; Katelyn Deel; and Bryan Yates
- **Government and Regulatory Systems Subcommittee:** Senator Surovell; Delegate Ware; Delegate Michael J. Webert; the Honorable Stephen E. Cummings, Secretary of Finance; the Honorable Karl R. Hade, Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia; the Honorable Caren Merrick, Secretary of Commerce and Trade; the Honorable Martha Mugler; the Honorable Delores Oates; and Keith Stephens
- **Health Care Systems and Emergency Management Subcommittee:** Senator Barbara A. Favola; Delegate Kathy Byron; Delegate Robert D. Orrock, Sr.; the Honorable Terrance Cole, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; the Honorable S. Chris Jones; the Honorable John Littel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources; Dr. Jordan Asher; and Jennifer W. Siciliano

Discussion: Procurement of Consultants

The Joint Subcommittee discussed the process of consultant procurement and the proposed funding to acquire a consultant and conduct the work of the study. Mr. Wade suggested the Joint Subcommittee form a fourth subcommittee to work directly with DLS to compile procurement documents and establish processes. Senator Suetterlein, Senator Surovell, Delegate Filler-Corn, Delegate Ware, and Ms. Siciliano were appointed to the fourth subcommittee.

Discussion and Public Comment

Joint Subcommittee members discussed the next steps of the study. The Honorable Charles Kennington, Deputy Secretary of Finance, urged the Joint Subcommittee to seek lessons from other states regarding protecting individual freedoms, educating children, and managing businesses while mitigating public health risks.

Brett Vassey, Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Manufacturers Association, highlighted the importance of critical infrastructure for the procurement of personal protective equipment and workplace regulation throughout the duration of this study.

Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness

Suggested Subcommittee Structure

Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems (9)

1 Senator
2 Delegates
Local elected official representing a rural locality
Local elected official representing an urban locality
Private businessman
Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia or designee
Secretary of Finance or designee
Secretary of Commerce and Trade or designee

Subject matter coverage:

- 1) Scope of the Governor's powers in long-term states of emergency and the feasibility of legislative oversight of such powers;
- 2) The adequacy, resilience, and performance of and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness of the:
 - a. General Assembly and local governments;
 - b. Judicial system;
 - c. Virginia Freedom of Information Act and meeting rules governing homeowners' associations and corporate entities; and
 - d. Business regulatory system.

Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency Management (8)

1 Senator
2 Delegates
Owner of a local pharmacy
Representative of public hospital or health care system
Representing private hospital or health care system
Secretary of Health and Human Resources or designee
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or designee

Subject matter coverage:

- 1) The adequacy, resilience, and performance of public and private health care systems, pharmacies, hospitals, independent providers, health system providers, federally qualified health centers, urgent care centers, long-term care agencies and organizations, and congregate care facilities, including:
 - a. Assessment of the readiness of all such facilities and providers to implement infection prevention and control measures in order to prevent and stop the spread of infectious diseases; and

- b. Assessment of the adequacy of regulations relating to vulnerable Virginians, including the elderly, the infirm, and children.

2) The adequacy, resilience, and performance of the emergency management and public health care systems, including:

- a. The need for stockpiling and planning for distribution of pandemic response supplies and materials;
- b. The performance of local health districts and the feasibility of allowing for local decision-making during pandemics, in contrast to delivery of routine services; and
- c. The existing system's ability to detect and prevent future outbreaks and deploy health care solutions.

Subcommittee #3 Education (7)

2 Senators

2 Delegates

Representative of K-12 public education system

Representing four-year institution of higher education

Secretary of Education or designee

Subject matter coverage:

The adequacy, resilience, and performance of the K-12 and higher education systems and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness.

Informational Meeting - December 19, 2023

Richmond, Virginia

The Joint Subcommittee met in Richmond with Delegate R. Lee Ware, co-chair, presiding. The meeting commenced with roll call and introductions, followed by updates of the ongoing study, a presentation, and ensuing discussion. Because a quorum was not in attendance, the Joint Subcommittee was unable to vote on action items.

Pandemic Response and Preparedness Study Update

Amigo Wade, Director, DLS

Mr. Wade provided an update on the pandemic response and preparedness study, highlighting developments since the Joint Subcommittee's last meeting. Notably, the deadline for the after action report was extended to September 1, 2024, with the accompanied funding. Additionally, DLS issued a request for information to procure consultants through DLS's website and Virginia's eVA Marketplace, with Tidal Basin Government Consulting, LLC (Tidal Basin) being the sole respondent. Mr. Wade also secured an exemption from the Public Procurement Act for the Joint Subcommittee in regard to the hiring of a consultant, which was signed by the Speaker of the House, Speaker C. Todd Gilbert, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules, Senator Mamie E. Locke.

Presentation and Discussion: Overview of After Action Review and Services

Stephanie Murphy, Certified Emergency Manager, Tidal Basin Government Consulting, LLC

Ms. Murphy gave a presentation in which she outlined Tidal Basin's capabilities in providing after action reviews and related services to study the Commonwealth's pandemic response and preparedness, emphasizing emergency management, preparedness, and resiliency. She detailed the process of an in-depth after action study, including recommended timelines, execution strategies, and expectations from the Joint Subcommittee.

During the presentation, Joint Subcommittee members posed questions and suggestions to Ms. Murphy. Senator Favola emphasized the importance of examining local level processes when identifying potential study areas, particularly regarding infrastructure, staffing, and leadership in public health departments. Delegate Orrock raised concerns of cultural and political biases, to which Ms. Murphy responded by assuring objectivity through external consultancy, a process that creates space for Tidal Basin to look at trends in a general sense and allows for recommendations to address the potential gaps and sensitivities in their after action report. Secretary Hade and Delegate Ware expressed interest in understanding the impact of the pandemic on the judicial system.



After Action Review and Services

Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness

December 19, 2023

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Agenda

- Introductions
- Why Tidal Basin
- Explanation and Overview Response
- Recommended Timeframe and Execution
- Subcommittee Engagement
- Questions?

Introductions



Stephanie Murphy, MS, CEM
Vice President, Preparedness, Resiliency
and Emergency Management (PREM)

Why Tidal Basin

Building greater resilience through comprehensive all-hazards solutions

Emergency Management

- All-hazards planning, training and exercise practitioner expertise
- Real-world after-action reporting and improvement plan implementation
- Pre- and post-disaster mitigation and resilience strategies
- Flexible, scalable support for rapid response and program technical assistance
- Best-in-class tools and talent to navigate complex government funding source requirements across the full emergency management cycle:

Prepare
Respond
Recover
Mitigate



\$40B

in federally funded disaster programs

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Preparedness, Resiliency and Emergency Management



Planning

We help you prepare for incidents and events and support your preparation as a team and community to help you be stronger and more resilient.

- Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plans
- Continuity of Operations (COOP) / Business Continuity Plans (BCP)
- Threat & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)
- Long-Term Recovery Plans
- Program Assessment / Gap Analysis



Training & Exercises

We provide training to ensure proper understanding and execution of emergency plans, policies, and procedures, and promote community resilience through organized exercises.

- Training on Plans
- Field & Operational Training
- Training & Curriculum Development, eLearning & Computer Based Training (CBT)
- Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Consistent Exercise Design & Evaluation



After-Action Reports (AAR)

Our AAR services are based on a layered methodology of data collection, workshops, and interviews to simultaneously share lessons learned and collaboratively document corrective actions.

- After Action Data Collection and Reviews
- After Action Report Development



Program Assessments & Gap Analysis

Our team identifies potential issues, challenges, and opportunities through program assessments and gap analyses, and prepares reports that serve as a tool to enhance the overall preparedness of the communities and organizations we support.

- Program Assessment
- Gap Analysis
- Report Preparation

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Explanation and Overview Response

TIDAL BASIN

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Project Organization Chart

Our team consists of a total of 18 experts. We utilize our cadre and additional subject matter experts (SMEs) as needed to support as topics arise with our study and evaluation.

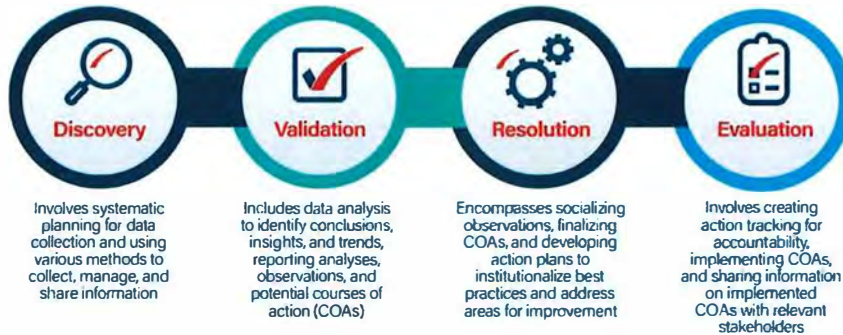
We structure our teams in such a way as to be nimble and flexible and to pivot as quickly as needed on every project.



Project Methodology

The AAR will follow FEMA's Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) framework, integrating HSEEP guidelines for corrective action planning in real-world events and exercises.

Continuous Improvement Process (CIP)



Project Approach



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Phase I: Project Initiation and Management

- Establishment of Project Management Team (PMT)
- Conduct Project Kickoff Meeting
- Bi-Weekly Meetings and Monthly Progress Reports
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) and issue resolution

Benefit to Joint Subcommittee

- Our project kickoff and project administration approach ensures that we all start with **the same vision** in mind and **work collectively** towards that vision throughout the project.
- The management process is crafted to keep the Joint Subcommittee involved and informed **while being conscious of schedules**.
- AAR products will be informed by Tidal Basin's **combined practitioner experience** and **best practices gleaned from work throughout the country**.

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Phase II: Interviews, Surveys, and Documentation Review

- Collect and analyze data across highly specialized stakeholder groups
- Develop and deploy a survey tool
- Interview key personnel to compile and validate a convergent set of observations, decision points, actions taken, perceptions, expectations, and timeline of actions

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Benefit to Joint Subcommittee

- Our data call process ensures that the After Action Review (AAR) is well-informed by gathering pertinent information from policies, plans, procedures, and various sources. We will specifically tailor deliverables to meet the unique needs of the Virginia Joint Subcommittee by drawing insights from existing plans, previous AARs/IPs, and other relevant sources.
- Guided by the Areas of Focus, we will use the categories as our 'north star' for both survey and interview question development.

Phase III: AAR/IP Development and Finalization

- Develop an initial draft AAR using industry standards
- Categorize issues raised and identify priority issues discussed
- Provide actionable recommendations to enhance future support, catalog unaddressed issues for consideration, and identify items for incorporation into future events
- Conduct program assessments for improving overall emergency management functions
- Present outcomes to the Joint Subcommittee and desired stakeholders

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Benefit to Joint Subcommittee

- A comprehensive analysis and prioritization of issues provides the group with valuable insights, enabling informed decision-making.
- Actionable recommendations and program assessments contribute to improvements in future support and overall emergency management functions.
- Navigating the process fosters a culture of continuous learning and adaptability, ensuring the Commonwealth of Virginia remains proactive and well-prepared.

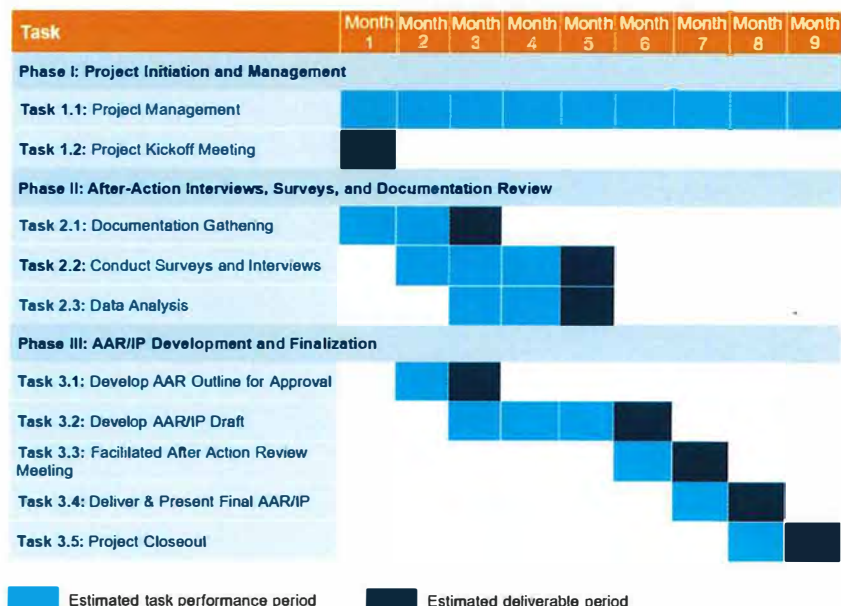
Recommended Timeframe and Execution

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Project Timeline

- Phase 1 – January 2024*
- Phase 2 – Jan 2024 - May 2024
- Phase 3 – Feb 2024 - Sept 2024

* Adjust according to project start date



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Subcommittee Engagement

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Subcommittee Engagement

Ensuring a streamlined and collaborative AAR development process involves adhering to key principles:

Defined Roles and Responsibilities

- Identify a project sponsor
- Define a project management team
- Identify stakeholders

Routine Updates

- Weekly check-ins and projects updates
- Bi-weekly meetings
- Monthly progress reporting



Clear Communication

- Identify team goals and expectations
- Conduct stakeholder interviews
- Provide opportunities for feedback

Inclusive Decision-Making

- Working feedback sessions
- Phased editing
- Conduct after-action meeting

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Questions?

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Meeting #2 - January 9, 2024

Richmond, Virginia

The Joint Subcommittee met in Richmond with Senator Scott A. Surovell, co-chair, presiding. The meeting commenced with roll call, followed by an update of the procurement status and a follow-up presentation from the consultant candidate.

Procurement Status Update

Amigo Wade, Director, DLS

Due to a quorum not being present for the Joint Subcommittee's December 2023 meeting, Mr. Wade reiterated the update provided for the pandemic response and preparedness study. He once again highlighted the developments that took place after the Joint Subcommittee's first meeting. Additionally, Mr. Wade detailed the action items that needed to take place during the meeting, which included requesting an extension of the study from September 1, 2024, to December 1, 2024, finalizing the procurement of a consultant, and delegating authority to Mr. Wade and the co-chairs to act on the behalf of the Joint Subcommittee.

Presentation and Discussion: Overview of After Action Review and Services


Stephanie Murphy, Certified Emergency Manager, Tidal Basin

Ms. Murphy offered an updated presentation, emphasizing Tidal Basin's suitability for the study. She outlined similar topics from the Joint Subcommittee's December 2023 meeting. Ms. Murphy also focused on the different subcommittees the Joint Subcommittee adopted, listing pre-identified topics such as the performance of the judicial system and the development of future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness and decision-making by local health districts during pandemics. She also provided the members with an overview of potential project timelines, whether nine months or 12 months, and touched on the importance of the extension Mr. Wade had mentioned earlier.

During the presentation, Joint Subcommittee members posed further questions and suggestions to Ms. Murphy. Senator Favola expressed the importance of understanding the Commonwealth's role across localities and briefly explained relationships between the Commonwealth and local health departments. She also suggested the Joint Subcommittee engage the local health departments as potential co-sponsors for the public hearings. Senator Surovell urged Ms. Murphy to consider how the Joint Subcommittee could hold public hearings to receive public input and where that may fall in the timeline. Ms. Murphy also discussed the scope of the study, which aims to examine the time period from the first declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic to the declaration of the pandemic ending, including the recovery efforts that took place during that time period. Members of the Joint Subcommittee also urged Tidal Basin to consider the recovery efforts undertaken after the declaration of the end of the pandemic.

Action Items

The Joint Subcommittee moved to proceed with Tidal Basin as the procured consultant for the pandemic and preparedness response study and delegated authority to execute the contract and act on behalf of the Joint Subcommittee to Mr. Wade and co-chairs Senator Surovell and Delegate Ware. The members also voted unanimously to request to extend the study for three months, from September 1, 2024, to December 1, 2024, to allow for a comprehensive and in-depth data analysis from Tidal Basin, public input, and further discussion from the Joint Subcommittee.




After Action Review and Services

Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness

January 9, 2024

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Agenda

- Introductions
- Subcommittee Engagement
- Timeline
- Questions

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Introductions



Stephanie Murphy, MS, CEM
Vice President, Preparedness, Resiliency
and Emergency Management (PREM)

Subcommittee Engagement

Subcommittee Engagement



Ensuring a streamlined and collaborative AAR development process involves adhering to key principles:



Subcommittee Members



Subcommittee members will align with their appropriate subcommittee as follows:

Subcommittees		
Government and Regulatory Systems	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senator Surovell Delegate Ware Delegate Webert Delores Oates (local elected official representing a rural locality) Martha Mugler (local elected official representing an urban locality) Keith Stephens (a private businessman) Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia* Secretary of Finance* Secretary of Commerce and Trade* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senator Favola Delegate Orrock Delegate Byron S. Chris Jones (owner of a local pharmacy) Jennifer W. Siciliano (representing public hospital or health care system) Dr. Jordan Asher (representing private hospital or health care system) Secretary of Health and Human Resources* Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senator Mason Senator Suetterlein Delegate Freitas Delegate Filler-Corn Katelyn Deel (representing K-12 public education system) Brian Yates (representing four-year institution of higher education) Secretary of Education* <p>*Or designee</p>

Subcommittee Scope



Subcommittee scope will cover preidentified topics* as follows:

*as outlined in Senate Joint Resolution No. 10

Subcommittees		
Government and Regulatory Systems	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of the Governor's powers in long-term states of emergency and the feasibility of legislative oversight of such powers. • The adequacy, resilience, and performance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The General Assembly and local governments; ▪ The judicial system and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; ▪ The Virginia Freedom of Information Act, homeowners' association, and corporate meeting rules and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; ▪ The business regulatory system and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adequacy, resilience, and performance of public and private health care systems, pharmacies, hospitals, independent providers, health system providers, federally qualified health centers, urgent care centers, long-term care agencies and organizations, and congregate care facilities (and sub parts). • The adequacy, resilience, and performance of the emergency management and public health care systems (and sub parts). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The performance of local health districts and the feasibility of allowing for local decision-making during pandemics, in contrast to delivery of routine services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adequacy, resilience, and performance of the K-12 and higher education systems and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness.

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Subcommittee Focus Areas



Focus areas will allow our team to take a deeper dive into critical areas and will align with committees as follows:



Subcommittees		
Government and Regulatory Systems	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial • Public-Private Partnerships • State-Local Coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals Incident Management • Logistics • Public Health / Local Health Districts • Public-Private Partnerships • Rural community engagement • State-Local Coordination • Volunteer and Donation Coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics

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Timeframe and Execution

9 ©Tide Scanline Alternatives, LLC

Project Timeline (9 months)

- Phase 1 – January 2024*
- Phase 2 – Jan 2024 - May 2024
- Phase 3 – Feb 2024 - Sept 2024

* Adjust according to project start date



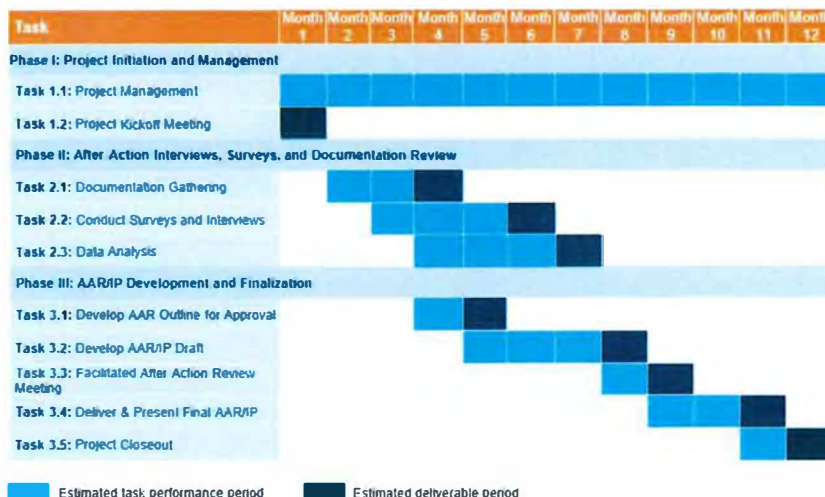
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Project Timeline (12 months*)



- Phase 1 – January 2024
- Phase 2 – Feb 2024 - July 2024
- Phase 3 – April 2024 - Dec 2024

* Should an extension be granted until the end of 2024



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Phase I: Project Initiation and Management

- Establishment of Project Management Team (PMT)
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- Bi-Weekly Meetings and Monthly Progress Reports
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) and issue resolution

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Benefit to Joint Subcommittee

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Phase II: Interviews, Surveys, and Documentation Review

- Collect and analyze data across highly specialized stakeholder groups
- Develop and deploy a survey tool
- Interview key personnel to compile and validate a convergent set of observations, decision points, actions taken, perceptions, expectations, and timeline of actions

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Benefit to Joint Subcommittee

- Our data call process ensures that the After Action Review (AAR) is well-informed by gathering pertinent information from policies, plans, procedures, and various sources. We will specifically tailor deliverables to meet the unique needs of the Virginia Joint Subcommittee by drawing insights from existing plans, previous AARs/IPs, and other relevant sources.
- Guided by the Areas of Focus, we will use the categories as our 'north star' for both survey and interview question development.

Phase III: AAR/IP Development and Finalization

- Develop an initial draft AAR using industry standards
- Categorize issues raised and identify priority issues discussed
- Provide actionable recommendations to enhance future support, catalog unaddressed issues for consideration, and identify items for incorporation into future events
- Conduct program assessments for improving overall emergency management functions
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Benefit to Joint Subcommittee

- A comprehensive analysis and prioritization of issues provides the group with valuable insights, enabling informed decision-making.
- Actionable recommendations and program assessments contribute to improvements in future support and overall emergency management functions.
- Navigating the process fosters a culture of continuous learning and adaptability, ensuring the Commonwealth of Virginia remains proactive and well-prepared.



Questions?

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Meeting #3 - May 6, 2024

Richmond, Virginia

The Joint Subcommittee met with Senator Scott A. Surovell, co-chair, presiding. The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by the election of co-chairs, presentations, subcommittee assignments, and discussion.

Election of Co-chairs

Due to the restructuring of the Joint Subcommittee, members were tasked with electing co-chairs from among their membership. The Joint Subcommittee unanimously elected Senator Surovell and Delegate Candi Mundon King as co-chairs after a brief interjection from Senator David R. Suetterlein, who said that he believed bipartisan leadership would be more beneficial to the Joint Subcommittee.

Pandemic Response and Preparedness Study Update

Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services

Mr. Wade provided an update on the pandemic response and preparedness study, including previous actions taken by the Joint Subcommittee. He reiterated the deadline for the after action report and explained that a new deadline of December 1, 2024, was anticipated with the expected passage of HB 6001 (Torian, 2024 Special Session I).

Presentation and Discussion: After Action Review and Services Status Update

Michelle Burnett, Assistant Vice President, Resilience, Mitigation and Policy, Tidal Basin Government Consulting (Tidal Basin), LLC

Ms. Burnett provided the Joint Subcommittee with an overview of Tidal Basin's progress on the Joint Subcommittee's tasked study. She explained that it has completed part of phase one of the provided project tasks and deliverables and is currently working on phase two. In phase two, Tidal Basin has completed the documentation gathering period and is currently deploying surveys, conducting interviews with key leaders and stakeholders, and analyzing obtained data. Ms. Burnett outlined next steps for the Joint Subcommittee's study, which include developing a draft outline of the after action report for the Joint Subcommittee's approval.

Joint Subcommittee members inquired about the stakeholder groups that have been identified, surveyed, and interviewed as well as what other states have done and are doing related to pandemic response and preparedness. Ms. Burnett stated that Tidal Basin will provide a list of the stakeholder groups and affiliations it has received and added that the practices from other states will automatically apply to its final recommendations due to the information it has taken away from other studies.

Subcommittee Assignments

The Joint Subcommittee welcomed 11 new members. With this change in membership, Mr. Wade provided an outline of the Joint Subcommittee's subcommittee structure and membership, including the vacancies within each subcommittee. The membership of the subcommittees was updated and adopted as follows:

- **Government and Regulatory Systems Subcommittee:** Senator Surovell; Delegate

Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.; Delegate Michael J. Webert; the Honorable Stephen E. Cummings, Secretary of Finance; Jacqueline Grice; the Honorable Karl R. Hade, Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia; Lisa Lucas-Burke; the Honorable Caren Merrick, Secretary of Commerce and Trade; the Honorable Martha Mugler

- **Health Care Systems and Emergency Management Subcommittee:** Senator Barbara A. Favola; Delegate Debra D. Gardner; Delegate Mark D. Sickles; the Honorable Terrance Cole, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; the Honorable S. Chris Jones; Dr. Heather Jones; the Honorable John Littel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources; Jennifer W. Siciliano
- **Education Subcommittee:** Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi; Senator David R. Suetterlein; Delegate Mundon King; Delegate Irene Shin; Katelyn Deel; Tara Dickerson-Anderson; the Honorable Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education

Public Comment

The Joint Subcommittee received comment from 22 members of the public.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Subcommittee Structure and Membership

Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Chair
Delegate Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.
Delegate Michael J. Webert
Lisa Lucas-Burke (local elected official representing a rural locality)
Martha Mugler (local elected official representing an urban locality)
Jacqueline Grice (a private businessperson)
Karl Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia or designee
Stephen E. Cummings, Secretary of Finance or designee
Caren Merrick, Secretary of Commerce and Trade or designee

Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency Management

Delegate Mark D. Sickles, Chair
Senator Barbara A. Favola
Delegate Debra D. Gardner
S. Chris Jones (owner of a local pharmacy)
Jennifer W. Siciliano (representing public hospital or health care system)
Heather Jones M.D. (representing private hospital or health care system)
Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources or designee
Terrance C. Cole, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or designee

Subcommittee #3 Education

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Chair
Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi
Senator David R. Suetterlein
Delegate Irene Shin
Katelyn Deel (representing K-12 public education system)
Tara Dickerson-Anderson (representing four-year institution of higher education)
Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education or designee



Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness

After Action Review and Services Status Update

May 6, 2024

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Agenda

- Tidal Basin Introduction
- Project Overview
- Subcommittee Engagement
- Timeline, Key Accomplishments and Next Steps
- Questions

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Tidal Basin Introduction

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Building greater resilience through comprehensive all-hazards solutions

Emergency Management

- All-hazards planning, training and exercise practitioner expertise
- Real-world after-action reporting and improvement plan implementation
- Pre- and post-disaster mitigation and resilience strategies
- Flexible, scalable support for rapid response and program technical assistance
- Best-in-class tools and talent to navigate complex government funding source requirements across the full emergency management cycle:

Prepare

Respond

Recover

Mitigate



\$40B

in federally funded
disaster programs

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Project Overview

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Overview

Tidal Basin is supporting the Commonwealth of Virginia in conducting a statewide After-Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) and ensuring and managing communications and information with partners throughout the project.



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Phase 1 Project Tasks and Deliverables



1.1 Project Management & Admin

- Project Work Plan
- Regular meetings, Monthly Progress Reports, and active communication



1.2 Project Kickoff Meeting

- Discuss Team roles, administrative items, and proposed schedule
- Validate the Project Work Plan, focus areas, and approaches

Phase 2 Project Tasks and Deliverables



2.1 Documentation Gathering

- Gather policies, plans, procedures, and data to inform the AAR
- Inventory and review data to capture best practices and gaps



2.2 Conduct Surveys and Interviews

- Deploy an online survey tool to obtain perspectives from a wider audience
- Conduct interviews with key leaders and stakeholders



2.3 Data Analysis

- Analyze data, interviews, and survey responses by focus area
- Identify strengths, best practices, lessons learned and areas for improvement across focus areas

Phase 3 Project Tasks and Deliverables



3.1 Develop AAR Outline for Approval

- Prepare a draft AAR outline for Project Sponsor and PMT approval



3.2 Develop AAR/IP Draft

- Prepare Draft #1, noting observations, strengths, and areas for improvement and categorizing and prioritizing them
- Draft distributed for review and comment period, incorporate input into AAR, becoming Draft #2



3.3 Facilitated After Action Review Meeting

- Conduct a meeting to present and discuss draft findings and recommendations



3.4 Deliver and Present Final AAR

- Incorporate PMT feedback into the AAR, becoming the final version
- Present final report to Joint Subcommittee



3.5 Project Closeout

- Supply final deliverables and project management documentation

Subcommittee Engagement

Subcommittee Scope

Subcommittee scope will cover preidentified topics* as follows:

*as outlined in Senate Joint Resolution No. 10

Subcommittees		
Government and Regulatory Systems	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of the Governor's powers in long-term states of emergency and the feasibility of legislative oversight of such powers. • The adequacy, resilience, and performance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The General Assembly and local governments; ▪ The judicial system and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; ▪ The Virginia Freedom of Information Act, homeowners' association, and corporate meeting rules and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; ▪ The business regulatory system and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adequacy, resilience, and performance of public and private health care systems, pharmacies, hospitals, independent providers, health system providers, federally qualified health centers, urgent care centers, long-term care agencies and organizations, and congregate care facilities (and sub parts). • The adequacy, resilience, and performance of the emergency management and public health care systems (and sub parts). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The performance of local health districts and the feasibility of allowing for local decision-making during pandemics, in contrast to delivery of routine services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adequacy, resilience, and performance of the K-12 and higher education systems and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness.

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Subcommittee Focus Areas

Focus areas will allow our team to take a deeper dive into critical areas and will align with committees as follows:



Subcommittees		
Government and Regulatory Systems	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial • Public-Private Partnerships • State-Local Coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals Incident Management • Logistics • Public Health / Local Health Districts • Public-Private Partnerships • Rural community engagement • State-Local Coordination • Volunteer and Donation Coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics • Rural community engagement

*Associated focus areas by subcommittee are subject to change.

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Subcommittee Engagement



Ensuring a streamlined and collaborative AAR development process involves adhering to key principles:

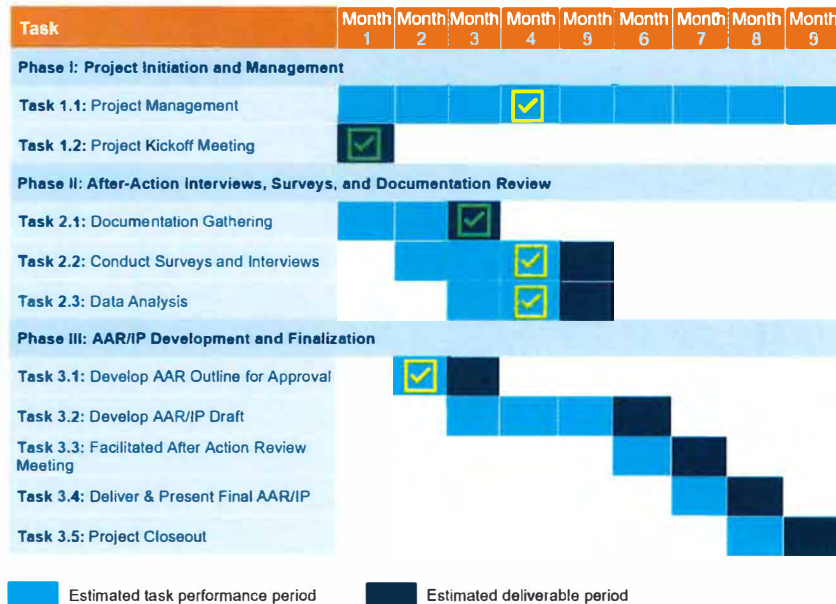


Timeline and Next Steps



Project Timeline

- Phase 1 – January 2024
- Phase 2 – Jan 2024 - May 2024
- Phase 3 – Feb 2024 - Sept 2024



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Key Accomplishments and Next Steps

Completed Actions

- Implemented bi-weekly meeting/project updates
- Collected data across highly specialized stakeholders
- Developed and deployed a Stakeholder Survey
- Identified interviewees for each priority area
- Began virtual interviews with key personnel

Upcoming

- Conclude virtual interviews
- Deliver draft AAR outline
- Conduct thorough analysis of data collected from the surveys and interviews.
- Compile results of data analysis to develop actionable recommendations.
- Commence report drafting

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Questions?

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Meeting #4 - October 29, 2024

Richmond, Virginia

The Joint Subcommittee met with Senator Scott A. Surovell, co-chair, presiding. The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion.

Presentation and Discussion: After Action Review

Michelle Burnett, Certified Emergency Manager, Tidal Basin Government Consulting (Tidal Basin), LLC

Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services

Ms. Burnett provided the Joint Subcommittee with an overview of Tidal Basin's progress on the Joint Subcommittee's tasked study, focusing on their timeline and methodology. She also presented the members with key observations, including strengths, best practices, recommendations, and policy options.

After Ms. Burnett's presentation, Mr. Wade outlined legislative policy options for the Joint Subcommittee to consider, based on the 12 focus areas and 58 total recommendations outlined in Tidal Basin's drafted After Action Report. Mr. Wade further proposed that the Government and Regulatory, Health Care Systems and Emergency Management, and Education Subcommittees meet to consider their respective recommendations and policy options in preparation for the final meeting of the Joint Subcommittee.

Public Comment

The Joint Subcommittee received comment from several members of the public.



Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness

After Action Review and Services Update

October 29, 2024

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Project Overview and Scope

Project Overview and Scope

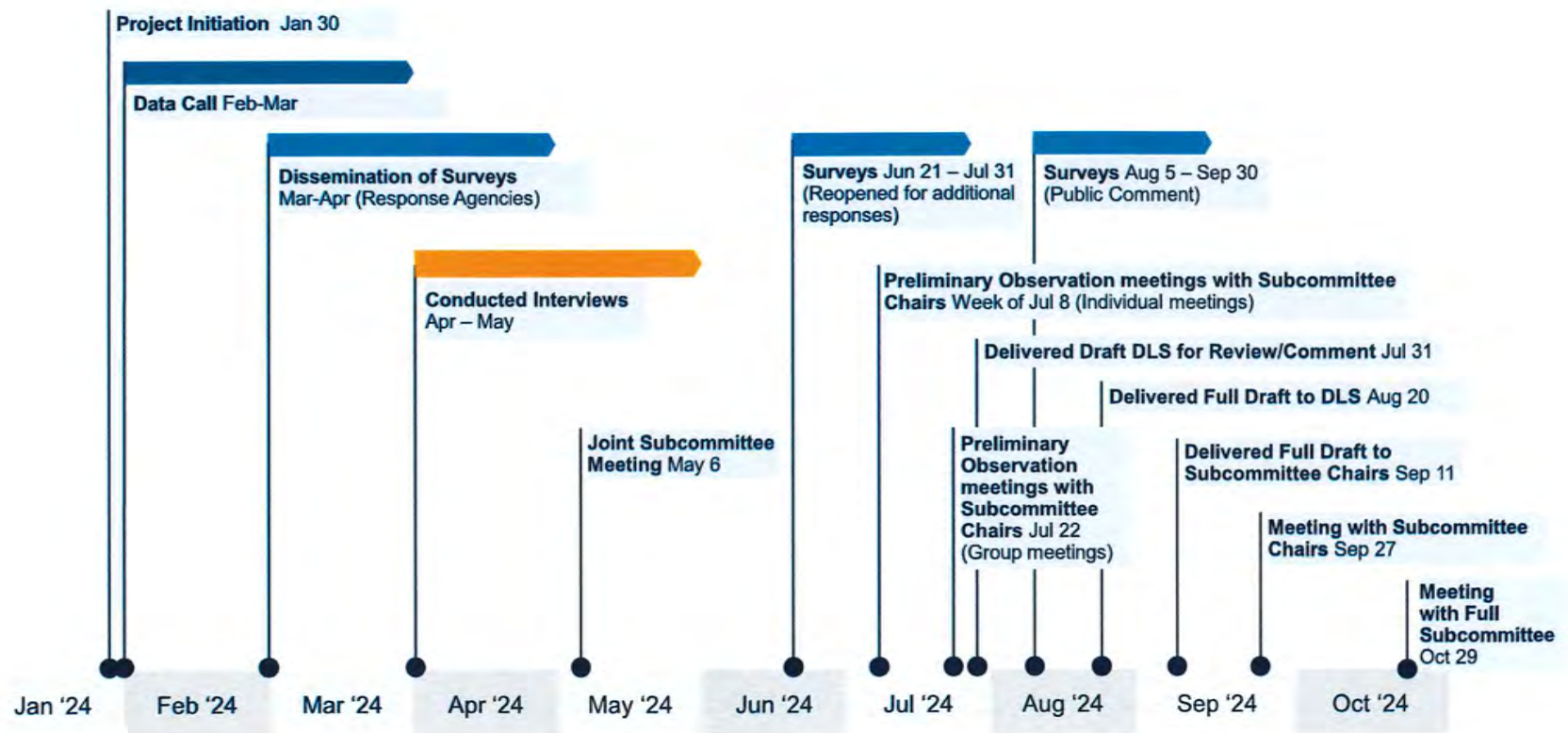
- The Virginia General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution 10 (SJR10) establishing the **Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness** (the Joint Subcommittee) to study pandemic response and preparedness in the Commonwealth.
- To assist with the study, the **Joint Subcommittee selected Tidal Basin Government Consulting LLC (Tidal Basin)** to evaluate and develop recommendations for the Commonwealth's pandemic response. The After-Action Report (AAR) will focus on the Commonwealth's **preparedness, response, and initial recovery efforts** during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the period from January 2020 – May 2023. This effort aims to detail an event overview and summary, as well as an analysis across pre-identified focus areas. The AAR will tell the story of Virginia's COVID-19 response, and **document best practices, strengths, and areas for improvement for future needs.**

Subcommittee Focus Areas



Timeline and Methodology

Key Project Activities Timeline To Date



Recap of Methodology



250+

Documents
Reviewed

46

Participating
Agencies and
Organizations

47

Interviews

429

Survey Responses
from individuals
involved in response
activities

Participating Agencies and Organizations

Board of Pharmacy*

Commission on Local Government

Commonwealth Coordination Bureau

Community Services Boards

County/Municipal Departments, including Education, Emergency Management, Fire, Health, Law Enforcement

Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)*

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)*

Department of Corrections (VADOC)

Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH)

Department of Education (VDOE)*

Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)*

Department of Fire Program

Department of Health (VDH)*

Department of Health Professions (VDHP)

Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)*

Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)*

Department of Military Affairs

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

Department of Social Services (VDSS)*

Department of Transportation

Division of Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

George Mason University

House of Delegates Clerk's Office

Local Government Attorneys of Virginia Inc.

Office of the Executive Secretary (OES)*

Office of the Governor

Private Industry

Professional Associations

Safety & Health Codes Board

Sentara Health

State Corporation Commission

State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV)

Virginia Adult Protective Services

Virginia Association of Counties

Virginia Association of Home Care and Hospice

Virginia Association of School Nurses (VASN)

Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Employment Commission

Virginia Hospitals and Healthcare Association (VHHA)

Virginia Municipal League

Virginia PTA (Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers) (VAPTA)

Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, & Travel Association (VRLTA)

Virginia School Board Association (VSBA)

Virginia State Police

Virginia Trial Lawyer Association (VTLA)

Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center (WWRC)

**Agencies referenced in SJR10*

Public Survey Summary

432

Survey
Responses from
8-Week Public Survey

179

Responses for Government
and Regulatory Systems
Subcommittee

167

Responses for Health Care
Systems and Emergency
Management Subcommittee

86

Responses for
Education
Subcommittee

8

Regions
Represented

- 58% of responses from Central and Northern Regions
- Most survey responses from Fairfax County (39), Virginia Beach (32), and Chesterfield County (24)

- Public survey was posted on the Joint Subcommittee's website, allowing the respondents to share comments with the subcommittees.
- Most of the responses were directed towards the Government and Regulatory subcommittee.

Key Observations, Recommendations, and Policy Options

Summary of Key Strengths/Best Practices

**Adaptability and
Flexibility
(Continuity)**

**Effective Use of
Technology**

Communication

**Collaboration and Coordination
across state agencies and
with external partners**

**Support for
Vulnerable
Populations**

Recommendations by Subcommittee



After Tidal Basin formulated operational recommendations, the Commonwealth's Division of Legislative Services developed a range of legislative policy options for the Joint Subcommittee's consideration.

Legislative Policy Options Discussion

COVID-19 After Action Report

Overview of Policy Options

Joint Subcommittee to Study The Commonwealth's
Response to the Pandemic

October 29, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Senate Room 305 / A
General Assembly Building

Overview

- **Twelve focus areas**
- **Fifty-eight total recommendations**
- **Approached through three subcommittees**
 - Subcommittee #1- 21
 - Subcommittee #2- 31
 - Subcommittee #3- 6
- **Initial policy options for consideration**

Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Chair

Delegate Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.

Delegate Michael J. Webert

Lisa Lucas-Burke

Martha Mugler

Jacqueline Grice

Karle Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia or designee

Stephens E. Cummings, Secretary of Finance or designee

Caren Merrick, Secretary of Commerce and Trade or designee



Subcommittee #1 – Government and
Regulatory Systems -
Recommendations Overview

- Six focus areas
- Twenty-one recommendations

Subcommittee #1 Policy Options

- Business Continuity/ Continuity of Operations (3)
- Communications (1)
- Financial Management (1)
- Judicial/Policy/ Regulatory (6)
- Logistics (4)
- Technology (6)



Subcommittee #2 -Health Care Systems & Emergency Management

Delegate Mark Sickles, Chair

Senator Barbara A. Favola

Delegate Debra D. Gardner

S. Chris Jones

Jennifer W. Siciliano

Heather Jones M.D.

Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources or designee

Terrance C. Cole, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or designee





Health Care Systems and Emergency Management Subcommittee - Recommendations Overview

- Six focus areas
- Thirty-one recommendations

Subcommittee #2 Policy Options

- Business Continuity/Continuity of Operations (2)
- Communications (6)
- Operations (6)
- Planning (6)
- Public Health/Local Health Districts (9)
- Volunteer and Donor Coordination (3)



Subcommittee #3 Education

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Chair

Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi

Senator David R. Suetterlein

Delegate Irene Shin

Katelyn Deel

Tara Dickerson-Anderson

Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education or designee



- **Six recommendations**

Subcommittee #3 Initial Policy Options

- **Mental health support systems**
- **Community advisory boards and local engagement**
- **Hybrid learning models/mental health initiatives**
- **Communication/public information strategies**
- **Legal guidance and support networks**
- **Comprehensive plans for school closures**



Next Steps and Final Report

Proposal for Next Steps

Subcommittee Review

- Each subcommittee develop final policy options
- Leverage members subject matter expertise
- Time frame for meeting: November

Full Joint Subcommittee Review

- Review Subcommittee's recommended policy options
- Develop final slate of policy options for further action
- Time frame for meeting: December

Meeting # 5 - January 6, 2025

Richmond, Virginia

The Joint Subcommittee met with Senator Scott A. Surovell, co-chair, presiding. The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion.¹

Presentation and Discussion: After Action Subcommittee Reports

Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services (DLS)

The Joint Subcommittee established the Government and Regulatory, Health Care Systems and Emergency Management, and Education subcommittees to consider 58 total recommendations outlined in the after action report presented by Tidal Basin Government Consulting (Tidal Basin), LLC. Policy options based on Tidal Basin's recommendations and offered by DLS were separated into several categories: (i) legislative action; (ii) letters from the Joint Subcommittee; (iii) budget language; and (iv) best practice recommendations. Mr. Wade reported on the three subcommittees' discussions and consensus on each recommendation and policy option.

- The Government and Regulatory subcommittee received 21 recommendations and 35 policy options. It was the consensus of the subcommittee to put forth six legislative actions, four letters requesting review from the Broadband Advisory Council, Secretary of Administration, Judicial Council, and Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council, and one budget language proposal for consideration by the Joint Subcommittee.
- The Health Care Systems and Emergency Management subcommittee received 31 recommendations and 91 policy options. Subcommittee members proposed six legislative actions, one letter requesting review from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, two budget language proposals, and 19 best practice recommendations for consideration by the Joint Subcommittee.
- The Education Subcommittee received six recommendations and 13 policy options. It was the consensus of the subcommittee to bring forth four legislative actions and one budget language proposal to the Joint Subcommittee for discussion.

The Joint Subcommittee members voted unanimously to adopt each subcommittee's action items. Members further discussed the assignment of patrons for legislation. It was the consensus of the Joint Subcommittee that each subcommittee chair would be tasked with finding sponsors for each piece of legislation.

¹ § 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia allows meetings to be held through electronic communication means during declared states of emergency. This section was evoked to allow Joint Subcommittee members to participate virtually.

Joint Subcommittee to Study The Commonwealth's Response to the Pandemic

Consideration of Subcommittee Actions

December 13, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Senate Room 305 / A

General Assembly Building

Overview

- **Fifty-eight total recommendations**
- **Subcommittee approach**
- **November meetings**
- **Consensus; recommendations and policy options**
- **Action items**

Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Chair

Delegate Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.

Delegate Michael J. Webert

Lisa Lucas-Burke

Martha Mugler

Jacqueline Grice

Karle Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia or designee

Stephens E. Cummings, Secretary of Finance or designee

Caren Merrick, Secretary of Commerce and Trade or designee



**Subcommittee #1 – Government and
Regulatory Systems**

- **21 recommendations**
- **35 policy options**
- **Subcommittee consensus actions**
 - **6 legislative actions**
 - **4 letters requesting review**
 - **1 Budget language**

Legislation (6)



- Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group consisting of relevant stakeholders to study the feasibility of establishing a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies
- Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), with the assistance of the Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel, to study of the state's reliance on grants for core emergency management functions
- VDEM to convene a work group to recommend a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to take effect in event of an emergency

Legislation (6)



- Division of Purchases and Supply, in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management, to design a dynamic stockpile strategy
- Expanding the exemption provided by Subdivision A(22) of Section 2.2-4343 of the code of Virginia to include suppliers and the types of tests that are needed.
- VDEM, in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, to establish a work group consisting of other relevant agencies and stakeholders to review technology service gaps existing during emergencies

Letters (4)/Budget Language (1)



- **Letters**

- Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor and Broadband Advisory Council
- Secretary of Administration
- Judicial Council
- Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

- **Budget language**

- Department of General Services, in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency and the Department of Emergency Management, to study the development of a centralized resource management (CRM) system

Subcommittee #2 -Health Care Systems & Emergency Management

Delegate Mark Sickles, Chair

Senator Barbara A. Favola

Delegate Debra D. Gardner

S. Chris Jones

Jennifer W. Siciliano

Heather Jones M.D.

Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources or designee

Terrance C. Cole, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or designee





Health Care Systems and Emergency Management Subcommittee - Recommendations Overview

- **31 recommendations**
- **91 policy options**
- **Subcommittee consensus actions**
 - **6 legislative actions**
 - **1 letter requesting review**
 - **2 budget language**
 - **19 best practice recommendations**

Legislation (6)



- VDEM, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to develop standardized guidelines for mental health support during extended incident
- VDEM to develop a training program on National Incident Management System principles, the Incident Command System, and the role of the Emergency Operations Center. Agency heads would be required to attend the training within six months of appointment with additional training required at regular intervals
- Direct state agencies to develop a document for their agency outlining the Incident Command System and the role of the Virginia Emergency Support Team in the event of a declared emergency

Legislation (6)



- Chief Information Officer and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, with the cooperation of the VDEM, to develop an emergency resource management system
- VDEM and the Department of Health (DOH) to study the existing emergency management regions and local health districts and recommend a mutually beneficial alignment
- VDEM to (i) offer health and safety training to volunteer organizations that are incorporated into the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) and (ii) develop a health monitoring system for all volunteers incorporated into the VEST during times of emergency

Letters (1)/Budget Language (2)



• Letter

➤ VDEM

• Budget Language

- VDEM Management and the DOH to study the development and implementation of a data collection framework for health care and other external partners, including local emergency management, involved in emergency responses that integrates essential elements of information across all reporting tools and stakeholders
- Funding for VDEM to establish and educational outreach campaign

Subcommittee #3 Education

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Chair

Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi

Senator David R. Suetterlein

Delegate Irene Shin

Katelyn Deel

Tara Dickerson-Anderson

Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education or designee



Subcommittee #3 Education

- **6 recommendations**
- **13 policy options**
- **Subcommittee consensus actions**
 - **4 legislative actions**
 - **1 budget language**

Legislation (4)/Budget Language (1)



- Amend § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia to include in the model memorandum of understanding procedures for providing the option for students to receive counseling from school counselors via telehealth.
- Codifying the Mental Health First Aid Trainings established in partnership between the Departments of Education and Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Legislation (4)/Budget Language (1)



- Department of Education to develop guidelines and information relating to virtual learning, including (i) statewide policies, (ii) the availability of online or virtual learning options, and (iii) guidelines for educators and schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices
- Amend § 22.1-98 of the Code of Virginia to require that all schools in Virginia include in their annual safety audits comprehensive plans for school closures due to public health emergencies
- Budget amendment supporting the funding of individualized education program training and implementation. An estimated cost to support special education staffing needs for Level I Services is \$8.7 million.

Thank you



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS



Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Chair

Delegate Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.

Delegate Michael J. Webert

Lisa Lucas-Burke (local elected official representing a rural locality)

Martha Mugler (local elected official representing an urban locality)

Jacqueline Grice (a private businessperson)

Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia or designee

Secretary of Finance or designee

Secretary of Commerce and Trade or designee



Subcommittee #1 - Government and Regulatory Systems

Referrals at a Glance



Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

- 1.2.1** Develop a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies
- 1.2.2** Enhance digital infrastructure and automation
- 1.3.1** Establish consistent statewide telework policies for all state agencies



Communications

- 2.1.3** Improve coordination with executive offices



Financial Management

- 4.1.1** Establish stable and diversified funding streams



Judicial / Policy / Regulatory

- 5.1.1** Develop a pre-approved legal and regulatory framework for emergencies
- 5.1.2** Create a rapid response legal and regulatory task force
- 5.2.1** Solicit input on judicial processes
- 5.2.2** Enhance virtual engagement and transparency mechanisms
- 5.3.1** Review statewide technology standards and protocols
- 5.3.2** Develop and implement consistent policies and procedures to ensure uniformity and efficiency



Logistics

- 6.1.1** Establish a dynamic stockpile strategy
- 6.1.2** Implement a Centralized Resource Management (CRM) system
- 6.2.1** Strengthen public-private partnerships
- 6.2.2** Establish a flexible and inclusive procurement strategy



Technology

- 10.1.1** Expand and sustain broadband infrastructure investments
- 10.1.2** Consider implementing technology access programs
- 10.1.3** Support innovative connectivity solutions for immediate needs
- 10.2.1** Develop comprehensive technology training and support programs
- 10.2.2** Enhance digital infrastructure and access during emergencies
- 10.2.3** Establish consistent protocols for remote voting and decision-making



Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

2:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting
November 19, 2024

Report



Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

1.2.1 Develop a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies.

Policy Options

1) Budget language or Code language requiring DHRM or VDEM to develop a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies and require regular review and update every 5 years.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia establishes the powers and duties of the Department of Emergency Management. This section could be amended to add a provision requiring the Department to establish a centralized framework for continuity of operations across all state agencies, mandating the creation and regular updating of agency-specific continuity plans. The framework would include all other components of this recommendation.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

3) Alternatively, legislation could be introduced directing the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group consisting of relevant stakeholders to develop a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies. The legislation could either authorize the framework to be implemented by the Department of Emergency Management or provide for the work group to make recommendations to the General Assembly for implementation.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation directing the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group consisting of relevant stakeholders to study the feasibility of establishing develop a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies. The work group will report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

1.2.2 Enhance digital infrastructure and automation.

Policy Options

1) Section 2.2-205.2 of the Code of Virginia establishes the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor within the office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to serve as the state's single point of contact and integration for broadband issues, efforts, and initiatives. This section could be amended to direct the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor to develop, in consultation with the Broadband Advisory Council, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, and the Department of Housing and Community Development, a strategic broadband investment plan for (i) expanding broadband access in underserved areas and (ii) upgrading the state's digital

infrastructure investment. The legislation would require the strategic plan to include specific funding initiatives consisting of state budget requests as well as private sources.

2) Section 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia requires the State Corporation Commission to establish pilot programs under which Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power may submit a petition to provide or make available broadband capacity to nongovernmental Internet service providers in areas of the Commonwealth that are unserved by broadband. The General Assembly made the pilot program permanent in 2021. This section could be amended to require the Commission to review the program and recommend incentives to the General Assembly to increase the number of utilities that submit petitions to provide or make available broadband capacity in areas of the Commonwealth unserved by broadband.

3) Alternatively, the Joint Subcommittee may wish to consider budget language to support long-term investment in expanding broadband access and upgrading state digital infrastructure

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor and the Broadband Advisory Council to study [Observation 1.2](#) and [Recommendation 1.2.2](#) and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.

1.3.1 Establish consistent statewide telework policies for all state agencies.

Policy Options

1) Amend the Code to establish a centralized telework policy for state agencies.

2) Section 2.2-203.1 of the Code of Virginia provides for the Secretary of Administration to establish a comprehensive statewide telecommuting and alternative work schedule policy and to update such policy as necessary. This section could be amended to require review of the policies to ensure that they include (i) clear criteria for determining which roles require in-person work, (ii) guidelines for hybrid work arrangements, and (iii) transparent communication to reduce confusion.

The section could also be amended to encourage the use of the model guidelines, rules, and procedures for telecommuting and participating in alternative work schedules and to provide for identification of the broad categories of positions determined to be ineligible to participate in telecommuting by agencies in the legislative and judicial branches

3) Alternatively, legislation could be introduced to require the Secretary to study or establish a work group consisting of stakeholders to study the use of telecommuting and alternative work schedules across state government and recommend changes to the statewide telecommuting and alternative work schedule policy to ensure equitable treatment of state employees across all agencies.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation requiring the Secretary to establish a work group to study [Observation 1.3](#) and [Recommendation 1.3.1](#), including the policy options. Such study shall include consideration of whether a uniform code provision, including employees in all branches of state government is appropriate. The Secretary will report his findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.



Communications

2.1.3 Improve coordination with executive offices.

Policy Options

1) Amend the Code to require the development of protocols to ensure that information from the Governor's office and other executive branches is communicated to operational staff, including the JIC, in advance. Implement a system for pre-briefings or notifications about upcoming announcements to allow JIC personnel to prepare responses and anticipate public inquiries, ensuring a more coordinated and informed public communication strategy.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) Section 2.2-221 of the Code of Virginia establishes the powers and duties of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security. This section could be amended to provide for the Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, to establish protocols to ensure that information from the Governor's office and other executive branch entities is communicated to operational staff. The legislation could also provide for pre-briefing or notifications to ensure a more coordinated public communication strategy.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.



Financial Management

4.1.1 Establish stable and diversified funding streams.

Policy Options

1) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia, which establishes the powers and duties of the Department of Emergency Management, could be amended or, alternatively, a separate section could be created within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia to require the Department of Emergency Management, with the assistance of the Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel, to conduct a comprehensive study of the state's reliance on grants for core emergency management functions and make specific recommendations to the General Assembly for securing adequate funding in the state budget for emergency management and public health preparedness efforts.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation requiring the Department of Emergency Management, with the assistance of the Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel, to study of the state's reliance on grants for core emergency management functions and make specific recommendations to the General Assembly for securing adequate funding in the state budget for emergency management and public health preparedness efforts.

2) Alternatively, legislation amending Chapter 15 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia could require the Governor to provide in the Budget Bill, submitted pursuant to § 2.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia, adequate funding for emergency management and public health preparedness efforts.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.



Judicial / Policy / Regulatory

5.1.1 Develop a pre-approved legal and regulatory framework for emergencies.

Policy Options

1) Amend the Code to require Supreme Court of Virginia and each circuit to develop pre-approved emergency frameworks and a task force to be activated during emergencies.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review **Observation 5.1, Recommendation 5.1.1** and this policy option and report back to the General Assembly.

2) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia, which establishes the powers and duties of the Department of Emergency Management, could be amended or, alternatively, a separate section could be created within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia to establish an interdepartmental advisory board composed of representatives of the relevant departments and agencies of state government, including from the legislative and judicial branches of state government, for the purpose of recommending a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework outlining specific emergency standards and processes that would take effect in the event of an emergency. The framework would include the components outlined in this recommendation. The advisory board would periodically review the framework for changes.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

3) Alternatively, legislation could be introduced directing the Department of Emergency Management to convene a work group to recommend a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to take effect in event of an emergency.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation requiring the Department of Emergency Management to convene a work group to recommend a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to take effect in event of an emergency.

5.1.2 Create a rapid response legal and regulatory task force.

Policy Options

Legislation could be introduced creating a new section within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia to establish a Rapid Response Legal and Regulatory Task Force to be activated by the Governor during emergencies. The legislation would establish the membership and lay out the powers and duties of the Task Force.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

5.2.1 Solicit input on judicial processes.

Policy Options

1) Legislation could be introduced requiring the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court to establish a process in line with this recommendation. The process would be designed to develop input from the public on methods for implementing judicial processes in instances when public participation is not possible due to an emergency declaration. Such process would include utilization of (i) surveys, (ii) feedback forms, and (iii) virtual, in-person, and written public comment periods.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review [Observation 5.2, Recommendation 5.2.1](#) and this policy option and report back to the General Assembly.

2) Alternatively, legislation could be introduced requiring the Office of the Executive Secretary to convene a work group to establish this process. The Judicial Council, the Committee on District Courts, and the Virginia Court Clerks' Association could have representation on the work group.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review [Observation 5.2, Recommendation 5.2.1](#) and this policy option and report back to the General Assembly.

5.2.2 Enhance virtual engagement and transparency mechanisms.

Policy Options

1) Legislation could be introduced directing the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court to convene a work group or task force consisting of relevant stakeholders to review the judicial process and opportunities for virtual engagement and transparency mechanisms, including the costs and benefits related to any increased use of these mechanisms. The study entity would make recommendations the Executive Secretary for further action.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review [Observation 5.2, Recommendation 5.2.2](#) and this policy option and report back to the General Assembly.

2) Alternatively or in conjunction with the study, legislation could be introduced to authorize the establishment of a pilot program providing for an enhanced virtual engagement and transparency mechanism.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review [Observation 5.2, Recommendation 5.2.2](#) and this policy option and report back to the General Assembly.

5.3.1 Review statewide technology standards and protocols.

Policy Options

1) Amend the Code to require Courts to standardize electronic filing systems, remote hearing processes, electronic signature requirements, and online scheduling systems across all judicial circuits.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review [Observation 5.3, Recommendation 5.3.1](#) and this policy option and report back to the General Assembly.

2) Legislation could be introduced directing the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, to conduct a comprehensive, statewide review of technology standards and protocols currently used throughout the judicial system as well as available technology to make recommendations regarding improvements.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review [Observation 5.3, Recommendation 5.3.1](#) and this policy option and report back to the General Assembly.

5.3.2 Develop and implement consistent policies and procedures to ensure uniformity and efficiency.

Policy Options

Legislation could be introduced directing the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, to establish a group or task force consisting of relevant stakeholders to develop statewide guidelines for the use of technology to standardize practices statewide (**See** Recommendation 5.3.1).

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review **Observation 5.3, Recommendation 5.3.2** and this policy option and report back to the General Assembly.



Logistics

6.1.1 Establish a dynamic stockpile strategy.

Policy Options

Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia establishes the Division of Purchases and Supply within the Department of General Services. Legislation could be introduced directing the Division to design the dynamic stockpile strategy contemplated by this recommendation.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation directing the Division of Purchases and Supply, in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management, to design the dynamic stockpile strategy that includes (i) maintaining flexible reserves of essential supplies, (ii) implementation of regular inventory assessments, (iii) periodic reviews of stockpile levels, anticipated needs, and expiration dates to ensure that reserves are appropriate and actionable, (iv) establishment of protocols for rotating, redistributing, and repurposing stockpiles to prevent waste and address emerging needs effectively. The Division will report his findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

6.1.2 Implement a Centralized Resource Management (CRM) system.

Policy Options

Legislation could be introduced directing the Division of Purchases and Supply within the Department of General Services, the Virginia Technologies Agency, and the Department of Emergency Management to develop a CRM system for use in times of emergency.

Subcommittee consensus: Budget language requesting Department of General Services, the Virginia Technologies Agency, and the Department of Emergency Management to study the development of a centralized Resource Management (CRM) system for use in times of emergency review and report its findings to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

6.2.1 Strengthen public-private partnerships.

Policy Options

From an aspirational standpoint, partnerships are typically developed at the individual agency level.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

6.2.2 Establish a flexible and inclusive procurement strategy.

Policy Options

Subdivision 22 of Section 2.2-4343 exempts from the Public Procurement Act the purchase of personal protective equipment for private, nongovernmental entities by the Governor pursuant to subdivision (11) of § 44-146.17 during a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat for which a state of emergency has been declared. Legislation could be introduced to expand this exemption to include suppliers and types of tests.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation expanding the exemption provided by Subdivision 22 of Section 2.2-4343 to include suppliers and types of tests.



Technology

10.1.1 Expand and sustain broadband infrastructure investments.

Policy Options

(**See** Recommendation 1.2.2). The directive for the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor to develop a strategic broadband investment plan could specify inclusion of methods for expanding and sustaining broadband infrastructure investments in line with this recommendation.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor and the Broadband Advisory Council to study **Observation 10.1** and **Recommendation 10.1.1** and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.

10.1.2 Consider implementing technology access programs.

Policy Options

(**See** Recommendations 1.2.2). The directive for the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor to develop a strategic broadband investment plan could specify reviewing the feasibility of establishing programs to provide equitable access to digital devices and internet services for underserved populations making recommendations to bring forth findings.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor and the Broadband Advisory Council to study **Observation 10.1** and **Recommendation 10.1.2** and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.

10.1.3 Support innovative connectivity solutions for immediate needs.

Policy Options

Legislation could be introduced establishing a work group consisting of the Department of Emergency Management, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, and other relevant agencies and stakeholders review technology service gaps that exist during emergencies and develop recommendations for solutions to address such gaps.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation directing the Department of Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, to establish a work group

consisting of other relevant agencies and stakeholders to review technology service gaps existing during emergencies and develop recommendations for solutions to address such gaps.

10.2.1 Develop comprehensive technology training and support programs.

Policy Options

Legislation could be introduced directing the Virginia Information Technologies Agency or other entity to develop and establish a comprehensive technology training program and support structure to ensure a baseline training regime in line with this recommendation. Establishing the training regime and support structure will require additional funding. The Joint Subcommittee may wish to consider a budget amendment sufficient to cover such costs.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

10.2.2 Enhance digital infrastructure and access during emergencies.

Policy Options

(**See** Recommendations 1.2.2). The directive for the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor to develop a strategic broadband investment plan could specify the development of recommendations regarding investments to strengthen digital infrastructure with the objective of expanding broadband connectivity.

Subcommittee Discussion: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor and the Broadband Advisory Council to study **Observation 10.2** and **Recommendation 10.2.2** and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.

10.2.3 Establish consistent protocols for remote voting and decision-making.

Policy Options

Legislation could be introduced establishing a task force or work group consisting of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, The Department of Health Professions, and other effected entities to develop best practices and protocols for remote voting and decision making.

If the Joint Subcommittee determined that the best practices and protocols developed by the task force or work group should be the statewide standard, the legislation could require the entity to make its recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for possible legislative action.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Freedom of Information Advisory Council review to study **Observation 10.2** and **Recommendation 10.2.3** and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.



Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

Action Items

I. Legislation

1. Legislation directing the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group consisting of relevant stakeholders to study the feasibility of establishing a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies. The work group will report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Observation 1.2: The pandemic uncovered unrecognized challenges for continuity of operations

Recommendation 1.2.1: Develop a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies

Tab A

2. Legislation requiring the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), with the assistance of the Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel, to study of the state's reliance on grants for core emergency management functions and make specific recommendations to the General Assembly for securing adequate funding in the state budget for emergency management and public health preparedness efforts.

Observation 4.1: Inadequate funding and heavy reliance on grants during calm periods impede preparedness and sustainability efforts crucial for supporting response capabilities during incidents.

Recommendation 4.1.1: Establish stable and diversified funding streams.

Tab B

3. Legislation requiring the Department of Emergency Management to convene a work group to recommend a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to take effect in event of an emergency. The work group will report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Observation 5.1: Failure to plan for legal and regulatory changes necessary for effective pandemic response caused delays and complications.

Recommendation 5.1.1: Develop a pre-approved legal and regulatory framework for emergencies.

Tab C

4. Legislation directing the Division of Purchases and Supply, in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management, to design a dynamic stockpile strategy that includes (i) maintaining flexible reserves of essential supplies; (ii) implementation of regular inventory assessments; (iii) periodic reviews of stockpile levels, anticipated needs, and expiration dates to ensure that reserves are appropriate and

actionable; and (iv) establishment of protocols for rotating, redistributing, and repurposing stockpiles to prevent waste and address emerging needs effectively. The Division will report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Observation 6.1: Resource uncertainty resulted in widespread challenges in accessing and distributing essential supplies, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing kits, impacting frontline workers across several sectors.

Recommendation 6.1.2: Establish a dynamic stockpile strategy.

Tab D

5. Legislation expanding the exemption provided by Subdivision A(22) of Section 2.2-4343 of the code of Virginia to include suppliers and the types of tests used.

Observation 6.1

Recommendation: 6.2.2: Establish a flexible and inclusive procurement strategy.

Tab E

6. Legislation directing the Department of Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, to establish a work group consisting of other relevant agencies and stakeholders to review technology service gaps existing during emergencies and develop recommendations for solutions to address such gaps. Any findings and recommendations will be reported to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Observation 10.1: Inequities arose due to disparities in access to technology, such as broadband connectivity

Recommendation: 10.1.3: Support innovative connectivity solutions for immediate needs.

Tab F

II. Joint Subcommittee Letters

1. Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor and the Broadband Advisory Council to request the Chief Advisor and Council to review the following items from the Final After Action Report:

a. **Observation 1.2:** The pandemic uncovered unrecognized challenges for continuity of operations and **Recommendation 1.2.2:** Enhance digital infrastructure and automation.

b. **Observation 10.1:** Inequities arose due to disparities in access to technology, such as broadband connectivity.

Recommendation 10.1.1: Expand and sustain broadband infrastructure investments.

Recommendation 10.1.2: Consider implementing technology access programs.

c. **Observation 10.2:** The implementation of technology to facilitate social distancing resulted in certain challenges and **Recommendation 10.2.2:** Enhance digital infrastructure and access during emergencies.

Any findings and recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

2. Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Secretary of Administration requesting the study of **Observation 1.3: Challenges arose during transition back to in-person work including limited guidance, inequities, and safety concerns** and **Recommendation 1.3.1: Establish consistent statewide telework policies for all state agencies**. Any findings and recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025. Any recommendations for legislation, if appropriate, to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.
3. Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review the following items from the Final After Action Report:
 - a. **Observation 5.2:** Judicial system staff made significant efforts to maintain transparency during social distancing periods but felt there was room for improvement.
Recommendation 5.2.1: Solicit input on judicial processes.
Recommendation 5.2.2: Enhance virtual engagement and transparency mechanisms.
 - b. **Observation 5.3:** Acceptance of technology varied across the judicial system, resulting in inconsistent use of platforms and policies among courts.
Recommendation 5.3.1: Review statewide technology standards and protocols.
Recommendation 5.3.2: Develop and implement consistent policies and procedures to ensure uniformity and efficiency (policy option #1).

Any findings and recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

4. Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council requesting the study of **Observation 10.2: The implementation of technology to facilitate social distancing resulted in certain challenges** and **Recommendation 10.2.3: Establish consistent protocols for remote voting and decision-making**. Any findings and recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

III. Budget Language

Budget language requesting Department of General Services, in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency and the Department of Emergency Management, to study the development of a centralized resource management (CRM) system for use in times of emergency review and report its findings to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

Tab A

Legislation directing the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group to study the feasibility of establishing a centralized Continuity of Operations framework across all state agencies mandating the creation and regular updating of agency-specific continuity plans.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

A BILL to direct the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group to determine the feasibility of establishing a centralized Continuity of Operations framework across all state agencies for use when an emergency has been declared. Report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. The Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security shall convene a work group to study the feasibility of establishing a centralized Continuity of Operations framework across all state agencies mandating the creation and regular updating of agency-specific continuity plans. In conducting its study, the work group shall include consideration of standardized guidelines for digital infrastructure upgrades, remote work capabilities, and staff training on emergency procedures. Such work group shall consist of state agency representatives from each of the Governor's secretariats. The work group shall complete its work and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2025.

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Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems
Tab B

Legislation directing the Department of Emergency Management to convene a work group to study the reliance of the Commonwealth and its localities on federal grants for core emergency management functions.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

A BILL to direct the Department of Emergency Management to convene a work group to study the reliance of the Commonwealth and its localities on federal grants for core emergency management functions; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. The Department of Emergency Management (the Department) shall convene a work group to study the reliance of the Commonwealth and its localities on federal grants for core emergency management functions. In conducting its study the work group shall include consideration of the extent essential systems, such as WebEOC and Crisis Track, are funded by such grants, and the feasibility of establishing dedicated, stable funding mechanisms at the state and local levels to reduce reliance on variable grant funding. The work group shall consist of pertinent Department staff and representatives from (i) the Virginia Association of Counties, (ii) the Virginia Municipal League, and (iii) the Virginia Emergency Management Association. Such work group shall complete its work and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2025.

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Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

Tab C

Legislation directing the Department of Emergency Management to convene a work group to study and recommend a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to take effect during a disaster for which a state of emergency has been declared.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

A BILL to direct the Department of Emergency Management to convene a work group to study and recommend a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to take effect during a disaster for which a state of emergency has been declared; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. The Department of Emergency Management (the Department) shall convene a work group to study and recommend a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to take effect during a disaster for which a state of emergency has been declared. The study shall consider, among other things, including in such framework pre-drafted executive orders, temporary'-waivers, and other regulatory adjustments that may be quickly enacted during the disaster and may consist of various levels or phases that reflect the length, impact, and type of disaster. The work group shall consist of representatives from the Department of Health, the Department of Health Professions, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Department of Labor and Industry, and such other relevant stakeholders as determined by the Department. The work group shall complete its work and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2025.

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Tab D

Legislation directing the Division of Purchases and Supply, in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management, to study and recommend a dynamic stockpile strategy for use in times of emergencies.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

A BILL to direct the Division of Purchases and Supply, in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management, to study and recommend a dynamic stockpile strategy for use in times of emergencies; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. The Division of Purchases and Supply (*the Division*), in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management, shall study and recommend a dynamic stockpile strategy for use in times of emergencies. Such strategy will, among other things, include (i) maintenance of flexible reserves of essential supplies; (ii) implementation of regular inventory assessments; (iii) periodic reviews of stockpile levels, anticipated needs, and expiration dates to ensure that reserves are appropriate and actionable; and (iv) establishment of protocols for rotating, redistributing, and repurposing stockpiles to prevent waste and address emerging needs effectively. The Division shall complete its work and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2025.

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Tab E

Legislation clarifying that the current exemption from the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act for the purchase of personal protective equipment by the Governor for private, nongovernmental entities during a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat for which a state of emergency has been declared includes communicable disease testing kits.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-4343 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Public Procurement Act; purchase of testing kits during a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat; exemption.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-4343 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-4343. Exemption from operation of chapter for certain transactions.

A. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

1. The Virginia Port Authority in the exercise of any of its powers in accordance with Chapter 10 (§ 62.1-128 et seq.) of Title 62.1, provided that the Authority implements, by policy or regulation adopted by the Board of Commissioners, procedures to ensure fairness and competitiveness in the procurement of goods and services and in the administration of its capital outlay program. This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures meeting the requirements remain in effect.

2. The Virginia Retirement System for selection of services related to the management, purchase or sale of authorized investments, actuarial services, and disability determination services. Selection of these services shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 51.1-124.30.

3. The State Treasurer in the selection of investment management services related to the external management of funds shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 2.2-4514, and shall be subject to competitive guidelines and policies that are set by the Commonwealth Treasury Board and approved by the Department of General Services.

4. The Department of Social Services or local departments of social services for the acquisition of motor vehicles for sale or transfer to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients.

5. The College of William and Mary in Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in the selection of services related to the management and investment of their endowment funds, endowment income, gifts, all other nongeneral fund reserves and balances, or local funds of or held by the respective public institution of

higher education pursuant to § 23.1-2210, 23.1-2306, 23.1-2604, or 23.1-2803. However, selection of these services shall be governed by the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (§ 64.2-1100 et seq.) as required by §§ 23.1-2210, 23.1-2306, 23.1-2604, and 23.1-2803.

6. The Board of the Commonwealth Savers Plan for the selection of services related to the operation and administration of the Plan, including, but not limited to, contracts or agreements for the management, purchase, or sale of authorized investments or actuarial, record keeping, or consulting services. However, such selection shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 23.1-706.

7. Public institutions of higher education for the purchase of items for resale at retail bookstores and similar retail outlets operated by such institutions. However, such purchase procedures shall provide for competition where practicable.

8. The purchase of goods and services by agencies of the legislative branch that may be specifically exempted therefrom by the Chairman of the Committee on Rules of either the House of Delegates or the Senate. Nor shall the contract review provisions of § 2.2-2012 apply to such procurements. The exemption shall be in writing and kept on file with the agency's disbursement records.

9. Any town with a population of less than 3,500, except as stipulated in the provisions of §§ 2.2-4305, 2.2-4311, 2.2-4315, 2.2-4330, 2.2-4333 through 2.2-4338, 2.2-4343.1, and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377 and Chapter 43.1 (§ 2.2-4378 et seq.).

10. Any county, city or town whose governing body has adopted, by ordinance or resolution, alternative policies and procedures which are (i) based on competitive principles and (ii) generally applicable to procurement of goods and services by such governing body and its agencies, except as stipulated in subdivision 12.

This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures, or other policies and procedures meeting the requirements of § 2.2-4300, remain in effect in such county, city or town. Such policies and standards may provide for incentive contracting that offers a contractor whose bid is accepted the opportunity to share in any cost savings realized by the locality when project costs are reduced by such contractor, without affecting project quality, during construction of the project. The fee,

if any, charged by the project engineer or architect for determining such cost savings shall be paid as a separate cost and shall not be calculated as part of any cost savings.

11. Any school division whose school board has adopted, by policy or regulation, alternative policies and procedures that are (i) based on competitive principles and (ii) generally applicable to procurement of goods and services by the school board, except as stipulated in subdivision 12.

This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures, or other policies or procedures meeting the requirements of § 2.2-4300, remain in effect in such school division. This provision shall not exempt any school division from any centralized purchasing ordinance duly adopted by a local governing body.

12. Notwithstanding the exemptions set forth in subdivisions 9 through 11, the provisions of subsections B, C, and D of § 2.2-4303, §§ 2.2-4305, 2.2-4311, 2.2-4315, 2.2-4317, 2.2-4330, 2.2-4333 through 2.2-4338, 2.2-4342, 2.2-4343.1, and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377, Chapter 43.1 (§ 2.2-4378 et seq.), and § 58.1-1902 shall apply to all counties, cities, and school divisions and to all towns having a population greater than 3,500 in the Commonwealth.

The method for procurement of professional services through competitive negotiation set forth in §§ 2.2-4302.2, 2.2-4303.1, and 2.2-4303.2 shall also apply to all counties, cities, and school divisions, and to all towns having a population greater than 3,500, where the cost of the professional service is expected to exceed \$80,000 in the aggregate or for the sum of all phases of a contract or project. A school board that makes purchases through its public school foundation or purchases educational technology through its educational technology foundation, either as may be established pursuant to § 22.1-212.2:2 shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter, except, relative to such purchases, the school board shall comply with the provisions of §§ 2.2-4311 and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377.

13. A public body that is also a utility operator may purchase services through or participate in contracts awarded by one or more utility operators that are not public bodies for utility marking services as required by the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act (§ 56-265.14 et seq.). A purchase of services under this subdivision may deviate from the procurement procedures set forth in this chapter upon a determination made in advance by the public body and set forth in writing that competitive sealed

bidding is either not practicable or not fiscally advantageous to the public, and the contract is awarded based on competitive principles.

14. Procurement of any construction or planning and design services for construction by a Virginia nonprofit corporation or organization not otherwise specifically exempted when (i) the planning, design or construction is funded by state appropriations of \$10,000 or less or (ii) the Virginia nonprofit corporation or organization is obligated to conform to procurement procedures that are established by federal statutes or regulations, whether those federal procedures are in conformance with the provisions of this chapter.

15. Purchases, exchanges, gifts or sales by the Citizens' Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion.

16. The Department of Corrections in the selection of pre-release and post-incarceration services and the Department of Juvenile Justice in the selection of pre-release and post-commitment services.

17. The University of Virginia Medical Center to the extent provided by subdivision A 3 of § 23.1-2213.

18. The purchase of goods and services by a local governing body or any authority, board, department, instrumentality, institution, agency or other unit of state government when such purchases are made under a remedial plan established by the Governor pursuant to subsection C of § 2.2-4310 or by a chief administrative officer of a county, city or town pursuant to § 15.2-965.1.

19. The contract by community services boards or behavioral health authorities with an administrator or management body pursuant to a joint agreement authorized by § 37.2-512 or 37.2-615.

20. The purchase of Virginia-grown food products for use by a public body where the annual cost of the product is not expected to exceed \$100,000, provided that the procurement is accomplished by (i) obtaining written informal solicitation of a minimum of three bidders or offerors if practicable and (ii) including a written statement regarding the basis for awarding the contract.

21. The Virginia Industries for the Blind when procuring components, materials, supplies, or services for use in commodities and services furnished to the federal government in connection with its operation as an AbilityOne Program-qualified nonprofit agency for the blind under the Javits-Wagner-

O'Day Act, 41 U.S.C. §§ 8501-8506, provided that the procurement is accomplished using procedures that ensure that funds are used as efficiently as practicable. Such procedures shall require documentation of the basis for awarding contracts. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 2.2-1117, no public body shall be required to purchase such components, materials, supplies, services, or commodities.

22. The purchase of personal protective equipment for private, nongovernmental entities by the Governor pursuant to subdivision (11) of § 44-146.17 during a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat for which a state of emergency has been declared. However, such purchase shall provide for competition where practicable and include a written statement regarding the basis for awarding any contract. As used in this subdivision, "personal protective equipment" means equipment or supplies worn or employed to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses and may include items such as gloves, safety glasses and shoes, earplugs or muffs, hard hats, respirators, coveralls, vests, full body suits, hand sanitizer, plastic shields, or testing for the communicable disease of public health threat.

B. Where a procurement transaction involves the expenditure of federal assistance or contract funds, the receipt of which is conditioned upon compliance with mandatory requirements in federal laws or regulations not in conformance with the provisions of this chapter, a public body may comply with such federal requirements, notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, only upon the written determination of the Governor, in the case of state agencies, or the governing body, in the case of political subdivisions, that acceptance of the grant or contract funds under the applicable conditions is in the public interest. Such determination shall state the specific provision of this chapter in conflict with the conditions of the grant or contract.

#

Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

Tab F

Legislation directing the Department of Emergency Management and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency to convene a work group to study and develop solutions to address breaks in technology continuity among communities across the Commonwealth during emergencies.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

A BILL to direct the Department of Emergency Management and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency to convene a work group to study and develop solutions to address breaks in technology continuity among communities across the Commonwealth during emergencies; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. The Department of Emergency Management and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency shall convene a work group to study and develop solutions to address breaks in technology continuity among communities across the Commonwealth during emergencies. In conducting its study the work group shall review the feasibility of solutions involving the integration of innovative solutions to address such breaks in technology continuity into emergency plans to ensure effective communication and coordination during emergencies. The work group shall complete its work and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2025.

#

Referral Letters
Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY

SENATOR SCOTT SUROVELL
CO-CHAIR



DELEGATE CANDI MUNDON KING
CO-CHAIR

PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

February 19, 2025

Dr. Tamarah Holmes
Director, Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219
c/o Virginia Broadband Advisory Council

Dear Dr. Holmes:

Senate Joint Resolution 10 (2022) established the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth to assess and evaluate the Commonwealth's overall pandemic preparedness and response capabilities. To assist in carrying out this charge, the Joint Subcommittee hired Tidal Basin Government Consulting to conduct independent research, review the performance of existing laws in relation to the pandemic response, and recommend corrective actions. The consultant developed an after action report (AAR) using multiple sources of information, including (i) surveys and interviews with individuals engaged with the state's response between 2020 and 2023, (ii) public survey responses from across the state, and (iii) review of documents from the response period. From this work, the consultant developed several observations and recommendations for consideration by the Joint Subcommittee.

After review of the final AAR, the Joint Subcommittee would like to refer the following observations and recommendations to the Broadband Advisory Council for review and possible action:

Observation 1.2: The pandemic uncovered unrecognized challenges for continuity of operations and **Recommendation 1.2.2:** Enhance digital infrastructure and automation.

Observation 10.1: Inequities arose due to disparities in access to technology, such as broadband connectivity.

Recommendation 10.1.1: Expand and sustain broadband infrastructure investments.

Recommendation 10.1.2: Consider implementing technology access programs.

Observation 10.2: The implementation of technology to facilitate social distancing resulted in certain challenges and **Recommendation 10.2.2:** Enhance digital infrastructure and access during emergencies.

Attached you will find a copy of the final AAR along with a breakout document focusing on the observations and recommendations that the Joint Subcommittee would like the Council to review. If you have any questions regarding this referral, please contact Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services, at awade@dls.virginia.gov or at (804) 698-1862. We ask that any responses or comments be submitted to Lauren Waller, Program Administrator with the Division, at lwaller@dls.virginia.gov by November 1, 2025.

We thank the Council in advance for its attention to this matter.

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Co-Chair

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Co-Chair

After Action Report Breakout (Broadband Advisory Council Referral)



Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

The Business Continuity focus area investigates the impact of COVID-19 on essential services, administrative functions, and government operations, emphasizing factors that facilitated successful adaptation strategies. It also explores enhancements to continuity of operations plans for future disruptions, including financial strategies such as managing cash flow, accessing government programs, and mitigating economic losses resulting from the pandemic.

Strengths

Efforts by leadership to support state employee mental health were well-received.

Leadership's efforts to support staff mental health, including the Headspace app, Team of Teams, Mental Health Fridays, and a mental health awareness day, were well-received. Interviewees appreciated these initiatives and the positive working culture, though some felt more could be done and expressed uncertainty about additional support within the current operational environment.

Despite inadequate preparedness, most agencies and organizations were able to transition to continuity operations with minimal disruptions.

The transition to Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans during the pandemic was largely successful, with agencies like the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) adapting to remote work and maintaining essential services despite challenges such as personal protective equipment (PPE) procurement. Executive orders facilitated remote operations for boards and hearings, while pre-existing plans in schools and telehealth services ensured minimal disruption. Overall, the shift to remote work was smooth, supported by strong partnerships and effective planning.

The shift to remote work, initially for safety, also brought extra advantages.

The transition to telework provided benefits during the pandemic, such as ensuring safety, enhancing public meeting accessibility, and continuing essential services through telemedicine and remote court hearings. Individuals also highlighted other positive outcomes of remote work, including technological improvements, the opportunity for state offices to test distributed operations models, newfound flexibility and efficiencies.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 1.2: The pandemic uncovered unrecognized challenges for continuity of operations.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed significant challenges in maintaining operational continuity across state agencies. The sudden shift to telework highlighted gaps in digital infrastructure, including limited access to reliable technology and broadband connectivity, particularly in rural areas. Many agencies

were unprepared for the rapid transition, resulting in inconsistent telework policies, reduced productivity, and difficulties in managing remote teams, in the early days of the response. The lack of a unified approach to teleworking also created disparities between departments, with some employees facing greater challenges in adapting to the new work environment.

Moreover, there was a significant lack of autonomy and flexibility in some agencies to shift processes and procedures to a remote format, hampering the ability to adapt quickly and efficiently. Many operational functions and records remained manual, further straining efforts to maintain continuity. The lack of digital infrastructure, particularly in areas with limited broadband access, compounded these challenges. The combined effects of these factors severely compromised the ability of staff to sustain consistent and effective operations during the pandemic.

Recommendations

- 1.2.1 Enhance digital infrastructure and automation.** Invest in expanding broadband access, especially in underserved areas, and upgrading state digital infrastructure to support the automation of operational functions and records for state agencies. This will enable a seamless transition to remote work and improve overall efficiency, reducing the strain on staff and enhancing the state's ability to maintain operational continuity during future crises.



Technology

The Technology focus area encompasses critical technology topics such as the use of data analytics and modeling to inform decision-making and resource allocation. It also explores improvements in leveraging data for future public health purposes, ensuring more effective responses. Additionally, it addresses the scalability, sustainability, and resilience of the technology infrastructure used in public health emergencies.

Strengths

Technology was leveraged to provide data and data analytics that supported informed decision-making.

Data was collected across state agencies and key external partners to inform decision-makers on the ongoing impact of the pandemic across the Commonwealth. A significant strength of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response was the effective use of technology to collect and analyze the data that supported informed decision-making. By leveraging advanced technological tools such as the modeling program from the University of Virginia, decision-makers were able to access real-time information, track trends, and forecast outcomes from Virginia and across the country, enabling more accurate and timely interventions. This strategic use of data not only enhanced the ability to respond to the evolving situation but also helped to allocate resources more efficiently and prioritize actions based on evidence, ultimately contributing to a more effective and coordinated public health response.

Employing technology enabled agencies and organizations to maintain operational continuity while adhering to social distancing measures.

A notable strength of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response was the successful use of technology to enable educational facilities, state agencies, and key organizations to maintain operational continuity

while adhering to social distancing measures. By adopting digital tools for remote work, virtual meetings, and online collaboration, entities were able to continue essential functions without compromising public health. This technological adaptability not only ensured the ongoing delivery of services but also demonstrated resilience and innovation in overcoming the challenges posed by the pandemic. Highlighted examples include local school divisions developing innovative solutions to facilitate student learning, health and human services agencies with client requiring face-to-face interventions, and the use of remote hearings and proceedings for the judicial system.

The transition to virtual communications and coordination yielded numerous benefits that can continue to make positive contributions beyond the pandemic.

Teleconferencing, virtual conferencing/meeting platforms, and other remote collaboration tools have led to significant efficiencies and cost savings, while enabling broader reach and more inclusive access to services and public engagement. Multiple interviewees highlighted the use of technology allowed for greater transparency and engagement for many state agencies' services. For example, the shift from in-person to virtual school (for schooling, events, and meetings) allowed more families and caretakers to participate, fostering greater involvement in students' activities. Additionally, these virtual platforms have enhanced inclusivity for persons with disabilities, making it easier for them to engage with various services and events. These positive outcomes demonstrate the lasting value of virtual communication technologies in enhancing accessibility, efficiency, and community involvement.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 10.1: Inequities arose due to disparities in access to technology, such as broadband connectivity

There are still a number of communities and residents in the Commonwealth who do not have access to reliable, low-cost, high speed, broadband access, although this is improving with federal grants recently secured. While the transition to virtual services has been noted as beneficial in many ways, innovative, but not sustainable solutions, needed to be employed, such as temporary solar-powered mobile hot spots in strategic locations in the communities, to assist during those living in areas without widespread broadband connectivity. Technology was seen as helpful in facilitating remote participation in educational and government services purposes, but also posed challenges related to accessibility, especially for populations with limited access to broadband or digital devices.

Recommendations

- 10.1.1 Expand and sustain broadband infrastructure investments.** Prioritize the expansion of reliable, high-speed broadband infrastructure, especially in underserved and rural areas. This includes continuing to leverage federal grants and funding to accelerate deployment and ensuring that investments are made in sustainable solutions that address long-term connectivity needs, reducing disparities in access to technology.
- 10.1.2 Consider implementing technology access programs.** Research the feasibility of establishing programs to provide equitable access to digital devices and internet services for underserved populations. This could include initiatives such as subsidized internet plans, technology lending libraries, and targeted outreach to ensure that all residents can benefit from virtual services and digital resources.

Observation 10.2: The implementation of technology to facilitate social distancing resulted in certain challenges.

To maintain continuity of services during periods of social distancing for health and safety, technology was utilized extensively. Although this approach proved beneficial, it also presented challenges for sectors such as education, the judicial system, and regulatory boards.

Instructional staff faced a steep learning curve due to a lack of prior experience in delivering instruction in this format. Student engagement proved challenging, particularly because students were not physically present during instruction. Meeting instructional objectives, especially in early literacy, presented significant difficulties.

Remote voting for regulatory boards and other elected boards during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a sense of distrust among stakeholders. The shift from traditional in-person voting to virtual platforms raised concerns about transparency, security, and the integrity of the decision-making process, despite measures taken to ensure accountability such as requiring members to be on camera and not allowing proxy voting.

Recommendations

- 10.2.2 Enhance digital infrastructure and access during emergencies.** Invest in strengthening digital infrastructure and ensuring equitable access to technology for all sectors during emergencies. This includes expanding broadband connectivity, providing necessary digital tools and resources, and creating contingency plans to address technology-related challenges that arise during emergencies, ensuring that all sectors can effectively maintain operations and service continuity.

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY

SENATOR SCOTT SUROVELL
CO-CHAIR



DELEGATE CANDI MUNDON KING
CO-CHAIR

PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

February 19, 2025

Secretary of Administration
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
c/o The Honorable Margaret Lyn McDermid,
Secretary of Administration

Dear Secretary McDermid,

Senate Joint Resolution 10 (2022) established the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth to assess and evaluate the Commonwealth's overall pandemic preparedness and response capabilities. To assist in carrying out this charge, the Joint Subcommittee hired Tidal Basin Government Consulting to conduct independent research, review the performance of existing laws in relation to the pandemic response, and recommend corrective actions. The consultant developed an after action report (AAR) using multiple sources of information, including (i) surveys and interviews with individuals engaged with the state's response between 2020 and 2023, (ii) public survey responses from across the state, and (iii) review of documents from the response period. From this work, the consultant developed several observations and recommendations for consideration by the Joint Subcommittee.

After review of the final AAR, the Joint Subcommittee would like to refer the following observation and recommendation for review and possible action:

Observation 1.3: Challenges arose during transition back to in-person work including limited guidance, inequities, and safety concerns and **Recommendation 1.3.1:** Establish consistent statewide telework policies for all state agencies.

Attached you will find a copy of the final AAR along with a breakout document focusing on the observations and recommendations that the Joint Subcommittee would like the Secretary of Administration to review. If you have any questions regarding this referral, please contact Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services, at awade@dls.virginia.gov or at (804) 698-1862. We ask that any responses or comments be submitted to Lauren Waller, Program Administrator with the Division, at lwaller@dls.virginia.gov by November 1, 2025.

We thank you in advance for its attention to this matter.

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Co-Chair

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Co-Chair

After Action Report Breakout (Secretary of Administration Referral)



Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

The Business Continuity focus area investigates the impact of COVID-19 on essential services, administrative functions, and government operations, emphasizing factors that facilitated successful adaptation strategies. It also explores enhancements to continuity of operations plans for future disruptions, including financial strategies such as managing cash flow, accessing government programs, and mitigating economic losses resulting from the pandemic.

Strengths

Efforts by leadership to support state employee mental health were well-received.

Leadership's efforts to support staff mental health, including the Headspace app, Team of Teams, Mental Health Fridays, and a mental health awareness day, were well-received. Interviewees appreciated these initiatives and the positive working culture, though some felt more could be done and expressed uncertainty about additional support within the current operational environment.

Despite inadequate preparedness, most agencies and organizations were able to transition to continuity operations with minimal disruptions.

The transition to Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans during the pandemic was largely successful, with agencies like the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) adapting to remote work and maintaining essential services despite challenges such as personal protective equipment (PPE) procurement. Executive orders facilitated remote operations for boards and hearings, while pre-existing plans in schools and telehealth services ensured minimal disruption. Overall, the shift to remote work was smooth, supported by strong partnerships and effective planning.

The shift to remote work, initially for safety, also brought extra advantages.

The transition to telework provided benefits during the pandemic, such as ensuring safety, enhancing public meeting accessibility, and continuing essential services through telemedicine and remote court hearings. Individuals also highlighted other positive outcomes of remote work, including technological improvements, the opportunity for state offices to test distributed operations models, newfound flexibility and efficiencies.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 1.3: Challenges arose during the transition back to in-person work including limited guidance, inequities, and safety concerns.

The transition back to in-person work after the COVID-19 pandemic revealed significant challenges, including gaps in state guidance, inequities in telework policies, and safety concerns. While remote work had proven effective and productive for many, the return to the office was difficult for those who

had adapted to telework, leading to frustration and resistance. Inequities arose as some roles required a return to the office sooner than others, with inconsistent policies across state agencies exacerbating these disparities. Safety concerns, due to varied application of protocols, further heightened anxiety among employees during the transition.

Recommendations

- 1.3.1 **Establish consistent statewide telework policies for all state agencies.** Develop and implement consistent telework policies across all agencies to ensure equitable treatment of employees. These policies should include clear criteria for determining which roles require in-person work, guidelines for hybrid work arrangements, and transparent communication to reduce confusion and frustration among employees.

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY

SENATOR SCOTT SUROVELL
CO-CHAIR



DELEGATE CANDI MUNDON KING
CO-CHAIR

PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

February 19, 2025

Judicial Council of Virginia
100 North Ninth Street
Richmond, VA 23219
c/o The Honorable Karl R. Hade, Executive Secretary
Virginia Supreme Court

Dear Secretary Hade,

Senate Joint Resolution 10 (2022) established the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth to assess and evaluate the Commonwealth's overall pandemic preparedness and response capabilities. To assist in carrying out this charge, the Joint Subcommittee hired Tidal Basin Government Consulting to conduct independent research, review the performance of existing laws in relation to the pandemic response, and recommend corrective actions. The consultant developed an after action report (AAR) using multiple sources of information, including (i) surveys and interviews with individuals engaged with the state's response between 2020 and 2023, (ii) public survey responses from across the state, and (iii) review of documents from the response period. From this work, the consultant developed several observations and recommendations for consideration by the Joint Subcommittee.

After review of the final AAR, the Joint Subcommittee would like to refer the following observations and recommendations to the Judicial Council for review and possible action:

Observation 5.2: Judicial system staff made significant efforts to maintain transparency during social distancing periods but felt there was room for improvement.

Recommendation 5.2.1: Solicit input on judicial processes.

Recommendation 5.2.2: Enhance virtual engagement and transparency mechanisms.

Observation 5.3: Acceptance of technology varied across the judicial system, resulting in inconsistent use of platforms and policies among courts.

Recommendation 5.3.1: Review statewide technology standards and protocols.

Recommendation 5.3.2: Develop and implement consistent policies and procedures to ensure uniformity and efficiency (policy option #1).

Attached you will find a copy of the final AAR along with a breakout document focusing on the observations and recommendations that the Joint Subcommittee would like the Council to review. If you have any questions regarding this referral, please contact Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services, at awade@dls.virginia.gov or at (804) 698-1862. We ask that any responses or comments be submitted to Lauren Waller, Program Coordinator with the Division, at lwaller@dls.virginia.gov by November 1, 2025.

We thank the Council in advance for its attention to this matter.

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Co-Chair

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Co-Chair

After Action Report Breakout (Judicial Council of Virginia Referral)



Judicial/Policy/Regulatory

The Judicial/Policy/Regulatory focus area examines the impact of COVID-19 on judicial systems, including court operations, case backlog management, and access to justice. It assesses the resilience and adaptability of these systems in responding to public health emergencies and the lessons learned for future preparedness. Additionally, it addresses the technology investments and infrastructure improvements needed to enhance judicial capacity, the effectiveness of remote court proceedings, virtual hearings, and electronic filings, while maintaining fairness, transparency, and due process.

Strengths

Executive orders provided flexibility, enabling temporary waivers that eased health care licensure burdens and enhanced regulation enforcement.

These orders empowered licensing boards to grant temporary practice rights to out-of-state and retired healthcare professionals in Virginia, ensuring adequate staffing levels to meet the increased demand for medical services. Additionally, DHP played a crucial role in decision-making regarding these waivers, which included leniency on licensee late fees and the suspension of continuing education requirements. Moreover, executive orders bolstered regulatory enforcement capabilities, allowing agencies like the DOLI to enforce mask mandates and other public health directives effectively. Businesses that failed to comply with these mandates could be inspected and fined, ensuring greater adherence to essential health and safety regulations.

The use of technology for some courts in the Commonwealth's judicial system enabled adaptability, streamlining processes and easing administrative burdens.

While the integration of technology was inconsistent across the Commonwealth, where it was embraced it allowed for more efficient operations, with electronic filing and the acceptance of electronic signatures, reducing the need for physical presence and paper-based processes which reduce costs and improve efficiency. Remote hearings for routine and procedural matters enabled cases to progress and helped minimize delays.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 5.1: Failure to plan for the legal and regulatory changes necessary for effective pandemic response caused delays and complications.

The absence of pre-established frameworks for swiftly adapting regulations, such as those related to public health orders, workforce protections, and emergency procurement, hindered the ability of state agencies to respond promptly to the evolving situation. One major issue was the speed at which regulatory changes were enacted. Emergency standards required legal and

regulatory justification, creating a need for a balanced and expedited response, which proved challenging. The impact of executive orders on businesses in the Commonwealth highlighted complexities in authority, as seen when an order directed the adoption of safety and health regulations, raising questions about the roles of the Commissioner versus the Safety and Health Codes Board. Additionally, a significant amount of time was spent crafting and modifying temporary waivers during the pandemic. Codifying these processes in advance would streamline the response in future emergencies, ensuring that necessary legal and regulatory adjustments can be implemented more efficiently.

Recommendations

- 5.1.1 **Develop a pre-approved legal and regulatory framework for emergencies.** Establish a comprehensive, pre-approved legal and regulatory framework that outlines specific emergency standards and processes. This framework should include pre-drafted executive orders, temporary waivers, and other necessary regulatory adjustments that can be quickly enacted during a crisis. Such a framework may consist of various levels or phases that can reflect the length, impact, and type of incident.
- 5.1.2 **Create a rapid response legal and regulatory task force.** Form a dedicated task force composed of legal, regulatory, emergency management, and public health experts to oversee and expedite the creation and implementation of necessary emergency regulations that are not previously established. This task force should be activated during emergencies to ensure that all essential legal adjustments are made promptly and can be used to deconflict questions about roles and responsibilities related to this issue.

Observation 5.2: Judicial system staff made significant efforts to maintain transparency during social distancing periods but felt there was room for improvement.

To enhance communication and ensure that the pandemic response plan was followed, local judicial authorities directed the public to their websites and prioritized judicial emergency orders. The bench book and online resources provided valuable guidance to the courts, reflecting a commitment to maintaining operational continuity and clarity. However, the shift to virtual meetings posed challenges, such as ensuring adequate participation and upholding transparency in proceedings. While the system did not directly solicit public input on solving problems or participating in the process, it provided alternative avenues for engagement through email, phone, and publicly posted information. This approach helped maintain some level of transparency and communication but indicated areas where more proactive strategies could be developed to better engage the public and address transparency concerns during such crises.

Recommendations

- 5.2.1 **Solicit input on judicial processes.** Solicit input on methods for implementing judicial processes when public participation is not possible, utilizing surveys, feedback forms, and public comment periods. Ensure that these opportunities for providing input are widely publicized and easily accessible through multiple channels.
- 5.2.2 **Enhance virtual engagement and transparency mechanisms.** Implement robust virtual engagement platforms that allow for real-time public participation and input during judicial proceedings. This should include ideas gathered during the public input process and could consist of interactive webinars, live Q&A sessions, and virtual town halls specifically designed for judicial matters.

Observation 5.3: Acceptance of technology varied across the judicial system, resulting in inconsistent use of platforms and policies among courts.

The lack of uniformity in adopting many technological advancements, such as remote hearings, electronic filing systems, electronic signatures, and online scheduling systems resulted in inefficiencies and inconsistencies across the judicial system.

Recommendations

- 5.3.1 **Review statewide technology standards and protocols.** Conduct review of available technologies, including electronic filing systems, remote hearings, electronic signatures, and online scheduling systems, to determine how their adoption may ease ongoing administrative burdens of the judicial system while enhancing transparency and participation.
- 5.3.2 **Develop and implement consistent policies and procedures to ensure uniformity and efficiency.** Establish clear guidelines for the use of technology, including electronic filing systems, remote hearings, electronic signatures, and online scheduling systems. Standardize these practices across all courts to minimize discrepancies, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure equitable access to judicial processes. Regularly review and update these policies to adapt to technological advancements and address emerging needs, ensuring that all courts operate under the same framework and standards.

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY

SENATOR SCOTT SUROVELL
CO-CHAIR



DELEGATE CANDI MUNDON KING
CO-CHAIR

PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Marcus B. Simon, Chair
Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council
General Assembly Building
201 North 9th Street, 4th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Delegate Simon,

Senate Joint Resolution 10 (2022) established the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth to assess and evaluate the Commonwealth's overall pandemic preparedness and response capabilities. To assist in carrying out this charge, the Joint Subcommittee hired Tidal Basin Government Consulting to conduct independent research, review the performance of existing laws in relation to the pandemic response, and recommend corrective actions. The consultant developed an after action report (AAR) using multiple sources of information, including (i) surveys and interviews with individuals engaged with the state's response between 2020 and 2023, (ii) public survey responses from across the state, and (iii) review of documents from the response period. From this work, the consultant developed several observations and recommendations for consideration by the Joint Subcommittee.

After review of the final AAR, the Joint Subcommittee would like to refer the following observations and recommendations to the Freedom of Information Advisory Council for review and possible action:

Observation 10.2: The implementation of technology to facilitate social distancing resulted in certain challenges and **Recommendation 10.2.3:** Establishment consistent protocols for remote voting and decision-making.

Attached you will find a copy of the final AAR along with a breakout document focusing on the observations and recommendations that the Joint Subcommittee would like the Council to review. If you have any questions regarding this referral, please contact Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services, at awade@dls.virginia.gov or at (804) 698-1862. We ask that any

responses or comments be submitted to Lauren Waller, Program Administrator with the Division, at lwaller@dls.virginia.gov by November 1, 2025.

We thank the Council in advance for its attention to this matter.

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Co-Chair

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Co-Chair

After Action Report Breakout (Freedom of Information Advisory Council Referral)



Technology

The Technology focus area encompasses critical technology topics such as the use of data analytics and modeling to inform decision-making and resource allocation. It also explores improvements in leveraging data for future public health purposes, ensuring more effective responses. Additionally, it addresses the scalability, sustainability, and resilience of the technology infrastructure used in public health emergencies.

Strengths

Technology was leveraged to provide data and data analytics that supported informed decision-making.

Data was collected across state agencies and key external partners to inform decision-makers on the ongoing impact of the pandemic across the Commonwealth. A significant strength of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response was the effective use of technology to collect and analyze the data that supported informed decision-making. By leveraging advanced technological tools such as the modeling program from the University of Virginia, decision-makers were able to access real-time information, track trends, and forecast outcomes from Virginia and across the country, enabling more accurate and timely interventions. This strategic use of data not only enhanced the ability to respond to the evolving situation but also helped to allocate resources more efficiently and prioritize actions based on evidence, ultimately contributing to a more effective and coordinated public health response.

Employing technology enabled agencies and organizations to maintain operational continuity while adhering to social distancing measures.

A notable strength of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response was the successful use of technology to enable educational facilities, state agencies, and key organizations to maintain operational continuity while adhering to social distancing measures. By adopting digital tools for remote work, virtual meetings, and online collaboration, entities were able to continue essential functions without compromising public health. This technological adaptability not only ensured the ongoing delivery of services but also demonstrated resilience and innovation in overcoming the challenges posed by the pandemic. Highlighted examples include local school divisions developing innovative solutions to facilitate student learning, health and human services agencies with client requiring face-to-face interventions, and the use of remote hearings and proceedings for the judicial system.

The transition to virtual communications and coordination yielded numerous benefits that can continue to make positive contributions beyond the pandemic.

Teleconferencing, virtual conferencing/meeting platforms, and other remote collaboration tools have led to significant efficiencies and cost savings, while enabling broader reach and more inclusive access to services and public engagement. Multiple interviewees highlighted the use of technology allowed for greater transparency and engagement for many state agencies' services. For example, the shift from

in-person to virtual school (for schooling, events, and meetings) allowed more families and caretakers to participate, fostering greater involvement in students' activities. Additionally, these virtual platforms have enhanced inclusivity for persons with disabilities, making it easier for them to engage with various services and events. These positive outcomes demonstrate the lasting value of virtual communication technologies in enhancing accessibility, efficiency, and community involvement.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 10.2: The implementation of technology to facilitate social distancing resulted in certain challenges.

To maintain continuity of services during periods of social distancing for health and safety, technology was utilized extensively. Although this approach proved beneficial, it also presented challenges for sectors such as education, the judicial system, and regulatory boards.

Instructional staff faced a steep learning curve due to a lack of prior experience in delivering instruction in this format. Student engagement proved challenging, particularly because students were not physically present during instruction. Meeting instructional objectives, especially in early literacy, presented significant difficulties.

Remote voting for regulatory boards and other elected boards during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a sense of distrust among stakeholders. The shift from traditional in-person voting to virtual platforms raised concerns about transparency, security, and the integrity of the decision-making process, despite measures taken to ensure accountability such as requiring members to be on camera and not allowing proxy voting.

Recommendations

- 10.2.3 Establish consistent protocols for remote voting and decision-making.** Develop and comprehensive protocols for remote voting and decision-making processes for public-facing boards and other elected bodies to enhance transparency and trust. These protocols should include secure and verifiable systems for remote voting, clear guidelines for ensuring integrity, and mechanisms for stakeholder oversight to address concerns about transparency and security during virtual meetings and decision-making.



Health Care Systems and Emergency Management Subcommittee

Delegate Mark D. Sickles, Chair

Senator Barbara A. Favola

Delegate Debra D. Gardner

S. Chris Jones (owner of a local pharmacy)

Jennifer W. Siciliano (representing public hospital or health care system)

Heather Jones M.D. (representing private hospital or health care system)

Secretary of Health and Human Resources or designee

Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or designee



Health Care Systems and Emergency Management Subcommittee Referrals at a Glance



Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

- 1.1.1 Expand access to mental health resources
- 1.1.2 Develop comprehensive mental health support guidelines



Communications

- 2.1.1 Establish a dedicated SME pool
- 2.1.2 Implement a centralized information management system (CIMS)
- 2.2.1 Streamline the health equity working group structure
- 2.2.2 Implement clear decision-making protocols
- 2.2.3 Establish a rapid response framework
- 2.3.1 Enhance ongoing public engagement and education



Operations

- 7.1.1 Conduct comprehensive NIMS and ICS training
- 7.1.2 Establish clear role definitions
- 7.1.3 Enhance tracking and resource management systems
- 7.2.1 Centralize administrative tasks
- 7.2.2 Implement rotational staffing
- 7.2.3 Expand and diversify the staffing pool



Planning

- 8.1.1 Review and update pandemic and emergency operations plans
- 8.1.2 Integrate inclusivity and support for vulnerable populations
- 8.1.3 Prioritize continuous plan evaluation
- 8.2.1 Review alignment of emergency management and public health regions
- 8.2.2 Integration of key internal and external partners



Public Health / Local Health Districts

- 9.1.2 Enhance regional coordination and support
- 9.1.3 Centralize public health guidance and oversight during emergencies
- 9.2.1 Inclusion of vaccination policies and definitions in pandemic plans
- 9.2.2 Enhance data collection and coordination for vaccine distribution
- 9.3.1 Incorporate external partners early in the response planning
- 9.3.2 Establish clear communication channels and protocols
- 9.3.3 Strengthen and formalize partnerships before crises
- 9.4.1 Establish standardized data collection framework
- 9.4.2 Provide training and support for data reporting



Volunteer and Donation Coordination

- 11.1.1 Provide comprehensive health and safety training
- 11.1.2 Establish a health monitoring and support system
- 11.1.3 Engage a more diverse demographic



Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency Management

2:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting
November 26, 2024

Report



Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

1.1.1 Expand access to mental health resources.

Policy Options

1) Proactive Mental Health Frameworks: Instead of just responding to crises, healthcare systems should develop proactive mental health support systems that are continuously available. This includes routine mental health check-ins, peer support groups, and integrating mental health services as part of daily operations.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

2) Resilience Training: Provide resilience and stress-management training for healthcare staff, equipping them with coping mechanisms to handle the intense pressures of their roles during emergencies.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

3) Increased funding for mental health services will likely be required to carry forward this recommendation, necessitating a budget amendment. Legislation could be introduced directing the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to conduct a review of the mental health services and funding needs and report back to the General Assembly.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

4) Legislation could be introduced to expand existing programs coupled with budget amendments sufficient to fund such program expansions. (Examples of existing programs were provided)

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

1.1.2 Develop comprehensive mental health support guidelines.

Policy Options

1) For Recommendations 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, budget language directly DHRM to create and implement clear, standardized guidelines for mental health support during extended incident response across all state agencies during emergency response including protocols for identifying and addressing mental health concerns, provide access to mental health professionals, and incorporate flexible options like childcare and paid time off to alleviate stress and prevent burnout.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

2) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia establishes the powers and duties of the Department of Emergency Management. This section could be amended to add a provision requiring the Department, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to develop standardized guidelines for mental health support during extended incident response across all state agencies. The legislation could include a requirement to establish a definition and designation of a time period for "extended incident response."

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation requiring the Department of Emergency Management, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to develop standardized guidelines for mental health support during extended incident.

3) Alternatively, a resolution could also be introduced directing the Department or a selected group of relevant agencies to study the development of comprehensive mental health support guidelines and report back to the General Assembly with recommendations for implementation.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.



Communications

2.1.1 Establish a dedicated SME pool.

Policy Options

1) Amend the Code to require dedicated SME pool for key agencies to be trained and readily available during emergencies,

2) Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to establish a Public Safety Communications Response Council during times of emergency. This council would provide subject matter-specific support from agencies to a centralized communication platform. Such legislation could direct relevant agencies to appoint a representative whose duty it is to respond to inquiries related to that agency's subject matter.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation regarding these two policy options involving expansion of the provisions of Executive Orders 41 and 42.

2.1.2 Implement a centralized information management system (CIMS).

Policy Options

1) Amend the Code to implement a Centralized Information Management System (CIMS). Deploy a centralized platform for managing and disseminating information during a crisis. This system should include real-time updates, FAQs, and guidance from SMEs. It would streamline the flow of information, enabling JIC staff to access accurate and up-to-date content quickly and reducing the time spent searching for answers.

2) Decentralized Crisis Communication Networks: Create regional communication hubs that feed into a centralized system but maintain flexibility. This will allow local agencies to

respond to community-specific needs while ensuring alignment with state and national directives.

3) Public Communication Frameworks: Develop a uniform public communication framework that simplifies the delivery of consistent, accurate information to the public. Healthcare teams can collaborate with trusted local leaders to enhance outreach, addressing public mistrust and misinformation early.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to study [Observation 2.1](#) and [Recommendation 2.1.2](#) and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.

4) Section 44-146.18:5 of the Code of Virginia establishes the Division of Public Safety Communications. This section could be amended to direct the Division to establish a centralized messaging platform during times of emergency

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2.2.1 Streamline the health equity working group structure.

Policy Options

1) Amend the Code to reduce the size of the working group to a more manageable number of participants. Focus on including key representatives who can provide diverse perspectives without overwhelming the decision-making process. Establish smaller, specialized subcommittees for specific tasks such as translation or cultural considerations to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

2) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended or, alternatively, a separate section could be created within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia to require the Department of Emergency Management to establish a work group on health communications and equity during a statewide public health emergency. The legislation would seek to establish a clear upper limit on the number of participants in the work group and include required subject matter-specific subgroups to facilitate efficiency and focus.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to study [Observation 2.2](#) and [Recommendation 2.2.1](#) and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.

2.2.2 Implement clear decision-making protocols.

Policy Options

1) Amend the Code to develop and enforce clear protocols for decision-making within the working group. Establish criteria for resolving conflicts and making decisions swiftly to avoid delays. This could include predefined guidelines for translation and other critical aspects to streamline the process and ensure timely dissemination of information.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) Perhaps there can be some discussion of the need to establish an "Information line" where health care providers can call to ascertain clarifications on policy matters and the time and dates when future guidance calls or memos will be available.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

3) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended or, alternatively, a separate section could be created within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia, directing the Department of Emergency Management to require the establishment of the previously mentioned work group that would contain language requiring the work group to develop a framework for decision-making at its first meeting. Additionally, the statute could contain a requirement that a quorum of members be present in order for decisions to be effectual.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

4) Alternatively, legislation could be introduced directing the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or the Department of Emergency Management to convene a work group to pre-establish the health equity work group's structure, protocols for decision-making within the group, and a rapid response framework that could be implemented in times of emergency.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2.2.3 Establish a rapid response framework.

Policy Options

Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to require the establishment of the previously mentioned work group with the responsibility to develop health messaging protocols and policies to support rapid response to changing public health needs.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2.3.1 Enhance ongoing public engagement and education.

Policy Options

1) Perhaps there can be some discussion of the need to establish an information line where health care providers can call to ascertain clarifications on policy matters and the time and dates when future guidance calls or memos will be available.

2) Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to require that any work group created or established during a declared time of emergency include the appointment of non-governmental community leaders in advisory roles.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.



Operations

7.1.1 Conduct comprehensive NIMS and ICS training.

Policy Options

Section 2.2-1209 of the Code of Virginia requires the Department of Human Resource Management to develop training programs to familiarize the director of each agency in the

executive branch of state government with state human resources policies. Each agency director is required to attend the training within six months after appointment.

Legislation could be introduced that would similarly require the Department of Emergency Management to develop a training program on NIMS principles, the ICS, and the role of the EOC. Agency heads would be required to attend the training within six months of appointment with additional training required at regular intervals. The legislation could establish other policy makers and key personnel who would be required to attend the training.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation requiring the Department of Emergency Management to develop a training program on NIMS principles, the ICS, and the role of the EOC. Agency heads would be required to attend the training within six months of appointment with additional training required at regular intervals.

7.1.2 Establish clear role definitions.

Policy Options

1) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia establishes the powers and duties of the Department of Emergency Management. This section could be amended to direct the Department to develop and distribute a document (i) outlining the roles and responsibilities of all policymakers, agency heads, and key personnel within the Incident Command System framework and (ii) protocols for communication, decision-making, and collaboration with the objective of improving overall coordination.

2) Alternatively, legislation could be introduced directing all state agencies to develop a document for their individual agency briefly outlining the Incident Command System and the role of the Virginia Emergency Support Team in the event of a declared emergency.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation directing state agencies to develop a document for their agency briefly outlining the Incident Command System and the role of the Virginia Emergency Support Team in the event of a declared emergency. This document is to be reviewed and submitted to the General Assembly every two years.

7.1.3 Enhance tracking and resource management systems.

Policy Options

1) Resource Allocation Dashboards: Establish real-time dashboards that track the availability of essential resources like ventilators, PPE, and staffing levels across healthcare facilities. This ensures quick allocation where needed and prevents bottlenecks in resource distribution.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

2) Section 2.2-2007 of the Code of Virginia establishes the powers and duties of the state's Chief Information Officer (CIO) relating to the development of policies, standards, and guidelines for information technology for executive branch agencies. Legislation could be introduced amending this section or adding a section directing the CIO and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, with the cooperation of the Department of Emergency Management, to develop an emergency resource management system that integrates the recommended information.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation directing the CIO and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, with the cooperation of the Department of Emergency Management, to develop an emergency resource management system that integrates the recommended information.

7.2.1 Centralize administrative tasks.

Policy Options

Pursuant to the authority granted in § 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia, the Department of Emergency Management has established a project management office, a human resource department, and disaster services planning functions. The Joint Subcommittee may wish to consider legislation, with an accompanying budget amendment, providing that during a declared emergency additional funding is directed to the Department for expanding these functions to support an increase in temporary staff.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

7.2.2 Implement rotational staffing.

Policy Options

1) Surge Staffing Models: Implement a system for rapidly deploying temporary healthcare workers during a crisis. This could include partnerships with medical schools, nursing programs, and retired healthcare professionals to build a reserve workforce that can be mobilized in emergencies

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended or, alternatively, a separate section could be created within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia, directing the Department of Emergency Management to establish a system of rotational staffing to be implemented in times of emergency.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

3) Since the rotational staffing for VEST during times of emergency would likely require funding to hire additional staffing, the Joint Subcommittee may wish to consider a budget amendment clearly providing for the transfer of balances or other means in times of emergency to cover the costs of this staffing

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

7.2.3 Expand and diversify the staffing pool.

Policy Options

1) It would be helpful to Include communications workers in this discussion.

2) From an aspirational standpoint, partnerships are typically developed at the individual agency level. As for staffing temporary positions during a declared state of emergency, § 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended or, alternatively, a separate section could be created within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia to require the Department of Emergency Management to establish a work group on health

communications and equity during a statewide public health emergency (See Recommendation 2.2.1). That work group could be directed to include targeted messaging on the need for skilled professionals to fill temporary positions

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Department of Emergency Management to study [Observation 7.2](#) and [Recommendation 7.2.3](#), including the policy actions, and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.



Planning

8.1.1 Review and update pandemic and emergency operations plans.

Policy Options

1) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to require the Department of Emergency Management to prepare and maintain a comprehensive pandemic response plan that assigns primary and support responsibilities for basic emergency services functions to state agencies, organizations, and personnel as appropriate. The legislation could also require the Department to establish a model pandemic response plan for use by individual state agencies and local governing bodies.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) In addition, Chapter 6 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to require all state agencies to develop and maintain individual pandemic response plans to be updated periodically.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

8.1.2 Integrate inclusivity and support for vulnerable populations.

Policy Options

1) It would be useful to ask the State to plan, if possible, to ascertain the capacity of private health care providers in the respective regions.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to require the Department of Emergency Management to prepare and maintain a comprehensive pandemic response plan (See Recommendation 8.1.1) that includes a component requiring the inclusion of community stakeholders and representatives who represent populations in an agency's service area or who are likely to be affected by the actions of the agency. The requirement for inclusion of community stakeholders and representatives would also be included in the model pandemic response plan for use by individual state agencies and local governing bodies.

Subcommittee consensus: No further action.

8.1.3 Prioritize continuous plan evaluation.

Policy Options

Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to require the Department of Emergency Management to prepare and maintain a comprehensive pandemic response

plan (See Recommendation 8.1.1) that includes a component requiring a proactive and continuous evaluation and adaptation process for the pandemic response plans, enabling the Department to regularly assess their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on lessons learned from ongoing or past crises. The model pandemic response plan would also include the same component to also enable agencies to regularly assess effectiveness and make necessary adjustments. The legislation could require the review and update of such plans at regular intervals.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Department of Emergency Management to study [Observation 8.1](#) and [Recommendation 8.1.3](#), including the policy actions, and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.

8.2.1 Review alignment of emergency management and public health regions.

Policy Options

1) It would be useful to ask the State to plan, if possible, to ascertain the capacity of private health care providers in the respective regions.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) Legislation could be introduced requiring the Department of Emergency Management to update its emergency management regions to align with the Department of Health's 35 local health districts. The legislation could also specify that no individual local health district be included in more than one emergency management region.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

3) Alternatively, legislation could be introduced directing the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Health to study the existing emergency management regions and local health districts and recommend a mutually beneficial alignment to the General Assembly for implementation.

Subcommittee consensus Legislation directing the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Health to study the existing emergency management regions and local health districts and recommend a mutually beneficial alignment to the General Assembly for implementation.

8.2.2 Integration of key internal and external partners.

Policy Options

1) Unified Regional Command Structures: Develop a unified command structure for regional healthcare and public health authorities to improve coordination during emergencies. This will ensure that regions can work together more effectively and reduce conflicting guidance.

2) Pandemic Preparedness Drills: Conduct regular multi-agency drills that simulate pandemic scenarios, focusing on vaccination distribution, contact tracing, and care for vulnerable populations. This will expose weaknesses in coordination and provide opportunities to refine plans.

3) Decentralized Crisis Communication Networks: Create regional communication hubs that feed into a centralized system but maintain flexibility. This will allow local agencies to

respond to community-specific needs while ensuring alignment with state and national directives.

4) Public Communication Frameworks: Develop a uniform public communication framework that simplifies the delivery of consistent, accurate information to the public. Healthcare teams can collaborate with trusted local leaders to enhance outreach, addressing public mistrust and misinformation early.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Department of Emergency Management to study [Observation 8.2](#) and [Recommendation 8.2.2](#), including the policy options, and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.



Public Health / Local Health Districts

9.1.2 Enhance regional coordination and support.

Policy Options

1) Enhancing regional coordination is essential for creating a unified response. Regular inter-regional meetings and shared resources can promote consistency. Additionally, establishing regional liaison officers could facilitate communication between regions and the central authority.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

2) Interoperable Data Systems: Invest in creating interoperable data collection systems that healthcare institutions can use during crises. These systems should be designed for real-time data sharing and analysis, helping healthcare providers anticipate patient surges and track key metrics like infection rates and hospital capacity.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

3) AI-Driven Analytics: Utilize artificial intelligence to predict resource needs, optimize staffing levels, and identify vulnerable populations in need of intervention. AI can assist healthcare teams in making quicker and more informed decisions during high-pressure situations.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

4) Article 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to require the Department of Health to conduct periodic (e.g. annual, biannual) meetings with representatives from each of the local health districts to review each district's pandemic response plan.

Subcommittee consensus n: No action.

9.1.3 Centralize public health guidance and oversight during emergencies.

Policy Options

1) Centralizing guidance ensures uniform protocols and reduces confusion. However, it's important that centralization does not stifle regional flexibility. Regions should retain the ability to address local nuances, provided they align with overarching guidelines

Suggestions:

i) Establish a Federal-State Coordination Framework: To maintain regional flexibility while ensuring consistency, laws should mandate the establishment of a federal-state coordination framework. This would allow states to manage their unique needs while adhering to federal guidelines during national emergencies.

ii) Legislation for Public Health Coordination: Implement legislation that requires centralized oversight for public health emergencies, making it mandatory for all regions to follow consistent guidelines issued by the national or state-level public health authorities. This can include pre-established protocols for vaccine distribution, quarantine procedures, and PPE allocation.

iii) Emergency Preparedness Grants: Federal legislation could create grant programs incentivizing regions to regularly participate in statewide drills, resource sharing, and training, ensuring uniform readiness across regions.

iv) Develop a Unified Communication Platform: Implement a centralized digital platform where all regions can access the latest guidelines, submit reports, and share best practices.

v) Establish a Rapid Response Team: Create a multidisciplinary team that can be deployed to assist regions struggling with implementation, ensuring that expertise and resources are promptly available where needed.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

2) Article 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to authorize the Department of Health to provide centralized oversight to ensure that all regions adhere to uniform protocols, enhance coordination, and reduce inconsistencies in response measures. The legislation would also authorize the Department to disseminate official communications during an emergency.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

9.2.1 Inclusion of vaccination policies and definitions in pandemic plans.

Policy Options

1) Including clear definitions and policies in pandemic plans is crucial. This pre-planning can prevent confusion over priority groups. Engaging stakeholders in the development of these policies can enhance acceptance and compliance.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to require the Department of Emergency Management to prepare and maintain a comprehensive pandemic response plan (See Recommendation 8.1.1). The legislation could include the requirement that the Department's plan and agency plans must directly address vaccination policies, including timelines for obtaining necessary vaccinations based on position.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

9.2.2 Enhance data collection and coordination for vaccine distribution.

Policy Options

1) Robust data systems are vital for tracking vaccine distribution and identifying gaps. Interoperability between agencies' data systems can improve coordination

Suggestions:

i) **Mandatory Inclusion of Vaccination Policies in Pandemic Plans:** States should pass legislation requiring pandemic preparedness plans to include clearly defined vaccination policies, priority group identification (e.g., frontline staff, vulnerable populations), and transparent adaptation processes for different types of pandemics.

ii) **Legislation for a National Vaccine Registry:** Enact laws for the creation of a national vaccine registry to streamline data collection and monitor vaccination rates. Such legislation would help identify priority groups and prevent inconsistencies in regional vaccine distribution.

iii) **Coordination Across Agencies:** Enact laws that require seamless interagency coordination for vaccine distribution, ensuring that healthcare facilities and agencies receive up-to-date information on priority populations and vaccine availability. Coordination with educational institutions could also ensure that vaccine policies are continually reviewed and improved.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

2) Investment in data collection systems for tracking vaccine distribution would require additional funding. The Joint Subcommittee may wish to consider legislation, with an accompanying budget amendment, providing that during a declared emergency additional funding is directed to the Department for the purpose of expanding these functions to support an increase in temporary staff.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

9.3.1 Incorporate external partners early in the response planning.

Policy Options

1) Early involvement of partners like the VHHA can harness existing relationships and expertise, leading to a more coordinated response.

Suggestions:

i) **Partnership Strengthening Legislation:** Pass laws that require healthcare systems to maintain active partnerships with external organizations (e.g., VHHA, regional healthcare coalitions) before crises occur. This legislation could mandate regular joint planning, training, and communication exercises to ensure readiness.

ii) **Creation of a Crisis Response Coalition:** Create legislation that establishes a Crisis Response Coalition at the state or national level. This coalition would coordinate healthcare providers, emergency services, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure streamlined collaboration from the start of any public health emergency.

iii) **Funding for Healthcare Partnership Initiatives:** Legislative funding could support collaborative healthcare initiatives, providing resources for formalizing partnerships and implementing joint crisis management strategies.

iv) **Public Engagement and Transparency:** Communicate vaccination policies and priorities clearly to the public to manage expectations and reduce conflicts.

v) **Leverage Technology for Scheduling and Tracking:** Use digital platforms for vaccine appointment scheduling and follow-up, which can improve efficiency and data accuracy.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

2) Similar to the policy options for Recommendation 2.3.1, any legislation establishing work groups could require the inclusion of a representative from relevant community stakeholders and organizations. Inclusion of community stakeholders could also be addressed by legislation requiring the establishment of pandemic response plans contemplated by Recommendation 8.1.1.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

9.3.2 Establish clear communication channels and protocols.

Policy Options

1) Clear protocols prevent miscommunication. Regular joint briefings and shared communication platforms can facilitate this.

2) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to require the Department of Emergency Management or the State Coordinator of Emergency Management to establish a centralized office for communications with external partners during periods of declared emergency. The office would have the mission of implementing clear communication channels and protocols for engaging external partners during emergencies.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Department of Emergency Management to review [Observation 9.3](#) and [Recommendation 9.3.2](#), including the policy options, and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.

9.3.3 Strengthen and formalize partnerships before crises.

Policy Options

1) Pre-established agreements and regular collaborative exercises can ensure partners are ready to act cohesively when emergencies arise.

Suggestions:

- i) Create a Partner Integration Framework: Develop a standardized framework that outlines roles, responsibilities, and communication strategies for all external partners.
- ii) Conduct Joint Training and Simulations: Regular joint exercises can improve preparedness and highlight areas needing improvement.

2) The same legislation recommended in Recommendation 9.3.2 could expand the requirement for the office to be established during times of declared emergencies and instead authorize the Department of Emergency Management or the State Coordinator of Emergency Management to maintain an office for communication with external partners on a permanent basis.

Subcommittee consensus: Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Department of Emergency Management to review [Observation 9.3](#) and [Recommendation 9.3.3](#), including the policy options, and provide recommendations for legislation, if appropriate.

3) It is likely that this permanent establishment would require ongoing funding. The Joint Subcommittee may wish to consider budget language to fund the permanent establishment and staffing of the office.

Subcommittee consensus: No further action.

9.4.1 Establish standardized data collection framework.

Policy Options

1) A standardized framework can reduce redundancies and improve data quality. It's important to involve all stakeholders in its development to ensure it meets diverse needs.

2) Legislation could be introduced directing Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Health to study the development and implementation of a data collection framework as contemplated by this recommendation. The Departments would be required to make recommendations to the General Assembly for implementation.

Subcommittee consensus: Budget language directing the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Health study the development and implementation of a data collection framework as contemplated by this recommendation.

9.4.2 Provide training and support for data reporting.

Policy Options

1) Training is essential, especially for facilities inexperienced in regular reporting. Ongoing support can help maintain data integrity.

Suggestions:

i) Legislation for Standardized Data Reporting: Enact federal or state laws mandating standardized data collection frameworks across all healthcare facilities and agencies. These frameworks would integrate essential elements of information, such as patient demographics, treatment outcomes, and resource availability, to streamline emergency response and reporting.

ii) Create a Unified Health Information System: Push for the establishment of a unified health information system (HIS) through national legislation. This system would integrate healthcare data reporting across all regions and healthcare providers, making it easier to monitor real-time data during emergencies.

iii) Training Mandates: Legislation could require regular data reporting training for healthcare providers and administrative staff to ensure that they are capable of utilizing standardized reporting tools. This training could also be tied to licensing or accreditation processes to ensure compliance across all healthcare facilities.

iv) Implement a Centralized Data Management System: A unified system can facilitate real-time data sharing and analytics, aiding decision-making.

v) Ensure Data Security and Privacy Compliance: Protecting patient data is crucial. Systems should comply with all relevant regulations, such as HIPAA.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) The study on the development and implementation of a data collection framework, mentioned previously under Recommendation 9.4.1, could also include the requirement that the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Health jointly develop a training program for any data collection framework produced by the study

Subcommittee consensus: No action.



Volunteer and Donation Coordination

11.1.1 Provide comprehensive health and safety training.

Policy Options

1) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended or, alternatively, a separate section could be created within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia to direct the Department of Emergency Management to offer health and safety training to volunteer organizations that are incorporated into the VEST system.

2) It is likely that this expanded training requirement would require ongoing funding. The Joint Subcommittee may wish to consider budget language to fund the expanded training requirement.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation to direct the Department of Emergency Management to offer health and safety training to volunteer organizations that are incorporated into the VEST system.

11.1.2 Establish a health monitoring and support system.

Policy Options

1) Long-Term Volunteer Networks: Build long-term volunteer networks, including younger demographics and community organizations, to ensure an ongoing pool of trained individuals ready for deployment in health emergencies. Regular training and engagement activities can help keep these networks active and motivated.

2) Volunteer Credentialing Systems: Create a system for credentialing volunteers with relevant medical or logistical skills, allowing them to be quickly integrated into emergency healthcare teams when needed.

3) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended or, alternatively, a separate section could be created within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia to direct the Department of Emergency Management to develop a health monitoring system for all volunteers incorporated into the VEST during times of emergency.

Subcommittee consensus: Incorporate basics of this recommendation in the legislation contemplated for Recommendation 11.1.1.

11.1.3 Engage a more diverse demographic.

Policy Options

1) Inclusive Care Protocols: Create specific protocols for providing care to marginalized groups, including non-English speakers, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly. These protocols should include accessible communication, equitable resource distribution, and targeted outreach strategies.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

2) Community Health Advocates: Partner with community-based organizations to train local health advocates who can act as liaisons during emergencies. This will ensure vulnerable

populations are supported and included in healthcare efforts, even when broader systems are strained.

Subcommittee consensus: Best practice recommendation.

3) Section 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia could be amended or, alternatively, a separate section could be created within Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia to add a provision encouraging the Department of Emergency Management to focus recruiting efforts on younger demographics.

Subcommittee consensus: Budget language establishing funding for an education outreach campaign.

4) It is likely that the contemplated recruiting efforts would require additional resources. The Joint Subcommittee may wish to consider budget language to support efforts to target and recruit younger demographics for the expanded training requirement.

Subcommittee consensus: Budget language establishing funding for an education outreach campaign.



Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency Management

Action Items

I. Legislation

1. Legislation requiring the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to develop standardized guidelines for mental health support during extended incident. The legislation will include a requirement to establish a definition and designation of a period for "extended incident response."
Observation 1.1: Despite efforts to support mental health, individuals still experienced challenges and could have benefited from more support.
Recommendation 1.1.2: Develop comprehensive mental health support Guidelines
Tab A
2. Legislation requiring the DEM to develop a training program on National Incident Management System principles, the Incident Command System, and the role of the Emergency Operations Center. Agency heads would be required to attend the training within six months of appointment with additional training required at regular intervals.
Observation 7.1: A lack of understanding of National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles, including the role of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the use of the Incident Command System (ICS), and resource management negatively impacted response operations.
Recommendation 7.1.1: Conduct comprehensive NIMS and ICS training.
Tab A
3. Legislation directing state agencies to develop a document for their agency briefly outlining the Incident Command System and the role of the Virginia Emergency Support Team in the event of a declared emergency. This document is to be reviewed and submitted to the General Assembly every two years.
Observation 7.1
Recommendation 7.1.2: Establish clear role definitions.
Tab A
4. Legislation directing the Chief Information Officer and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, with the cooperation of the VDEM, to develop an emergency resource management system. The system should be capable of integrating information from multiple sources, including contractors and temporary staff, to provide real-time updates on operational status.
Observation 7.1:
Recommendation 7.1.3: Enhance tracking and resource management systems.

Tab B

5. Legislation directing the VDEM and the Department of Health (DOH) to study the existing emergency management regions and local health districts and recommend a mutually beneficial alignment to the General Assembly for implementation. VDEM and DOH will report findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Observation 8.2: A lack of interagency preparedness and response coordination hindered response operations

Recommendation 8.2.1: Review alignment of emergency management and public health regions.

Tab C

6. Legislation directing the VDEM to (i) offer health and safety training to volunteer organizations that are incorporated into the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) and (ii) develop a health monitoring system for all volunteers incorporated into the VEST during times of emergency.

Observation 11.1: Before the vaccine was available, it was difficult to obtain volunteer support due to concerns about contracting the virus.

Recommendation 11.1.1: Provide comprehensive health and safety training.

Recommendation 11.1.2: Establish a health monitoring and support system.

Tab A

II. Joint Subcommittee Letters

Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the VDEM requesting the agency to review the following item from the Final After Action Report:

a. **Observation 2.1:** Barriers to internal communication impacted public information dissemination and **Recommendation 2.1.2:** Implement a centralized information management system (policy options 1, 2, and 3)

a. **Observation 2.2:** An oversized working group was established to support health equity, hindering effective public messaging and **Recommendation 2.2.1:** Streamline the health equity working group structure.

b. **Observation 7.2:** The pandemic response placed a significant strain on personnel resources and **Recommendation 7.2.3:** Expand and diversify the staffing pool.

c. **Observation 8.1:** Existing agency or pandemic plans were insufficient in their scope and approach to the COVID-19 pandemic and **Recommendation 8.1.3:** Prioritize continuous plan evaluation.

d. **Observation 8.2:** A lack of interagency preparedness and response coordination hindered response operations and **Recommendation 8.2.2:** Integration of key internal and external partners (policy options 1, 2, 3, and 4).

- e. **Observation 9.3:** Key external partners were integrated into response late, resulting in redundancy, confusion, and frustration for health care partners-
Recommendation 9.3.2: Establish clear communication channels and protocols.
Recommendation 9.3.3: Strengthen and formalize partnerships before crises.

Any findings and recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

III. Budget Language

1. Budget language directing VDEM and the DOH to study the development and implementation of a data collection framework for health care and other external partners, including local emergency management, involved in emergency responses that integrates essential elements of information across all reporting tools and stakeholders. This framework should establish consistent data requirements, streamline reporting processes, and provide clear guidelines to ensure cohesive and efficient data gathering and analysis during emergencies. Prioritize the integration of existing data collection systems and establish robust coordination mechanisms among all relevant partners, including those responsible for housing and managing data systems.
Observation 9.4: The existing data gathering systems for health care lacked cohesion due to the changing information needs of multiple stakeholders and the utilization of multiple reporting tools.
Recommendation 9.4.1: Establish a standardized data collection framework.
2. Budget language providing funding for VDEM to establish and educational outreach campaign.
Observation 11.1: Before the vaccine was available, it was difficult to obtain volunteer support due to concerns about contracting the virus and
Recommendation 11.1.3: Engage a more diverse demographic).

Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency Management

Tab A

Legislation:

- 1) Providing for the Department of Emergency Management (Department) to consult with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services regarding the development of standardized guidelines for mental health support during an emergency or extended incident.
- 2) Providing for the Department to develop a training program comprised of National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles, the state's Incident Command System (ICS) structure, and the role of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Each agency head will be required to complete the training within six months of appointment and again every two years and every two years thereafter.
- 3) Providing for the Department to (i) offer health and safety training to volunteer organizations incorporated into the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) and (ii) establish a health monitoring system for volunteers to be implemented during a declared state of emergency.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

A BILL to amend and reenact § 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 44-146.18:10 and 44-146.18:11, relating to Department of Emergency Management; powers and duties; development and implementation of standardized guidelines and training programs.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 44-146.18 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 44-146.18:10 and 44-146.18:11 as follows:

§ 44-146.18. Department of Emergency Management; administration and operational control; coordinator and other personnel; powers and duties.

A. The State Office of Emergency Services is continued and shall hereafter be known as the Department of Emergency Management (the Department). Wherever the words "State Department of Emergency Services" are used in any law of the Commonwealth, they shall mean the Department of Emergency Management. During a declared emergency this Department shall revert to the operational control of the Governor. The Department shall have a coordinator who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor and also serve as State Emergency Planning Director. The Department shall employ the professional, technical, secretarial, and clerical employees necessary for the performance of its functions.

B. The Department shall in the administration of emergency services and disaster preparedness programs:

1. In coordination with political subdivisions and state agencies, ensure that the Commonwealth has up-to-date assessments and preparedness plans to prevent, respond to, and recover from all disasters including acts of terrorism;

2. Conduct a statewide emergency management assessment in cooperation with political subdivisions, private industry, and other public and private entities deemed vital to preparedness, public

safety, and security. The assessment shall include a review of emergency response plans, which include the variety of hazards, natural and man-made. The assessment shall be updated annually;

3. Promulgate plans and programs that are conducive to adequate disaster mitigation preparedness, response, and recovery programs;

4. Prepare and maintain a State Emergency Operations Plan for disaster response and recovery operations that assigns primary and support responsibilities for basic emergency services functions to state agencies, organizations, and personnel as appropriate;

5. Coordinate and administer disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery plans and programs with the proponent federal, state, and local government agencies and related groups;

6. Provide guidance and assistance to state agencies and units of local government in developing and maintaining emergency management and continuity of operations (COOP) programs, plans, and systems;

7. Make necessary recommendations to agencies of the federal, state, or local governments on preventive and preparedness measures designed to eliminate or reduce disasters and their impact;

8. Determine requirements of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions for those necessities needed in the event of a declared emergency which are not otherwise readily available;

9. Assist state agencies and political subdivisions in establishing and operating training programs and programs of public information and education regarding emergency services and disaster preparedness activities;

10. Consult with the Board of Education regarding the development and revision of a model school crisis and emergency management plan for the purpose of assisting public schools in establishing, operating, and maintaining emergency services and disaster preparedness activities;

11. Consult with the State Council of Higher Education in the development and revision of a model institutional crisis and emergency management plan for the purpose of assisting public and private two-year and four-year institutions of higher education in establishing, operating, and maintaining emergency services and disaster preparedness activities and, as needed, in developing an institutional crisis and emergency management plan pursuant to § 23.1-804;

12. Develop standards, provide guidance, and encourage the maintenance of local and state agency emergency operations plans, which shall include the requirement for a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01. The Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be the lead coordinating agencies for those individuals determined to be victims, and the plan shall also contain current contact information for both agencies;

13. Prepare, maintain, coordinate, or implement emergency resource management plans and programs with federal, state, and local government agencies and related groups, and make such surveys of industries, resources, and facilities within the Commonwealth, both public and private, as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

14. Coordinate with the federal government and any public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of this chapter and in implementing programs for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery;

15. Establish guidelines pursuant to § 44-146.28, and administer payments to eligible applicants as authorized by the Governor;

16. Coordinate and be responsible for the receipt, evaluation, and dissemination of emergency services intelligence pertaining to all probable hazards affecting the Commonwealth;

17. Coordinate intelligence activities relating to terrorism with the Department of State Police;

18. Develop an emergency response plan to address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals in the event of a disaster and assist and coordinate with local agencies in developing an emergency response plan for household pets and service animals; and

19. Establish and maintain an Emergency Management Equity Working Group (the Working Group) to ensure that emergency management programs and plans provide support to at-risk individuals and populations disproportionately impacted by disasters. The Working Group shall include experts from (i) the Governor's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and other state agencies; (ii) the public at

large; and (iii) the private sector who have expertise related to at-risk and vulnerable populations and the threats faced by such populations during a disaster_;

20. Consult with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services regarding the development of standardized guidelines for mental health support during an emergency or extended incident. Such guidelines shall, among other things, (i) define "extended incident," (ii) establish protocols for identifying and addressing mental health concerns, (iii) provide access to mental health professionals, and (iv) incorporate flexible options to alleviate stress and work-related exhaustion and burnout connected to the emergency or extended incident; and

21. Develop a model document for use by state agencies outlining relevant roles and responsibilities of policy makers, agency heads, key personnel within the Incident Command System (ICS) deployed by the state, and the role of the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST).

The Department of Emergency Management shall ensure that all such plans, assessments, and programs required by this subsection include specific preparedness for, and response to, disasters resulting from electromagnetic pulses and geomagnetic disturbances.

C. The Department of Emergency Management shall during a period of impending emergency or declared emergency be responsible for:

1. The receipt, evaluation, and dissemination of intelligence pertaining to an impending or actual disaster;

2. Providing facilities from which state agencies and supporting organizations may conduct emergency operations;

3. Providing an adequate communications and warning system capable of notifying all political subdivisions in the Commonwealth of an impending disaster within a reasonable time;

4. Establishing and maintaining liaison with affected political subdivisions;

5. Determining requirements for disaster relief and recovery assistance;

6. Coordinating disaster response actions of federal, state and volunteer relief agencies; and

7. Coordinating and providing guidance and assistance to affected political subdivisions to ensure orderly and timely response to and recovery from disaster effects.

D. The Department of Emergency Management shall be provided the necessary facilities and equipment needed to perform its normal day-to-day activities and coordinate disaster-related activities of the various federal, state, and other agencies during a state of emergency declaration by the Governor or following a major disaster declaration by the President.

E. The Department of Emergency Management is authorized to enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to performance of any of its duties stated in this section or otherwise assigned to it by law, including contracts with the United States, other states, agencies and government subdivisions of the Commonwealth, and other appropriate public and private entities.

F. The Department of Emergency Management shall encourage private industries whose goods and services are deemed vital to the public good to provide annually updated preparedness assessments to the local coordinator of emergency management on or before April 1 of each year, to facilitate overall Commonwealth preparedness. For the purposes of *this* section, "private industry" means companies, private hospitals, and other businesses or organizations deemed by the State Coordinator of Emergency Management to be essential to the public safety and well-being of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

G. The Department of Emergency Management shall establish a Coordinator of Search and Rescue. Powers and duties of the Coordinator shall include:

1. Coordinating the search and rescue function of the Department of Emergency Management;
2. Coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies involved in search and rescue;
3. Coordinating the activities of search and rescue organizations involved in search and rescue;
4. Maintaining a register of search and rescue certifications, training, and responses;
5. Establishing a memorandum of understanding with the Virginia Search and Rescue Council and its respective member agencies regarding search and rescue efforts;
6. Providing on-scene search and rescue coordination when requested by an authorized person;
7. Providing specialized search and rescue training to police, fire-rescue, EMS, emergency managers, volunteer search and rescue responders, and others who might have a duty to respond to a search and rescue emergency;
8. Gathering and maintaining statistics on search and rescue in the Commonwealth;

133 9. Compiling, maintaining, and making available an inventory of search and rescue resources
134 available in the Commonwealth; and

135 10. Periodically reviewing search and rescue cases and developing best professional practices.

136 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as authorizing the Department of Emergency
137 Management to take direct operational responsibilities from local, state, or federal law enforcement in the
138 course of search and rescue or missing person cases.

139 **§ 44-146.18:10. Development of training course on certain emergency management-related**
140 **principles; mandatory training for agency heads; required state agency document.**

141 A. The Department shall develop a training course comprised of National Incident Management
142 System (NIMS) principles, the state's Incident Command System (ICS) structure, and the role of the
143 Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Each agency head shall be required to complete the training course
144 within six months of appointment and again every two years thereafter.

145 B. Each state agency shall develop and update every two years a document outlining relevant roles
146 and responsibilities of policy makers, agency heads, key personnel within the ICS deployed by the state,
147 and the role of the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST).

148 **§ 44-146.18:11. Department training and support; Virginia Emergency Support Team**
149 **(VEST).**

150 A. The Department shall offer health and safety training to volunteer organizations that have been
151 incorporated into the VEST.

152 B. The Department shall develop a health monitoring system for volunteers incorporated in the
153 VEST for implementation during a declared state of emergency.

154 #

**Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency
Management**

Tab B

Legislation directing the Chief Information Officer and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, in cooperation with the Department of Emergency Management, to develop an emergency resource management system for use by the Commonwealth during a declared state of emergency.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to direct the Chief Information Officer and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, in
2 cooperation with the Department of Emergency Management, to develop an emergency resource
3 management system for the Commonwealth.

4 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

5 1. § 1. The Chief Information Officer (CIO) and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA),
6 in cooperation with the Department of Emergency Management, shall develop an emergency resource
7 management system for use by the Commonwealth during a declared state of emergency. The emergency
8 resource management system developed by the CIO and VITA shall, at a minimum, be capable of
9 integrating information from multiple sources, including contractors and temporary staff to provide real-
10 time updates on operational statuses. The CIO and VITA shall complete development of the emergency
11 resource management system by November 30, 2025.

12 #

**Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency
Management
Tab C**

Legislation directing the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Health to study the makeup and composition of the seven emergency management regions, the five Virginia health regions, and the thirty-five local health districts to determine the feasibility of mutually beneficial alignment of such regions and districts.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO.

1 A BILL to direct the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Health to study the
2 makeup and composition of the emergency management regions, state health regions, and local
3 health districts; report.

4 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

5 1. § 1. The Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Health shall study the makeup
6 and composition of the seven emergency management regions, the five Virginia health regions, and the
7 thirty-five local health districts to determine the feasibility of mutually beneficial alignment of such
8 regions and districts. The Departments shall complete their work and report their findings and
9 recommendations to the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2025.

10 #

Referral Letter
Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency
Management

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY

SENATOR SCOTT SUROVELL
CO-CHAIR



DELEGATE CANDI MUNDON KING
CO-CHAIR

PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

February 19, 2025

Virginia Department of Emergency Management
9711 Farrar Court
North Chesterfield, VA 23236
c/o Sean Polster, Chief Deputy State Coordinator

Dear Mr. Polster,

Senate Joint Resolution 10 (2022) established the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth to assess and evaluate the Commonwealth's overall pandemic preparedness and response capabilities. To assist in carrying out this charge, the Joint Subcommittee hired Tidal Basin Government Consulting to conduct independent research, review the performance of existing laws in relation to the pandemic response, and recommend corrective actions. The consultant developed an after action report (AAR) using multiple sources of information, including (i) surveys and interviews with individuals engaged with the state's response between 2020 and 2023, (ii) public survey responses from across the state, and (iii) review of documents from the response period. From this work, the consultant developed several observations and recommendations for consideration by the Joint Subcommittee.

After review of the final AAR, the Joint Subcommittee would like to refer the following observations and recommendations to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for review and possible action:

Observation 2.2: An oversized working group was established to support health equity, hindering effective public messaging and **Recommendation 2.2.1:** Streamline the health equity working group structure.

Observation 7.2: The pandemic response placed a significant strain on personnel resources and **Recommendation 7.2.3:** Expand and diversify the staffing pool.

Observation 8.1: Existing agency or pandemic plans were insufficient in their scope and approach to the COVID-19 pandemic and **Recommendation 8.1.3:** Prioritize continuous plan evaluation.

Observation 8.2: A lack of interagency preparedness and response coordination hindered response operations and **Recommendation 8.2.2:** Integration of key internal and external partners (policy options 1, 2, 3, and 4).

Observation 9.3: Key external partners were integrated into response late, resulting in redundancy, confusion, and frustration for health care partners.

Recommendation 9.3.2: Establish clear communication channels and protocols.

Recommendation 9.3.3: Strengthen and formalize partnerships before crises.

Attached you will find a copy of the final AAR along with a breakout document focusing on the observations and recommendations that the Joint Subcommittee would like the Department to review. If you have any questions regarding this referral, please contact Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services, at awade@dls.virginia.gov or at (804) 698-1862. We ask that any responses or comments be submitted to Lauren Waller, Program Administrator with the Division, at lwaller@dls.virginia.gov by November 1, 2025.

We thank the Department in advance for its attention to this matter.

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Co-Chair

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Co-Chair

After Action Report Breakout

(Department of Emergency Management Referral)



Communications

The Communications focus area refers to the Commonwealth's ability to deliver timely and accurate communications in support of COVID-19 response, including general situational awareness for state employees. This focus area also encompasses interoperability among local, state and federal partners, and any communications-centric resource and capability gaps.

Strengths

Multiple communication platforms were successfully utilized to inform the public.

Several communication modes, including newsletters, text messaging, robocalls, and emails, ensured greater accessibility to messaging, with electronic communication proving particularly effective in reaching transient populations and overcoming postal service challenges. Additionally, a robust internet presence, a statewide case map, and the Commonwealth's COVID-19 dashboard were instrumental in providing timely updates and situational awareness. The Department of Education (DOE), complemented by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), played a crucial role in disseminating information to communities, leveraging its extensive reach to families and individuals. These resources offered advocacy webinars and essential information on childcare, broadband, food access, and special education. Similarly, the National Association of School Nurses contributed valuable educational materials to school nurses, and the DOE superintendents' newsletter offered weekly updates on relief funds, enhancing transparency and accountability. Communication efforts were further strengthened by prioritizing engagement with trusted industry leaders, whose input on regulation guidance fostered compliance and trust.

Agencies and organizations used effective methods for internal information sharing.

Agencies used individual department-level websites and intranet sites to provide up-to-date links and guidance to both clients and staff, ensuring that everyone had access to the latest information. The existing relationship with hospitals allowed the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) to act as a crucial information conduit, facilitating bi-directional communication through weekly calls, subcommittees, and working groups. The Virginia Association of School Nurses (VASN) effectively reached school nurses at the local level by leveraging multiple communication modes, including newsletters, websites, emails, Instagram, social media, webinars, and regular calls. Multiple agencies reported that regular coordination calls among state agencies, particularly those involving Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) lead and support agencies, ensured comprehensive situational awareness for support agencies. These strategies ensured that internal information sharing was timely, comprehensive, and adaptable to the rapidly changing circumstances of the pandemic.

Agencies relied on information from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and other trusted sources when disseminating information.

The VDH served as a central source of truth, with its public-facing website providing essential information for state agencies. Supporting state agencies were diligent in maintaining this consistency by referring general questions to VDH, their public messaging, or other reliable sources. This reliance on VDH and trusted sources enabled a unified and credible approach to information dissemination throughout the pandemic.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 2.2: An oversized working group was established to support health equity, hindering effective public messaging.

The group, which expanded to over 100 participants, encountered numerous internal conflicts, such as disagreements over translation specifics (e.g., which type of Spanish to use), which slowed down the decision-making process. Although the intention was to incorporate diverse perspectives to ensure equitable messaging, the number of participants led to delays in disseminating critical information and clinical guidance. This delay forced individual organizations to make independent decisions, impacting service continuity.

Recommendations

- 2.2.1 Streamline the health equity working group structure.** Reduce the size of the working group to a more manageable number of participants. Focus on including key representatives who can provide diverse perspectives without overwhelming the decision-making process. Establish smaller, specialized subcommittees for specific tasks such as translation or cultural considerations to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.



The Operations focus area addresses the coordinated strategies used during the COVID-19 response, highlighting the importance of clear communication of roles and responsibilities across multiple agencies and sectors. It also underscores the lessons learned regarding the safety of frontline workers and the need for scalable and flexible operations, including surge capacity and resource allocation.

Strengths

The thoughtful structuring of the response organization provided numerous benefits.

In the SEOC, a close working relationship between Finance, Grants, Logistics, and Procurement ensured the success of these functions by maintaining constant communication to properly track funds, document activities, and ensure expenditures were in line with allowable expenses within each grant. This also assisted with effectively managing the complexity of concurrent activations (such as determining appropriate funding sources for PPE during both civil unrest and the pandemic). Individuals with broad knowledge of functional areas and

decision-making authority were placed in section chief roles. Co-locating VDH and VDEM staff in section chief positions also proved successful, despite initial challenges in defining roles and responsibilities. Additionally, the establishment of various task forces, such as those for long-term care, assisted living, and the senior policy group, allowed for focused attention on specific aspects of the response, further enhancing the operational strength of the organization.

Leadership promptly identified shortcomings and took proactive measures to address them.

When it became apparent that the new organizational structure of the VDEM, which included the use of regional divisions, had not yet reached the "norming and performing" stage, leaders took decisive action. They brought in consultant McCrystal to implement the "Team of Teams" approach, which was designed to enhance both informal and formal lines of communication across local, regional, and state levels, as well as between VDH and VEST. This proactive measure helped to streamline coordination and improve overall effectiveness in the response effort.

Active involvement with underserved communities resulted in valuable lessons learned and the establishment of new best practices.

Mobile vaccination clinics emerged as a crucial tool for reaching rural and underserved populations, providing accessibility to vaccine distribution in areas that larger efforts might overlook. These clinics, while expensive and time-consuming to coordinate, allowed health services to meet people where they were, effectively bridging gaps in access. Initial overstaffing at rural vaccination sites taught valuable lessons about the actual demand for services, leading to more accurate staffing plans that improved efficiency and service delivery.

Additionally, engaging directly with underserved populations revealed the importance of tailored communication strategies. For example, on-site verbal interpreters proved essential for effectively communicating with migrant workers who often cannot read written translations. This approach, though successful, highlighted the need for broader implementation. The use of trusted messengers and trusted agents within communities, including health department staff and local leaders, was also instrumental in overcoming mistrust and engaging populations that were otherwise skeptical of government efforts.

Efforts to provide culturally competent, visually appealing, and multi-lingual public information proved crucial in reaching diverse populations. The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) leveraged existing communication plans and collaborated with the Department of Blind and Visually Impaired to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Coordination between DMAS and the VDH enabled targeted outreach based on zip code data, ensuring that vaccination centers were accessible to those in need. Additionally, the DOE's food hub deliveries, supported by USDA funding, helped mitigate supply chain issues for school divisions.

Support agencies established their own coordination teams at the department level to manage the response.

The establishment of department-level coordination teams has been known to enhance efficiency and effectiveness by allowing for specialized focus on each department's unique needs, improving internal communication and coordination, and increasing flexibility and responsiveness to evolving situations. Additionally, having dedicated teams at the department level strengthens accountability and oversight, facilitating decision-making, clearer tracking of performance, and quicker resolution of issues.

Using contractors alleviated the burden on state staff and enhanced operational capacity and effectiveness.

For instance, employing a contractor to manage the call center dramatically increased the volume of calls handled, from 2,000 to 22,000, thereby improving the responsiveness and accessibility of information for the public. Additionally, contracting out the operation of community vaccination centers allowed state and local staff to focus on other critical tasks, effectively managing the high volume of vaccine distribution without overwhelming existing personnel. These strategic contractor engagements enabled a more efficient and scalable response, ensuring that essential services could be delivered promptly and effectively while minimizing strain on state resources.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 7.2: The pandemic response placed a significant strain on personnel resources.

Many VEST supporting agencies faced limitations due to lean staffing numbers, which restricted their ability to provide substantial support during this long-term event. Additionally, the administrative burden on individual agencies was overwhelming; for example, staff trained in epidemiology had to divert their attention to administrative tasks, such as managing contracts for over 1500 temporary contact tracing staff from 15 different staffing agencies, which could have been handled more efficiently with centralized coordination. Staffing shortages significantly impacted the ability to deliver necessary support, underscoring the need for clear guidance on managing capacity issues. Moreover, relying on a single team within the VEST led to burnout, as the team members were overextended and took on multiple responsibilities. Finally, the need for more specialized personnel became evident as the response progressed, particularly in managing the complex nature of occupational safety and health law.

Recommendations

- 7.2.3 Expand and diversify the staffing pool.** Create a robust staffing strategy that includes recruiting and training additional specialized personnel in key areas such as occupational safety, health law, and mental health services. This can be achieved through partnerships with academic institutions, professional associations, and temporary staffing agencies to build a larger, more diverse pool of qualified individuals ready to respond during emergencies.



Planning

The Planning focus area integrates insights from the COVID-19 response, emphasizing the importance of preexisting pandemic preparedness plans and the inclusion of vulnerable populations. Future initiatives will prioritize equity and inclusivity, ensuring comprehensive support for all community segments.

Strengths

Lessons learned from prior responses enhanced preparedness initiatives, positively impacting the COVID-19 response and subsequent emergencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic response was significantly strengthened by lessons learned from previous statewide response experiences, including hurricanes, the H1N1 outbreak, annual flu clinics, and pandemic exercises. These past experiences highlighted the importance of robust preparedness initiatives, which were then applied effectively during the COVID-19 crisis. For instance, the procurement and logistical challenges faced during Hurricane Florence informed better coordination and resource allocation, ensuring quicker deployment of supplies and personnel during the pandemic. Additionally, the routine operations of annual flu clinics provided a blueprint for mass vaccination efforts, while insights gained from pandemic exercises resulted in updated pandemic plans. Collectively, these lessons enhanced the overall preparedness, resulting in a more agile and effective response to the unprecedented demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. Insights gained from the COVID-19 response have, in turn, further enhanced readiness for future responses, resulting in updated processes, plans, and training.

Partnerships were crucial in achieving positive outcomes, and these were often strengthened through response.

Partnerships played a pivotal role in the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19 and many of those relationships forged during the pandemic have continued to be proven invaluable in addressing other public health challenges across the Commonwealth. Hospitals, traditionally competitors, came together in a united front, focusing on shared goals rather than rivalry. Hospital workgroups have been established around topics such as workplace violence and to respond to other emerging threats, such as Monkeypox. Another example is the unique circumstances surrounding the handling of COVID-19 deaths, which fostered closer connections between funeral providers and local emergency management coordinators, enhancing coordination during subsequent emergencies.

Efforts to coordinate multi-agency and multi-sectoral responses were crucial, with local courts working closely with individual sheriffs to navigate the differences in courthouse configurations. Public-Private Partnerships were instrumental in recovering from supply chain disruptions, particularly in securing essential PPE. The VDH and its support agencies, such as the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), successfully leveraged community partnerships to bolster vaccination efforts, especially for vulnerable populations. A notable example was the grassroots collaboration with community pharmacists to vaccinate individuals with developmental disabilities, where community partners served as the subject matter experts, providing critical support tailored to the unique needs of their communities. These strengthened partnerships have continued to be a vital asset in public health responses across the Commonwealth.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 8.1: Existing agency or pandemic plans were insufficient in their scope and approach to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed significant limitations in the existing pandemic and emergency operations plans across agencies as they were not designed to handle the scale, persistence, and complexity of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the plans provided a starting point for managing emergency situations, they were insufficiently equipped to address the

extensive and evolving demands of a global health crisis. The pandemic's magnitude—characterized by widespread illness, overwhelming healthcare systems, and prolonged disruptions to daily life—was beyond the scope of the plans' original design. Additionally, existing plans generally lacked a focus on inclusivity, particularly concerning vulnerable populations such as residents in state residential facilities. These groups faced unique challenges during the pandemic, including heightened health risks and limited access to resources.

Despite these shortcomings, the existing pandemic and emergency operations plans offered a foundational structure that could be adapted and expanded upon to address the specific challenges posed by COVID-19. Agencies were able to use these plans as a starting point for developing more targeted responses and strategies, learning from initial shortcomings to improve their approach as the pandemic evolved.

Recommendations

- 8.1.3 Prioritize continuous plan evaluation.** Implement a continuous evaluation and adaptation process for all emergency operations plans, enabling agencies to regularly assess their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on lessons learned from ongoing or past crises. This proactive approach will help ensure that plans remain relevant, responsive, and capable of addressing emerging challenges.

Observation 8.2: A lack of interagency preparedness and response coordination hindered response operations.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed several shortcomings in interagency preparedness and response coordination, which hindered the effectiveness of operations. Key issues included misalignment between public health and emergency management regions, leading to confusion and inefficiencies. Existing pandemic and operational plans were not widely shared across agencies, resulting in a disjointed response as agencies worked in silos, especially early in the response. Existing programs and regional healthcare coalitions were underutilized due to unclear roles and capabilities. Additionally, key partners and vulnerable populations were not involved early enough in the planning process, leading to further challenges in managing the crisis effectively for those most affected by the virus.

Recommendations

- 8.2.2 Integration of key internal and external partners.** Identify partners' resources, expertise, and potential contributions to response efforts. Understanding these capabilities will help ensure that roles are clearly defined and that partners are effectively integrated into the overall emergency response strategy, enhancing coordination and operational efficiency during emergencies.

Policy Options For Consideration

- 1) Unified Regional Command Structures: Develop a unified command structure for regional healthcare and public health authorities to improve coordination during emergencies. This will ensure that regions can work together more effectively and reduce conflicting guidance.
- 2) Pandemic Preparedness Drills: Conduct regular multi-agency drills that simulate pandemic scenarios, focusing on vaccination distribution, contact tracing, and care for

vulnerable populations. This will expose weaknesses in coordination and provide opportunities to refine plans.

3) Decentralized Crisis Communication Networks: Create regional communication hubs that feed into a centralized system but maintain flexibility. This will allow local agencies to respond to community-specific needs while ensuring alignment with state and national directives.

4) Public Communication Frameworks: Develop a uniform public communication framework that simplifies the delivery of consistent, accurate information to the public. Healthcare teams can collaborate with trusted local leaders to enhance outreach, addressing public mistrust and misinformation early.



Public Health / Local Health Districts

The Public Health / Local Health Districts focus area examines the efficacy and coordination of public health plans and protocols for disease surveillance, contact tracing, and vaccine distribution. It addresses the challenges in scaling up testing and contact tracing capacity, as well as the effectiveness of public health campaigns and community outreach. Additionally, it explores coordination with healthcare providers, logistical challenges in vaccine distribution, and issues related to vaccine hesitancy.

Strengths

Pre-existing relationships facilitated the collection of data and distribution of resources to healthcare facilities.

The utilization of the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA), the state-contracted administrator of the Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response Hospital Preparedness Program grant, provided an established avenue for data collection and resource coordination across the healthcare sector through a trusted source. Utilization of the VHHA's data collection system allowed for swift adjustments when data collection needs evolved. This centralized approach ensured consistency and standardization, enabling greater situational awareness during the pandemic. The ability to leverage the existing and ongoing relationships that the VHHA had with the hospitals across the Commonwealth provided flexibility and additional support to the entire healthcare system, including resource coordination and existing open communication channels.

The establishment of the VA Disaster Medical Advisory Committee, comprised of health and medical representatives, provided policy guidance and recommendations to executive leadership around scarce resources and crisis standards of care.

By providing policy guidance and recommendations to executive leadership on scarce resources and crisis standards of care, the multidisciplinary committee enhanced the healthcare system's ability to respond effectively and ethically during the pandemic. This structure ensured that critical decisions were grounded in expert knowledge and a multidisciplinary approach, strengthening overall resilience and the capacity to provide responsible and effective care while maintaining public trust in challenging circumstances.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 9.3: Key external partners were integrated into response late, resulting in redundancy, confusion, and frustration for healthcare partners.

A key pre-established relationship between the VHHA and the Commonwealth's hospitals was not utilized at the onset of the response, leading to redundancy, confusion, and frustration among healthcare partners. The delayed coordination hindered the efficiency of the response, as overlapping efforts and miscommunication strained resources and relationships. Incorporating external partners earlier in the process would likely have enhanced collaboration, streamlined operations, and ensured a more effective and unified approach to managing crises with the hospital across the Commonwealth.

Recommendations

- 9.3.2 **Establish clear communication channels and protocols.** Develop and implement clear communication channels and protocols for engaging external partners during emergencies. This will ensure timely information sharing, reduce miscommunication, and streamline collaborative efforts, enhancing overall response efficiency and reducing frustration among partners.
- 9.3.3 **Strengthen and formalize partnerships before crises.** Establish and formalize relationships with key external partners prior to emergencies, including regular coordination meetings and joint planning, training, and exercises.

Best Practice Recommendations

Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency Management

Subcommittee #2 Health Care Systems and Emergency Management Best Practices Recommendations Overview

Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

1.1.1 Expand access to mental health resources.

Best Practice Recommendations

- 1) Proactive Mental Health Frameworks: Instead of just responding to crises, healthcare systems should develop proactive mental health support systems that are continuously available. This includes routine mental health check-ins, peer support groups, and integrating mental health services as part of daily operations.
- 2) Resilience Training: Provide resilience and stress-management training for healthcare staff, equipping them with coping mechanisms to handle the intense pressures of their roles during emergencies.

1.1.2 Develop comprehensive mental health support guidelines.

Best Practice Recommendations

- 1) For Recommendations 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, budget language directly DHRM to create and implement clear, standardized guidelines for mental health support during extended incident response across all state agencies during emergency response including protocols for identifying and addressing mental health concerns, provide access to mental health professionals, and incorporate flexible options like childcare and paid time off to alleviate stress and prevent burnout.

Communications

2.1.1 Establish a dedicated SME pool.

Best Practice Recommendations

- 1) Amend the Code to require dedicated SME pool for key agencies to be trained and readily available during emergencies,
 - 2) Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 of the Code of Virginia could be amended to establish a Public Safety Communications Response Council during times of emergency. This council would provide subject matter-specific support from agencies to a centralized communication platform. Such legislation could direct relevant agencies to appoint a representative whose duty it is to respond to inquiries related to that agency's subject matter.
-

7.1.3 Enhance tracking and resource management systems.

Best Practice Recommendation

1) Resource Allocation Dashboards: Establish real-time dashboards that track the availability of essential resources like ventilators, PPE, and staffing levels across healthcare facilities. This ensures quick allocation where needed and prevents bottlenecks in resource distribution.

Public Health / Local Health Districts

9.1.2 Enhance regional coordination and support.

Best Practice Recommendations

1) Enhancing regional coordination is essential for creating a unified response. Regular inter-regional meetings and shared resources can promote consistency. Additionally, establishing regional liaison officers could facilitate communication between regions and the central authority.

2) Interoperable Data Systems: Invest in creating interoperable data collection systems that healthcare institutions can use during crises. These systems should be designed for real-time data sharing and analysis, helping healthcare providers anticipate patient surges and track key metrics like infection rates and hospital capacity.

3) AI-Driven Analytics: Utilize artificial intelligence to predict resource needs, optimize staffing levels, and identify vulnerable populations in need of intervention. AI can assist healthcare teams in making quicker and more informed decisions during high-pressure situations.

9.1.3 Centralize public health guidance and oversight during emergencies.

Best Practice Recommendations

1) Centralizing guidance ensures uniform protocols and reduces confusion. However, it's important that centralization does not stifle regional flexibility. Regions should retain the ability to address local nuances, provided they align with overarching guidelines

Suggestions:

i) Establish a Federal-State Coordination Framework: To maintain regional flexibility while ensuring consistency, laws should mandate the establishment of a federal-state coordination framework. This would allow states to manage their unique needs while adhering to federal guidelines during national emergencies.

ii) Legislation for Public Health Coordination: Implement legislation that requires centralized oversight for public health emergencies, making it mandatory for all regions to follow consistent guidelines issued by the national or state-level public health authorities.

This can include pre-established protocols for vaccine distribution, quarantine procedures, and PPE allocation.

iii) Emergency Preparedness Grants: Federal legislation could create grant programs incentivizing regions to regularly participate in statewide drills, resource sharing, and training, ensuring uniform readiness across regions.

iv) Develop a Unified Communication Platform: Implement a centralized digital platform where all regions can access the latest guidelines, submit reports, and share best practices.

v) Establish a Rapid Response Team: Create a multidisciplinary team that can be deployed to assist regions struggling with implementation, ensuring that expertise and resources are promptly available where needed.

9.2.2 Enhance data collection and coordination for vaccine distribution.

Best Practice Recommendations

1) Robust data systems are vital for tracking vaccine distribution and identifying gaps. Interoperability between agencies' data systems can improve coordination

Suggestions:

i) Mandatory Inclusion of Vaccination Policies in Pandemic Plans: States should pass legislation requiring pandemic preparedness plans to include clearly defined vaccination policies, priority group identification (e.g., frontline staff, vulnerable populations), and transparent adaptation processes for different types of pandemics.

ii) Legislation for a National Vaccine Registry: Enact laws for the creation of a national vaccine registry to streamline data collection and monitor vaccination rates. Such legislation would help identify priority groups and prevent inconsistencies in regional vaccine distribution.

iii) Coordination Across Agencies: Enact laws that require seamless interagency coordination for vaccine distribution, ensuring that healthcare facilities and agencies receive up-to-date information on priority populations and vaccine availability. Coordination with educational institutions could also ensure that vaccine policies are continually reviewed and improved.

9.3.1 Incorporate external partners early in the response planning.

Best Practice Recommendations

1) Early involvement of partners like the VHHA can harness existing relationships and expertise, leading to a more coordinated response.

Suggestions:

i) Partnership Strengthening Legislation: Pass laws that require healthcare systems to maintain active partnerships with external organizations (e.g., VHHA, regional healthcare coalitions) before crises occur. This legislation could mandate regular joint planning, training, and communication exercises to ensure readiness.

ii) Creation of a Crisis Response Coalition: Create legislation that establishes a Crisis Response Coalition at the state or national level. This coalition would coordinate healthcare

providers, emergency services, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure streamlined collaboration from the start of any public health emergency.

iii) **Funding for Healthcare Partnership Initiatives:** Legislative funding could support collaborative healthcare initiatives, providing resources for formalizing partnerships and implementing joint crisis management strategies.

iv) **Public Engagement and Transparency:** Communicate vaccination policies and priorities clearly to the public to manage expectations and reduce conflicts.

v) **Leverage Technology for Scheduling and Tracking:** Use digital platforms for vaccine appointment scheduling and follow-up, which can improve efficiency and data accuracy.

2) Similar to the policy options for Recommendation 2.3.1, any legislation establishing work groups could require the inclusion of a representative from relevant community stakeholders and organizations. Inclusion of community stakeholders could also be addressed by legislation requiring the establishment of pandemic response plans contemplated by Recommendation 8.1.1.

Volunteer and Donation Coordination

11.1.3 Engage a more diverse demographic.

Best Practice Recommendations

1) **Inclusive Care Protocols:** Create specific protocols for providing care to marginalized groups, including non-English speakers, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly. These protocols should include accessible communication, equitable resource distribution, and targeted outreach strategies.

2) **Community Health Advocates:** Partner with community-based organizations to train local health advocates who can act as liaisons during emergencies. This will ensure vulnerable populations are supported and included in healthcare efforts, even when broader systems are strained.



Subcommittee #3 Education

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Chair

Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi

Senator David R. Suetterlein

Delegate Irene Shin

Katelyn Deel (representing K-12 public education system)

Tara Dickerson-Anderson (representing four-year institution of higher education)

Secretary of Education or designee



Education Subcommittee

Referrals at a Glance



Education

3.1.1 Enhance mental health support systems available for students and educational professionals

3.1.2 Establish community advisory boards and engage local leaders

3.1.3 Propose strategies for hybrid learning models and mental health initiatives

3.2.1 Strengthen communication and public information strategies

3.2.2 Create and maintain legal guidance and support networks

3.2.3 Develop comprehensive plans for school closures



Subcommittee #3 Education

1:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting
November 19, 2024

Report



3.1.1 Enhance mental health support systems available for students and educational professionals.

(a) Expand the availability of mental health counselors and social workers, both physically in schools and having telehealth options

Policy Options

Section 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia provides for the Department of Education to develop, adopt, and distribute to each school board a model memorandum of understanding between a school board and either a public or private community mental health services provider or a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider that sets forth parameters for the provision of mental health services to public school students enrolled in the local school division by such provider. This section could be amended to include a provision requiring each school board to (i) adopt a memorandum of understanding with a telehealth provider or develop policies and procedures for providing the option for students to receive counseling from school counselors via telehealth and (ii) provide mental health teletherapy to any student that may request it, either in lieu of or in addition to in-person teletherapy.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation amending § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia to include in the model memorandum of understanding procedures for providing the option for students to receive counseling from school counselors via telehealth.

(b) Provide training for teachers and staff on recognizing mental health concerns in students and themselves, including trauma-informed care and psychological first aid.

Policy Options

1) Section 22.1-298.6 of the Code of Virginia requires each school board to adopt and implement policies that require each teacher and other relevant personnel employed on a full-time basis to complete a mental health awareness training or similar program "at least once." This section could be amended to include specifications as to the type of mental health awareness training or the subjects and topics that such training must cover, such as signs and symptoms that a student may be struggling or special mental health concerns during emergencies, etc.

Subcommittee consensus: Discuss the options further in the context of the additional information requested from the Secretary of Education (response attached).

Chair Recommendation: Legislation codifying the Mental Health First Aid Trainings established in partnership between the Departments of Education and Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

2) Section 22.1-272.1 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

and the Department of Health, to develop guidelines relating to any person licensed as administrative or instructional personnel by the Board and employed by a local school board contacting the parents of any student believed to be at imminent risk of suicide. This section could be amended to also require the implementation of a training module or the provision of certain resources for all teachers and staff relating to identifying and addressing these particularly high-risk mental health issues.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

c) Create school-based peer-to-peer support networks for students and educators to create a sense of community and shared resilience.

Policy Options

1) Section 22.1-16.6 of the Code of Virginia permits the Board of Education to include in its guidelines for alternatives to suspension peer-to-peer counseling that could serve as a model for expanding the option of peer-to-peer counseling beyond the disciplinary context. This section could be amended or a new section could be added immediately after it in the Code directing the Board to establish model policies providing for the provision of peer-to-peer mental health counseling and requiring each school board to adopt and implement policies in accordance with such model policies.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) Section 22.1-305.1 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board of Education to establish mentor teacher programs to utilize "specially trained public school teachers as mentors to provide assistance and professional support to teachers entering the profession." This section could be amended in a manner that, similar to the above recommendation, expands the mentor teacher program to include an ongoing mental health support program or system for teachers.

Subcommittee consensus: Consider legislation amending § 22.1-305 of the Code of Virginia providing for the Board of Education to expand the mentor teacher program to include an ongoing mental health support program or system for teachers from a staff support perspective.

Chair Recommendation: Consider enrolling this policy option into legislation from policy option 3.1.1 (b)(1)

3.1.2 Establish community advisory boards and engage local leaders.

Policy Options

1) Any of the following sections of the Code of Virginia could be used as a basis to expand collaboration, consultation, and cooperation between various stakeholders in order to expand the accessibility and availability of mental health information, supports, and resources in education:

Section 22.1-298.6 permits each school board, in providing the mental health awareness training required of all teachers and other relevant personnel pursuant to the section, to "contract with other entities to provide such training."

Section 22.1-199.7, which relates to community schools, requires the Department of Education to establish a task force for the purpose of "developing a program for the establishment of community schools whereby public elementary and secondary

schools serve as centers for the provision of such community programs and services to students and their families.

Section 22.1-211.1 establishes the Community Builders Pilot Program for the purpose of reducing youth involvement in behaviors that lead to gun violence and increasing community engagement among public school students in Roanoke City Public Schools and Petersburg City Public Schools.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

2) In addition, Section 22.1-275.1 of the Code of Virginia permits each school board to establish a school health advisory board of no more than 20 members and consisting of broad-based community representation. This section could serve as a model to add a provision requiring each school board to establish a school mental health advisory board. In addition, this provision could be amended to be mandatory rather than permissive and expanded to include representation from mental health professionals and mental health resources

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

3.1.3 Propose strategies for hybrid learning models and mental health initiatives.

Policy Options

1) Several provisions of the Code of Virginia currently address, partially or fully, virtual education and mental health services, including the following:

Section 22.1-272.2 provides for the Department of Education to develop, adopt, and distribute to each school board a model memorandum of understanding between a school board and either a public or private community mental health services provider or a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider that sets forth parameters for the provision of mental health services to public school students enrolled in the local school division by such provider.

Article 1.4 (§ 22.1-212.23 et seq.) of Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 provides for the establishment of virtual school programs.

Section 22.1-212.2 requires the Department of Education to establish and make available to every public high school in Virginia a "statewide electronic classroom to be known as the Virtual Virginia Program."

2) Absent additional specification, one approach to this recommendation could be legislation directing the Department of Education or Board of Education to draft, make available to each school board and parent, and post on its website guidelines and information relating to virtual learning, including (i) statewide policies relating to virtual learning, (ii) the availability of online or virtual learning options and pertinent information on such options, and (iii) guidelines for educators and schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices.

Subcommittee consensus: Legislation directing the Department of Education to develop and post on its website guidelines and information relating to virtual learning, including (i) statewide policies relating to virtual learning, (ii) the availability of online or virtual learning options and pertinent information on such options, and (iii) guidelines for educators and schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices. These guidelines are to be updated annually and made available each school board for distribution to parents.

3.2.1 Strengthen communication and public information strategies.

Policy Options

1) Legislation from the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly, SB 220 (Favola) and HB 1089 (Coyner), is relevant in this area. These bills established the Virginia IEP, an individualized education program (IEP) writing, facilitation, tracking, and transfer system that is available to each school board and "includes, at a minimum, an IEP template component and a data system component." This program could serve as an example for the creation of a statewide or school division-wide information system. SB 220 and HB 1089 could serve as a basis for legislation requiring the development, implementation, and maintenance of such a statewide information system. A budget amendment may be necessary to cover the cost of establishing such an information system.

Subcommittee consensus: Discuss this policy option further.

Chair Recommendation: Budget amendment supporting the funding of IEP training and implementation. Referencing the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education - JLARC estimates \$8.7 million to support special education staffing needs for Level I Services

2) The following are examples of relevant legislation from other states that could help more specifically tailor such an information system:

Maryland's HB 1276 (Attar, 2022) established the Baltimore City Youth Data Hub as an "integrated, electronic data management system" to link data about youth from any provider for "the purpose of promoting well-being of youth."

California's 2020 \$10 million budget amendment allocated funds for the creation of an integrated education data system.

Subcommittee consensus: No action.

3.2.2 Create and maintain legal guidance and support networks.

Policy Options

The lack of existing legislation, either introduced in the Commonwealth or other states, highlights the difficulties of developing, implementing, and maintaining such a complex, costly legal advisory network on such a wide scale and an ongoing, real-time and on-demand basis. The development and maintenance costs of such a network would require large amounts of funding, and the recommendation's suggestion that such network include the provision of "real-time" and swift legal

guidance from legal experts to any school board would require additional, ongoing funding.

All of these factors make it difficult to provide any more concrete recommendations or suggestions beyond speculation about difficulties and costs.

Subcommittee Discussion: No action.

3.2.3 Develop comprehensive plans for school closures.

Policy Options

Section 22.1-98 of the Code of Virginia provides certain criteria under which the amount paid to any school division by the Commonwealth from the Basic School Aid Fund shall not be reduced "in any case in which severe weather conditions or other emergency situations result in the closing of a school or the schools in a school division or in an unscheduled remote learning day for a school or the schools in a school division." Section 22.1-2.1 of the Code of Virginia includes provisions relating to the requirement of in-person instruction.

Legislation could be introduced directing the Department of Education to develop, make available to each school board, and post on its website in a publicly accessible location comprehensive and uniform guidelines relating to school closures due to severe weather, public health emergencies, etc.

Such legislation could be similar to SB 431(Dunnavant, 2022), which required the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health, to (i) recommend options for isolation and quarantine for students and employees at public schools who contract or are exposed to COVID-19 and (ii) develop guidelines for such schools and recommend such guidelines for use as an alternative to quarantine.

Subcommittee consensus: Discuss the options further in the context of the additional information requested from the Secretary of Education (response attached).

Chair Recommendation: Legislation amending § 22.1-98 of the Code of Virginia to require that all schools in Virginia include in their annual safety audits, comprehensive plans for school closures due to public health emergencies.



Subcommittee #3 Education

Action Items

I. Legislation

1. Legislation amending § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia to include in the model memorandum of understanding procedures for providing the option for students to receive counseling from school counselors via telehealth.

Observation 3.1: the pandemic had a profound impact on students' and educators' well-being.

Recommendation 3.1.1(a): Expand the availability of mental health counselors and social workers, both physically in schools and having telehealth options.

Tab A

2. Legislation codifying the Mental Health First Aid Trainings established in partnership between the Departments of Education and Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The legislation would also provide for the expansion of the mentor teacher program to include an ongoing mental health support program or system for teachers from a staff support perspective. *(Subcommittee Chair Recommendation)*

Observation 3.1

Recommendation 3.1.1(b): Provide training for teachers and staff on recognizing mental health concerns in students and themselves, including trauma-informed care and psychological first aid.

Recommendation 3.1.1(c): Create school-based peer-to-peer support networks for students and educators to create a sense of community and shared resilience

Tab B

3. Legislation directing the Department of Education to develop and post on its website guidelines and information relating to virtual learning, including (i) statewide policies relating to virtual learning, (ii) the availability of online or virtual learning options and pertinent information on such options, and (iii) guidelines for educators and schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices. These guidelines are to be updated annually and made available to each school board for distribution to parents. *(Subcommittee Chair Recommendation)*

Observation 3.1

Recommendation 3.1.3: Propose strategies for hybrid learning models and mental health initiatives

Tab C

4. Legislation amending § 22.1-98 of the Code of Virginia to require that all schools in Virginia include in their annual safety audits comprehensive plans for school closures due to public health emergencies. *(Subcommittee Chair Recommendation)*

Observation 3.2: School districts encountered challenges in managing public information and operations due to legal restrictions, information needs, and capacity.

Recommendation 3.2.3: Propose strategies for hybrid learning models and mental health initiatives

Tab D

II. Budget Language

Budget amendment supporting the funding of individualized education program training and implementation. An estimated cost to support special education staffing needs for Level I Services is \$8.7 million. *(Chair Recommendation)*

Observation 3.2

Recommendation 3.2.1: Strengthen communication and public information strategies.

Subcommittee #3 Education

Tab A

Legislation requiring the model memorandum of understanding regarding partnerships for the provision of mental health services developed by the Department of Education to include procedures allowing for the option for students to receive counseling from school counselors by way of telehealth.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Education;
 2 model memorandum of understanding; partnerships with community mental health services
 3 providers or a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider; counseling from school
 4 counselors by way of telehealth.

5 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

6 **1. That § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

7 **§ 22.1-272.2. Department; model memorandum of understanding; partnerships with**
 8 **community mental health services providers or a nationally recognized school-based telehealth**
 9 **provider.**

10 The Department, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
 11 Services and the Department of Medical Assistance Services, shall develop, adopt, and distribute to each
 12 school board a model memorandum of understanding between a school board and a public or private
 13 community mental health services provider or a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider
 14 that (i) sets forth parameters for the provision of mental health services to public school students enrolled
 15 in the local school division by such provider, including the provision of mental health teletherapy for
 16 students, and the provision of counseling for students by school counselors by way of telehealth, (ii)
 17 reflects effective practices, and (iii) addresses privacy considerations related to the exchange of
 18 information between the parties to the memorandum of understanding and relevant laws and regulations.
 19 The Department shall maintain and update as necessary the model memorandum of understanding to
 20 ensure that it remains current, useful, and relevant.

21 #

Subcommittee #3 Education

Tab B

Legislation codifying the mental health first aid training program developed by the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-272.1:2, relating to Department
2 of Education; mental health first aid training program.

3 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

4 1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-272.1:2 as follows:

5 § 22.1-272.1:2. Mental health first aid training program.

6 The Department, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
7 Services, shall develop a mental health first aid training program consisting of an adult and an adolescent
8 and youth component. The adult component shall focus on how to identify, understand, and respond to
9 signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The adolescent and youth component shall be
10 designed for adults who regularly interact with youth and focus on mental, health, crisis management, and
11 substance abuse in adolescents and youth.

12 #

Subcommittee #3 Education

Tab C

Provides for the Department of Education (Department) to develop and post on its official website guidelines and information relating virtual or online learning. Such guidelines and information shall include (i) statewide policies relating to virtual learning, (ii) the availability of online or virtual learning options and pertinent information on such options, and (iii) guidelines for educators and schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-23.6, relating to Department
2 of Education; development of guidelines and information relating virtual or online learning.

3 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

4 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-23.6 as follows:**

5 **§ 22.1-23.6. Guidelines relating to virtual or online learning.**

6 A. The Department shall develop and post on its official website guidelines and information
7 relating to virtual learning, including (i) statewide policies relating to virtual learning, (ii) the availability
8 of online or virtual learning options and pertinent information on such options, and (iii) guidelines for
9 educators and schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices. In addition, the
10 Department shall provide for the guidelines to allow dissemination to each school board for distribution
11 to parents.

12 B. The guidelines established by the Department pursuant to this section shall be updated annually.

13 #

Subcommittee #3 Education

Tab D

Legislation requiring each K-12 school in the Commonwealth to include, as a component of in its annual safety audit, a review of the school's plan for school closures due to public health emergencies.

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school safety audits; plan for closures due to public health emergencies.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-279.8. School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans required.

A. For the purposes of this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

"School crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan" means the essential procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency, including natural disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes, or other severe weather; loss or disruption of power, water, communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest and other life-threatening medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths; explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous substances; the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of a student; hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; incidents involving acts of terrorism; and other incidents posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel, or facilities. The plan shall include a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01. The Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be the lead coordinating agencies for those individuals determined to be victims, and the plan shall also contain current contact information for both agencies.

"School safety audit" means a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school to (i) identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including building security issues, and (ii) identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns occurring on school property

or at school-sponsored events. Solutions and responses shall include recommendations for structural adjustments, changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board's standards for student conduct.

B. The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall develop a list of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audits required by this section. Such items shall include (i) those incidents reported to school authorities pursuant to § 22.1-279.3:1; (ii) a school inspection walk-through using a standardized checklist provided by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, which shall incorporate crime prevention through environmental design principles; and (iii) specific technology systems, including physical security technologies, emergency telecommunication systems, and associated technology including equipment and software.

The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety shall prescribe a standardized report format for school safety audits, additional reporting criteria, and procedures for report submission, which may include instructions for electronic submission.

Each local school board shall require all schools under its supervisory control to annually conduct school safety audits, as defined in this section, consistent with such list and in collaboration with the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee. As part of each such audit, the school board shall create a detailed and accurate floor plan for each public school building in the local school division or shall certify that the existing floor plan for each such school is sufficiently detailed and accurate. In addition, a component of each such audit shall include a review of the school's comprehensive plan for closures due to public health emergencies.

The results of such school safety audits shall be made public within 90 days of completion pursuant to this subsection. The local school board shall retain authority to withhold or limit the release of any security plans, walk-through checklists, floor plans, and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.2. The completed walk-through checklist shall be made available to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee. Each school shall maintain a copy of the school safety audit, which may exclude such security plans, walk-through checklists, and vulnerability

assessment components, within the office of the school principal and shall make a copy of such report available for review upon written request.

Each school shall submit a copy of its school safety audit to the relevant school division superintendent. The division superintendent shall collate and submit all such school safety audits, in the prescribed format and manner of submission, to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety and shall make available to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality the results of such audits for his review and recommendations.

C. The division superintendent shall establish a school safety audit committee to include, if available, representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement, emergency services agencies, local community services boards, and judicial and public safety personnel. The school safety audit committee shall review the completed school safety audits and submit any plans, as needed, for improving school safety to the division superintendent for submission to the local school board.

D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section, and shall include the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in the development of such plans. Each school division shall designate an emergency manager. The Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety shall provide technical assistance to the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans that describe the components of a medical emergency response plan developed in coordination with local emergency medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The local school board, the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, shall annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical

emergency response plans. The local school board shall have the authority to withhold or limit the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.2. The local school division superintendent shall certify this review in writing to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety no later than August 31 of each year.

Upon consultation with local school boards, division superintendents, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, and the Coordinator of Emergency Management, the Board of Education shall develop, and may revise as it deems necessary, a model school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan for the purpose of assisting the public schools in the Commonwealth in developing viable, effective crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. Such model shall set forth recommended effective procedures and means by which parents can contact the relevant school or school division regarding the location and safety of their school children and by which school officials may contact parents, with parental approval, during a critical event or emergency.

E. Each school board shall ensure that every public school it supervises employs at least one school administrator who has completed, either in-person or online, school safety training for public school personnel conducted by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in accordance with subdivision A 1 of § 9.1-184. However, such requirement shall not apply if such required training is not available online.

F. Each division superintendent shall annually designate an employee in the local school division as the division safety official whose duty is to receive all reports required pursuant to subsection A of § 19.2-83.1 and §§ 19.2-291.1 and 19.2-299.3 and shall include such designation in the collated packet of school safety audits submitted to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety pursuant to subsection B. The designation required by this subsection shall include updated contact information for the division safety official, including (i) a current mailing address, (ii) a current working daytime phone number, (iii) a current functional email address, and (iv) a current functional fax number. It shall be the duty of the division superintendent to update contact information required by this subsection within 48 hours of any change to such contact information.

APPENDIX A

SJR 10 (2022)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study pandemic response and preparedness in the Commonwealth. Report.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 12, 2022
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 12, 2022

WHEREAS, outbreaks of infectious disease have recurred throughout Virginia's recorded history since the time of the first European settlements, beginning with outbreaks in Jamestown that contributed to the deaths of 80 percent of its earliest settlers and spread rapidly among Native American communities, devastating entire populations; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly was forced to adjourn its 1696 session in Jamestown due to a smallpox epidemic, and an outbreak beginning in 1747 again brought the legislature and economy to a halt; other periodic smallpox outbreaks killed countless Virginians and left survivors permanently scarred or blind until inoculation became widespread; and

WHEREAS, after the first cases of cholera appeared in the United States in the early 1800s, three outbreaks of the disease struck Virginia between 1832 and 1866, and cholera continued to pose a threat until sanitary reform curbed its spread; and

WHEREAS, an outbreak of yellow fever struck Norfolk and Portsmouth in 1855, forcing the closure of businesses and ports, shutting down both cities' governments, and claiming an estimated 4,000 lives between the two cities; and

WHEREAS, a new and highly contagious strain of influenza spread throughout the world in 1918 and 1919, exacerbated by the conditions of World War I; the pandemic forced school closures and prohibitions on public gatherings, and it claimed the lives of at least 16,000 Virginians and an estimated 50 million people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020, and the first known cases of the virus in Virginia were reported soon thereafter; in the year that followed, schools and businesses were forced to close, health care providers were overburdened, and the normal functioning of government was interrupted; hundreds of thousands of Virginians became infected with the virus and thousands died, and its final toll is still unknown; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is the Commonwealth's most recent public health crisis but will not be its last, and it is essential in its aftermath to examine the effectiveness of the laws of the Commonwealth during the pandemic, the response of all levels of government, and the preparedness of various levels of government and, in particular, state institutions in Virginia to deal with future emergencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study pandemic response and preparedness in the Commonwealth. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 24 members that shall consist of 10 legislative members, eight nonlegislative citizen members, and six ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: four members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; six members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; four nonlegislative citizen members, to include a representative from the K-12 public education system, a representative from a public hospital or health care system, a local elected official representing an urban locality, and an individual who owns a local pharmacy, each to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; four nonlegislative citizen members, to include a local elected official representing a rural locality, a representative from a private hospital or health care system, a representative from a four-year institution of higher education, and a representative from a private business, each to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and the Secretaries of Commerce and Trade, Education, Finance, Health and Human Resources, and Public Safety and Homeland Security, or their designees, and the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, all of whom shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall examine the performance of existing laws in the

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Commonwealth in relation to the Commonwealth's pandemic response and develop recommendations regarding: (i) the scope of the Governor's powers in long-term states of emergency and the feasibility of legislative oversight of such powers; (ii) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the General Assembly and local governments; (iii) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of public and private health care systems, pharmacies, hospitals, independent providers, health system providers, federally qualified health centers, urgent care centers, long-term care agencies and organizations, and congregate care facilities, including (a) an assessment of the readiness of all such facilities and providers to implement infection prevention and control measures in order to prevent and stop the spread of infectious diseases and (b) an assessment of the adequacy of regulations relating to vulnerable Virginians, including the elderly, the infirm, and children; (iv) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the emergency management and public health care systems, including (a) the need for stockpiling and planning for distribution of pandemic response supplies and materials, (b) the performance of local health districts and the feasibility of allowing for local decision-making during pandemics, in contrast to delivery of routine services, and (c) the existing system's ability to detect and prevent future outbreaks and deploy health care solutions; (v) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the judicial system and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; (vi) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, homeowners' association, and corporate meeting rules and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; (vii) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the K-12 and higher education systems and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; and (viii) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the business regulatory system and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness.

Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the Senate. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Department of Health, the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Education, the Board of Pharmacy, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, upon request. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2022 interim and four meetings for the 2023 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$178,400 for each year without approval as set out in this resolution. Of this amount, an estimated \$150,000 is allocated for consulting services. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the Senate members or a majority of the House members appointed to the joint subcommittee (1) vote against the recommendation and (2) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint subcommittee.

The joint subcommittee shall submit to the General Assembly an interim report containing an executive summary of its activity and work no later than December 1, 2022, and a final report containing an executive summary of its activities and recommendations no later than September 1, 2023. Each executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

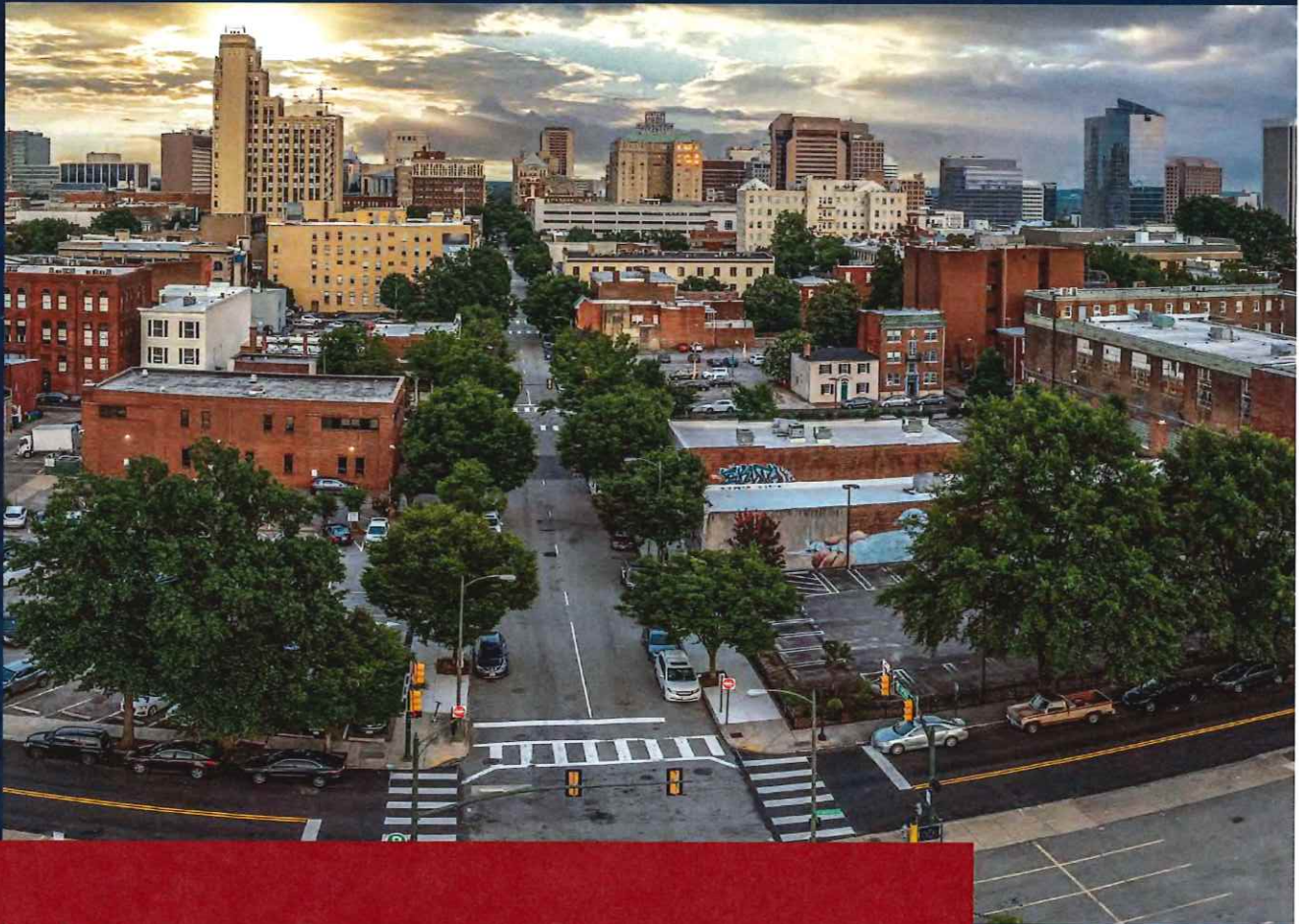
Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2022 or 2023 interims.

APPENDIX B

FINAL AFTER ACTION REPORT, Tidal Basin Government Consulting



Commonwealth of Virginia



COVID-19 After-Action Report

Handling Instructions

The information in this After-Action Report is classified as For Official Use Only (FOUO) and should be handled as sensitive information not to be disclosed. This document should be safeguarded, handled, transmitted, and stored in accordance with appropriate security directives.

Primary Point of Contact:

For information regarding the Commonwealth of Virginia Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness After-Action Report, please contact:

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Introduction

Purpose

In response to the magnitude and length of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) response, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness was established by the Virginia General Assembly with the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 10 (SJR10) during the 2022 session to assess and evaluate the Commonwealth's overall pandemic preparedness and response capabilities. As a result, this After-Action Report (AAR) provides a comprehensive overview of the COVID-19 pandemic's timeline and the subsequent actions taken by the Commonwealth. It serves to document the events and evaluate the efficacy of the measures implemented. Through critical assessment, the report aims to distill operational recommendations that may inform the development of future legislation, ensuring a robust and proactive response to similar emergencies.

Scope

COVID-19 required a highly complex response involving numerous agencies and external partners across the Commonwealth. Therefore, to produce a manageable and constructive AAR, the Joint Subcommittee and the report authors deliberately targeted key topics to be addressed by the report. **This report concentrates on the operational activities of the COVID-19 response and does not delve into policy-level decision-making.** The consultant team used a directed approach, including pre-identified participants and focus areas, to determine the scope of the project. Entities not covered by this report are encouraged to develop their own AARs.

This AAR is developed in response to the objectives of the Joint Subcommittee which are: to conduct independent research, review, and reporting on the performance of existing laws in the Commonwealth in relation to the Commonwealth's pandemic response and recommended corrective actions; and to submit a final report to the General Assembly containing an executive summary of its activities and recommendations and a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document.

Upon completion, the Joint Subcommittee will review the report to identify key observations and recommendations, ensuring that all critical insights are integrated. Using this information, they will draft a comprehensive final report for delivery to the General Assembly with proposed legislative strategies for implementation.

To assist it in its goals, the Joint Subcommittee established three workgroups: 1) Government and Regulatory Systems; 2) Health Care Systems and Emergency Management; and 3) Education.



**Government and
Regulatory Systems**



**Health Care Systems and
Emergency Management**



Education



Government and Regulatory Systems

The subcommittee aims to evaluate the Governor's emergency powers and the feasibility of legislative oversight during prolonged states of emergency. It seeks to assess and enhance the adequacy, resilience, and performance of future emergency plans to ensure the effective responsiveness of the General Assembly, local governments, and the judicial system. Additionally, it may address the need to adapt the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, meeting rules for homeowners' associations, corporate entities, and the business regulatory system to better manage emergencies. Overall, the subcommittee prioritizes creating robust frameworks to improve governmental and organizational responses.

Subcommittee members



- Senator Scott A. Surovell, Chair
- Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.
- Delegate Michael J. Webert
- Lisa Lucas-Burke (local elected official representing a rural locality)
- Martha Mugler (local elected official representing an urban locality)
- Jacqueline Grice (representing local business)
- Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia or designee
- Secretary of Finance or designee
- Secretary of Commerce and Trade or designee

Health Care Systems and Emergency Management

The subcommittee focuses on evaluating and improving the adequacy, resilience, and performance of both public and private health care systems, including pharmacies, hospitals, and long-term care facilities. It assesses the readiness of these entities to implement infection prevention and control measures, and the adequacy of regulations protecting vulnerable populations like the elderly and children. Additionally, the subcommittee examines the emergency management and public health systems, emphasizing the need for stockpiling pandemic supplies, assessing local health districts' performance, and enhancing the system's ability to detect and prevent future outbreaks. Overall, the subcommittee's objective is to strengthen health care systems and emergency response mechanisms to ensure enhanced readiness for any upcoming emergencies.

Subcommittee members



- Delegate Mark D. Sickles, Chair
- Senator Barbara A. Favola
- Delegate Debra D. Gardner
- S. Chris Jones (owner of a local pharmacy)
- Jennifer W. Siciliano (representing public hospital or health care system)
- Heather Jones M.D. (representing private hospital or health care system)
- Secretary of Health and Human Resources or designee
- Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or designee

Education

The subcommittee seeks to evaluate and enhance the adequacy, resilience, and performance of K-12 and higher education systems. The pandemic resulted in divisions converting to remote learning for a portion of the 2019–20 school year and much of the 2020–21 school year. This major, unprecedented disruption presented numerous challenges for students, families, and education staff. The subcommittee prioritizes demonstrating the value of emergency planning to facilitate enhanced responsiveness in the future.

Subcommittee members



- Delegate Candi Mundon King, Chair
- Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi
- Senator David R. Suetterlein
- Delegate Irene Shin
- Katelyn Deel (representing K-12 public education system)
- Tara Dickerson-Anderson (representing four-year institution of higher education)
- Secretary of Education or designee



Participating Departments and Organizations

Individuals from the following Commonwealth of Virginia departments, agencies, and cooperative partners participated in this process:

Participants

- Board of Pharmacy
- Commission on Local Government
- Commonwealth Coordination Bureau
- Community Services Boards
- County/Municipal Departments, including Education, Emergency Management, Fire, Health, Law Enforcement
- Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
- Department of Corrections (VADOC)
- Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH)
- Department of Education (VDOE)
- Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
- Department of Fire Program
- Department of Health (VDH)
- Department of Health Professions (VDHP)
- Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)
- Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)
- Department of Military Affairs
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- Department of Social Services (VDSS)
- Department of Transportation
- Division of Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
- George Mason University
- House of Delegates Clerk's Office
- Local Government Attorneys of Virginia Inc.
- Office of the Executive Secretary (OES)
- Office of the Governor
- Private Industry
- Professional Associations
- Safety & Health Codes Board
- Sentara Health
- State Corporation Commission
- State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV)
- Virginia Adult Protective Services
- Virginia Association of Home Care and Hospice
- Virginia Association of School Nurses (VASN)
- Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Employment Commission
- Virginia Hospitals and Healthcare Association (VHHA)
- Virginia PTA (Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers) (VAPTA)
- Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, & Travel Association (VRLTA)
- Virginia School Board Association (VSBA)
- Virginia State Police
- Virginia Trial Lawyer Association (VTLA)
- Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center (WWRC)



COVID-19 Incident Overview

Background

In the early stages of the pandemic, cases of the novel coronavirus were first reported in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. It was later identified as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), causing COVID-19. From the initial cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., it became evident that the virus was highly contagious and had the potential to spread rapidly within communities. As the virus spread worldwide, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020.

In the beginning, there was a lack of comprehensive knowledge about the novel coronavirus, including its transmission, severity, and long-term effects. The first confirmed case in Virginia was reported on March 7, 2020, prompting the Governor to declare a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020, and then issue a stay-at-home order from March 31, 2020, until June 10, 2020. A statewide mask order was in place on May 29, 2020, positioning Virginia as one of the first states to adopt such a measure. Following a plateau in cases during the Fall of 2020, Virginia experienced a surge in cases during the winter of 2020-21, mirroring increase in cases felt nationwide.

The Commonwealth's response evolved in 2021 with the initiation of a mass vaccination effort, beginning on December 15, 2020, as part of the country's COVID-19 vaccine campaign. By January 2021, Virginia had established a four-phase plan to prioritize vaccine eligibility based on profession and age group, culminating in the entire population becoming eligible for the vaccine on April 18, 2021. By May 10, 2021, half of the state's population had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. As of May 10, 2023, Virginia had administered over 19 million COVID-19 vaccine doses, fully vaccinating approximately 77% of its population.

The Commonwealth of Virginia officially ended its COVID-19 emergency orders on July 1, 2021, marking a significant shift in the state's response to the pandemic. The conclusion of these orders came after over a year of extensive emergency measures, including widespread testing, vaccination campaigns, and public health restrictions. Throughout the pandemic, Virginia's emergency response was characterized by a coordinated effort across state and local agencies, healthcare providers, and community organizations. The state's approach evolved as the pandemic progressed, with initial efforts focused on containment and mitigation, followed by a transition towards vaccination and reopening.

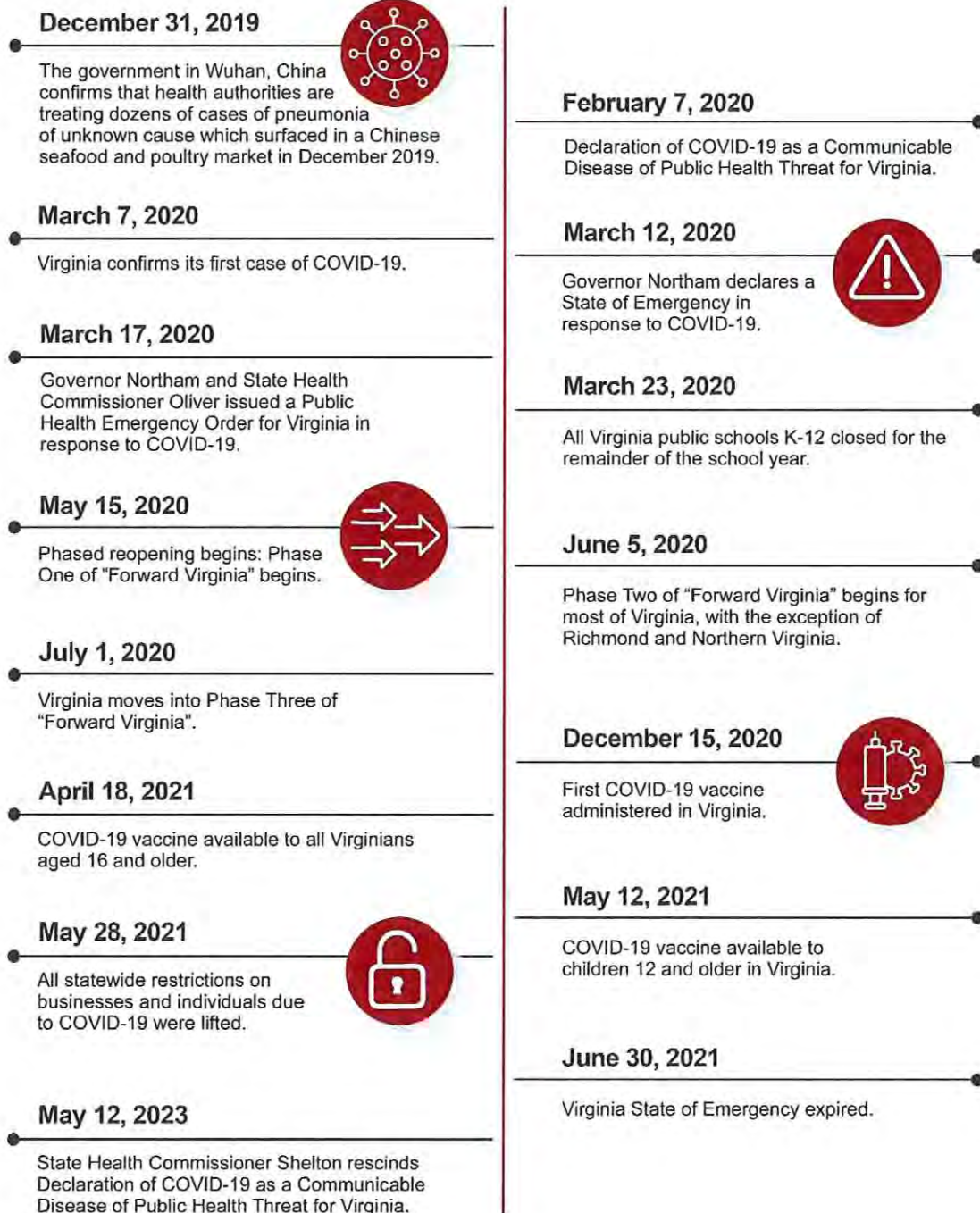
The end of the emergency orders signified a move towards normalcy while continuing to emphasize the importance of vaccination and public health preparedness to address any future outbreaks. Though the emergency order has been rescinded, the Commonwealth continues to adapt its strategies to the evolving situation. For example, in January 2022, the Governor declared a limited state of emergency, issuing Executive Order 84 to provide relief for hospitals and healthcare workers. This order increased flexibility in patient transfers and allowed healthcare providers licensed in other states to practice in Virginia.

The legacy of Virginia's response to COVID-19 includes lessons learned in crisis management, the importance of flexibility in public health strategies, and the ongoing need for robust healthcare infrastructure.



Timeline of Key Events

The Commonwealth of Virginia COVID-19 timeline below catalogs critical state, nation, and international events during the COVID-19 pandemic between January 2020 and May 2023. For a timeline related specifically to Key Events, please see Appendix C.



Methodology

Data Collection

To capture Virginia's COVID-19 response as thoroughly as possible, this AAR was developed using multiple sources of information. Key participants consisting of personnel from multiple agencies and departments across the Commonwealth, as well as cooperative partners, were routinely engaged during the data collection period. Within the consultant team, a dedicated lead was appointed to concentrate exclusively on one of the three subcommittees. This strategic assignment was designed to ensure that specialized attention and expertise were directed toward the subcommittee's specific objectives and tasks. The lead's role involved facilitating communication and driving the progress of their assigned area to achieve the overarching goals of the project. This targeted approach allowed for a more efficient and effective operation within the subcommittee's focus.

The project commenced with a clear directive, as the leads received a comprehensive list of agencies mandated for involvement within SJR10, from the Division of Legislative Services. This initial step enabled a series of coordinated outreach efforts, which successfully prompted various agencies and departments to appoint specific individuals as agency/department designees. The designees were responsible for providing the consultant with essential data, which included a range of source documents relevant to each agency or department's planning and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This collection encompassed documents such as agency-specific AARs, public health and emergency response strategies, as well as summaries, briefings, and memoranda pertaining to the pandemic response, all contributing to a comprehensive and uninterrupted flow of information. Subsequently, a thorough collection and assessment of documents was undertaken, laying the groundwork for the next phase of the project.

To deepen the engagement, the leads connected with the agency designees with a request to disseminate a partner survey. This survey was to be distributed not only within their respective agencies or departments but also among external groups under their purview or they deemed suitable to provide insight on the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response. A separate survey was created to collect public feedback via the Joint Subcommittee's website, aiming to gather broader constituent input on the Commonwealth's response. Survey data from separate, external surveys was also reviewed and analyzed. The purpose of the various surveys was to gather a wide range of insights and perspectives.

Additionally, the designees were responsible for identifying potential interviewees, providing their contact details to facilitate the next of data gathering. With a roster of interviewees in place, the project advanced to the interview phase. Individual and group interviews were meticulously conducted, employing a set of pre-approved questions that were tailored to the unique expertise of each

250

Documents reviewed during the data call period

429

Survey respondents were engaged in Commonwealth's responses between 2020 and 2023

432

Public survey respondents from all eight regions

47

Interviewees representing 19 state agencies and partner organizations



interviewee. Of note, interviews represent participants' recollections and analyses of events and actions.

Statement of Accuracy

Varying viewpoints are expected and valued in the AAR process. The views and statements expressed within this report were validated by multiple independent sources. Measures were put in place to maintain the confidentiality of the input provided by all participants, to allow them to respond openly without fear of repercussion. While representatives participated in interviews on behalf of incident management or organizational units, their responses may not encompass every perspective or event. Both surveys and interviews are inherently subjective, reflecting stakeholders' recollections and interpretations of events and actions. Details and recollection of events by respondents, post-incident, come with a degree of uncertainty.

Evaluation Approach

Upon the conclusion of the data collection, survey, and interview components of the project, the consultant team conducted a thorough analysis of the information received. A coding process was established to identify, highlight, and organize high-level themes across each focus area. For each interview, the team leveraged an analysis tool to identify the key observations raised by the interviewees. Next, the team organized observations by focus area, categorizing them as best practices, strengths, and/or areas for improvement. Due to the volume of observations gleaned from interviews, only those most pertinent to the pre-identified focus areas and within the confines of the scope are included in this report. This strategic approach ensured that the information collected was both relevant and insightful, contributing significantly to the project's objectives.

The project team reviewed all information gathered through the data call, surveys, and interviews to identify observations, including strengths, best practices, areas for improvement, and challenges. Observations are only included when the information or perspective is received from multiple sources or when information can be verified independently. In performing root cause analysis, the project team then returned to the available information to dig deeper and collect, organize, and validate data related to these observations, using thematic analysis. Finally, the project team used industry best practices as well as their practitioner knowledge and experience working with dozens of jurisdictions to develop recommendations. Recommendation suggestions from interview participants are considered and are incorporated when appropriate. After Tidal Basin formulated operational recommendations, the Commonwealth's Division of Legislative Services developed a range of legislative policy options for the Joint Subcommittee's consideration.



Observations and Recommendations

Focus Areas

The report organizes all observations into specific themes generated from data collected in response to the pandemic through document analysis, surveys, and interviews. Focus areas for the report were chosen based on their significance in achieving response goals, potential for improvement, and relevance to overall effectiveness and preparedness for future emergencies. The output is a thorough review of the response, including what was done well, what could be improved, observations, and overall lessons learned to help inform the future development of preparedness, policy, and procedures statewide.

The following focus areas represent the categories of information that were targeted for collection and analysis to inform the AAR development process. This analysis examines the operational components of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response strategies and does not delve into an analysis of overarching policy decisions.



General Observations

As the AAR took shape, several overarching observations emerged that reflect broader regional or national experiences rather than just the Commonwealth's response. The general observations are not categorized as strengths or areas for improvement, as they address universal aspects of the response rather than specifics of the Commonwealth. These insights provide valuable context for understanding the broader implications of the pandemic response efforts.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, serving underserved populations was challenging due to limited access to healthcare, economic hardships, and technological barriers. These factors led to disparities in healthcare availability and outcomes, particularly among those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged; people with limited English proficiency; geographically isolated or educationally disenfranchised people; people of color as well as those of ethnic and national origin minorities; women and children; individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs; and seniors.



Multiple funding streams and frequent changes to FEMA's requirements during the COVID-19 response created challenges due to the complexity and administrative burden they created. Organizations had to navigate varying rules and deadlines for multiple funding sources, which complicated the documentation process and delayed cost recovery efforts. This often required significant time and resources, diverting attention from immediate response needs.



Enforcing public health and safety mandates during the COVID-19 response was challenging at regional and national levels due to varying levels of public compliance, the politicization of health guidelines, and the logistical difficulties of monitoring and enforcement. The situation necessitated a coordinated effort that balanced public health interests with individual freedoms and legal considerations.



Multiple concurrent activations to other emergencies during the COVID-19 response complicated efforts at the national and regional scale because they stretched resources thin and created coordination challenges. States had to manage the pandemic alongside other crises, leading to competing priorities and the need for complex, multi-layered response strategies.

This report organizes all observations into specific themes generated from data collected in response to the pandemic and identifies strengths and areas of improvement identified by and captured from participants. Recommendations for improvements are listed in each focus area of the report.

The AAR reflects observations and recommendations from a response effort that concluded over two years ago. Given the extended duration of the COVID-19 response, it is acknowledged that some recommendations outlined in this report may have already been addressed or implemented in the intervening period. This context underscores the importance of reviewing these findings with consideration for ongoing improvements and adjustments made since the conclusion of the response.





Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

The Business Continuity focus area investigates the impact of COVID-19 on essential services, administrative functions, and government operations, emphasizing factors that facilitated successful adaptation strategies. It also explores enhancements to continuity of operations plans for future disruptions, including financial strategies such as managing cash flow, accessing government programs, and mitigating economic losses resulting from the pandemic.

Strengths

Efforts by leadership to support state employee mental health were well-received.

Leadership's efforts to support staff mental health, including the Headspace app, Team of Teams, Mental Health Fridays, and a mental health awareness day, were well-received. Interviewees appreciated these initiatives and the positive working culture, though some felt more could be done and expressed uncertainty about additional support within the current operational environment.

Despite inadequate preparedness, most agencies and organizations were able to transition to continuity operations with minimal disruptions.

The transition to Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans during the pandemic was largely successful, with agencies like the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) adapting to remote work and maintaining essential services despite challenges such as personal protective equipment (PPE) procurement. Executive orders facilitated remote operations for boards and hearings, while pre-existing plans in schools and telehealth services ensured minimal disruption. Overall, the shift to remote work was smooth, supported by strong partnerships and effective planning.

The shift to remote work, initially for safety, also brought extra advantages.

The transition to telework provided benefits during the pandemic, such as ensuring safety, enhancing public meeting accessibility, and continuing essential services through telemedicine and remote court hearings. Individuals also highlighted other positive outcomes of remote work, including technological improvements, the opportunity for state offices to test distributed operations models, newfound flexibility and efficiencies.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 1.1: Despite efforts to support mental health, individuals still experienced challenges and could have benefited from more support.

Although efforts were made to support mental health, additional mental health and other resources, such as childcare, were needed. Interviewees noted that the pandemic exacerbated fatigue and strain on employees, leading to increased turnover. There was also insufficient guidance on mental health support, leaving staff, particularly those dealing with the deaths of loved ones, without adequate opportunities to process their experiences.



Recommendations

- 1.1.1 **Expand Access to Mental Health Resources.** Allocate additional funding and resources to expand mental health services, including counseling, therapy, and support groups, particularly for employees in high-stress roles such as healthcare workers and educators. This could include partnerships with local mental health organizations or providers that specialize in incident response and critical incident stress debriefing to offer accessible, confidential support tailored to the needs of those affected by the pandemic.
- 1.1.2 **Develop Comprehensive Mental Health Support Guidelines.** Create and implement clear, standardized guidelines for mental health support during extended incident response across all state agencies. These guidelines should include protocols for identifying and addressing mental health concerns, provide access to mental health professionals, and incorporate flexible options like childcare and paid time off to alleviate stress and prevent burnout.

Observation 1.2: The pandemic uncovered unrecognized challenges for continuity of operations.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed significant challenges in maintaining operational continuity across state agencies. The sudden shift to telework highlighted gaps in digital infrastructure, including limited access to reliable technology and broadband connectivity, particularly in rural areas. Many agencies were unprepared for the rapid transition, resulting in inconsistent telework policies, reduced productivity, and difficulties in managing remote teams, in the early days of the response. The lack of a unified approach to teleworking also created disparities between departments, with some employees facing greater challenges in adapting to the new work environment.

Moreover, there was a significant lack of autonomy and flexibility in some agencies to shift processes and procedures to a remote format, hampering the ability to adapt quickly and efficiently. Many operational functions and records remained manual, further straining efforts to maintain continuity. The lack of digital infrastructure, particularly in areas with limited broadband access, compounded these challenges. The combined effects of these factors severely compromised the ability of staff to sustain consistent and effective operations during the pandemic.

Recommendations

- 1.2.1 **Develop a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies.** Establish a centralized framework for continuity of operations across all state agencies, mandating the creation and regular updating of agency-specific continuity plans. This framework should include standardized guidelines for digital infrastructure upgrades, remote work capabilities, and staff training on emergency procedures. Additionally, it should ensure regular drills and interagency coordination exercises to test and refine these plans, ensuring that state agencies can maintain essential functions and services during any disruption.
- 1.2.2 **Enhance digital infrastructure and automation.** Invest in expanding broadband access, especially in underserved areas, and upgrading state digital infrastructure to support the automation of operational functions and records for state agencies. This will enable a seamless transition to remote work and improve overall efficiency, reducing the strain on staff and enhancing the state's ability to maintain operational continuity during future crises.



Observation 1.3: Challenges arose during the transition back to in-person work including limited guidance, inequities, and safety concerns.

The transition back to in-person work after the COVID-19 pandemic revealed significant challenges, including gaps in state guidance, inequities in telework policies, and safety concerns. While remote work had proven effective and productive for many, the return to the office was difficult for those who had adapted to telework, leading to frustration and resistance. Inequities arose as some roles required a return to the office sooner than others, with inconsistent policies across state agencies exacerbating these disparities. Safety concerns, due to varied application of protocols, further heightened anxiety among employees during the transition.

Recommendations

- 1.3.1 Establish consistent statewide telework policies for all state agencies.** Develop and implement consistent telework policies across all agencies to ensure equitable treatment of employees. These policies should include clear criteria for determining which roles require in-person work, guidelines for hybrid work arrangements, and transparent communication to reduce confusion and frustration among employees.





Communications

The Communications focus area refers to the Commonwealth's ability to deliver timely and accurate communications in support of COVID-19 response, including general situational awareness for state employees. This focus area also encompasses interoperability among local, state and federal partners, and any communications-centric resource and capability gaps.

Strengths

Multiple communication platforms were successfully utilized to inform the public.

Several communication modes, including newsletters, text messaging, robocalls, and emails, ensured greater accessibility to messaging, with electronic communication proving particularly effective in reaching transient populations and overcoming postal service challenges. Additionally, a robust internet presence, a statewide case map, and the Commonwealth's COVID-19 dashboard were instrumental in providing timely updates and situational awareness. The Department of Education (DOE), complemented by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), played a crucial role in disseminating information to communities, leveraging its extensive reach to families and individuals. These resources offered advocacy webinars and essential information on childcare, broadband, food access, and special education. Similarly, the National Association of School Nurses contributed valuable educational materials to school nurses, and the DOE superintendents' newsletter offered weekly updates on relief funds, enhancing transparency and accountability. Communication efforts were further strengthened by prioritizing engagement with trusted industry leaders, whose input on regulation guidance fostered compliance and trust.

Agencies and organizations used effective methods for internal information sharing.

Agencies used individual department-level websites and intranet sites to provide up-to-date links and guidance to both clients and staff, ensuring that everyone had access to the latest information. The existing relationship with hospitals allowed the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) to act as a crucial information conduit, facilitating bi-directional communication through weekly calls, subcommittees, and working groups. The Virginia Association of School Nurses (VASN) effectively reached school nurses at the local level by leveraging multiple communication modes, including newsletters, websites, emails, Instagram, social media, webinars, and regular calls. Multiple agencies reported that regular coordination calls among state agencies, particularly those involving Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) lead and support agencies, ensured comprehensive situational awareness for support agencies. These strategies ensured that internal information sharing was timely, comprehensive, and adaptable to the rapidly changing circumstances of the pandemic.

Agencies relied on information from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and other trusted sources when disseminating information.

The VDH served as a central source of truth, with its public-facing website providing essential information for state agencies. Supporting state agencies were diligent in maintaining this consistency by referring general questions to VDH, their public messaging, or other reliable sources. This reliance



on VDH and trusted sources enabled a unified and credible approach to information dissemination throughout the pandemic.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 2.1: Barriers to internal communication impacted public information dissemination.

Despite having ample Public Information Officers (PIOs) participating in the Joint Information Center (JIC), there was a lack of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) assigned to the JIC to address specific public health-related questions, often causing significant delays as JIC personnel had to seek out answers in a rapidly changing environment. Additionally, the lack of coordination between the JIC and the Governor's communications team meant that information was sometimes relayed by the Governor's office without prior notification to operational staff, including those in the JIC, leaving personnel scrambling to respond to public inquiries. This may have impacted the opportunity to anticipate questions, research accurate answers, or correct information before it was released, further complicating effective communication efforts.

Recommendations

- 2.1.1 **Establish a dedicated SME pool.** Create a roster of SMEs for key agencies to be trained and readily available during emergencies. Ensure that SMEs are integrated into the JIC from the outset to provide timely and accurate responses to specific questions related to the emergency. This will reduce delays caused by the need to seek answers externally and enhance the JIC's capacity to handle complex inquiries efficiently.
- 2.1.2 **Implement a Centralized Information Management System (CIMS).** Deploy a centralized platform for managing and disseminating information during a crisis. This system should include real-time updates, FAQs, and guidance from SMEs. It would streamline the flow of information, enabling JIC staff to access accurate and up-to-date content quickly and reducing the time spent searching for answers.
- 2.1.3 **Improve coordination with executive offices.** Develop protocols to ensure that information from the Governor's office and other executive branches is communicated to operational staff, including the JIC, in advance. Implement a system for pre-briefings or notifications about upcoming announcements to allow JIC personnel to prepare responses and anticipate public inquiries, ensuring a more coordinated and informed public communication strategy.

Observation 2.2: An oversized working group was established to support health equity, hindering effective public messaging.

The group, which expanded to over 100 participants, encountered numerous internal conflicts, such as disagreements over translation specifics (e.g., which type of Spanish to use), which slowed down the decision-making process. Although the intention was to incorporate diverse perspectives to ensure equitable messaging, the number of participants led to delays in disseminating critical information and clinical guidance. This delay forced individual organizations to make independent decisions, impacting service continuity.

Recommendations

- 2.2.1 **Streamline the health equity working group structure.** Reduce the size of the working group to a more manageable number of participants. Focus on including key representatives who can provide diverse perspectives without overwhelming the decision-making process. Establish



smaller, specialized subcommittees for specific tasks such as translation or cultural considerations to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

- 2.2.2 **Implement clear decision-making protocols.** Develop and enforce clear protocols for decision-making within the working group. Establish criteria for resolving conflicts and making decisions swiftly to avoid delays. This could include predefined guidelines for translation and other critical aspects to streamline the process and ensure timely dissemination of information.
- 2.2.3 **Establish a rapid response framework.** Develop a framework for rapid response to public health needs that includes pre-established protocols for equitable messaging and translations. This framework should allow for quick adaptation to emerging needs and ensure that critical information can be disseminated efficiently, even when the working group is focused on health equity.

Observation 2.3: Rapidly changing and often conflicting messaging at federal, state, and local levels made implementation of public health guidance difficult and contributed to public mistrust.

Interviewees noted that there were frustrations as guidance from researchers and scientists fluctuated, conflicting directives emerged from federal and state entities, and states varied in their responses, such as differing timelines for resuming normal operations in state programs. Hospitals faced difficulties interpreting and reconciling conflicting guidance from federal and state agencies, while long-term care facilities struggled with inconsistent regulations from multiple state agencies including Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), VDH, and the Department of Health Professions (DHP). This inconsistency led some to doubt the scientific community, resulting in decreased adherence to public health recommendations.

Recommendations

- 2.3.1 **Enhance ongoing public engagement and education.** Engage trusted community leaders and experts to help communicate complex information and foster understanding, including the reasons for guidance changes can help build trust and encourage adherence to recommendations.





Education

The Education focus area examines the impact of COVID-19 on educational systems, including the transition to remote learning and the challenges faced by students, educators, and parents. It highlights the adaptations made to ensure continuity of education and the disparities in access to technology and resources. This focus area also explores lessons learned and strategies for enhancing the resilience of educational institutions for future emergencies.

Strengths

Rapid adjustments, such as implementing waivers and redesigning programs, led to positive outcomes for school districts and their communities.

Early in the response, it was clear that there needed to be an “all of government” approach to pivot quickly to remote learning. These swift changes allowed educational institutions, including K-12 and higher education, to adapt quickly to evolving conditions, ensuring continuity of learning and support services despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic. Beyond academics, school districts were able to transition their entire nutrition and food services programs to continue providing essential wraparound services for students. By being flexible and responsive, school districts were able to address immediate challenges, support students and families effectively, and maintain operational resilience, ultimately contributing to a more successful and adaptable response to the crisis.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 3.1: The pandemic had a profound impact on students’ and educators’ well-being.

As schools are essential providers of structure, support, and social interaction within the community, both students and educational professionals faced unprecedented stress and challenges due to disruptions in their routines and environments. This strain underscored the need for enhanced mental health resources and support systems to address the emotional and psychological effects of the pandemic. Additionally, the closure of schools resulted in the loss of a social “safety net” for many vulnerable populations, including students with chronic health conditions, disabilities, food insecurity, and neglect/abuse situations.

Recommendations

- 3.1.1 **Enhance mental health support systems available for students and educational professionals.** Expand the availability of mental health counselors and social workers, both physically in schools and having telehealth options. Provide training for teachers and staff on recognizing mental health concerns in students and themselves, including trauma-informed care and psychological first aid. Create school-based peer-to-peer support networks for students and educators to create a sense of community and shared resilience.
- 3.1.2 **Establish community advisory boards and engage local leaders.** Engaging local leaders, parents and community members through advisory boards and/or community meetings has



proven successful in a variety of initiatives. These platforms can be an effective way to ensure that public health measures are developed in an inclusive manner and communicated in a holistic way to the community.

- 3.1.3 **Propose strategies for hybrid learning models and mental health initiatives.** Explore strategies such as hybrid learning models, mental health initiatives within schools, and community-based programs that can be quickly implemented in response to school closures or similar disruptions. These models allow for flexibility and continuity in education while minimizing risk of infection. Highlight successful programs that were implemented during the pandemic as examples.

Observation 3.2: School districts encountered challenges in managing public information and operations due to legal restrictions, information needs, and capacity limitations.

These challenges included navigating legal restrictions, managing complex and evolving information needs, and dealing with capacity constraints. Legal restrictions often limited the ability to rapidly implement changes or communicate effectively. Meanwhile, the need for accurate and timely information placed a strain on existing resources, complicating efforts to provide clear guidance and support.

Recommendations

- 3.2.1 **Strengthen communication and public information strategies.** Create a centralized, statewide resource hub that provides communication strategies and guidance for public information, available to school districts and higher education institutions. The information provided should be appropriated tailored for both emergency situations as well as routine, ongoing pertinent communications.
- 3.2.2 **Create and maintain legal guidance and support networks.** Establish a legal advisory network specifically for school districts, offering real-time legal guidance during emergencies. This network should include legal experts who can help districts navigate complex regulations and implement necessary changes swiftly.
- 3.2.3 **Develop comprehensive plans for school closures.** Comprehensive plans that outline clear thresholds for school closures and transitions to remote learning are essential to maintaining educational continuity during emergencies. Communicating these policies to parents and other stakeholders during non-emergency periods can help manage expectations and build and maintain trust.





Financial Management

The Financial Management focus area explores novel approaches, successes, and challenges in procurement during the COVID-19 response. It investigates government assistance programs that provided financial aid to individuals, businesses, and impacted communities.

Strengths

Federal funding played a crucial role in various aspects, including bolstering staffing and providing community support.

Agencies in the Commonwealth successfully adapted and coordinated a significant influx of federal funds in a short period, demonstrating tremendous coordination, flexibility, and agility. For instance, the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) managed to issue hundreds of millions of dollars to providers within six months, facilitated by two tranches of Medicaid funding through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Relief Act. This effort was marked by due diligence and accountability, as evidenced by the absence of adverse findings in federal or state audits. The federal funding also provided a critical boost to staffing numbers, enhancing response capabilities through the acquisition of numerous federal grants. This strengthened the response infrastructure, with benefits extending beyond the pandemic. Local health districts utilized COVID funding to hire much-needed staff, many of whom have been retained.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 4.1: Inadequate funding and heavy reliance on grants during calm periods impede preparedness and sustainability efforts crucial for supporting response capabilities during incidents.

Reliance on grants for core emergency management functions risks operational capacity, as demonstrated by FEMA's 10% cut in preparedness grants this year. Essential systems like WebEOC and Crisis Track, funded by these grants, could face severe challenges if funding decreases. This dependence on fluctuating grant funding threatens the consistent maintenance of crucial emergency management capabilities.

The educational sector within the Commonwealth also faces severe financial challenges. Many school facilities require updates to meet modern health and safety standards, an issue temporarily alleviated by initial pandemic-related funding, such as the DOE's HVAC upgrade grant. However, a sustainable, long-term funding solution is essential, especially given that the state ranks 42nd in the nation for education funding. This chronic underfunding not only affects infrastructure but also leads to staffing shortages, further exacerbating the difficulties in maintaining robust emergency management capabilities.

Additionally, inconsistencies in regional and central office public health capabilities, including the state pharmacy, underscore the need for significant investment. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has



been invaluable, particularly for vaccination clinics, yet only half of the MRC coordinators across the state are funded, and the reduction in the state-level team impacts the volunteer registration system.

Finally, the logistical capacity built during the COVID response is threatened by funding constraints. The creation of a central Logistics Coordination Operations Center (LCOS) significantly enhanced the Commonwealth's capacity to manage resource requests, handling up to 400 of them daily during the peak of the COVID-19 response. This year's proposed budget includes two years of funding for the continuation of this vital facility, which has now proven its worth through multiple activations. Institutionalizing this support is crucial.

Recommendations

- 4.1.1 **Establish stable and diversified funding streams.** Institute dedicated, stable funding mechanisms at the state and local levels to reduce reliance on variable grant funding. This could involve legislative efforts to secure a portion of the state budget specifically for emergency management and public health preparedness efforts.





Judicial/Policy/Regulatory

The Judicial/Policy/Regulatory focus area examines the impact of COVID-19 on judicial systems, including court operations, case backlog management, and access to justice. It assesses the resilience and adaptability of these systems in responding to public health emergencies and the lessons learned for future preparedness. Additionally, it addresses the technology investments and infrastructure improvements needed to enhance judicial capacity, the effectiveness of remote court proceedings, virtual hearings, and electronic filings, while maintaining fairness, transparency, and due process.

Strengths

Executive orders provided flexibility, enabling temporary waivers that eased health care licensure burdens and enhanced regulation enforcement.

These orders empowered licensing boards to grant temporary practice rights to out-of-state and retired healthcare professionals in Virginia, ensuring adequate staffing levels to meet the increased demand for medical services. Additionally, DHP played a crucial role in decision-making regarding these waivers, which included leniency on licensee late fees and the suspension of continuing education requirements. Moreover, executive orders bolstered regulatory enforcement capabilities, allowing agencies like the DOLI to enforce mask mandates and other public health directives effectively. Businesses that failed to comply with these mandates could be inspected and fined, ensuring greater adherence to essential health and safety regulations.

The use of technology for some courts in the Commonwealth's judicial system enabled adaptability, streamlining processes and easing administrative burdens.

While the integration of technology was inconsistent across the Commonwealth, where it was embraced it allowed for more efficient operations, with electronic filing and the acceptance of electronic signatures, reducing the need for physical presence and paper-based processes which reduce costs and improve efficiency. Remote hearings for routine and procedural matters enabled cases to progress and helped minimize delays.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 5.1: Failure to plan for the legal and regulatory changes necessary for effective pandemic response caused delays and complications.

The absence of pre-established frameworks for swiftly adapting regulations, such as those related to public health orders, workforce protections, and emergency procurement, hindered the ability of state agencies to respond promptly to the evolving situation. One major issue was the speed at which regulatory changes were enacted. Emergency standards required legal and regulatory justification, creating a need for a balanced and expedited response, which proved challenging. The impact of executive orders on businesses in the Commonwealth highlighted complexities in authority, as seen when an order directed the adoption of safety and health regulations, raising questions about the roles of the Commissioner versus the Safety and Health Codes Board. Additionally, a significant amount of



time was spent crafting and modifying temporary waivers during the pandemic. Codifying these processes in advance would streamline the response in future emergencies, ensuring that necessary legal and regulatory adjustments can be implemented more efficiently.

Recommendations

- 5.1.1 **Develop a pre-approved legal and regulatory framework for emergencies.** Establish a comprehensive, pre-approved legal and regulatory framework that outlines specific emergency standards and processes. This framework should include pre-drafted executive orders, temporary waivers, and other necessary regulatory adjustments that can be quickly enacted during a crisis. Such a framework may consist of various levels or phases that can reflect the length, impact, and type of incident.
- 5.1.2 **Create a rapid response legal and regulatory task force.** Form a dedicated task force composed of legal, regulatory, emergency management, and public health experts to oversee and expedite the creation and implementation of necessary emergency regulations that are not previously established. This task force should be activated during emergencies to ensure that all essential legal adjustments are made promptly and can be used to deconflict questions about roles and responsibilities related to this issue.

Observation 5.2: Judicial system staff made significant efforts to maintain transparency during social distancing periods but felt there was room for improvement.

To enhance communication and ensure that the pandemic response plan was followed, local judicial authorities directed the public to their websites and prioritized judicial emergency orders. The bench book and online resources provided valuable guidance to the courts, reflecting a commitment to maintaining operational continuity and clarity. However, the shift to virtual meetings posed challenges, such as ensuring adequate participation and upholding transparency in proceedings. While the system did not directly solicit public input on solving problems or participating in the process, it provided alternative avenues for engagement through email, phone, and publicly posted information. This approach helped maintain some level of transparency and communication but indicated areas where more proactive strategies could be developed to better engage the public and address transparency concerns during such crises.

Recommendations

- 5.2.1 **Solicit input on judicial processes.** Solicit input on methods for implementing judicial processes when public participation is not possible, utilizing surveys, feedback forms, and public comment periods. Ensure that these opportunities for providing input are widely publicized and easily accessible through multiple channels.
- 5.2.2 **Enhance virtual engagement and transparency mechanisms.** Implement robust virtual engagement platforms that allow for real-time public participation and input during judicial proceedings. This should include ideas gathered during the public input process and could consist of interactive webinars, live Q&A sessions, and virtual town halls specifically designed for judicial matters.

Observation 5.3: Acceptance of technology varied across the judicial system, resulting in inconsistent use of platforms and policies among courts.

The lack of uniformity in adopting many technological advancements, such as remote hearings, electronic filing systems, electronic signatures, and online scheduling systems resulted in inefficiencies and inconsistencies across the judicial system.



Recommendations

- 5.3.1 **Review statewide technology standards and protocols.** Conduct review of available technologies, including electronic filing systems, remote hearings, electronic signatures, and online scheduling systems, to determine how their adoption may ease ongoing administrative burdens of the judicial system while enhancing transparency and participation.
- 5.3.2 **Develop and implement consistent policies and procedures to ensure uniformity and efficiency.** Establish clear guidelines for the use of technology, including electronic filing systems, remote hearings, electronic signatures, and online scheduling systems. Standardize these practices across all courts to minimize discrepancies, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure equitable access to judicial processes. Regularly review and update these policies to adapt to technological advancements and address emerging needs, ensuring that all courts operate under the same framework and standards.





Logistics

The Logistics focus area addresses the identification of pre-existing logistics plans for procuring, storing, and distributing essential supplies, as well as the establishment of roles and responsibilities before and during the pandemic. It highlights the challenges faced in coordinating logistics during the response. By examining these aspects, the focus area aims to improve future logistical preparedness and response efforts.

Strengths

Local, regional, and state partnerships played a crucial role in achieving logistical goals.

Collaborations with Regional Health Coalitions (RHCs) allowed the use of regional warehouses alongside the central LCOS, which efficiently and effectively supported the distribution of supplies and equipment to local jurisdictions. Many RHCs owned or leased warehouse space, facilitating the housing and distribution of supplies and, in some cases, leveraging their combined purchasing power to obtain necessary items. Support agencies, with established procurement processes, were not solely reliant on the VDH Central Office but collaborated through the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) for enhanced bulk purchasing power. This coordinated effort between RHCs and state purchasing power was particularly beneficial for small and rural jurisdictions, which struggled to compete in the marketplace during times of scarce resource acquisition. These partnerships ensured a more equitable and efficient distribution of critical resources across all regions.

Logistical capacity that benefits all-hazards response saw significant improvement during the pandemic.

At the onset, the Commonwealth had a solid logistics management plan, which was continuously built upon as the state undertook central acquisition and distribution for the first time, adapting policies and procedures in real-time to capture lessons learned and best practices. The creation of LCOS by VDEM greatly enhanced the State's capacity. This facility expanded to 127,000 square feet and managed up to 400 resource requests per day during COVID-19, compared to 400 requests in total during Hurricane Florence. The development and use of a burn rate calculator provided a valuable tool for understanding resource needs and enabling proactive distribution to local jurisdictions, with burn rates collected and tracked to ensure proper billing to funding streams. Lastly, standardized contracts, developed in response to Hurricane Florence, were expanded and allowed for quick reactions to supply chain disruptions.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 6.1: Resource uncertainty resulted in widespread challenges in accessing and distributing essential supplies, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing kits, impacting frontline workers across several sectors.

Emergency purchasing and stockpiling exacerbated supply chain disruptions, especially for PPE, as all facets of the market—public, private, and individual—rushed to secure limited resources. Local entities



struggled to project accurate burn rates for PPE, leading to excessive initial purchases and resulting in massive stockpiles that now need to be liquidated.

Recommendations

- 6.1.1 **Establish a dynamic stockpile strategy.** Design a dynamic stockpile strategy that includes maintaining flexible reserves of essential supplies and implementing regular inventory assessments. This strategy should involve periodic reviews of stockpile levels, anticipated needs, and expiration dates to ensure that reserves are appropriate and actionable. Additionally, establish protocols for rotating, redistributing, and repurposing stockpiles to prevent waste and address emerging needs effectively.
- 6.1.2 **Implement a Centralized Resource Management (CRM) system.** Develop and deploy a CRM system that tracks and forecasts demand for critical supplies such as PPE and testing kits. This system should be capable of collecting and analyzing data from various sources to anticipate needs more accurately, reduce panic buying, and streamline distribution. Information gathered during the COVID response can provide assumptions to support informed forecasting.

Observation 6.2: The Commonwealth lacked the necessary resources to support local governments and healthcare organizations.

Frontline workers, including healthcare and judicial staff, faced significant difficulties in accessing PPE and testing kits, with some agencies eventually sourcing masks from international suppliers. Despite their critical infrastructure status, a prevailing bias that private healthcare entities could manage their supplies left hospitals with little state support. Additionally, the procurement of testing kits was problematic, as state agencies were restricted to certain suppliers and specific types of tests, which were not always suitable or acceptable for the diverse populations served. For example, many individuals would not consent to a nasal swab and preferred blood tests or saliva samples, which were not able to be used. These challenges were further compounded when Executive Directive 18 mandated vaccination or testing for returning to work.

Recommendations

- 6.2.1 **Strengthen public-private partnerships.** Establish robust partnerships with both public and private sector entities to enhance resource availability and support. This includes creating policies and/or agreements with private healthcare organizations to collaborate on resource sharing and ensuring that expectations are clear for all involved parties when it comes to resources needed to maintain essential service delivery.
- 6.2.2 **Establish a flexible and inclusive procurement strategy.** Develop a procurement strategy that allows state agencies to utilize a broader range of suppliers and types of tests during emergencies. This strategy should include supplier diversity (creating a vetted list of diverse suppliers, both domestic and international, for essential supplies such as PPE and testing kits and test variety) and test variety (including a variety of testing options in state procurement contracts, such as nasal swabs, blood tests, and saliva samples, to accommodate the preferences and needs of diverse populations).





Operations

The Operations focus area addresses the coordinated strategies used during the COVID-19 response, highlighting the importance of clear communication of roles and responsibilities across multiple agencies and sectors. It also underscores the lessons learned regarding the safety of frontline workers and the need for scalable and flexible operations, including surge capacity and resource allocation.

Strengths

The thoughtful structuring of the response organization provided numerous benefits.

In the SEOC, a close working relationship between Finance, Grants, Logistics, and Procurement ensured the success of these functions by maintaining constant communication to properly track funds, document activities, and ensure expenditures were in line with allowable expenses within each grant. This also assisted with effectively managing the complexity of concurrent activations (such as determining appropriate funding sources for PPE during both civil unrest and the pandemic). Individuals with broad knowledge of functional areas and decision-making authority were placed in section chief roles. Co-locating VDH and VDEM staff in section chief positions also proved successful, despite initial challenges in defining roles and responsibilities. Additionally, the establishment of various task forces, such as those for long-term care, assisted living, and the senior policy group, allowed for focused attention on specific aspects of the response, further enhancing the operational strength of the organization.

Leadership promptly identified shortcomings and took proactive measures to address them.

When it became apparent that the new organizational structure of the VDEM, which included the use of regional divisions, had not yet reached the "norming and performing" stage, leaders took decisive action. They brought in consultant McCrystal to implement the "Team of Teams" approach, which was designed to enhance both informal and formal lines of communication across local, regional, and state levels, as well as between VDH and VEST. This proactive measure helped to streamline coordination and improve overall effectiveness in the response effort.

Active involvement with underserved communities resulted in valuable lessons learned and the establishment of new best practices.

Mobile vaccination clinics emerged as a crucial tool for reaching rural and underserved populations, providing accessibility to vaccine distribution in areas that larger efforts might overlook. These clinics, while expensive and time-consuming to coordinate, allowed health services to meet people where they were, effectively bridging gaps in access. Initial overstaffing at rural vaccination sites taught valuable lessons about the actual demand for services, leading to more accurate staffing plans that improved efficiency and service delivery.

Additionally, engaging directly with underserved populations revealed the importance of tailored communication strategies. For example, on-site verbal interpreters proved essential for effectively communicating with migrant workers who often cannot read written translations. This approach, though



successful, highlighted the need for broader implementation. The use of trusted messengers and trusted agents within communities, including health department staff and local leaders, was also instrumental in overcoming mistrust and engaging populations that were otherwise skeptical of government efforts.

Efforts to provide culturally competent, visually appealing, and multi-lingual public information proved crucial in reaching diverse populations. The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) leveraged existing communication plans and collaborated with the Department of Blind and Visually Impaired to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Coordination between DMAS and the VDH enabled targeted outreach based on zip code data, ensuring that vaccination centers were accessible to those in need. Additionally, the DOE's food hub deliveries, supported by USDA funding, helped mitigate supply chain issues for school divisions.

Support agencies established their own coordination teams at the department level to manage the response.

The establishment of department-level coordination teams has been known to enhance efficiency and effectiveness by allowing for specialized focus on each department's unique needs, improving internal communication and coordination, and increasing flexibility and responsiveness to evolving situations. Additionally, having dedicated teams at the department level strengthens accountability and oversight, facilitating decision-making, clearer tracking of performance, and quicker resolution of issues.

Using contractors alleviated the burden on state staff and enhanced operational capacity and effectiveness.

For instance, employing a contractor to manage the call center dramatically increased the volume of calls handled, from 2,000 to 22,000, thereby improving the responsiveness and accessibility of information for the public. Additionally, contracting out the operation of community vaccination centers allowed state and local staff to focus on other critical tasks, effectively managing the high volume of vaccine distribution without overwhelming existing personnel. These strategic contractor engagements enabled a more efficient and scalable response, ensuring that essential services could be delivered promptly and effectively while minimizing strain on state resources.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 7.1: A lack of understanding of National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles, including the role of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the use of the Incident Command System (ICS), and resource management negatively impacted response operations.

Some agency heads exhibited a limited understanding of incident command, resulting in the absence of a cohesive incident command structure. This gap left these agencies to operate independently, hindering effective cross-collaboration and exacerbating delays. Additionally, many state agencies and partners lacked clarity on the role of the VEST, leading to territorial disputes and reduced collaboration when the EOC was activated. This confusion was compounded using a U.S. Forest Service Incident Management Team (IMT) that struggled with the role of the EOC in the ICS framework, further complicating coordination efforts. Moreover, some members of the Secretariat were overly involved in operational tasks rather than focusing on policy and strategic oversight, while an increased staffing footprint made it difficult to track roles and responsibilities, especially with the introduction of contractors.



Recommendations

- 7.1.1 **Conduct comprehensive NIMS and ICS training.** Implement mandatory, comprehensive training programs for all policymakers, agency heads, and key personnel on NIMS principles, the ICS, and the role of the EOC. These training sessions should cover the fundamentals of incident command, resource management, and the specific responsibilities and interactions of various roles within the EOC. Regular refresher courses should be included to ensure ongoing familiarity and effectiveness.
- 7.1.2 **Establish clear role definitions.** Develop and distribute clear documentation outlining the roles and responsibilities of all policymakers, agency heads, and key personnel within the ICS framework. Ensure that all participants understand the purpose and functions of the VEST and the EOC. This documentation should include protocols for communication, decision-making, and collaboration to prevent territorial disputes and improve overall coordination.
- 7.1.3 **Enhance tracking and resource management systems.** Implement robust systems for tracking roles, responsibilities, and resource allocation during emergencies. These systems should be capable of integrating information from multiple sources, including contractors and temporary staff, to provide real-time updates on operational status. Improved tracking will help manage the increased staffing footprint and ensure that everyone's responsibilities are clearly defined and monitored.

Observation 7.2: The pandemic response placed a significant strain on personnel resources.

Many VEST supporting agencies faced limitations due to lean staffing numbers, which restricted their ability to provide substantial support during this long-term event. Additionally, the administrative burden on individual agencies was overwhelming; for example, staff trained in epidemiology had to divert their attention to administrative tasks, such as managing contracts for over 1500 temporary contact tracing staff from 15 different staffing agencies, which could have been handled more efficiently with centralized coordination. Staffing shortages significantly impacted the ability to deliver necessary support, underscoring the need for clear guidance on managing capacity issues. Moreover, relying on a single team within the VEST led to burnout, as the team members were overextended and took on multiple responsibilities. Finally, the need for more specialized personnel became evident as the response progressed, particularly in managing the complex nature of occupational safety and health law.

Recommendations

- 7.2.1 **Centralize administrative tasks.** Establish a centralized administrative support team to handle non-technical tasks such as managing contracts and logistics for temporary staff. This would allow specialized personnel, like epidemiologists, to focus on their core responsibilities, improving efficiency and effectiveness.
- 7.2.2 **Implement rotational staffing.** Develop a rotational staffing plan for VEST personnel to ensure that personnel are not overextended. This plan should include regular shifts, mandatory rest periods, and cross-training to enable staff to take on multiple roles, ensuring continuity while preventing burnout.
- 7.2.3 **Expand and diversify the staffing pool.** Create a robust staffing strategy that includes recruiting and training additional specialized personnel in key areas such as occupational safety, health law, and mental health services. This can be achieved through partnerships with academic institutions, professional associations, and temporary staffing agencies to build a larger, more diverse pool of qualified individuals ready to respond during emergencies.





Planning

The Planning focus area integrates insights from the COVID-19 response, emphasizing the importance of preexisting pandemic preparedness plans and the inclusion of vulnerable populations. Future initiatives will prioritize equity and inclusivity, ensuring comprehensive support for all community segments.

Strengths

Lessons learned from prior responses enhanced preparedness initiatives, positively impacting the COVID-19 response and subsequent emergencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic response was significantly strengthened by lessons learned from previous statewide response experiences, including hurricanes, the H1N1 outbreak, annual flu clinics, and pandemic exercises. These past experiences highlighted the importance of robust preparedness initiatives, which were then applied effectively during the COVID-19 crisis. For instance, the procurement and logistical challenges faced during Hurricane Florence informed better coordination and resource allocation, ensuring quicker deployment of supplies and personnel during the pandemic. Additionally, the routine operations of annual flu clinics provided a blueprint for mass vaccination efforts, while insights gained from pandemic exercises resulted in updated pandemic plans. Collectively, these lessons enhanced the overall preparedness, resulting in a more agile and effective response to the unprecedented demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. Insights gained from the COVID-19 response have, in turn, further enhanced readiness for future responses, resulting in updated processes, plans, and training.

Partnerships were crucial in achieving positive outcomes, and these were often strengthened through response.

Partnerships played a pivotal role in the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19 and many of those relationships forged during the pandemic have continued to be proven invaluable in addressing other public health challenges across the Commonwealth. Hospitals, traditionally competitors, came together in a united front, focusing on shared goals rather than rivalry. Hospital workgroups have been established around topics such as workplace violence and to respond to other emerging threats, such as Monkeypox. Another example is the unique circumstances surrounding the handling of COVID-19 deaths, which fostered closer connections between funeral providers and local emergency management coordinators, enhancing coordination during subsequent emergencies.

Efforts to coordinate multi-agency and multi-sectoral responses were crucial, with local courts working closely with individual sheriffs to navigate the differences in courthouse configurations. Public-Private Partnerships were instrumental in recovering from supply chain disruptions, particularly in securing essential PPE. The VDH and its support agencies, such as the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), successfully leveraged community partnerships to bolster vaccination efforts, especially for vulnerable populations. A notable example was the grassroots collaboration with community pharmacists to vaccinate individuals with developmental disabilities, where community partners served as the subject matter experts, providing critical support tailored to



the unique needs of their communities. These strengthened partnerships have continued to be a vital asset in public health responses across the Commonwealth.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 8.1: Existing agency or pandemic plans were insufficient in their scope and approach to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed significant limitations in the existing pandemic and emergency operations plans across agencies as they were not designed to handle the scale, persistence, and complexity of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the plans provided a starting point for managing emergency situations, they were insufficiently equipped to address the extensive and evolving demands of a global health crisis. The pandemic's magnitude—characterized by widespread illness, overwhelming healthcare systems, and prolonged disruptions to daily life—was beyond the scope of the plans' original design. Additionally, existing plans generally lacked a focus on inclusivity, particularly concerning vulnerable populations such as residents in state residential facilities. These groups faced unique challenges during the pandemic, including heightened health risks and limited access to resources.

Despite these shortcomings, the existing pandemic and emergency operations plans offered a foundational structure that could be adapted and expanded upon to address the specific challenges posed by COVID-19. Agencies were able to use these plans as a starting point for developing more targeted responses and strategies, learning from initial shortcomings to improve their approach as the pandemic evolved.

Recommendations

- 8.1.1 **Review and update pandemic and emergency operations plans.** Conduct comprehensive review and revision of all agency pandemic and emergency operations plans to ensure they are equipped to handle the scale and complexity of future global health crises. This includes incorporating lessons learned such as flexible, scalable strategies that can adapt to prolonged disruptions and widespread impacts, ensuring that plans are robust enough to manage extensive and evolving demands.
- 8.1.2 **Integrate inclusivity and support for vulnerable populations.** Ensure integration of diverse stakeholders into plan updates to address the needs of vulnerable populations. This includes ensuring access to essential resources, healthcare, and tailored support during a crisis, with a focus on inclusivity and equitable treatment.
- 8.1.3 **Prioritize continuous plan evaluation.** Implement a continuous evaluation and adaptation process for all emergency operations plans, enabling agencies to regularly assess their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on lessons learned from ongoing or past crises. This proactive approach will help ensure that plans remain relevant, responsive, and capable of addressing emerging challenges.

Observation 8.2: A lack of interagency preparedness and response coordination hindered response operations.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed several shortcomings in interagency preparedness and response coordination, which hindered the effectiveness of operations. Key issues included misalignment between public health and emergency management regions, leading to confusion and inefficiencies. Existing pandemic and operational plans were not widely shared across agencies, resulting in a



disjointed response as agencies worked in silos, especially early in the response. Existing programs and regional healthcare coalitions were underutilized due to unclear roles and capabilities. Additionally, key partners and vulnerable populations were not involved early enough in the planning process, leading to further challenges in managing the crisis effectively for those most affected by the virus.

Recommendations

- 8.2.1 **Review alignment of emergency management and public health regions.** Conduct comprehensive review of the current alignment between emergency management regions and public health regions. This review should assess potential overlaps, gaps, and misalignments that could hinder coordinated response efforts. Explore opportunities for better alignment or integration of these regions to ensure more cohesive and efficient collaboration during emergencies, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of statewide response operations.
- 8.2.2 **Integration of key internal and external partners.** Identify partners' resources, expertise, and potential contributions to response efforts. Understanding these capabilities will help ensure that roles are clearly defined and that partners are effectively integrated into the overall emergency response strategy, enhancing coordination and operational efficiency during emergencies.





Public Health / Local Health Districts

The Public Health / Local Health Districts focus area examines the efficacy and coordination of public health plans and protocols for disease surveillance, contact tracing, and vaccine distribution. It addresses the challenges in scaling up testing and contact tracing capacity, as well as the effectiveness of public health campaigns and community outreach. Additionally, it explores coordination with healthcare providers, logistical challenges in vaccine distribution, and issues related to vaccine hesitancy.

Strengths

Pre-existing relationships facilitated the collection of data and distribution of resources to healthcare facilities.

The utilization of the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA), the state-contracted administrator of the Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response Hospital Preparedness Program grant, provided an established avenue for data collection and resource coordination across the healthcare sector through a trusted source. Utilization of the VHHA's data collection system allowed for swift adjustments when data collection needs evolved. This centralized approach ensured consistency and standardization, enabling greater situational awareness during the pandemic. The ability to leverage the existing and ongoing relationships that the VHHA had with the hospitals across the Commonwealth provided flexibility and additional support to the entire healthcare system, including resource coordination and existing open communication channels.

The establishment of the VA Disaster Medical Advisory Committee, comprised of health and medical representatives, provided policy guidance and recommendations to executive leadership around scarce resources and crisis standards of care.

By providing policy guidance and recommendations to executive leadership on scarce resources and crisis standards of care, the multidisciplinary committee enhanced the healthcare system's ability to respond effectively and ethically during the pandemic. This structure ensured that critical decisions were grounded in expert knowledge and a multidisciplinary approach, strengthening overall resilience and the capacity to provide responsible and effective care while maintaining public trust in challenging circumstances.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 9.1: Decentralization of public health authority led to inconsistent guidance and enforcement across the Commonwealth.

The decentralization of the public health regions across the Commonwealth, each with varying capabilities and capacities, responded unevenly to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fragmentation not only created confusion but also resulted in conflicting guidance and disparities in the effectiveness of measures implemented. This impacted facilities across the healthcare system, including acute care hospitals, long term care facilities, and other residential care facilities.



Recommendations

- 9.1.1 **Review current structure of public health in the Commonwealth.** Conduct a thorough review of the current public health structure across the Commonwealth to assess its effectiveness and relevance in light of recent challenges and evolving needs. This review should evaluate whether the existing structure adequately supports coordinated response efforts, integrates new health demands, and aligns with best practices.
- 9.1.2 **Enhance regional coordination and support.** Establish mechanisms to improve coordination and support among decentralized public health regions. This could include regular inter-regional meetings, shared resources, and centralized training programs to align regional responses with statewide objectives.
- 9.1.3 **Centralize public health guidance and oversight during emergencies.** Centralizing public health guidance and oversight under VDH during state- or national-declared public health emergencies would ensure that all regions adhere to uniform protocols, enhancing coordination and reducing inconsistencies in response measures. This centralizing oversight allows for the swift dissemination of updated guidelines, efficient allocation of resources, and a unified strategy that can more effectively address statewide challenges, minimizing confusion, ensuring equitable enforcement of policies, and improving the overall effectiveness of the public health response.

Observation 9.2: Differences of opinion on vaccination distribution, both in policy and operations, led to conflict and hindered efficient implementation.

A combination of unclear policies, administrative delays, data collection challenges, and logistical friction collectively hindered the efficient implementation of vaccination efforts, exacerbating tensions and slowing overall response efforts in the early days. As the Commonwealth rolled out the vaccination efforts in early 2021, there was a lack of a clear and consistent definition of “front line staff” to be prioritized to receive the vaccine and be provided scarce PPE. This lack of consistent definition created different interpretations and inconsistencies across regions. The decision to prioritize vaccination based on occupation and underlying health conditions introduced additional complexity as the Commonwealth struggled to collect accurate data to determine who fell into these priority groups. As the Commonwealth came under scrutiny for reporting low vaccination rates, there was a tension created, with debates over whether to vaccinate large numbers of people quickly in central locations or to ensure equitable access across diverse communities.

Recommendations

- 9.2.1 **Inclusion of vaccination policies and definitions in pandemic plans.** Establish vaccination policies within state pandemic plans with provisions for review and adaptation upon plan activation, and during the response, based on the nature of the virus to be eradicated. Policies should address the designation of priority groups such as “front line staff” and those with underlying health conditions.
- 9.2.2 **Enhance data collection and coordination for vaccine distribution.** Invest in robust data collection systems and streamline coordination processes to accurately identify and track individuals within priority groups. This includes addressing data collection challenges and improving communication between agencies involved in vaccination efforts to ensure timely and equitable distribution of vaccines.



Observation 9.3: Key external partners were integrated into response late, resulting in redundancy, confusion, and frustration for healthcare partners.

A key pre-established relationship between the VHHA and the Commonwealth's hospitals was not utilized at the onset of the response, leading to redundancy, confusion, and frustration among healthcare partners. The delayed coordination hindered the efficiency of the response, as overlapping efforts and miscommunication strained resources and relationships. Incorporating external partners earlier in the process would likely have enhanced collaboration, streamlined operations, and ensured a more effective and unified approach to managing crises with the hospital across the Commonwealth.

Recommendations

- 9.3.1 **Incorporate external partners early in the response planning.** Integrate key external partners, such as the VHHA, regional healthcare coalitions, healthcare organizations and support agencies, into the emergency response planning process from the outset. This early involvement will facilitate better coordination, reduce redundancy, and minimize confusion, leading to more efficient and effective crisis management.
- 9.3.2 **Establish clear communication channels and protocols.** Develop and implement clear communication channels and protocols for engaging external partners during emergencies. This will ensure timely information sharing, reduce miscommunication, and streamline collaborative efforts, enhancing overall response efficiency and reducing frustration among partners.
- 9.3.3 **Strengthen and formalize partnerships before crises.** Establish and formalize relationships with key external partners prior to emergencies, including regular coordination meetings and joint planning, training, and exercises.

Observation 9.4: The existing data gathering systems for healthcare lacked cohesion due to the changing information needs of multiple stakeholders and the utilization of multiple reporting tools.

The existing data gathering systems for healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic were characterized by a lack of cohesion, driven by the changing information needs of multiple stakeholders and the use of various reporting tools. The absence of a standardized set of essential elements of information, frequent changes in data requirements, and the delayed involvement of partners such as the VHHA which houses the data collection system that hospitals and VHA used prior to the pandemic across the Commonwealth all contributed to a fragmented and inefficient data collection process. Additionally, the inexperience of many healthcare facilities, including long-term care and assisted living facilities in regular data reporting further exacerbated these challenges.

Recommendations

- 9.4.1 **Establish standardized data collection framework.** Develop a standardized data collection framework for healthcare and other external partners, including local emergency management, involved in emergency responses that integrates essential elements of information across all reporting tools and stakeholders. This framework should establish consistent data requirements, streamline reporting processes, and provide clear guidelines to ensure cohesive and efficient data gathering and analysis during emergencies. Prioritize the integration of existing data collection systems and establish robust coordination mechanisms among all relevant partners, including those responsible for housing and managing data systems.
- 9.4.2 **Provide training and support for data reporting.** Conduct training and support to healthcare and other external partners to improve their data reporting capabilities. This support should focus on familiarizing these partners with standardized reporting requirements and tools, helping to ensure consistent and accurate data submission across the Commonwealth during emergencies.





Public-Private Partnerships

The Public-Private Partnerships focus area explores the utilization and key roles of them in addressing the pandemic. It highlights the main challenges in establishing and maintaining these partnerships and emphasizes the importance of ongoing collaboration between the public and private sectors for future preparedness. Additionally, it includes engagement with both non-profit and for-profit organizations to enhance response efforts.

Strengths

Public-private partnerships were crucial for a successful response and significantly contributed to supply chain and vaccination operations.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) played a critical role in mitigating supply chain disruptions, especially for essential items such as personal protective equipment (PPE). Examples include distilleries shifting operations to produce hand sanitizer, and other textile manufacturing producing face masks. In addition, PPPs were instrumental in the vaccination efforts. The Commonwealth partnered with local pharmacies and healthcare providers for their expertise, proximity, and community knowledge to reach vulnerable populations. By leveraging private sector pharmacies, vaccines were made more accessible to communities, reducing the spread of the virus.

Areas for Improvement

Interviews did not yield areas for improvement for this focus area.





Technology

The Technology focus area encompasses critical technology topics such as the use of data analytics and modeling to inform decision-making and resource allocation. It also explores improvements in leveraging data for future public health purposes, ensuring more effective responses. Additionally, it addresses the scalability, sustainability, and resilience of the technology infrastructure used in public health emergencies.

Strengths

Technology was leveraged to provide data and data analytics that supported informed decision-making.

Data was collected across state agencies and key external partners to inform decision-makers on the ongoing impact of the pandemic across the Commonwealth. A significant strength of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response was the effective use of technology to collect and analyze the data that supported informed decision-making. By leveraging advanced technological tools such as the modeling program from the University of Virginia, decision-makers were able to access real-time information, track trends, and forecast outcomes from Virginia and across the country, enabling more accurate and timely interventions. This strategic use of data not only enhanced the ability to respond to the evolving situation but also helped to allocate resources more efficiently and prioritize actions based on evidence, ultimately contributing to a more effective and coordinated public health response.

Employing technology enabled agencies and organizations to maintain operational continuity while adhering to social distancing measures.

A notable strength of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response was the successful use of technology to enable educational facilities, state agencies, and key organizations to maintain operational continuity while adhering to social distancing measures. By adopting digital tools for remote work, virtual meetings, and online collaboration, entities were able to continue essential functions without compromising public health. This technological adaptability not only ensured the ongoing delivery of services but also demonstrated resilience and innovation in overcoming the challenges posed by the pandemic. Highlighted examples include local school divisions developing innovative solutions to facilitate student learning, health and human services agencies with client requiring face-to-face interventions, and the use of remote hearings and proceedings for the judicial system.

The transition to virtual communications and coordination yielded numerous benefits that can continue to make positive contributions beyond the pandemic.

Teleconferencing, virtual conferencing/meeting platforms, and other remote collaboration tools have led to significant efficiencies and cost savings, while enabling broader reach and more inclusive access to services and public engagement. Multiple interviewees highlighted the use of technology allowed for greater transparency and engagement for many state agencies' services. For example, the shift from in-person to virtual school (for schooling, events, and meetings) allowed more families and caretakers to participate, fostering greater involvement in students' activities. Additionally, these virtual platforms



have enhanced inclusivity for persons with disabilities, making it easier for them to engage with various services and events. These positive outcomes demonstrate the lasting value of virtual communication technologies in enhancing accessibility, efficiency, and community involvement.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 10.1: Inequities arose due to disparities in access to technology, such as broadband connectivity

There are still a number of communities and residents in the Commonwealth who do not have access to reliable, low-cost, high speed, broadband access, although this is improving with federal grants recently secured. While the transition to virtual services has been noted as beneficial in many ways, innovative, but not sustainable solutions, needed to be employed, such as temporary solar-powered mobile hot spots in strategic locations in the communities, to assist during those living in areas without widespread broadband connectivity. Technology was seen as helpful in facilitating remote participation in educational and government services purposes, but also posed challenges related to accessibility, especially for populations with limited access to broadband or digital devices.

Recommendations

- 10.1.1 **Expand and sustain broadband infrastructure investments.** Prioritize the expansion of reliable, high-speed broadband infrastructure, especially in underserved and rural areas. This includes continuing to leverage federal grants and funding to accelerate deployment and ensuring that investments are made in sustainable solutions that address long-term connectivity needs, reducing disparities in access to technology.
- 10.1.2 **Consider implementing technology access programs.** Research the feasibility of establishing programs to provide equitable access to digital devices and internet services for underserved populations. This could include initiatives such as subsidized internet plans, technology lending libraries, and targeted outreach to ensure that all residents can benefit from virtual services and digital resources.
- 10.1.3 **Support innovative connectivity solutions for immediate needs.** Integrate innovative solutions to address technology gaps during emergencies, such as strategically placing mobile hotspots in areas with poor connectivity, into emergency plans, to bridge digital divides and ensure effective communication and coordination during emergencies.

Observation 10.2: The implementation of technology to facilitate social distancing resulted in certain challenges.

To maintain continuity of services during periods of social distancing for health and safety, technology was utilized extensively. Although this approach proved beneficial, it also presented challenges for sectors such as education, the judicial system, and regulatory boards.

Instructional staff faced a steep learning curve due to a lack of prior experience in delivering instruction in this format. Student engagement proved challenging, particularly because students were not physically present during instruction. Meeting instructional objectives, especially in early literacy, presented significant difficulties.

Remote voting for regulatory boards and other elected boards during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a sense of distrust among stakeholders. The shift from traditional in-person voting to virtual platforms raised concerns about transparency, security, and the integrity of the decision-making process, despite measures taken to ensure accountability such as requiring members to be on camera and not allowing proxy voting.



Recommendations

- 10.2.1 **Develop comprehensive technology training and support programs.** Provide training and support programs for sectors such as education, the judicial system, and regulatory boards to ensure effective use of technology during emergencies. This training should address the transition to virtual formats, enhance digital literacy, and provide ongoing technical support to address challenges related to remote instruction and virtual meetings, ensuring continuity of services while maintaining high standards of engagement and effectiveness.
- 10.2.2 **Enhance digital infrastructure and access during emergencies.** Invest in strengthening digital infrastructure and ensuring equitable access to technology for all sectors during emergencies. This includes expanding broadband connectivity, providing necessary digital tools and resources, and creating contingency plans to address technology-related challenges that arise during emergencies, ensuring that all sectors can effectively maintain operations and service continuity.
- 10.2.3 **Establish consistent protocols for remote voting and decision-making.** Develop and comprehensive protocols for remote voting and decision-making processes for public-facing boards and other elected bodies to enhance transparency and trust. These protocols should include secure and verifiable systems for remote voting, clear guidelines for ensuring integrity, and mechanisms for stakeholder oversight to address concerns about transparency and security during virtual meetings and decision-making.





Volunteer and Donation Coordination

The Volunteer and Donation Coordination focus area explores the recruitment, training, and utilization of volunteers in the COVID-19 response, emphasizing their critical role. It also addresses coordination with local non-profits and community organizations, focusing on the impact of donated goods and services. Additionally, it examines the effectiveness and equity of systems for accepting, organizing, and distributing these resources across the entire Commonwealth.

Strengths

Interviews did not yield strengths for this focus area.

Areas for Improvement

Observation 11.1: Before the vaccine was available, it was difficult to obtain volunteer support due to concerns about contracting the virus.

The virus posed a significant risk to everyone, but particularly to older individuals, who are more vulnerable to severe outcomes. This was a concern as many potential volunteers were retirees, who generally had more time to contribute but also fell into the higher-risk category. The fear of exposure and the potential health consequences for themselves or their loved ones made many retirees hesitant to engage in volunteer activities. This reluctance was compounded by the uncertainty and high transmission rates associated with the virus, leading to a notable decline in volunteer participation during a critical time when additional support was urgently needed.

Recommendations

- 11.1.1 **Provide comprehensive health and safety training.** Offer thorough health and safety training for volunteers, including proper use of PPE, hygiene practices, and safe interaction protocols. This training should aim to build confidence in volunteers by ensuring they understand how to protect themselves and others effectively.
- 11.1.2 **Establish a health monitoring and support system.** Create a health monitoring system for volunteers that includes regular health screenings, access to disease testing, and mental health support services. Providing volunteers with health support and monitoring can alleviate fears and ensure early detection and management of potential health issues.
- 11.1.3 **Engage a more diverse demographic.** Target and recruit younger demographics, such as college students and young professionals, who may be less vulnerable to severe outcomes from a public health threat. Collaborate with educational institutions and professional organizations to mobilize these groups effectively.



Appendices



Appendix A: Survey Results

The following is a summary of findings derived from the stakeholder survey. To ensure the anonymity of the respondents, questions and responses with identifying information are not included. Responses have been edited for grammar, spelling, and clarity. 753 responses were submitted during the survey period. To ensure the accuracy of the data analysis, only the 433 responses from individuals who confirmed their active engagement in the Commonwealth's response during the period covered by this report.

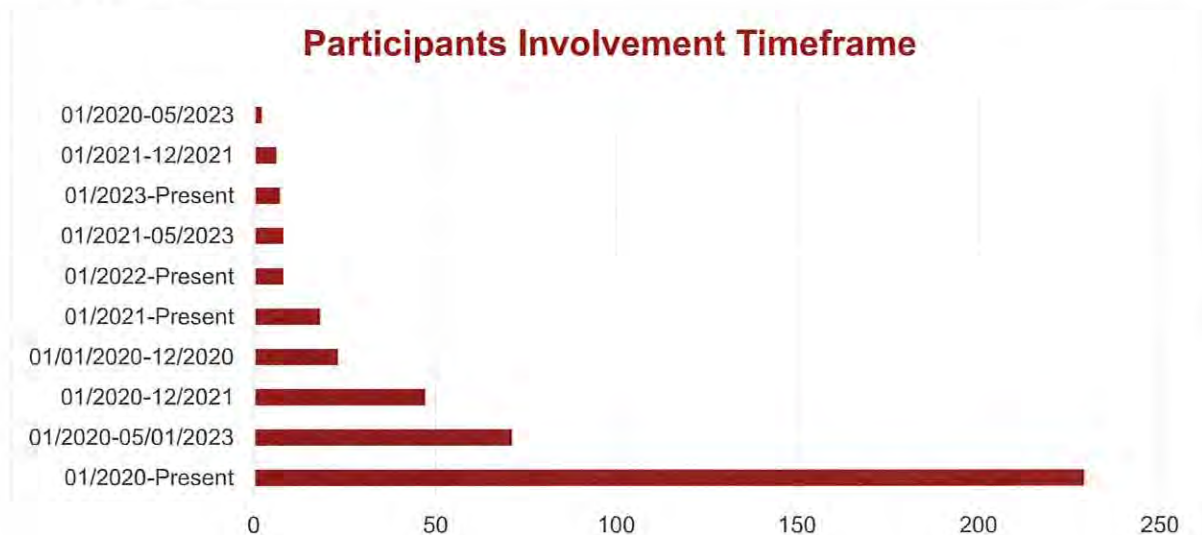
Survey introduction: You are invited to participate in a survey to inform the Commonwealth of Virginia's COVID-19 After Action Report / Improvement Plan (AAR). This AAR is intended to document strengths, best practices, and areas for improvement associated with the response to COVID-19 during the State of Emergency (January 2020 – May 2023).

Participants are encouraged to consider the broader *statewide* response to COVID-19, rather than one individual agency's response actions or performance when responding to the survey questions.

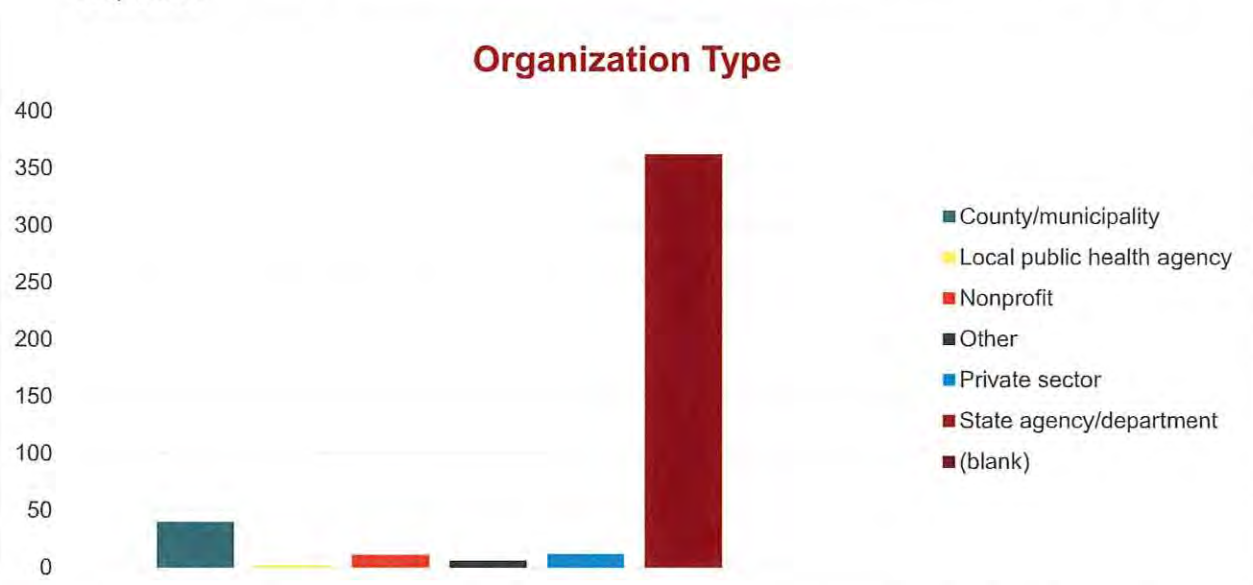
Participation in this survey is voluntary. All survey responses will be reviewed by Tidal Basin, LLC, an emergency management consulting firm hired by the Commonwealth to develop the AAR. The responses provided in this survey may be presented as quotes or aggregate data in the final AAR; all efforts will be made to anonymize feedback. (Estimated time for completion: 10-30 minutes)

Demographic Questions

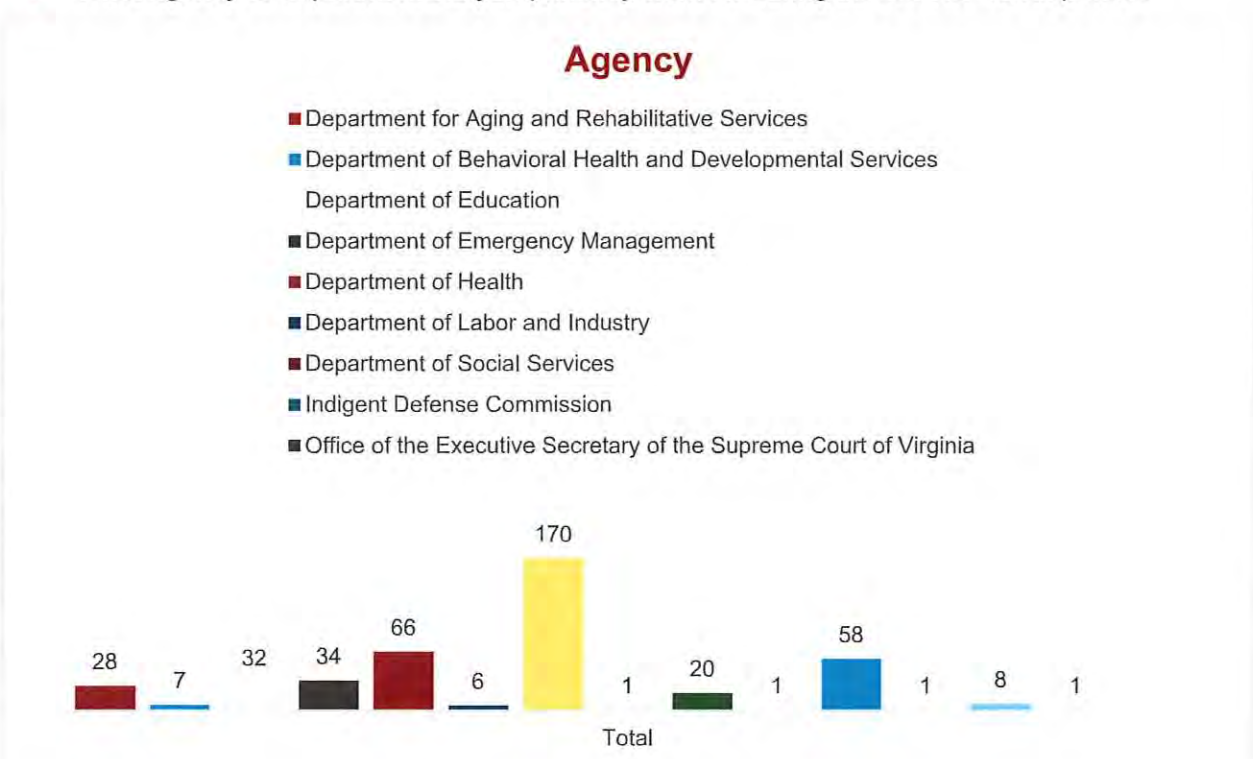
- Please select the timeframe(s) when you were involved in the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19.



- Which of the following best describes your organization that you were a part of during the response?

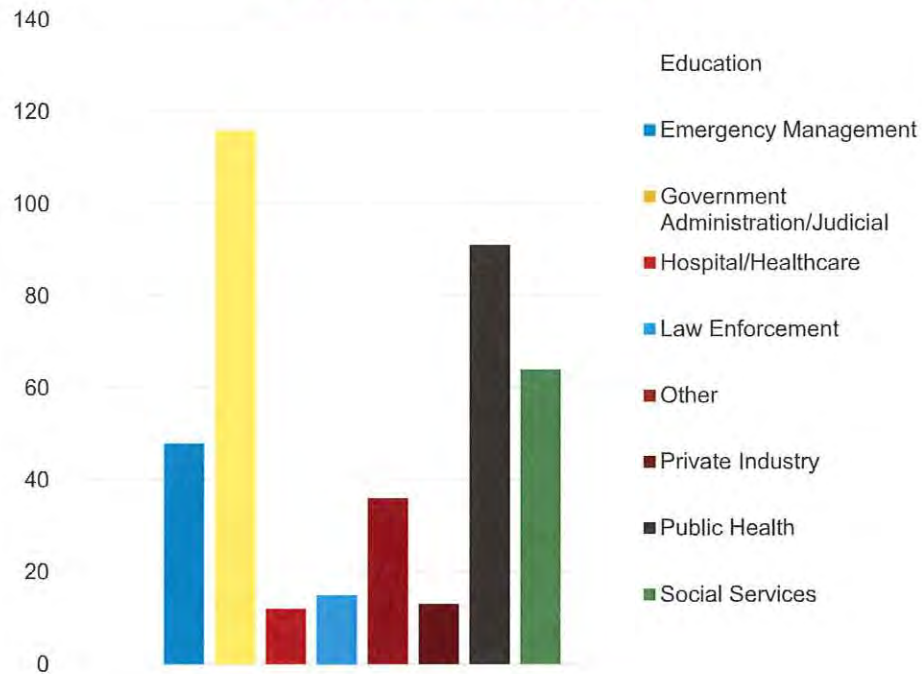


- What agency or department did you primarily work for during the COVID-19 response?

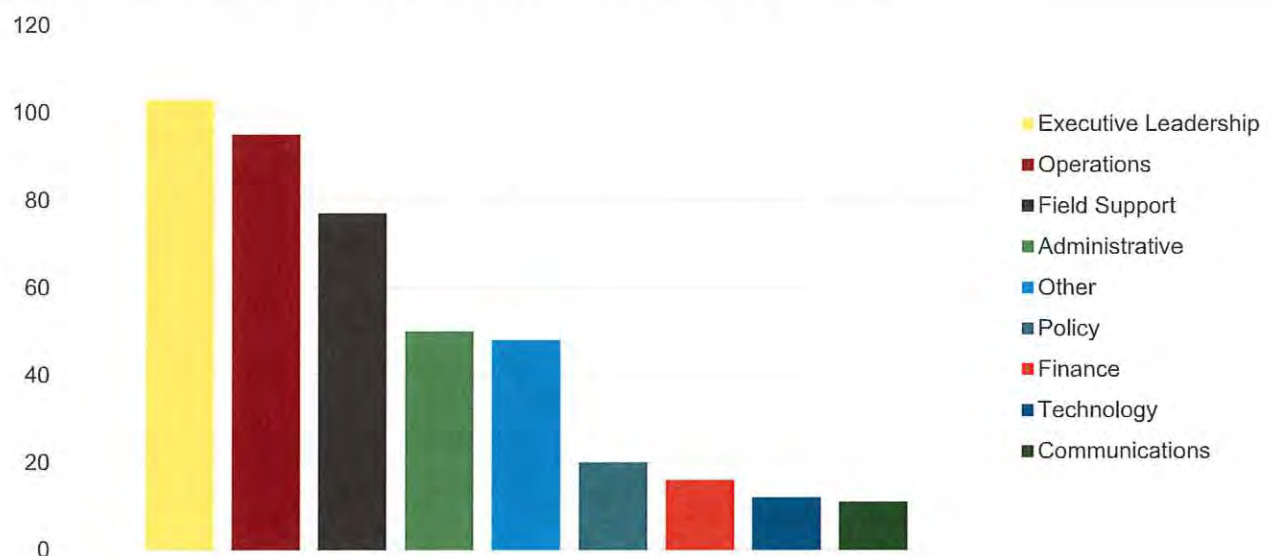


- Which of the following best describes the discipline you are affiliated with?

Respondent Disciplines



- What role(s) best reflect your responsibilities during the response?

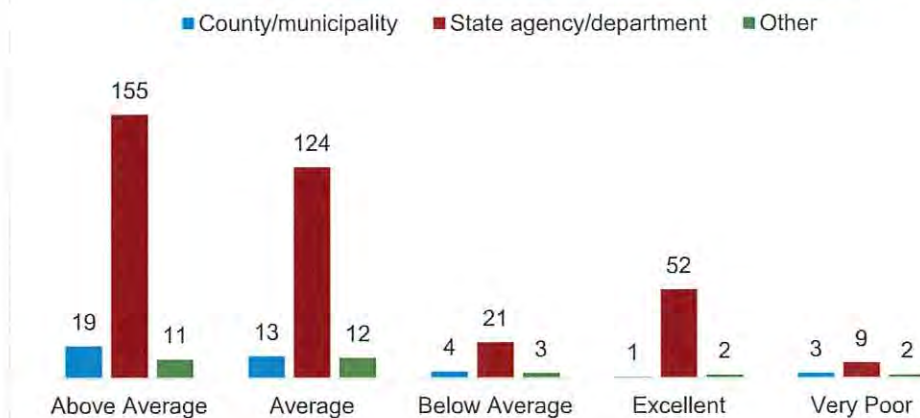


Response Questions

- Rate the overall adequacy, resiliency, and performance of government and regulatory systems during the COVID-19 response

For example: General assembly, local government, judicial system, business regulatory system, etc.

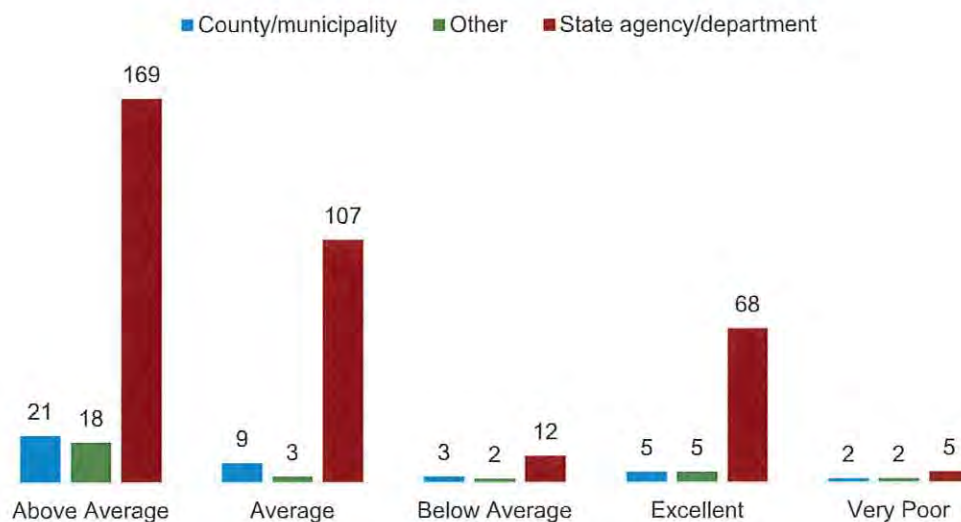
Gov. and Regulatory Response Performance



- Rate the overall adequacy, resiliency, and performance of emergency management during the COVID-19 response.

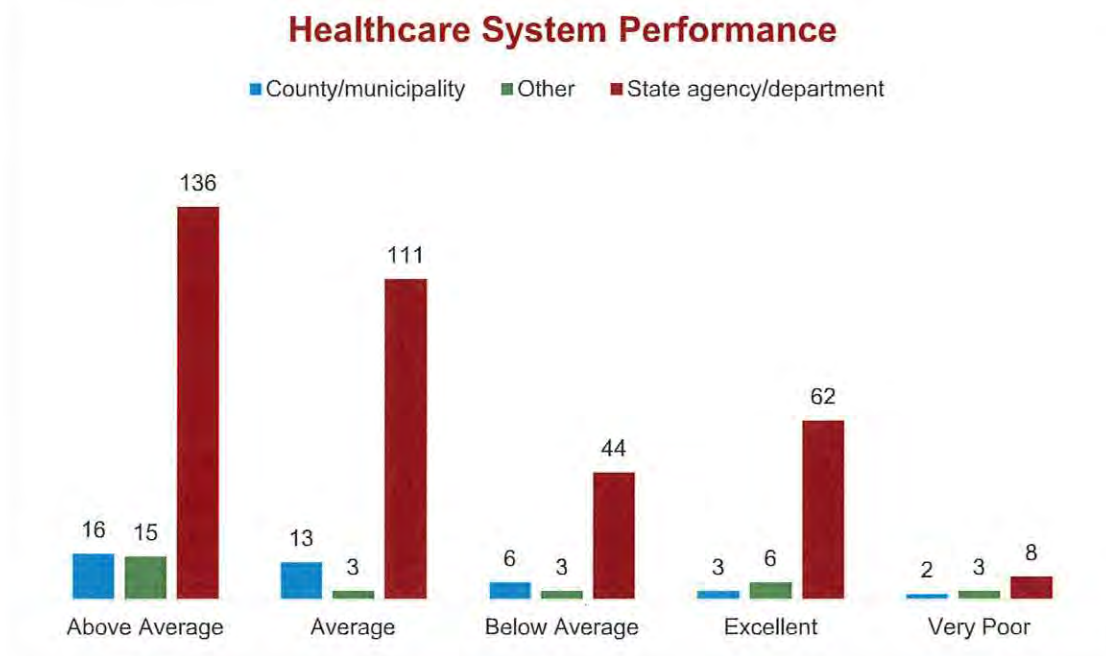
For example: State emergency management agencies, local emergency management agencies, law enforcements and public safety agencies, etc.

Emergency Management Performance



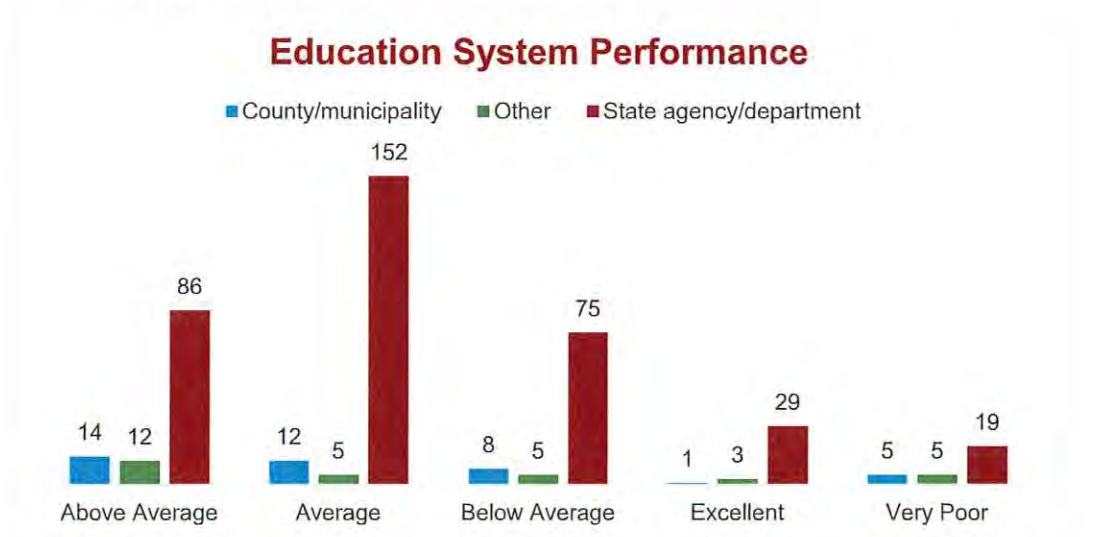
- Rate the overall adequacy, resiliency, and performance of healthcare systems during the COVID-19 response

For example: public and private healthcare systems, pharmacies, hospitals, independent providers, health system providers, federally qualified health centers, urgent care centers, long-term care agencies and organizations, and congregate care facilities, etc.



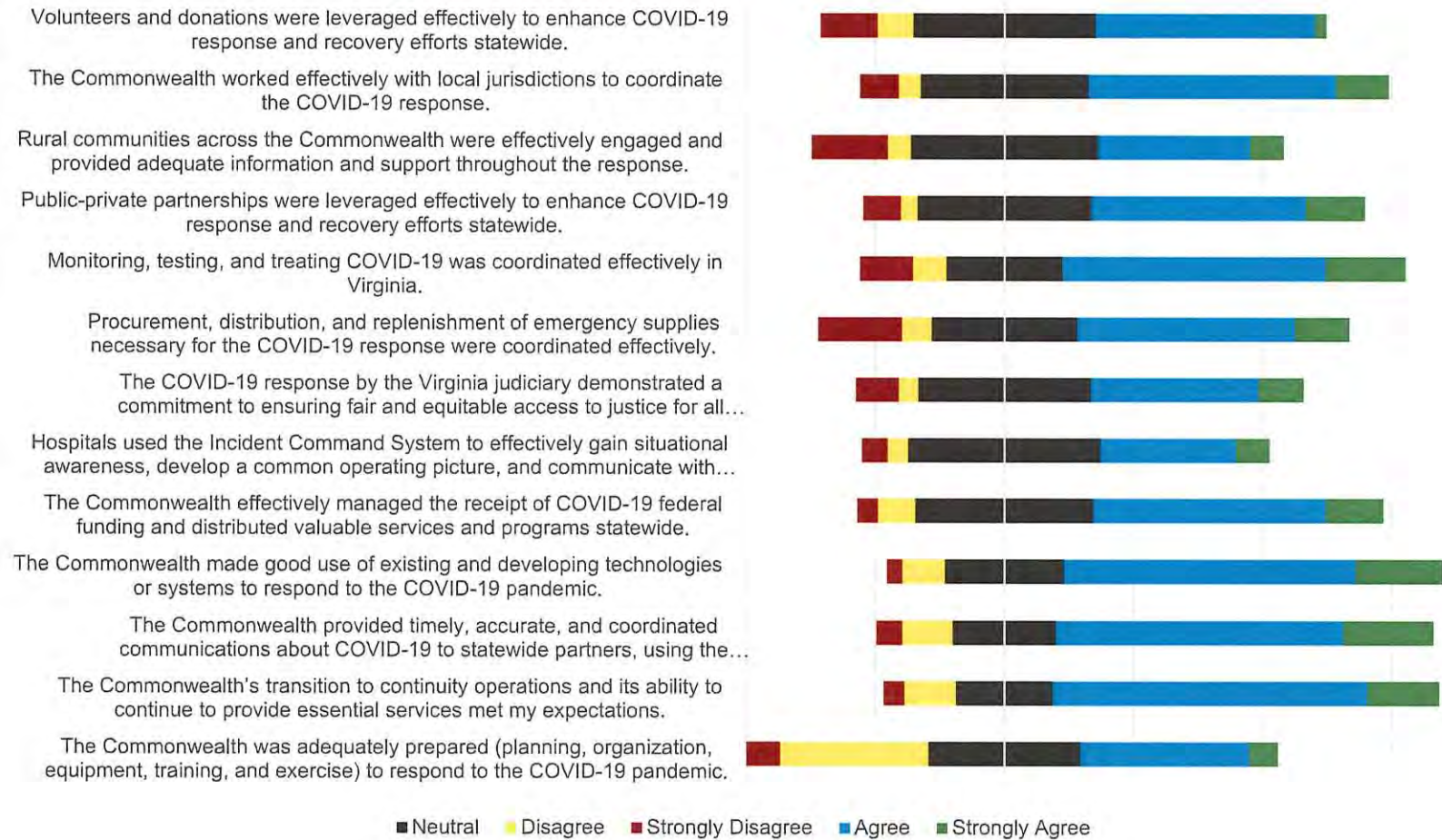
- Rate the overall adequacy, resiliency, and performance of the education system during the COVID-19 response.

For example: K-12 and higher education systems.



- To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

Commonwealth Preparedness and Response



Concluding questions:

- Please provide the top three strengths or best practices you believe the Commonwealth demonstrated during the response.
- Please provide the top three challenges or areas of improvement you believe the Commonwealth demonstrated during the response.
- Do you have anything else you would like to include?



Appendix B: Interview Results

Interviews were conducted virtually and scheduled for one (1) hour. Interviewees were identified by the agency designees. The list of questions below is the full list of potential questions. Not all questions were used in every interview as participants completed a pre-interview questionnaire to identify the focus areas and questions most relevant to their involvement in the COVID response.

Participating Organizations

The following departments, agencies, and organizations participated in the interview process:

General Questions

- In a few sentences, please describe your role and your organization's role in the COVID-19 response in Virginia.
- What capability does your organization have to plan for emergencies? Has this changed since COVID-19?
- Describe your organization's involvement in initial SEOC activation for COVID-19 response.

Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

- What were the disruptions in essential services, administrative functions, or government operations? What were the key factors that enabled successful adaptation?
- What improvements have and could be made to enhance COOP strategies for future disruptions or emergencies?
- What were the financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, and how did organizations manage cash flow, access government assistance programs, and mitigate economic losses?

Communications

- What channels of communication were most utilized and successful in disseminating information?
- Were there challenges in reaching diverse populations, non-English speakers, or vulnerable communities?
- What improvements can be made to enhance transparency, accessibility, and timeliness of communications?
- How well were communication plans integrated with overall emergency response plans? Were there clear protocols for disseminating information, updates, and directives?

Planning

- What pre-existing pandemic preparedness plans were utilized in guiding the COVID-19 response?
- How were vulnerable populations, including the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and communities of color, included in pandemic preparedness planning and response efforts prior to



the COVID-19 response, and what steps can be taken to improve equity and inclusivity in future preparedness initiatives?

Operations

- What strategies were implemented to manage and coordinate multi-agency and multi-sectoral response efforts, and how were roles and responsibilities clearly defined and communicated?
- What strategies were employed to ensure the safety and well-being of frontline workers and essential personnel involved in COVID-19 response operations, including healthcare workers, first responders, and critical infrastructure employees?
- What lessons were learned regarding the scalability and flexibility of operations, including surge capacity planning, resource allocation, and logistical support, during a prolonged crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic?

Finance

- Please describe novel approaches, successes and challenges faced with procurement during the COVID-19 response.
- What government relief programs were utilized to provide financial assistance to individuals, businesses, and communities impacted by COVID-19? Could you please share some success stories, and also possible areas that could still use additional funding?
- What measures were taken to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of COVID-19 relief funds, and how were outcomes and impacts monitored and evaluated?
- How did the pandemic impact fiscal sustainability and long-term financial planning for governments and organizations, and what adjustments were made to budgetary priorities and spending plans?

Technology

- How were data analytics and modeling used to inform decision-making and resource allocation during the COVID-19 response, and what improvements could be made in leveraging data for future public health emergencies?
- What lessons were learned regarding the scalability, sustainability, and resilience of technology infrastructure used in the COVID-19 response, and how can these insights inform future preparedness efforts for similar health crises?

Education

- Describe how educational institutions adapted to remote learning and virtual instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic, and what were the main challenges encountered in transitioning to online education?
- How can the innovations and best practices developed during the COVID-19 pandemic be leveraged to improve the quality, accessibility, and inclusivity of education systems in the post-pandemic era?
- What strategies were implemented to address disparities in access to technology and internet connectivity among students and educators during remote learning?



- How did the pandemic impact the academic achievement, social-emotional well-being, and mental health of students, and what support services were provided to address these needs?
- How were teachers and educators supported in developing digital literacy skills, adapting curriculum materials, and delivering effective instruction in online and hybrid learning environments?
- How were parent and caregiver engagement strategies adapted to support student learning and academic success during remote and hybrid learning models, and what lessons were learned from these efforts?

Hospital Incident Management

- How were hospital bed capacity, ICU availability, and medical resources managed?
- How did coordination between hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities for patient care evolve? What was effective and what could be improved upon?
- How were data systems used to track COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and EMS responses? Were there challenges in data interoperability, accuracy, or real-time reporting?
- What were the main challenges in maintaining staffing levels, equipment, and supplies, and what strategies proved most effective in overcoming those challenges?

Judicial

- How did the COVID-19 pandemic impact the functioning of judicial systems, including court operations, case backlog management, and access to justice?
- What lessons were learned regarding the resilience and adaptability of judicial systems in responding to public health emergencies, and how can these lessons inform future preparedness efforts?
- What technological investments or infrastructure improvements are needed to enhance the capacity of judicial systems to function effectively during future crises, while maintaining fairness, transparency, and due process?
- How effective were remote court proceedings, virtual hearings, and electronic filings in maintaining judicial operations during periods of lockdowns and social distancing?

Logistics

- What pre-existing logistics were in place for procuring, storing, and distributing essential supplies?
- Who was responsible and how were inventory levels monitored and managed?? What improvements can be made to enhance stockpile readiness and replenishment processes?
- Were there challenges in coordinating shipments, managing delivery schedules, and ensuring timely arrivals? What strategies were effective in overcoming transportation bottlenecks or restrictions?

Public Health

- What were the challenges in scaling up testing and contact tracing capacity (including reaching underserved populations)? What strategies were effective?



- How effective were vaccine clinics, associated outreach efforts, and partnerships with healthcare providers? Were there challenges in vaccine supply, distribution logistics, or vaccine hesitancy? What strategies were effective?
- Were public health campaigns, educational materials, and outreach efforts effective? What strategies were used to address misinformation and promote evidence-based practices?
- How effective were public health plans for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic? How well were plans coordinated with healthcare providers, emergency services, and community partners?
- Were there sufficient protocols in place for disease surveillance, testing, contact tracing, and vaccine distribution?

Public-Private Partnerships

- Was there an organized Public-Private Partnership program pre-pandemic?
- What public-private partnerships (PPPs) were leveraged and what were the key roles played by each sector in addressing the pandemic?
- What were the main challenges encountered in establishing and maintaining effective PPPs during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how were these challenges addressed?
- How can the partnerships forged during the COVID-19 response be leveraged for ongoing collaboration between the public and private sectors in addressing future public health challenges and emergencies?
- Describe your organization's engagement with non-profit organizations. How did those efforts contribute to the broader response efforts in VA? Did the relationship between the Commonwealth and non-profit sector change during COVID?
- Describe your organization's engagement with for-profit organizations. How did those efforts contribute to the broader response efforts in VA? Did the relationship between the Commonwealth and private sector change during COVID?

Regulatory

- How were emergency powers and authorities invoked by government entities at various levels to implement COVID-19 mitigation measures, and what were the implications for civil liberties and democratic governance?
- What were the main challenges encountered in enforcing COVID-19-related laws and regulations, such as mask mandates, social distancing requirements, and business closures, and how were these challenges addressed?
- How can the legal and regulatory lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic inform future pandemic preparedness efforts, including the development of more resilient and adaptable legal frameworks for public health emergencies?
- How effectively did existing laws and regulations facilitate the COVID-19 response, and were there any gaps or deficiencies in the legal framework that impeded the response efforts?
- How were data privacy and security laws balanced with the need for public health surveillance, contact tracing, and data sharing initiatives during the pandemic response?



Rural Community Engagement

- How were rural communities engaged in the COVID-19 response efforts, and what were the key strategies used for outreach?
- What specific barriers or obstacles unique to rural areas that hindered community engagement efforts, and how were these overcome?
- What innovative approaches or best practices identified in engaging rural populations that could be replicated or scaled in future public health emergencies?
- How did the demographics and socioeconomic characteristics of rural communities influence their response to COVID-19 and their engagement in mitigation efforts?
- What feedback was received from residents of rural areas regarding the adequacy of support and resources provided during the pandemic, and how can future response efforts better address their needs?

Volunteer and Donation Coordination

- How were volunteers recruited, trained, and coordinated to support operations?
- What systems were in place for accepting, organizing, and distributing donations of goods and services?
- How were local nonprofits and community organizations coordinated with effectively to maximize the impact of donated goods and services?
- What were some of the challenges in managing the volunteer workforce, including scheduling and assignments?
- Was there an equitable distribution of donated resources across different regions of the state during the response and recovery effort?

Closeout Questions

- As you reflect on your experience during the COVID-19 response, do any of the following stand out to you:
 - Strengths in Virginia's response
 - Areas for improvement in Virginia's response
- Best practices that Virginia adopted during the response, that should be captured into policies and plans for future disaster responses
- What investments are still needed to enhance the Commonwealth's resiliency against future pandemics or other major disasters?
- Are there any additional items you'd like to share before we conclude today's interview?



Appendix C: Key Events Timeline

Date	Event Description	Event Type Level
12/31/19	The government in Wuhan, China confirms that health authorities are treating dozens of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause which surfaced in a Chinese seafood and poultry market in December 2019.	International
1/17/20	The United States (U.S.) responds to the outbreak in China by implementing screenings for symptoms at airports in San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles.	National
1/20/20	The World Health Organization's (WHO) release their first situation report, in response to China reporting 139 new cases of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and three deaths. The report confirms cases in Japan, South Korea, and Thailand.	International
1/20/20	Officials in Washington state confirm the first case on U.S. soil.	National
1/20/20	The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces that it is working on a vaccine against COVID-19.	National
1/29/20	The White House announces the formation of a new task force that will help monitor and contain the spread of the virus and ensure Americans have accurate and up-to-date health and travel information.	National
1/30/20	The U.S. reports its first confirmed case of person-to-person transmission of COVID- 19.	National
1/30/20	WHO determines that the outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.	International
1/31/20	U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary issues a Public Health Emergency (PHE) for the U.S.	National
2/6/20	First COVID-19 death in the U.S.; link to COVID-19 is confirmed April 21.	National
2/7/20	Declaration of COVID-19 as a Communicable Disease of Public Health Threat for Virginia	State
2/26/20	CDC officials say that a California patient being treated for COVID-19 is the first U.S. case of unknown origin. The patient, who didn't have any relevant travel history nor exposure to another known patient, is the first possible U.S. case of "community spread."	National
2/29/20	First reported death linked to COVID-19 reported near Seattle, WA.	National



Date	Event Description	Event Type Level
3/4/20	The CDC formally removes earlier restrictions that limited COVID-19 testing of the general public to people in the hospital unless they have close contact with confirmed COVID-19 cases.	National
3/7/20	Virginia confirms its first case of COVID-19.	State
3/11/20	WHO declares COVID-19 a global pandemic.	International
3/12/20	Governor Northam declares a State of Emergency in response to COVID-19.	State
3/13/20	All K-12 schools in Virginia ordered to close for a minimum of two weeks.	State
3/13/20	President Trump declares a National Emergency under the National Emergencies Act, freeing up \$50 billion in federal resources to combat COVID- 19.	National
3/14/20	Virginia records its first death due to COVID-19	State
3/15/20	The CDC recommends no gatherings of 50 or more people in the U.S. The following day, President Trump advises citizens to avoid groups of more than 10.	National
3/17/20	Governor Northam and State Health Commissioner Oliver issued a Public Health Emergency Order for Virginia in response to COVID-19.	State
3/23/20	All Virginia public schools K-12 closed for the remainder of the school year.	State
3/23/20	Governor Northam issues executive order closing recreational facilities, limiting dining to take-out, curbside, and delivery, and banning gatherings of more than 10 people.	State
3/18/20	President Trump signs into law a COVID-19 relief package that includes provisions for free testing for COVID-19 and paid emergency leave.	National
3/26/20	The U.S. leads the world in confirmed cases. The U.S. officially becomes the country hardest hit by the pandemic with at least 81,321 confirmed infections and more than 1,000 deaths.	International
3/27/20	President Trump signs a \$2 trillion stimulus deal to offset the economic damage of COVID-19, producing one of the most expensive and far-reaching measures in the history of Congress.	National



Date	Event Description	Event Type Level
3/30/20	Governor Northam issues Emergency Order 55, establishing a statewide stay at home order, effective through June 10.	State
4/3/20	President Trump says his administration is now recommending Americans wear "non-medical cloth" face coverings, a reversal of previous guidance that suggested were unnecessary for people who weren't sick.	National
4/3/20	The Commonwealth was declared as a major disaster area, retroactive to January 20, 2020. This declaration allowed Virginia's state, local, and tribal governments to access additional federal funds.	State
4/24/20	Forward Virginia, a blueprint for easing public health restrictions utilizing a phased approach in the State, was unveiled.	State
4/26/20	The global death toll from COVID-19 surpasses 200,000.	International
4/28/20	The U.S. passes one million confirmed cases of COVID-19.	National
4/30/20	President Trump launches Operation Warp Speed, an initiative to produce a vaccine for COVID-19 as quickly as possible.	National
5/1/20	The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issues an emergency-use authorization for remdesivir, the first authorized therapy drug for COVID-19 in hospitalized patients with severe cases.	National
5/11/20	The Trump Administration announces that the federal government is sending \$11 billion to states to expand COVID-19 testing capabilities. The relief package signed on April 24, 2020, includes \$25 billion for testing, with \$11 billion for states, localities, territories, and tribes.	National
5/15/20	Phased reopening begins: Phase One of "Forward Virginia" begins	State
5/27/20	Data collected by Johns Hopkins University reports that COVID-19 has killed more than 100,000 people across the U.S., meaning that an average of almost 900 Americans died each day since the first known COVID-19-related death reported nearly four months earlier.	National
5/29/20	Public building mask mandate effective (ages 10+)	State
6/5/20	Phase Two of "Forward Virginia" begins for most of Virginia, with the exception of Richmond and Northern Virginia	State
6/11/20	The U.S. passes 2 million confirmed cases of the virus.	National



Date	Event Description	Event Type Level
7/1/20	Virginia moves into Phase Three of Forward Virginia.	State
7/7/20	The Trump administration notifies Congress and the UN that the U.S. is formally withdrawing from WHO. The withdrawal goes into effect on July 6, 2021.	International
7/10/20	The U.S. sets seven records in 11 days. On July 10, the U.S. reaches 68,000 new cases for the first time, setting a single-day record for the seventh time in 11 days. The infection rate is underscored by alarming growth in the South and West.	National
7/15/20	VA is first in the nation to formally adopt workplace safety standards; Virginia Occupational Safety & Health Program (VOSH)	State
8/1/20	The New York Times reports that the U.S. saw July cases more than double the total of any other month with more than 1.9 million new infections recorded in July, nearly 42 percent of the more than 4.5 million cases reported nationwide since the pandemic began and more than double the number documented in any other month.	National
8/16/20	The CDC begins developing a plan to distribute a COVID-19 vaccine.	National
8/22/20	Global COVID-19 deaths surpass 800,000.	International
8/23/20	The FDA issues an emergency use authorization for the use of convalescent plasma to treat COVID-19.	National
9/22/20	The U.S. death toll from COVID-19 surpasses 200,000.	National
9/28/20	Global deaths from COVID-19 reach 1 million.	International
11/8/20	The U.S. surpasses 10 million infections.	National
11/17/20	FDA authorizes the first at-home COVID-19 test which requires a prescription from a health care provider and can return results in about 30 minutes.	National
11/18/20	The U.S. death toll hits 250,000.	National
12/11/20	The FDA approves a vaccine by Pfizer for emergency use clearing the way for millions of highly vulnerable people to begin receiving the vaccine within days.	National
12/13/20	Pfizer begins distributing COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S.	National



Date	Event Description	Event Type Level
12/14/20	The U.S. death toll from COVID-19 surpasses 300,000.	National
12/14/20	A stay-at-home order goes into effect in Virginia between the hours of 12am and 5am. Universal mask requirements are in effect, and new limits on social gatherings are instituted.	State
12/15/20	First COVID-19 vaccine administered in Virginia.	State
12/18/20	The FDA approves the Moderna COVID vaccine for emergency use, allowing the shipment of millions more doses of COVID-19 vaccines across the nation.	National
2/22/21	The death toll from COVID-19 exceeds 500,000 in the U.S.	National
2/27/21	The FDA grants emergency use authorization to Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine, the first single-dose COVID-19 vaccine available in the U.S.	National
4/17/21	The global tally of deaths from COVID-19 surpasses 3 million.	International
4/18/21	COVID-19 vaccine available to all Virginians aged 16 and older.	State
5/12/21	COVID-19 vaccine available to children 12 and older in Virginia.	State
5/17/21	FEMA issues <i>COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance</i> to support response and recovery.	National
5/28/21	All statewide restrictions on businesses and individuals due to COVID-19 were lifted.	State
6/30/21	Virginia State of Emergency expired.	State
3/12/22	The Virginia General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 10, establishing a joint committee to study pandemic response and preparedness in the Commonwealth.	State
5/11/23	Federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 expired.	National
5/12/23	State Health Commissioner rescinds Declaration of COVID-19 as a Communicable Disease of Public Health Threat for Virginia	State



Appendix D: Glossary

AFTER-ACTION REPORT (AAR): A report covering response actions, application of the Incident Command System, modifications to plans and procedures, training needs, and recovery activities.

AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT: Identified gaps or weaknesses in a response that need to be addressed in future planning and operations.

CARES ACT: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The bill dedicated historic government funding to support large and small businesses, industries, individuals, families, gig workers, independent contractors, and the healthcare system.

CHAIN OF COMMAND: The orderly line of authority within the ranks of incident management organizations.

CHALLENGE: Specific difficulties or obstacles encountered during a response, which impacted the effectiveness or efficiency of operations, and which the incident response team has no control over.

CONTACT TRACING: A public health strategy used to identify and notify individuals who have been in close contact with someone infected with an illness, helping to prevent further spread.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS (COOP): Plans and procedures to ensure that essential functions continue during and after an emergency, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

COOPERATIVE PARTNER: Organizations or entities that work collaboratively with public health and emergency management agencies to respond to the pandemic.

COORDINATION: The process of systematically analyzing a situation, developing relevant information, and informing the appropriate command authority of viable alternatives for the selection of the most effective combination of available resources to meet specific objectives. The coordination process does not involve dispatch actions. However, personnel responsible for coordination may perform command or dispatch functions within the limits established by specific agency delegations, procedures, legal authority, etc.

COVID-19: COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, but some people become severely ill. Older adults and people who have certain underlying medical conditions are more likely to get severely ill. Post-COVID conditions are a wide range of health problems people can experience four or more weeks after first getting COVID-19. Even those who do not become severely ill from COVID-19 may experience post-COVID conditions.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY: The ability of healthcare and emergency management personnel to understand and respond effectively to the cultural and language needs of diverse populations.



DISASTER: A situation that creates an actual or imminent serious threat to the health and safety of persons or a situation that has resulted or is likely to result in catastrophic loss to property or the environment and for which traditional sources of relief and assistance within the affected area are unable to repair or prevent the injury or loss. A disaster usually exhausts local resources and requires outside help.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE: The systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data to detect and monitor the spread of illness.

EMERGENCY: An unforeseen combination of circumstances that calls for immediate action to prevent a disaster from developing or occurring. An emergency can usually be handled with the resources of the local unit of government.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION: A formal statement by authorities that an emergency situation exists, which activates response plans and provides access to additional resources.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: The field focused on preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies, to reduce their impact on communities.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC): A central command and control facility responsible for carrying out the principles of emergency preparedness and emergency management or disaster management functions at a strategic level during an emergency and ensuring the continuity of operations of a company, political subdivision, or other organization.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP): The EOP provides the structure and processes that the organization utilizes to respond to and initially recover from an incident.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION: Key pieces of information that are critical to making informed decisions during a response, such as infection rates or hospital capacity.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: The critical activities performed by organizations, especially after disruption of normal activities.

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES: Critical items, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and testing kits, necessary for an effective COVID-19 response.

EXECUTIVE ORDER (EO): An executive order is a directive by the executive branch of government that manages the operations of the government. Also referred to as an emergency order or executive directive.

FRONTLINE WORKERS: Individuals, such as healthcare providers, first responders, and essential service workers, who played a crucial role in the COVID-19 response.



FUNCTION: In ICS, function refers to the five major activities in the ICS: Command, Operations, Planning and Intelligence, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. At the EOC the term "Management" is used in place of "Command." The term "function" is also used when describing the activity involved.

HEALTHCARE COALITION: A group of healthcare organizations and public health entities working together to respond to health emergencies.

HEALTH EQUITY: Efforts to ensure that all populations, especially underserved groups, have access to the necessary health services and resources.

INCIDENT: An occurrence or event, either human-caused or by natural phenomena, that requires action by emergency response personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS): The nationally used, standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, with the responsibility for the management of resources to effectively accomplish stated objectives pertinent to an incident.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT: The broad spectrum of activities and organizations providing operations, coordination, and support applied at all levels of government, using both governmental and nongovernmental resources to plan for, respond to, and recover from an incident, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM (IMT): An incident management team is dispatched or mobilized during complex emergency incidents to provide a command-and-control infrastructure to manage the operational, logistical, informational, planning, fiscal, community, political, and safety issues associated with complex incidents.

INTEROPERABILITY: The ability of different agencies and organizations to work together effectively during an emergency, including communication and resource sharing.

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER (JIC): The JIC is a central location that facilitates operation of the Joint Information System. It is the central point of contact for all news media. Public information Officers from all participating agencies should co-locate at the JIC.

JURISDICTION: Jurisdictions are usually incorporated locations, recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau. Jurisdictions include, but are not limited to, cities, towns, townships, boroughs, villages, counties, and parishes.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Public entities responsible for security and welfare of a designated area as established by law. A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, regional or interstate government entity, agency or instrumentality of a local government, or a tribe or authorized tribal authority.

LOGISTICS: The process and procedure for providing resources and other services to support incident management.

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS: A network of medical and public health professionals who volunteer to assist with emergency response efforts.

PANDEMIC: An influenza pandemic is a global outbreak of a new influenza A virus that is very different from current and recently circulating human seasonal influenza A viruses. Pandemics happen when new (novel) influenza A viruses emerge which are able to infect people easily and spread from person to person in an efficient and sustained way.

PANDEMIC PLAN: A comprehensive plan outlining the strategies and procedures for responding to a pandemic, like COVID-19, ensuring an organized and effective approach.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): Specialized clothing or equipment worn for protection against health and safety hazards. Personal protective equipment is designed to protect many parts of the body, e.g., eyes, head, face, hands, feet, and ears.

PREPAREDNESS: Actions taken to plan, organize, equip, train, and exercise to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effect of, respond to, and recover from threats and hazards.

PRIVATE SECTOR: Organizations and individuals that are not part of any governmental structure. The private sector includes for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, formal and informal structures, commerce, and industry.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID: A set of techniques used to support individuals experiencing stress or trauma during an emergency, promoting emotional well-being.

PUBLIC HEALTH: The field concerned with protecting and improving the health of communities, playing a central role in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Information disseminated to the public by official sources during an emergency, using broadcast and print media. This includes: 1) instructions on survival and health preservation actions to take (what to do, what not to do, evacuation procedures, etc.), 2) status information on the disaster situation (number of deaths, injuries, property damage, etc.), and 3) other useful information (state/federal assistance available).



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO): A member of the ICS Command Staff responsible for interfacing with the public and media and/or with other agencies with incident-related information needs.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP: Collaborative efforts between government agencies and private sector entities to address the challenges posed by an emergency.

QUARANTINE: Separating and restricting the movement of people exposed (or potentially exposed) to a contagious disease. A quarantine may be self-imposed (self-quarantine) or mandated by the authorities.

RECOVERY: The capabilities necessary to assist communities affected by an incident to recovery effectively.

RESOURCE: Personnel, equipment, teams, supplies, and facilities available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Resources are described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at an EOC.

RESPONSE: The capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs after an incident has occurred.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: A technique used to limit or slow the spread of communicable diseases by decreasing the number of opportunities for the agent to be passed from one person to another. Examples of social distancing include school or daycare closures, limitations on public meetings and gatherings, encouraging workers to telecommute, etc.

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (SEOC): The SEOC is where state, local, and federal agencies coordinate the response to a disaster, emergency, or terrorist event within the state.

STATE OF EMERGENCY: The Virginia governor may declare a peacetime emergency in response to an act of nature, industrial accident, hazardous materials accident, or major health threat or civil disturbance that endangers life and property and for which local government resources are inadequate to handle the situation. The governor may also declare a state of emergency if a threat of armed violence, sabotage, or act of terrorism is imminent.

STRENGTH: Aspects of the COVID-19 response that were particularly effective and should be maintained or enhanced in future operations.

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT: An individual with specialized knowledge or expertise who provides guidance.



TASK FORCE: A group of experts and officials assembled to address specific challenges during the COVID-19 response.

TELEWORK: A work flexibility arrangement under which an employee performs the duties and responsibilities of their position and other authorized activities from an approved worksite other than the location from which the employee would otherwise work.

TEMPORARY (LEGISLATIVE) WAIVER: A temporary suspension or alteration of regulations to facilitate a more effective response

THEMATIC ANALYSIS: A method used to identify patterns or themes within qualitative data, often employed in analyzing feedback and outcomes.

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE: An approach that recognizes and responds to the impact of trauma, crucial for supporting individuals affected by the stress and challenges of disaster response.

UNDERSERVED POPULATION: Communities that lack adequate access to healthcare and resources, requiring focused efforts to ensure equitable response and recovery

VEST: Virginia Emergency Support Team, consisting of more than 105 Executive Branch agencies, private sector partners, and volunteer organizations with assigned responsibilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan



Appendix E: Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Meaning
AAR	After-Action Report
CARES	The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
CIMS	Centralized Information Management System
COOP	Continuity of Operations
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CRM	Centralized Resource Management
DBHDS	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
DHP	Department of Health Professions
DMAS	Department of Medical Assistance Services
DOE	Department of Education
DOLI	Department of Labor and Industry
EO	Executive Order
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
ICS	Incident Command System
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IMT	Incident Management Team
JIC	Joint Information Center
LCOS	Logistics Coordination Operations Center

Acronym	Meaning
MRC	Medical Reserve Corps
NIMS	National Incident Management System
PIO	Public Information Officer
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
RMS	Resource Management System
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
SME	Subject Matter Expert
VASN	Virginia Association of School Nurses
VDEM	Virginia Department of Emergency Management
VDH	Virginia Department of Health
VDSS	Virginia Department of Social Services
VEST	Virginia Emergency Support Team
VHA	Veterans Health Administration
VHHA	Virginia Hospitals and Healthcare Association
VAPTA	Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers
WHO	World Health Organization



Appendix F: Senate Joint Resolution No. 10

2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

*Establishing a joint subcommittee to study pandemic response and preparedness in the Commonwealth.
Report.*

Patron—Surovell

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, outbreaks of infectious disease have recurred throughout Virginia's recorded history since the time of the first European settlements, beginning with outbreaks in Jamestown that contributed to the deaths of 80 percent of its earliest settlers and spread rapidly among Native American communities, devastating entire populations; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly was forced to adjourn its 1696 session in Jamestown due to a smallpox epidemic, and an outbreak beginning in 1747 again brought the legislature and economy to a halt; other periodic smallpox outbreaks killed countless Virginians and left survivors permanently scarred or blind until inoculation became widespread; and

WHEREAS, after the first cases of cholera appeared in the United States in the early 1800s, three outbreaks of the disease struck Virginia between 1832 and 1866, and cholera continued to pose a threat until sanitary reform curbed its spread; and

WHEREAS, an outbreak of yellow fever struck Norfolk and Portsmouth in 1855, forcing the closure of businesses and ports, shutting down both cities' governments, and claiming an estimated 4,000 lives between the two cities; and

WHEREAS, a new and highly contagious strain of influenza spread throughout the world in 1918 and 1919, exacerbated by the conditions of World War I; the pandemic forced school closures and prohibitions on public gatherings, and it claimed the lives of at least 16,000 Virginians and an estimated 50 million people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020, and the first known cases of the virus in Virginia were reported soon thereafter; in the year that followed, schools and businesses were forced to close, health care providers were overburdened, and the normal functioning of government was interrupted; hundreds of thousands of Virginians became infected with the virus and thousands died, and its final toll is still unknown; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is the Commonwealth's most recent public health crisis but will not be its last, and it is essential in its aftermath to examine the effectiveness of the laws of the Commonwealth during the pandemic, the response of all levels of government, and the preparedness of various levels of government and, in particular, state institutions in Virginia to deal with future emergencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study pandemic response and preparedness in the Commonwealth. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 24 members that shall consist of 10 legislative members, eight nonlegislative citizen members, and six ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: five members of the Senate, to include one member of the Senate Committee on Education and Health, one member of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, one member of the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology, one member of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and one member of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services, each to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; five members of the House of Delegates, to include one member of the House Committee on Appropriations, one member of the House Committee for Courts of Justice, one member of the House Committee on Education, one member of the House Committee on General Laws, and one member of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions, each to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; four nonlegislative citizen members, to include a representative from the K-12 public education system, a representative from a public hospital or health care system, a local elected official representing an urban locality, and an individual who owns a local pharmacy, each to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; four nonlegislative citizen members, to include a local elected official representing a rural locality, a representative from a private hospital or health care system, a representative from a four-year institution of higher education, and a representative from a private business, each to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and the Secretaries of Commerce and Trade, Education, Finance, Health and Human Resources, and Public Safety and Homeland Security, or their designees, and the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, or

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his designee, all of whom shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall examine the performance of existing laws in the Commonwealth in relation to the Commonwealth's pandemic response and develop recommendations regarding: (i) the scope of the Governor's powers in long-term states of emergency and the feasibility of legislative oversight of such powers; (ii) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the General Assembly and local governments; (iii) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of public and private health care systems, pharmacies, hospitals, independent providers, health system providers, federally qualified health centers, urgent care centers, long-term care agencies and organizations, and congregate care facilities, including (a) an assessment of the readiness of all such facilities and providers to implement infection prevention and control measures in order to prevent and stop the spread of infectious diseases and (b) an assessment of the adequacy of regulations relating to vulnerable Virginians, including the elderly, the infirm, and children; (iv) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the emergency management and public health care systems, including (a) the need for stockpiling and planning for distribution of pandemic response supplies and materials, (b) the performance of local health districts and the feasibility of allowing for local decision-making during pandemics, in contrast to delivery of routine services, and (c) the existing system's ability to detect and prevent future outbreaks and deploy health care solutions; (v) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the judicial system and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; (vi) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, homeowners' association, and corporate meeting rules and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; (vii) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the K-12 and higher education systems and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness; and (viii) the adequacy, resilience, and performance of the business regulatory system and the need to develop future emergency plans to facilitate better responsiveness.

Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the Senate. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Department of Health, the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Education, the Board of Pharmacy, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, upon request. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2022 interim and four meetings for the 2023 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$178,400 for each year without approval as set out in this resolution. Of this amount, an estimated \$150,000 is allocated for consulting services. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the Senate members or a majority of the House members appointed to the joint subcommittee (1) vote against the recommendation and (2) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint subcommittee.

The joint subcommittee shall submit to the General Assembly an interim report containing an executive summary of its activity and work no later than December 1, 2022, and a final report containing an executive summary of its activities and recommendations no later than September 1, 2023. Each executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2022 or 2023 interims.



Appendix G: Recommendations Organized by Subcommittee Subject Matter Area

Subcommittees



Government and
Regulatory Systems



Health Care Systems and
Emergency Management



Education

Focus Areas



Business Continuity
and Continuity of
Operations



Communications



Education



Financial
Management



Judicial / Policy /
Regulatory



Logistics



Operations



Planning



Public Health / Local
Health Districts



Public-Private
Partnerships



Technology



Volunteer and
Donation
Coordination





Government and Regulatory Systems Subcommittee



Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

- 1.2.1 Develop a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies
- 1.2.2 Enhance digital infrastructure and automation
- 1.3.1 Establish consistent statewide telework policies for all state agencies



Communications

- 2.1.3 Improve coordination with executive offices



Financial Management

- 4.1.1 Establish stable and diversified funding streams



Judicial / Policy / Regulatory

- 5.1.1 Develop a pre-approved legal and regulatory framework for emergencies
- 5.1.2 Create a rapid response legal and regulatory task force
- 5.2.1 Solicit input on judicial processes
- 5.2.2 Enhance virtual engagement and transparency mechanisms
- 5.3.1 Review statewide technology standards and protocols
- 5.3.2 Develop and implement consistent policies and procedures to ensure uniformity and efficiency



Logistics

- 6.1.1 Establish a dynamic stockpile strategy
- 6.1.2 Implement a Centralized Resource Management (CRM) system
- 6.2.1 Strengthen public-private partnerships
- 6.2.2 Establish a flexible and inclusive procurement strategy



Technology

- 10.1.1 Expand and sustain broadband infrastructure investments
- 10.1.2 Consider implementing technology access programs
- 10.1.3 Support innovative connectivity solutions for immediate needs
- 10.2.1 Develop comprehensive technology training and support programs
- 10.2.2 Enhance digital infrastructure and access during emergencies
- 10.2.3 Establish consistent protocols for remote voting and decision-making





Health Care Systems and Emergency Management Subcommittee



Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations

- 1.1.1 Expand access to mental health resources
- 1.1.2 Develop comprehensive mental health support guidelines



Communications

- 2.1.1 Establish a dedicated SME pool
- 2.1.2 Implement a centralized information management system (CIMS)
- 2.2.1 Streamline the health equity working group structure
- 2.2.2 Implement clear decision-making protocols
- 2.2.3 Establish a rapid response framework
- 2.3.1 Enhance ongoing public engagement and education



Operations

- 7.1.1 Conduct comprehensive NIMS and ICS training
- 7.1.2 Establish clear role definitions
- 7.1.3 Enhance tracking and resource management systems
- 7.2.1 Centralize administrative tasks
- 7.2.2 Implement rotational staffing
- 7.2.3 Expand and diversify the staffing pool



Planning

- 8.1.1 Review and update pandemic and emergency operations plans
- 8.1.2 Integrate inclusivity and support for vulnerable populations
- 8.1.3 Prioritize continuous plan evaluation
- 8.2.1 Review alignment of emergency management and public health regions
- 8.2.2 Integration of key internal and external partners



Public Health / Local Health Districts

- 9.1.2 Enhance regional coordination and support
- 9.1.3 Centralize public health guidance and oversight during emergencies
- 9.2.1 Inclusion of vaccination policies and definitions in pandemic plans
- 9.2.2 Enhance data collection and coordination for vaccine distribution
- 9.3.1 Incorporate external partners early in the response planning
- 9.3.2 Establish clear communication channels and protocols
- 9.3.3 Strengthen and formalize partnerships before crises
- 9.4.1 Establish standardized data collection framework
- 9.4.2 Provide training and support for data reporting



Volunteer and Donation Coordination

- 11.1.1 Provide comprehensive health and safety training
- 11.1.2 Establish a health monitoring and support system
- 11.1.3 Engage a more diverse demographic





Education Subcommittee



Education

- 3.1.1** Enhance mental health support systems available for students and educational professionals
- 3.1.2** Establish community advisory boards and engage local leaders
- 3.1.3** Propose strategies for hybrid learning models and mental health initiatives
- 3.2.1** Strengthen communication and public information strategies
- 3.2.2** Create and maintain legal guidance and support networks
- 3.2.3** Develop comprehensive plans for school closures



PUBLIC FEEDBACK SURVEY SUMMARY



Commonwealth of Virginia Public Feedback Survey Summary

In August 2024, a public survey was posted on the Joint Subcommittee's website, allowing the community to share comments and questions with the subcommittees.

This initiative aimed to promote transparency and collaboration between the subcommittee and the public. The following is an overview of the over 400 responses received.

432

Survey Responses

8

Regions Represented

August 5 to September 30, 2024

Survey Dates

Survey Themes by Subcommittee Area of Expertise



Government and Regulatory Systems

- Mask mandates, vaccination policies, and business closures having a significant economic impact, particularly on small businesses
- Disagreements over the state's definition of "essential and non-essential" businesses



Health Care Systems and Emergency Management

- Criticism of the medical protocols used and those not permitted during the pandemic.
- Overall lack of trust in both healthcare and government systems

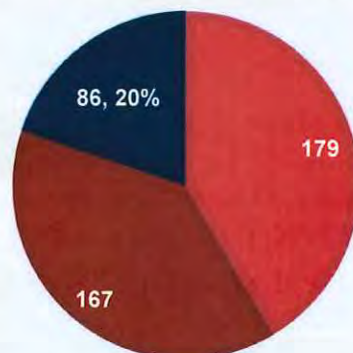


Education

- Immediate and long-term learning consequences due to school closures and shift to online learning
- Mask mandates and vaccination policies deemed ineffective and harmful

Recurring Theme: State government overreach, including calls for limited emergency powers

RESPONSES BY SUBCOMMITTEE



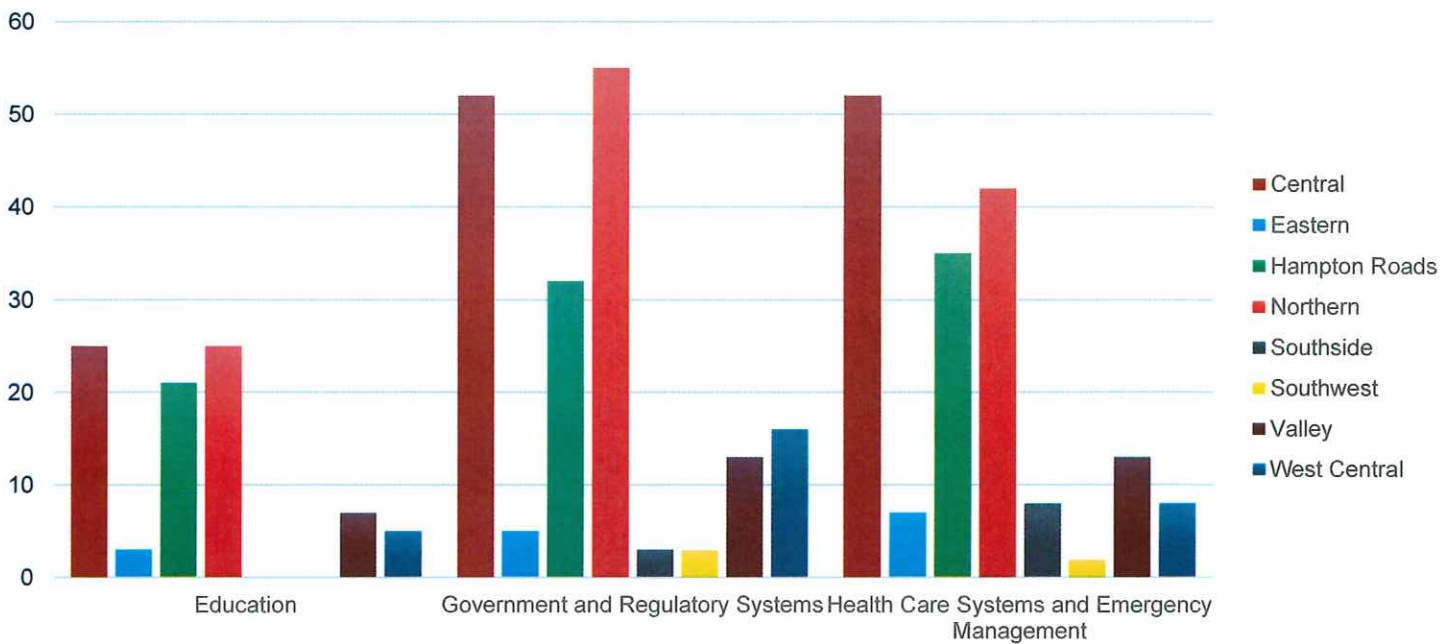
- Government Regulatory Systems
- Health Care Systems and Emergency Management
- Education



Commonwealth of Virginia Public Feedback Survey Summary

Respondent Demographics

REGIONAL RESPONSES BY SUBCOMMITTEE



**RESPONSES
BY REGION**



**MOST RESPONSES
BY COUNTY/CITY**



APPENDIX D

PUBLIC FEEDBACK SURVEY

Row Labels	Count of ID	Central	Eastern	Hampton Roads	Northern	Southside	Southwest	Valley	West Central	
Central	129	Chesterfield	24 Montgomery	4 Virginia Beach	32 Fairfax	39 Brunswick	2 Galax	1 Frederick	12 Montgomery	4
Eastern	15	Henrico	22 Roanoke	4 Chesapeake	18 Loudoun	23 Franklin	2 Grayson	1 Augusta	6 Roanoke	4
Hampton Roads	88	Richmond	16 Appomattox	3 York	8 Fauquier	11 Pittsylvania	2 Scott	1 Rockingham	5 Appomattox	3
Northern	122	Goochland	13 Campbell	3 James City	7 Spotsylvania	11 Prince Edward	2 Washington	1 Winchester	4 Campbell	3
Southside	11	Albemarle	12 Franklin	3 Gloucester	4 Culpeper	7 Danville	1 Wise	1 Staunton	2 Franklin	3
Southwest	5	Hanover	9 Lynchburg	3 Portsmouth	4 Prince William	7 Martinsville	1	Waynesboro	2 Lynchburg	3
Valley	33	Orange	8 Salem	3 Hampton	3 Stafford	6 Mecklenburg	1	Harrisonburg	1 Salem	3
West Central	29	Charlottesville	6 Bedford	2 Mathews	3 Alexandria	4		Shenandoah	1 Bedford	2
Grand Total	432	New Kent	5 Amherst	1 Newport News	3 Fredericksburg	4			Amherst	1
		Louisa	3 Botetourt	1 Williamsburg	3 Arlington	2			Botetourt	1
Row Labels	Count of ID	Powhatan	2 Floyd	1 Suffolk	2 Clarke	2			Floyd	1
Amherst	1	Nelson	2 Pulaski	1 Isle of Wight	1 Falls Church	2			Pulaski	1
Appomattox	3	King William	2		Manassas	2				
Bedford	2	Greene	2		Rappahannock	2				
Botetourt	1	Fluvanna	1							
Campbell	3	Colonial Heights	1							
Floyd	1	Charles City	1							
Franklin	3									
Lynchburg	3									
Montgomery	4									
Pulaski	1									
Roanoke	4									
Salem	3									
Grand Total	29									

City/County	Count
Fairfax	39
Virginia Beach	32
Chesterfield	24
Loudoun	23
Henrico	22
Chesapeake	18
Richmond	16
Goochland	13
Frederick	12
Albemarle	12
Spotsylvania	11
Fauquier	11
Hanover	9
York	8
Orange	8
Prince William	7
James City	7
Culpeper	7
Stafford	6
Charlottesville	6
Augusta	6
Rockingham	5
New Kent	5
Winchester	4

City/County	Count
Roanoke	4
Roanoke	4
Portsmouth	4
Montgomery	4
Montgomery	4
Gloucester	4
Fredericksburg	4
Alexandria	4
Williamsburg	3
Salem	3
Salem	3
Newport News	3
Mathews	3
Lynchburg	3
Lynchburg	3
Louisa	3
Hampton	3
Franklin	3
Franklin	3
Campbell	3
Campbell	3
Appomattox	3
Appomattox	3
Waynesboro	2

City/County	Count
Suffolk	2
Staunton	2
Rappahannock	2
Prince Edward	2
Powhatan	2
Pittsylvania	2
Nelson	2
Manassas	2
King William	2
Greene	2
Franklin	2
Falls Church	2
Clarke	2
Brunswick	2
Bedford	2
Bedford	2
Arlington	2
Wise	1
Washington	1
Shenandoah	1
Scott	1
Pulaski	1
Pulaski	1
Mecklenburg	1

City/County	Count
Martinsville	1
Isle of Wight	1
Harrisonburg	1
Grayson	1
Galax	1
Fluvanna	1
Floyd	1
Floyd	1
Danville	1
Colonial Heights	1
Charles City	1
Botetourt	1
Botetourt	1
Amherst	1
Amherst	1

ID	Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	Central Region respondent s: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	West Central Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Southside Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Hampton Roads Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Eastern Region respondents: Please select the county in which you reside.	Southwest Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Northern Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Valley Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
213	9/10/24 4:17:47	9/10/24 4:41:11	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Our daughter was born with TEF-Fistula in 2018. She was denied medical procedures to stretch her esophagus for the next two years, on a regular basis, to avoid asphyxiation caused by scar tissue. When she did return for surgeries only one parent was able to attend to her at the hospital!		It was a lonely and horrible experience. She was on deaths doorstep for the first year and a half of her life. She was abandoned by the heathcare system.
18	8/13/24 14:52:20	8/13/24 14:56:10	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	Over stepped and violated our Constitutional Rights. Should never again be given the ability to shut down the economy.			Allow more freedom, less government involvement and regulation in all areas.
234	9/15/24 14:23:22	9/15/24 14:32:10	Valley								Frederick	Government and Regulatory Systems	The Government’s response was terrible. The America people need a government which supports freedom of choice in the health care system. The Government should not apply pressure to force any form of medical care, prevention of illness, treatment of illness, or bypass research.			We need FREEDOM. Medicare/Medicaid/Affordable Care Act should be optional, not mandatory. None of them should be tied to your ability to have insurance or your ability to collect Social Security. Government should not tell you what form of insurance you must have. Leave the people alone.
236	9/15/24 14:32:22	9/15/24 14:38:35	Valley								Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		No one should be denied healthcare. Healthcare should be provided regardless of whether or not the individual is wearing a mask or has been vaccinated. Your ability to have a family/friend with you as your advocate should never be taken away.		Healthcare should be separate from government intervention. We need healthcare providers who will learn and treat people to the best of their ability. They shouldn’t just follow a government flow chart nor an insurance flow chart. Use your degree. Don’t be puppets.
237	9/15/24 14:38:42	9/15/24 14:43:38	Valley								Frederick	Education			Public education was/is horrendous. Children should be included regardless of whether they wear a mask or are vaccinated. Parents should be encouraged to participate in their children’s education. They should never be told they don’t belong.	Public education must stop indoctrination and teach children critical thinking skills. Children should be taught to think, not what to think. Also every student should be treated the same. Get rid of bias programs, like SEL and CRT.
82	8/26/24 12:28:25	8/26/24 12:29:49	Northern							Fairfax		Education			Director level	

ID	Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	Central Region respondent s: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	West Central Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Southside Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Hampton Roads Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Eastern Region respondents: Please select the county in which you reside.	Southwest Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Northern Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Valley Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
161	8/28/24 8:03:17	8/28/24 8:08:55	Northern							Loudoun		Education			I have never been so frustrated and at a loss in my life. I truly felt my freedoms had been stripped. There was no one I could call or write for help. I had a school age child in 2020 and I saw him wilting before my eyes. And he was one of the successful ones!!!!	I wrote letter after letter to my school board member, to the superintendent of education for LCPS and to the governors office. No one. Not one person replied. I explained that the Catholic school less than a mile for the school board remained open. They lost no one!!!!
86	8/26/24 12:19:26	8/26/24 12:37:22	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government did not act in the best interests of the public.Open scientific dialogue was censored and practitioner feedback from the front lines was excluded.Mandates violated due process and Geneva Conventions.Businesses were force to shutter and experimental injectables mandated			under threat of loss of employment, banishment from school, and restriction of travel liberties.Public comment and testimony were censored.Many Constitutional rights were egregiously violated: free speech, private property, due process, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement.
89	8/26/24 12:31:07	8/26/24 12:42:58	Northern							Prince William		Government and Regulatory Systems	It’s wrong that the government at any level mandated a pharmaceutical product that was unknown and untested. It was wrong that VA went along with the public health measures that were not scientifically sound. Ostracizing doctors who actually did the science and closing small businesses was wrong.			We need to protect the rights of people to live the free and independent lives that we are allowed under our constitution. We don’t need more pandemic bureaucratic nonsense.
160	8/27/24 21:57:31	8/27/24 22:04:30	Northern							Loudoun		Education			It was a disgrace that our children were masked against our consent /will as well as forced to do remote learning which is complete nonsense. Children learn in group settings in person and need facial and emotional interactions with each other. Our children were robbed of their educational rights.	The government should have never forced the mask mandate especially on our children and keeping them home from school for months and months damaged their social development gravely. They may never recover from what they were subjected to in the new “normal”. I moved out of VA to FL for this reason.

ID	Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	Central Region respondent s: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	West Central Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Southside Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Hampton Roads Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Eastern Region respondents: Please select the county in which you reside.	Southwest Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Northern Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Valley Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
40	8/14/24 12:42:17	8/14/24 12:46:05	Northern							Fauquier		Government and Regulatory Systems	I was nearly fired from my job for refusing to get the vaccine. I was pregnant and wasn't comfortable with the risks and unknowns. Although I ended up not being fired due to the mandate being lifted, I still experienced a mental and emotional toll from the stress of worrying about losing my income.			No vaccine should ever be mandated or forced upon a person in any way. Threatening people's livelihoods was a crime against humanity.
41	8/14/24 12:46:16	8/14/24 12:49:23	Northern							Fauquier		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I gave birth to my daughter in December 2020 and the staff tried to force me to wear a mask during labor. Labor is difficult enough without one's breathing being impaired. The mask mandates were ridiculous, cruel, unfair, and unhealthy.		Breathing properly has so many benefits and masks inhibit this ability. There should be no mask mandates anywhere at any time. It should be one's choice.
291	9/22/24 15:02:30	9/22/24 15:06:08	Northern							Prince William		Government and Regulatory Systems	I believe the response to the Covid-19 virus was inhumane. The response took away a person's right to choose what to do, and tried to coerce everyone to do what the creator of the response wanted them to do (bully). Many people had medical or religious reasons not to take the vaccine.			. The entire spectacle reminded me of children who are bullies and want to get their way.
292	9/22/24 15:06:14	9/22/24 15:08:41	Northern							Prince William		Education			Many students were isolated when they tested positive. We are still feeling the consequences of children who did not attend school in person. Many of them were graduated to the next grade, but were not adequately prepared for it.	What should we do the next time there is a pandemic? Nothing!!! Unless it was deliberately created then we need to prosecute those involved.

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290	9/22/24 14:23:02	9/22/24 15:02:17	Northern							Prince William		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I believe the response to the Covid-19 virus was inhumane. College students were isolated when they tested positive. Family members told other members to sit six feet from them (very rude), and many relationships were destroyed (intentional).		I would like to conclude with how this affected those who were employed. The food pantries, if they were open, were inundated with extra clients who did not have income due to being laid off. Do we still have Covid? Yes, we do. What should we do the next time there is a pandemic? Nothing!!!
341	9/25/24 11:03:17	9/25/24 13:06:44	Hampton Roads				York					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I am highly disturbed, disgusted, and disappointed at the handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Wrongful protocols & mandates were forced on the American ppl against their wishes, & there were massive deaths as a result. Meds were able to help, but were denied. Inhumane that ppl died alone!		When wicked leaders rule, the people mourn. The wicked will make war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of Lord's and King of King's and with Him will be His called, chosen, and faithful followers!
157	8/27/24 17:46:27	8/27/24 17:54:06	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government during COVID was entirely over zealous with lockdowns, masks, shutdowns of small businesses, etc. What I witnessed in my region were people acting like little tyrants -- like fascists, really. The loss of many small businesses, especially local restaurants was horrific.			I knew of teenagers kicked off of basketball courts. I myself was assaulted by a woman while I was jogging outdoors, because I was not wearing a mask. These behaviors were provoked by the government overreach. The executive branch should not have so much power that they can shut people out of work
306	9/23/24 11:07:42	9/23/24 11:32:16	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I have 4 grown children. One of them and their spouse took injection and boosters and are now infertile. The other 3 grown children with no vaccine have 8 children between them! You must be aware of the national drop in fertility rates; are you investigating injection connection?		
191	8/27/24 17:54:20	8/31/24 17:38:52	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The declaration of a state of emergency and the shutting down of small businesses and churches was horrible. We have lost many of our small businesses, especially small restaurants in this area. As a small business owner, I had to rebuild my business after being shutdown for 14 weeks!		People were afraid to leave their homes and to receive the medical and holistic services that they needed. It is very sad what I have seen happen to my clientele with regard to their health and well-being.

ID	Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	Central Region respondent s: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	West Central Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Southside Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Hampton Roads Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Eastern Region respondents: Please select the county in which you reside.	Southwest Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Northern Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Valley Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
218	9/11/24 14:40:05	9/11/24 14:54:29	Northern							Fairfax		Education			During the Covid emergency the school system was not prepared when the schools were closed and as a result many students did not receive adequate schooling . My question is has a plane be developed that would meet the students needs and not compromise their education.	
280	9/17/24 11:10:15	9/17/24 11:17:53	Hampton Roads				Gloucester					Education			The forced masking of our children was ineffective, harmful and ridiculous. Parents have the right to make health decisions for themselves and their children. The state does not have authority to dictate or demand what medical interventions myself or my child receives.	Link to study on ineffectiveness of masking. https://www.meehanmd.com/blog/post/173679/an-evidence-based-scientific-analysis-ofwhy-masks-are-ineffective-unnecessary-and-harmful
281	9/17/24 11:18:09	9/17/24 11:38:10	Hampton Roads				Gloucester					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Forced, masking, social isolation and vaccination were the main tactics to combat the spread of COVID. While the use of know inexpensive pharmaceuticals and natural treatments were suppressed or vilified. Big Pharma had complete control of this entire pandemic and profited from it.		The state did nothing to protect its citizens. Our basic rights and freedoms were discarded. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnpbpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://standforhealthfreedom.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/COVID-19-Data-Collection-Comorbidity-Federal.pdf
98	8/26/24 13:14:03	8/26/24 13:21:48	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	The forceable shut-down of my small business within the wedding industry was catastrophic and noticeably unfair. In comparison to high school and college graduations, church services, open-air concerts, etc, weddings were restricted time and time again, subject to the whims of former Gov Northam.			I have so much more to say, but you only allow so many characters. To keep things succinct, VA government did a horrible job at keeping small businesses afloat, protecting our freedoms, punishing rioters & bullies destroying our capital, and maintaining American decency

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53	8/16/24 7:22:36	8/16/24 7:28:45	Hampton Roads				James City					Government and Regulatory Systems	Proud to have stood up against the mandates and mania. It is disgusting to watch these DEIA initiatives, and yet, folks treated the unvax like we had leprosy. If you are still taking the boosters, good for you. If you stopped, you owe all of us an apology for your prejudice and stupidity!			Hold your Doctors and Hospitals accountable too! They were equally as stupid!
13	8/13/24 14:37:53	8/13/24 14:40:34	Valley								Staunton	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The way Covid was handled was tyranny at its highest. To mandate workers to take an experimental shot and don masks with the knowledge that they would not make a difference is the exact opposite of science and good research.		
80	8/26/24 12:00:04	8/26/24 12:16:42	Central	Hanover								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		In “worst epidemic” I didnt have work for 5 mo! It’s the ONLY time in 36 yr therapy career that I didnt have full time work available. Once@work, no monitoring of vaccine injury. Staff don’t know what VAERS is despite having given millions of injections of an experimental mRNA shot.		
207	9/7/24 15:53:40	9/7/24 16:17:26	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Hospitalized patients were DENIED life saving treatment for COVID. Doctors were using HCQ, Ivermectin, elevated vitamin C and D to cure patients in the early stages of COVID. Their treatment was curative. People died because this treatment was denied by hospital protocol. A crime against humanity.		The whole notion that COVID was a life threatening virus to all people was an out and out lie. The elderly and those with complicated health issues were vulnerable. Ventilators killed people.
17	8/13/24 14:47:20	8/13/24 14:55:10	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My experience was the State Health Dept botched things badly. Did not respond to my questions, submitted by email and phone, changed “dashboard” parameters at whim, data provided was inconsistent with what was published in Va Pilot, and single solution policy was—well, short sighted or dumb.		Very disappointed with State Health leadership. Lacked courage in doing what was right or better for residents in lieu of what i can only suppose was changed motivation for financial gain over informed and tailored care for Va residents.

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127	8/26/24 20:55:19	8/26/24 21:04:59	Central	Greene								Government and Regulatory Systems	Our elected officials are responsible for public policy and accountable for their decisions outcome. In turn these officials must keep the unelected officials and experts accountable for their particular areas of expertise.			In regards to the COVID-19 scam-demic I believe the elected officials and experts failed the citizens of Virginia and US in general. Please keep politics out of decision making for the public wellbeing.
361	9/28/24 8:16:06	9/28/24 8:25:18	Central	Richmond								Education		The government shutdown of schools and the following shift to online “learning” was devastating to all children- especially low-income students. The shutdowns suggest that school is optional and not the best way out of poverty. The learning loss will likely never be recovered.		It is disheartening to me that those tasked with leading education policy did not consider the long-term effects of their decisions and bowed to the wishes of school boards and unions at the expense of children and their futures.
179	8/29/24 20:55:13	8/29/24 21:15:25	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Governments at all levels overstepped their bounds in their response to covid-19. I remember that we were not allowed to go to the beach. Knowing that vitamin D was a key factor in fighting covid why were playgrounds and beaches closed?			Governments quickly fell into line by agreeing to a single solution to the virus being getting vaccinated. Essentially the government became a mouthpiece for pharmaceutical companies to profit off the virus. Medical experts who said anything outside of the "approved narrative" were silenced.
180	8/29/24 21:15:50	8/29/24 21:20:40	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I'm not against vaccines however in this response to Covid-19 it became apparent quickly that the media, government, major medical were all in lockstep to ensure that there was one and only one viable solution to covid. That was that everyone be shot with their "vaccine". They denied or silenced		anyone who had a differing opinion or suggusted any other therapy that could work. They only listened to "experts" who supported their conclusions. They dreamt up the 6 foot rule and swore up and down that wearing silly masks would protect us! The amount of coercion was infuriating.

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181	8/29/24 21:20:47	8/29/24 21:27:35	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education			We removed our kids from public education. Doing classes remotely is a joke. We all know the horrible effects that this had on learning outcomes for children. The response from local governments created a generation of kids who are scared of their own shadows. The government created	this problem and the vast majority went along with it. Interestingly the kids who did the worst were the ones who already had a tough time. Single parent households, or where parents were both working outside the home. What education did those kids receive?
255	9/15/24 21:17:27	9/15/24 21:28:07	Valley							Augusta		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The government must allow citizens to be responsive to the known emergency situation. That includes, for example, that citizens must be able to freely obtain medicines such as Ivermectin which was reported by some medical groups as effective when used quickly against COVID.		
128	8/26/24 21:26:41	8/26/24 21:32:42	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I was fired by my Sentara PCP in 2022 because I questioned her on prior statements she made about Covid vaccine safety and efficacy. After my annual physical where I politely explained why I never got the Covid vax, Sentara sent me a certified letter telling me I was no longer welcome at Sentara.		COVID has shown that our medical system is a real trouble. The way they treat patients is appalling. The doctor-patient relationship is now a one-way street. Disagree with the doctor and you're dead to them.
101	8/26/24 13:56:48	8/26/24 14:17:18	Central	Hanover								Government and Regulatory Systems	A single mask cannot be worn for a full school day and be expected to provide protection of any kind. Those in nursing homes need advocates -family members to ensure physical needs are being met, cleanliness, and pick-up on early signs for medical care needed. Don't restrict them from visiting.			Federal Agencies Like the FDA show how we need more Americans to master science specialties and adhere strongly scientific methodology and protocols for accurate results and reporting. Politics and money should not dictate how fast or the manner solutions should be reached.
299	9/23/24 11:00:06	9/23/24 11:06:19	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Allow medical providers to personalize care based on their experience and expertise ie ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, other proven protocols vs last minute big pharma remedies.		Stop politicization of these agencies.

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384	9/28/24 17:03:10	9/28/24 17:09:12	Northern							Fairfax		Education			Children's education suffered by being removed from the classroom. It is shocking and disturbing that we removed standardized testing requirements for so long.	I remain disturbed to this day that we suspended the standardized testing requirements for so long. I take that as the school system's acknowledgement that children were not learning and therefore wouldn't pass, and that leaders wanted to hide that from the public. We owe our students better.
156	8/27/24 15:24:09	8/27/24 15:40:55	Southwest						Galax			Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The confidence of people in the healthcare system has been destroyed by the misinformation, disinformation and pure propaganda perpetrated at all levels from the federal government down to local healthcare agencies. The pandemic was about money and power, not about providing a medical solution.		Prosecute Pfizer, Fauci and all those who profited from the misery and death associated with this virus for starts.
134	8/26/24 22:37:17	8/26/24 22:42:29	West Central		Lynchburg							Education			GUV. Nawfum(Northam) made kids sit home, forced teachers to work online, and passed students to the next grade with a 0.0 grade average. Good job! Keep them dumb and more easy to control.	One student did ONE assignment the entire year. But he got to move to the 9th grade. Explain to me how that is "education"?
167	8/28/24 13:18:46	8/28/24 13:22:50	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		VDH did a poor job with registration for vaccinations. VDH took a long time to update their website with covid-19 data.		
220	9/13/24 12:30:13	9/13/24 12:37:23	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education			Both our daughters (now 16 & 12) were forced to wear masks to attend school, creating a severe isolation/anxiety in our oldest, who is only now- after 4 years- willing to attend school again w/ kids her age. She feels unable to connect to other teens and battles w/ the sadness that creates.	https://collateralglobal.org/article/teen-brains-structurally-altered-by-lockdowns-in-pattern-linked-to-chronic-stress/

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7	8/6/24 13:20:49	8/6/24 13:33:56	Northern							Fauquier		Government and Regulatory Systems	I believe Virginia's government failed to preserve the rights of its citizens during the pandemic. The closing of religious houses of worship, in particular, while other activities were condoned, and the complete unwillingness to question the Federal narrative were a disgrace.			I am a minister and combat veteran, a native of VA - You failed me, Virginia - and there are hundreds of thousands like me that feel the same way - I challenge you to verify this claim, and when you do, to offer a formal apology to the people of the Commonwealth.
118	8/26/24 18:57:05	8/26/24 19:02:56	Central	Orange								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		At the time I was the nursing supervisor for a 180 bed facility. We locked down. Families were deprived of their loved ones and pts suffered depression, behaviors, falls, died alone, transfered to EDs and died. Staff was 1 nurse per 40 patients and 1 cna per 60 patients worked 14-20 days in a row.		1 mask and 1set of goggles for 7 days, janitors often skipped work d/t fears, sourced hand sanitizer from a distillery, many staff quit because they couldn't work in the conditions or bear to see the pts so upset or sick. Families assaulted us. Broke windows.
240	9/15/24 15:32:38	9/15/24 15:33:47	Valley							Winchester		Education				
426	9/30/24 21:06:53	9/30/24 21:09:47	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems				The checks and balances of the government should keep them from overstepping their authority to encroach on personal liberties.
245	9/15/24 17:59:38	9/15/24 18:00:47	Central	Charlottesvill e								Government and Regulatory Systems	NO mandates for ANY "vaccine"			
140	8/27/24 7:42:45	8/27/24 7:43:26	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education				No.
45	8/14/24 16:47:15	8/14/24 16:52:06	Central	Louisa								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I am a healthcare provider.		No government or "system" should be allowed to mandate what any sound-minded individual deems inappropriate for themselves.
327	9/23/24 11:44:21	9/23/24 17:31:49	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	The rights to assemble, speak freely, worship, control our bodies, earn a living, & travel, were all impeded by this over sensationalized illness. Early studies showed improvement by Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, & monoclonal antibodies, Why were we forced to be lab rats for an untested vaccine?			300 characters is NOT ENOUGH to state how corrupt, illegal and immoral the entire Covid lockdown was AND CONTINUES TO BE. People lost their jobs, home and family members. The Freedom of Speech was denied to all, but most especially by the government and big tech WHO MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.
242	9/15/24 15:44:22	9/15/24 15:53:18	Hampton Roads				Williamsburg					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		As a retired RN who volunteers in healthcare I just recently got the FL regulations for the upcoming Covid 19 fall push.....they don't recommend it..... really sick of this "pandemic" talk		Eat real food and get sleep

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419	9/30/24 17:04:09	9/30/24 17:09:51	Central	Charlottesvill e								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Make Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other proven remedies available to Virginians.		
272	9/16/24 13:13:46	9/16/24 13:37:12	Central	Chesterfield								Education			I was a teacher during the Pandemic at a local Elementary School, I witnessed first hand how the response literally ruined the progress many children made. We should have got schools up and running way before we did.	Most of us teachers dropped our masks as soon as we were in planning periods and hardly anyone got COVID. We could have avoided this huge learning deficit that has affected millions of children, if we had reopened schools in the Fall of 2020 in person as normal.
284	9/17/24 22:20:29	9/17/24 23:15:01	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Pandemic Response was shocking. Patients denied access to life saving drugs like Ivermectin treated instead to Remdesivir causing kidney failure. Flu practically disappeared being diagnosed as COVID instead w faulty false positive PCR tests as hospitals were rewarded financially for Covid deaths.		Killing people in nursing homes thru exposure. Creating fear thru contrived deaths to manipulate masses to taking an untested deadly vaccine that was neither safe or effective. I personally know people injured and/or killed by these shots. And sudden death syndrome was witnessed on media.
330	9/23/24 21:01:16	9/23/24 21:13:45	Central	Charles City								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The response to the pandemic was totally corrupted. Doctors were silenced, nurses willing participants, pharmacist guardians of the "goods". All around bad. Families unable to see their loved ones, hostility to the unvaccinated, poor communcation, abuse of power, no leadership.		
404	9/30/24 10:28:16	9/30/24 10:37:00	Hampton Roads				James City					Government and Regulatory Systems	As U.S. Senate Health Committee member Rand Paul agreed with expected Trump chronic disease commission head RFK, "there is no pandemic exception to the constitution": https://x.com/brixwe/status/1593029522685067265			If a Republican legislator is decent, he should consider intro'ing bill to clarify right of vaccine religious exemption during an emergency: https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2020/08/24/bill-would-add-religious-exemption-if-coronavirus-vaccine-becomes-mandatory-in-virginia/

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406	9/30/24 11:54:12	9/30/24 12:00:12	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	No reason for fed govt to require draconian measures when they have no idea what the required shots would do either to or for us. In my mind Fauci is a traitor when you see the social and economic changes he thrust upon us. Also check out his motives and who i he is related to!			When Fouci was at Richmond Forum as the speaker he had a difficult time defending himself.
194	9/1/24 10:10:38	9/1/24 10:42:45	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	Your first problem-listening to Fauci and drug companies-all self-serving opportunists. Fauci should be charged with murder! Listen to qualified doctors not people getting rich			No
349	9/27/24 9:26:52	9/27/24 9:33:36	Central	Goochland								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Govt response was criminal. Children are still paying the price for forced injections, in 2024 & will continue to have severe health problems.		Our children are not being educated, but indoctrinated by lies, & for ‘big pharma’ to get richer & to deasease the population.
112	8/26/24 18:12:54	8/26/24 18:16:03	Central	Orange								Education			Using executive orders and misappropriating them as law to coerce all institutions to shut down “for the greater good” was a total disaster. As a result test scores decreased, behavior got worse, and distrust for all government entities grew exponentially.	
334	9/24/24 8:42:20	9/24/24 8:51:58	Southside			Prince Edward						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		During the COVID pandemic, the healthcare industry made it clear that their allegiance wasn't to the patients they claim to serve, but to the government, Big Pharma, and the media.		I have lost most of my trust in the healthcare industry. They pushed a poorly tested, novel medical treatment (mNRA) upon millions of people who were not at risk, and silenced those who questioned it. I cannot forgive what was done to our citizens.

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395	9/29/24 8:59:52	9/29/24 9:04:03	Hampton Roads				Gloucester					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should not mandate our freedoms. Our choice of care. Government should not shut down churches and businesses			
238	9/15/24 14:46:09	9/15/24 15:01:53	Hampton Roads				Williamsburg					Government and Regulatory Systems	Power to shut down businesses, schools, public gathering places such as churches should not be in control of one executive or one party control of the General Assembly. Virginia should not be under the influence of global partnerships like WHO.			
257	9/15/24 22:05:14	9/15/24 22:06:29	Central	Chesterfield								Education				
408	9/30/24 13:41:19	9/30/24 14:03:25	Northern							Fauquier		Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia Governor Ralph Northam had no legal right to make mask use mandatory. This violated personal health, individual freedom and was downright unconstitutional. 1st Amendment - violated freedom of speech, assembly and association - we have a right to speak, unencumbered by masks, and to assemble			Violated ADA accommodations requirements - there are people with real medical or psychological reasons they cannot wear masks - those people were ignored and even harassed. EO-79 stated "Any person who declines to wear a mask because of a medical condition shall not be required to produce or ..."
409	9/30/24 14:05:49	9/30/24 14:13:24	Northern							Fauquier		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Healthcare systems continually violated all common sense and medical reason. They forced people to wear masks who had medical conditions that could not tolerate masks (asthma, post surgery, physical impairments) My daughter has asthma - was harassed to wear mask even though it impaired her breathing		My friend woke up from surgery at UVA wearing a mask - still under effects of anesthesia which suppresses lung function - SHE HAD AN EXEMPTION FROM UVA HOSPITAL because of damage due to radiation treatments - IGNORED HER PAIN AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING-AFTER SHE TESTED NEGATIVE FOR COVID!

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411	9/30/24 14:14:27	9/30/24 14:20:17	Northern							Fauquier		Education			Covid did not impact children under 18, yet they were forced to wear masks and social distance. Virginia did not consider the psychological impact that masks and social distancing would have on children. These should have been weighed vs. health effects before implementing mandates at schools.	Schools should not have closed at all - if teachers were afraid and if masks worked, the teachers should have worn masks. Only SICK PEOPLE need masks to prevent them from spreading to others. The CHILDREN SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FORCED TO WEAR MASKS!
271	9/16/24 13:14:57	9/16/24 13:24:14	Central	Hanover								Education			I am very concerned with the very poor decisions made by most countries to keep children out of schools during a pandemic that rarely impacted children with the illness. The results of this decision appear to have long term effects on the test scores and mental health of our young people.	Little accountability for these decisions.
9	8/6/24 17:24:18	8/6/24 17:31:00	Valley							Frederick		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Thank you for doing a wonderful job protecting the population of Virginia during COVID! Quick action to close schools, businesses, and public areas to keep us safe. Sacrifices were needed and called for. Thank you for doing the right thing. Many lives were saved due to the government's quick action!		No
206	9/7/24 11:51:23	9/7/24 12:00:18	Valley							Frederick		Government and Regulatory Systems	I think the Commonwealth did a good job of protecting citizens by closing down businesses, calling for masking, etc. during the pandemic. I appreciate the efforts to protect the public health and good.			No.

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85	8/26/24 12:22:20	8/26/24 12:36:56	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	I understand that health emergencies may require extraordinary actions by our government but the extent of the shutdowns was too broad and for too long. This lead to some very erratic and inconsistent applications, for instance regarding grocery stores as essential but not churches.			I think the pathological example of the misapplications of shutdowns was in the schools. The lethality of COVID for young persons was very low and with the vaccine broadly rolled out, the schools should have remained open for 2021.
90	8/26/24 12:37:13	8/26/24 12:44:52	Central	Albemarle								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Masking requirements were all over the place. Do I really think masking was effective when less than N95 certified masks were used, or that when I sit down in a public place for a meal that I'm protected when I have the mask off while eating?		I have serious doubts that masking was helpful in any context except close, long-term congregate settings. So applying this to general business environments and gatherings was "theater" at best and financially and psychologically damaging at worst.
92	8/26/24 12:45:08	8/26/24 12:51:18	Central	Albemarle								Education		There was little reason to keep schools online after the Fall 2020 semester. With vaccine rollouts at the start of 2021, the schools should have re-opened then. Loss of learning due to mass online learning will leave a significant cohort of students behind the curve for decades.		I'm for the abolition of teacher unions. But if that is not tolerable, then provisions need to be made in contracts so they can't keep the schools closed during a health emergency.
67	8/23/24 21:03:35	8/23/24 21:05:57	Northern							Loudoun		Education		Do not shut down schools again, much damage was done educationally and emotionally. Criminal.		
283	9/17/24 17:24:13	9/17/24 17:52:51	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Heretofore, during times of crisis, particularly health, the government, et al, has acted in a tyrannical fashion rather than as the people's servant. Health and well being decisions were fundamentally arbitrary, influenced by political biases and intentionally ignoring the finest world experts.			Comprehensively, the deterioration of trust in our societal systems, i.e healthcare & elections, was a result of arrogant behavior on a level of hubris. Broad accountability was denied to the finest advisors America could hope for. Little to nothing has been effected to correct those malefactions.

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270	9/16/24 12:28:04	9/16/24 12:47:20	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I never again would like to see a government entity instill fear and tyrannical information about a virus like Sars-Cov2, which could not be challenged. We now learn that Dr. Fauci was wrong about the injections and the masking.		
197	9/2/24 13:01:37	9/2/24 13:03:05	Valley								Staunton	Government and Regulatory Systems				
122	8/26/24 19:07:05	8/26/24 19:18:28	Hampton Roads				Hampton					Government and Regulatory Systems	VA's pandemic response was draconian and unconstitutional. From denying churches to congregate, CLOSING schools, not holding meetings in person (ex: VASAP) to mandating masks was so detrimental to our family. My son was in 3rd grade they just basically halted school in March 2020.			My son was also forced to wear a mask - OUTSIDE - in July. While Virginians were lied to! Covid tests aren't virus specific and were simply mislabeling influenza and other viruses. The USA flu rate went from 38M to >2000 instantly. All the while we had a curfew imposed and our lives were upended.
356	9/28/24 7:36:58	9/28/24 7:44:08	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor and/or Legislators should NEVER have the authority to close our churches or forbid the movement of its citizens.			Yes....our government should NEVER again force any kind of vaccine (experimental or not) on its citizens.
317	9/23/24 13:34:46	9/23/24 13:43:10	Northern							Arlington		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Closing the schools, small businesses and lockdowns was a complete disaster. Children were never at risk. The mask wearing caused irreparable harm, physically and mentally. Why close small businesses and not the large?		
228	9/15/24 12:29:16	9/15/24 12:43:55	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Government regs cannot ever again be used to allow unelected bureaucrats to seize control over the citizens autonomy. Our rights to move about freely, control over our own bodies, our freedom to work, care for our families, all garranteed under our constitution. The government must follow the law!			

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351	9/27/24 15:32:02	9/27/24 15:52:30	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Patients denied access to alternative treatments. Protocols designated, no ability of doctors to try treatments that were/had been working. Big Pharma treatments untested were forced onto patients. Underlying infections untreated. Children forced without longterm data. Religious exemption denied.		The oppressive tactics employed, and the violation of civil liberties enacted by the state, were emblematic of an oppressive dictatorship.
229	9/15/24 12:48:17	9/15/24 12:59:33	Central	Hanover								Government and Regulatory Systems	In the time of any emergency, Government and it's supporting agencies should never have the power to close schools & universities, churches, and/or places of business.			
319	9/23/24 14:11:24	9/23/24 14:33:49	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Advised by a corrupt medical establishment, and without any cost benefit analysis, you implemented policies which (a) harmed business and family (closing business, church, school) (b) had no scientific basis, and served no useful purpose (masks, distancing) (c) were unethical and illegal			No
352	9/28/24 6:36:27	9/28/24 6:42:54	Northern							Rappahannock		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Never will I support giving up sovereignty to non elected international organizations regarding pandemic responses and preparedness. Virginia should remain completely sovereign and reject recommendations and decrees such as those from the WHO which is a communist organization controlled by the CCP.		We must always uphold the constitution and never restrict our rights and freedoms safeguarded by our constitution. It is our representatives duty and oath to protect and defend the constitution.
132	8/26/24 21:43:14	8/26/24 22:02:50	Northern							Culpeper		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Health Care Systems showed how ill-prepared they were to handle the covid pandemic, but a lot of the issues were not entirely their fault but rather from the restrictions placed on them by the government. My hope is that some best practices have been implemented due to the covid experience.		I am not sure who would be responsible for this change, but until the covid pandemic, I was not aware that we relied so heavily on other countries for our medicines. Some of these countries are not really our friends and this puts us in a very vulnerable position. We need to change this ASAP.

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102	8/26/24 14:16:55	8/26/24 14:22:14	Valley								Augusta	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		*Vaccines* were pushed too hard, not tested, and not even true vaccines. Many treatments such as remdesevir did far more harm that good. Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine were brushed under the rug, though very effective.		The *J&J Vaccine* changed my 64 year old husband and 34 year old daughter's Alpha-1 Antitrypsin recessive gene from recessive dominant. Husband died after 2 miserable years and daughter is very sick. NOBODY IN GOVERNMENT CARES!!!!
394	9/29/24 8:28:59	9/29/24 8:54:51	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Seems you really do not want public comment with only 600 characters available for words to encapsulate 4 years of deplorable diabolical responses. A grand measure of calculated failure. I offer Senator Ron Johnson's hearing from 1/24/22 on the matter. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asw_FBipVpg			Senator Ron Johnson's "American Health and Nutrition: A Second Opinion" roundtable discussion from 9/23/24. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iWE46SRCOk I feel thankful one person in an elected representative seat cares enough to investigate.
360	9/28/24 8:13:28	9/28/24 8:25:15	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		No violation of our constitutional rights by mandated vaccination, mandated closures of businesses and restrictions on drugs that have been safely used for decades by bureaucrats who are not trained physicians.		Let doctors be doctors and prescribe for their patients and get pharmacies out of the business of needing to know diagnoses to fill a script. It's an invasion of privacy and violation of HIPA
124	8/26/24 20:07:51	8/26/24 20:12:44	Northern							Culpeper		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government became tyrannical under the guise of safety, complete power grab.			Very disappointed
125	8/26/24 20:12:59	8/26/24 20:16:21	Northern							Culpeper		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Hospitals and nursing homes became prisons. The doctor's were bribed to call everything covid and hospitals were paid for death.... need Nuremberg 2.0 for the way it was handled.		
28	8/13/24 17:26:53	8/13/24 17:43:38	Northern							Stafford		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Just one example. Previously acceptable media care procedures were completely abandoned. I spent 33 years in the health care system and it was well accepted masks do not prevent transmission of viruses.		The government should not be telling medically trained or action eta how to treat or and what to prescribe for their patients.
29	8/13/24 17:44:03	8/13/24 17:47:16	Northern							Stafford		Government and Regulatory Systems	No government agency should be allowed to continue operates for more than 90 days with out elected officials approving another 90 extension.			Government completely overstepped their bounds into citizens private life restricting constitutional given freedom.

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30	8/13/24 17:47:27	8/13/24 17:52:49	Northern							Stafford		Education			Children should never be sacrificed for anything or anyone. The response of the educational system has caused great harm to a whole generation of children when they were at a very low risk medically.	This was definitely a case of tje treatment being worse than the disease.
143	8/27/24 8:51:00	8/27/24 8:58:11	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	There is no such thing as a “state of emergency” that authorizes a reprobate government to trample the constitutional rights of the citizens. “It was for a good cause” is completely unacceptable.			
8	8/6/24 14:05:56	8/6/24 14:11:43	Valley							Frederick		Education			The closing of the public schools and the forced masking mandates were an outrage and a dismal failure. Although the schools were already underperforming, this policy made things exponentially worse. Even worse was the attempt to force vaccinations for the staff, teachers, and children.	No.
115	8/26/24 18:13:55	8/26/24 18:20:42	Central	Orange								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		There should have been no restrictions. All you accomplished was cause people to die in misery and loose trust in the medical field. No shots, no masks, and no more putting medical facilities in a position to make money by encouraging it to be COVID related deaths.		It was handled poorly. Grade F-
262	9/16/24 7:55:44	9/16/24 7:58:56	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The health care systems have sold their soul to Big Pharm...and just repeat the government nonsense			There needs to be an entity that can determine if these vaccines are truly safe and effective prior to the community being told they are!!
38	8/14/24 7:37:42	8/14/24 7:39:35	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		No mandates are acceptable!!!!		

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119	8/26/24 19:00:25	8/26/24 19:06:50	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	During the pandemic there was a complete government over reach. Stopping citizens from sitting in the beach, closing schools,many other restrictions! Most importantly Virginia Universities and colleges mandated an experimental vaccine with no long term studies. This is against the Nuremberg Code.			Many young people who were mandated to take the experimental vaccine now have severe health issues such as myocarditis due to the vaccine. That should never happen again!
390	9/28/24 22:28:05	9/28/24 22:29:04	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		https://popularrationalism.substack.com/p/researchers-find-anomalies-in-covid?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email-restack-comment&r=8m0o8&triedRedirect=true		Speak the TRUTH
318	9/23/24 14:26:27	9/23/24 14:28:34	Northern							Prince William		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Need to avoid payments to illegals		no
388	9/28/24 19:11:51	9/28/24 19:18:56	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The people that I was teaching were not a risk but yet they were told things to make them so afraid to not wear a mask way after the plans evolved. These teens were so psychologically affected as if they would kill the older ones or their siblings if they did not mask.		And they were stunted by only having on line school thst I saw their brilliance decline abd their hope defer.
146	8/27/24 11:09:30	8/27/24 11:15:44	Valley								Waynesboro	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government is not prepared to respond to health emergencies. Health and Human services were not responsive in the crisis. There were not enough hospital beds, ventilators or staff to cope with the crisis. The response was panic. The response was find a cure at any cost and finance it.			Healthcare workers left the field because of the difficult decisions that had to be made. They also became ill because of the lack of personal protective equipment.
137	8/27/24 7:01:46	8/27/24 7:04:37	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education			The teacher unions keep schools closed because they did not want to go back to in person teaching. Children were the least vulnerable. Children lost 19 percentiles of learning due to fear of catching what essentially was the bad flu strain.	No

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184	8/30/24 7:31:58	8/30/24 7:49:25	West Central		Botetourt							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Virginia response was authorian and rejection of medical science. Effective repurposed drugs were banned, and replaced with more expensive ineffective drugs. Virginia’s pandemic response was a total sellout to Big Pharma and big government. I have zero trust in the medical profession.		The response should be thoroughly reviewed. Those responsible for the denial of good medical care should be punished. This (mandates for vaccines, masks, church, school business closures) should never be allowed to happen again. NEVER!
429	9/30/24 23:28:37	9/30/24 23:52:39	Hampton Roads				Mathews					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Mandatory vaccinations and masking are a big mistake for the people of Virginia. Regardless of popular beliefs about the safety of vaccinations/masks, we are a self-governing people in a free nation who have bodily autonomy under God's rulership. We can choose to stop infection naturally.		We can choose to trust God with our health and safety and choose the products we believe will provide necessary healing. We can exercise our God-given freedoms without help from the government. I urge you to stop pushing shots and masking this go round and stand for health freedom. We decide.
56	8/17/24 17:31:06	8/17/24 17:36:03	Central	Chesterfield								Education			There was never a need to mask children and limit their oxygen to their brains!! They have robust immune systems & natural immunity has and always will be far superior to any man made “solutions”. Do not repeat the awful mistakes of the past children are still suffering from these poor decisions.	Parental choice should matter and parent’s input is essential. Oxygen and safety is also essential. No need to distance and put children in danger as there was never evidence that proved it helpful. Do the research next time please.
93	8/26/24 12:47:36	8/26/24 12:53:30	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	The draconian government edicts forced on Americans during the COVID outbreak was outrageous, an affront to our freedom as Americans and caused great harm to the elderly, their family members who were kept away as they were dying and to children who did not need the drugs that were forced on them.			There must not be any future attempt to force Americans to take drugs or to close schools and churches due to a predominantly non-lethal virus. It was ab outrage.
232	9/15/24 13:26:12	9/15/24 13:32:41	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	Our Republic's sovereignty should not be overridden by the WHO when health decision issues are to be determined			

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325	9/23/24 16:02:50	9/23/24 16:17:53	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		By insisting on untested vaccines and refusing ivermectin and similar drugs, the medical community stands guilty of thousands of deaths and still more adverse reactions to the vaccine. The medical community stands guilty of murder.		No
199	9/2/24 16:04:31	9/2/24 16:35:37	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Education			Open schools reduce learning loss, social & emotional well-being risks & food scarcity; provide equity access for learning & econ. stability; eliminates childcare and safety issues & provides supporting evidence on transmission. Schools are NOT primary sources of transmission/at-risk population.	Rural divisions in VA generally returned to in-person learning sooner than others. Private institutions remained open. Closed schools = educ & social impacts (absenteeism, learning gaps, loss of teachers, etc). https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landin-g-2022-pandemic-impact-on-k-12-education.asp
217	9/10/24 18:48:39	9/10/24 19:11:31	Northern							Rappahannock		Government and Regulatory Systems	Your survey limitation to address only 1 of the 3 categories - despite the overlap of their impact on each other tells me that you aren't really interested in the TRUE impact of these interventions. All of them were in violation of the constitution and all were absent any valid scientific basis.			No "health minister" or "health authority" should ever be given such sweeping powers again. The fact that you limit comments to 300 characters is a great example of the lack of real interest in the negative impacts of these egregious policies.
428	9/30/24 22:19:40	9/30/24 22:32:00	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Absolutely no emergency use authorization of experimental medical intervention. Non interference in doctor patient relationship by government. Allow doctors to prescribe as they see fit vs limiting their options and preventing pharmacies from dispensing medicine prescribed.		Listen to the doctors vs telling them what they can and can't do. Put liability back on pharmaceutical companies for vaccine injury. If you want to stockpile medicines, pick tried and true ones, preferably generic and low cost. Less interference is better.

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276	9/16/24 19:23:14	9/16/24 20:02:43	West Central		Lynchburg							Government and Regulatory Systems	Governor/Lt. Governor/State Attorney General/State Congress: you must uphold the medical freedoms of the sovereign people of Virginia to make it illegal to mandate any medicines and medical therapies. Also the state should not consent to WHO regulations by unelected officials.			As part of medical freedoms the state should not mandate Fluoride, Chlorine and other toxins in our public drinking water. The state should promote Primary Water for all municipal water. http://primarywaterinstitute.org https://primarywater.org/
123	8/26/24 19:57:04	8/26/24 20:00:43	Valley							Augusta		Government and Regulatory Systems	Above all else your role is protect natural rights—irregardless of convenience and public opinion. Virginia failed miserably during the COVID Pandemic.			Natural rights are not optional. Everyone should have free will to live as they are convicted. Mandating face masks and vaccines was a horrific moment in Americas history and I will never forget.
431	10/1/24 0:00:15	10/1/24 0:02:47	Northern							Falls Church		Government and Regulatory Systems	Governement should have no or extremely limited input on our choices. Stay out of the educational choices and leave us alone!! .			Let families and individuals decide what they need.
288	9/21/24 17:52:47	9/21/24 17:59:56	Southwest						Wise			Government and Regulatory Systems	We will NEVER AGAIN submit to lockdowns or mandates of any shape or form. The Governor, the Virginia Department of Health nor any unelected entity will NOT take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, or our right to work and protect our families.			We will NOT allow our elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable appointed bureaucrats! NEVER AGAIN will we submit to lockdowns, masking, nor any the other nonsense that was perpetrated during the 2020 PLANDEMIC!
103	8/26/24 14:20:16	8/26/24 14:33:07	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should never be able to mandate or coerce the use of an experimental medical product. We should always follow the Nuremberg Code and the principle of informed consent. In the case of the Covid "vaccine," it wasn't even a true vaccine; it was an experimental gene therapy.			During the pandemic I was prevented by local police from going to two different parks on two occasions. This was absolutely crazy -- the best place to be was outside, getting some sunlight and improving my Vitamin D levels. So many public officials seem to be clueless about true health.

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105	8/26/24 14:35:47	8/26/24 14:45:24	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The health care systems provided incorrect information repeatedly - they said the "vaccine" would prevent transmission (that was wrong); they said the spike protein from the shot would stay locally in the arm (that was wrong); they said masks would stop the spread of the virus (also wrong); etc.		The CDC is a captured agency. They have become nothing more that a promotional arm of Big Pharma. The number of deaths and injuries from the Covid shots were very high (just look at CDC's own VAERS database). My doctor used Ivermectin w/ patients very successfully but couldn't talk about it.
379	9/28/24 14:19:10	9/28/24 14:26:54	Northern							Arlington		Education			Keeping kids out of school buildings for months resulted in huge learning losses both in curriculum & social development. Hurt special needs & low income kids most. NEVER do this again.	Do not mandate vaccines that are not fully tested. Young people never needed the vaccines as COVID was not severe.
253	9/15/24 19:14:14	9/15/24 19:17:04	Northern							Fairfax		Education			Shutting down schools caused a mental health burden on children, teachers, and working parents. Schools should have reopened much earlier than they did.	
374	9/28/24 10:55:18	9/28/24 10:55:58	Northern							Manassas		Government and Regulatory Systems				
50	8/15/24 10:57:27	8/15/24 11:03:57	Central	Powhatan								Government and Regulatory Systems	The ability of the governor to decide on a unilateral basis which businesses were "essential" and which ones weren't demonstrated a level of overreach that simply must never be allowed again. Close churches but leave liquor stores open, because liquor stores posed a lower infection risk?			I worked as a pharmacist at a level 1 trauma center in Richmond throughout the pandemic and never caught COVID-19. I declined the vaccine and lost my job, remaining unemployable for over 2 years because of mandates. I am looking for answers and accountability.
109	8/26/24 16:10:13	8/26/24 16:58:45	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	Although I never got Covid, I got sick due to the requirements of the gov't to stay home. My apt's HVAC system & all the vents were covered with mold & I got mold toxicity. I suffered from & still do from chronic anxiety with chest pain, chronic fatigue, neuropathy in my feet, headaches, SIBO, IBS.			

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298	9/23/24 10:55:58	9/23/24 11:03:48	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government (the CDC) lied about Ivermectin, despite the evidence that it was effective. The perpetrators of the lie should be severally punished. They caused many to die. The CDC now silently admits it is effective.			The CDC's lies and the media's lies are destroying the country.
233	9/15/24 14:23:52	9/15/24 14:29:55	Hampton Roads				York					Education			Government should take more careful note of the actual mortality from a virus or biotic among school-age children before ordering public and private schools closed in an "epidemic." Our children will never completely recover from the learning missed during the unwarranted COVID closures.	
333	9/23/24 22:39:41	9/23/24 22:51:45	Central	New Kent								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				After car accidents I couldn't get the necessary health care without being masked, vaxed or social distancing. I have religious objections to them but couldn't get care without being masked properly, which changed with everywhere I went & called. I'm still having issues with my injuries due to that.
249	9/15/24 18:42:41	9/15/24 18:44:20	Central	Greene								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
430	9/30/24 23:40:39	10/1/24 0:00:11	Hampton Roads				Mathews					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		We have God given rights from our Creator to decide what goes into our bodies. In preparation for a health crisis, pandemic or infectious disease emergency, I hope it is obvious to anyone in the medical field that vaccinations and masks do not work.		When you encroach upon our body autonomy, you have taken away our freedom. We the people reserve the right to make the best decisions for our health. No mandatory shots or mask mandates in Virginia. No government shut down of churches!

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399	9/29/24 21:24:10	9/29/24 21:42:13	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		"WE THE PEOPLE" are the Stakeholders and no Government or Medical (Acting or Emergency) has no Power to violate the Rights of its Citizens.		Americans have been lied to of the effectiveness of vaccines. www.tga.au/sites/default/files/foi-2389-06.pdf shows that Covid Vax does not stay in the arm but affects the entire body. Yet the Medical field push vax through advertising(Federal,State,Phar ma Companies and Retail) which is fraud.
59	8/19/24 17:15:10	8/19/24 17:48:47	Central	Goochland								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Understanding now that the vaccine was never "safe and effective" and was never tested in such a way as to be able to say so, it is abundantly clear that our healthcare decisions should not be bound by claims made by the CDC, the FDA, the NIH, Mr. Fauci, etc. We must think for ourselves.		We know now that Ivermectin is very effective in treating covid but Doctors would not prescribe it as they were told not to do so. Why, because Big Pharma paid them for every jab, paid hospitals for Covid diagnoses, Intubations and Covid deaths! Outlaw the practice of cash incentives in medicine.
61	8/20/24 12:03:32	8/20/24 12:17:58	Central	Goochland								Education			We must never again shut down our schools and churches for a supposed pandemic. Our children have been seriously compromised both intellectually and socially by being isolated from other school-aged children and by online learning, which we know was a poor substitute for classroom-based education.	The fact that any school, college or university can mandate to students that they must submit to an injection of foreign material into their bodies is incomprehensible and, as has been shown by evidence, was actually very harmful in many circumstances. This action violates Constitutional rights.
62	8/20/24 12:20:46	8/20/24 12:39:50	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	Our legislature should immediately pass a law stating that Virginia is not bound by any decrees issued by the WHO or bound by International Health Regulations. Those decrees and regulations should only be used in an advisory capacity as none of the officials are actually elected by U.S. citizens.			The announcement of a pandemic, real or not, does not strip individuals of their God-given rights! When we see that a vaccine does not protect, but actually harms, we should enact legislation that prohibits any advertisement that continues to advocate for the jab and enact penalties for doing so.

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420	9/30/24 17:09:12	9/30/24 17:26:32	Central	Goochland								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Let's remember, first, DO NO HARM. Our health care system was all about masking, social distancing, Covid testing and jabs and boosters, all of which have proven to be detrimental, not helpful. We have seen rising death rates, myocarditis in the young, dropping fertility rates, turbo cancers, etc.		The use of Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine were prohibited in favor of more expensive and profitable drugs even though they were proven to be very effective. Change the emphasis of our healthcare system from pursuing profits to actually curing the patient. Prohibit \$\$ incentives from Big Pharma.
418	9/30/24 16:55:33	9/30/24 17:07:53	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	No government official, agency, legislative branch, judge, etc., shall have the authority to issue health and safety directives that infringe on any citizens unalienable rights as defined in the Constitution. Mandating social distancing, mask wearing, church and school closings, is unconstitutional			We simply cannot have decrees handed down when they are not based on any medical facts. The vaccines were never tested appropriately and as such were nothing more than experimental shots and we the people were the guinea pigs. Government's chief duty is to protect their citizens, not harm them!
422	9/30/24 17:27:44	9/30/24 17:39:52	Central	Goochland								Education			The knee jerk reaction of closing all our schools for roughly 2 years was devastating to our children and has negatively impacted them both educationally and socially. This is unforgivable and was based on faulty information and perhaps on intentionally misleading information. Who is responsible?	We now know that school age children were virtually impervious to Covid and if a child was actually infected, there were virtually no symptoms and the death rate amongst children was almost zero! We simply cannot have this kind of overreaction. Closing schools should not be an option.
273	9/16/24 14:28:21	9/16/24 14:38:26	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	Government should never mandate healthcare. The tyranny caused unnecessary deaths and physical and financial suffering continue.			Government should not insert itself in healthcare.

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321	9/23/24 14:49:08	9/23/24 14:54:55	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government has no authority to shut down businesses under a so-called pandemic emergency or to force people to get any shot(s) or wear masks. This violates our rights under the Constitution on Virginia and the US Constitution.			Leave people and businesses alone!
357	9/28/24 7:21:54	9/28/24 7:44:57	Hampton Roads				James City					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		All people need the freedom to research and select the best health for themselves and their families. No person should be forced to succumb to drugs, surgeries, mask-wearing, or any other medical procedure in order to boost pharmaceutical, hospital, and other medical company revenue.		It should be illegal for lawmakers to take contributions from pharmaceutical companies.
267	9/16/24 10:28:30	9/16/24 10:32:45	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should never lockdown the people again. The government is supposed to serve the people, not rule over them. The people are the rulers of the land and should be free to go where they choose as well as to take whatever medical treatments the people deem fit.			Seek wisdom from above in all that you do.
222	9/15/24 10:52:06	9/15/24 10:54:14	Valley								Waynesboro	Government and Regulatory Systems	Stop lording over people and trampling Constitutional rights.			Everyone will remember COVID the next event you strong-arm a response onto everyone like fascists and they won't go along with it. You really fucked up last time.
162	8/28/24 8:23:51	8/28/24 8:48:07	Central	Henrico								Education				<p>The pandemic response was the most corrupt event that directly impacted me, my family and showed me how easily the government can manipulate its people and how people can be manipulated by fear. Please watch this simulation: https://youtu.be/61j4jmSLhQc?si=83lm5C5xRW-qgnVx "The Great Reset".</p> <p>"The New Normal". Then read these: https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202106/1227219.shtml https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1094347/world-military-games-illness-covid-19 Forced Vaccines, Forced Masking, keeping kids out of school, people out of church. Just pure evil! NEVER AGAIN!!!</p>

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391	9/28/24 21:54:18	9/28/24 22:30:40	Hampton Roads				James City					Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia needs to create a medical freedom constitutional amendment. A U.S. doctor wrote one for El Salvador because the country's leader knows what freedom is and how to implement it. Our governor, general assembly, VDH, and police force do NOT have the right to tell Virginians to mask, inject,			or take medical treatments they don't want even in times of "emergencies." They don't have the right to control doctor's clinical treatment decisions. Virginia needs to act as an autonomous state, not follow untested and unconstitutional federal/CDC dictates. We control our bodies, not the state.
33	8/13/24 19:33:40	8/13/24 19:42:26	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	There need to be limits on the Govenors powers to declare a state of emergency. Mandatory business closures should never happen again. Laws need to be passed limiting the power of government to mandate any action by private citizens (masks) & businesses for any reason.			All government officials elected or not who supported mandates and closures should be investigated and if found to have conflicts of interest should be prosecuted by Virginia.
158	8/27/24 20:13:09	8/27/24 20:46:50	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia's handling of the "COVID Crisis" was disappointing, except for the Governor's stance against mandates. I expected protection like in Florida or South Dakota. My employer ignored accommodations, and I feared losing my job for two years. A Republican administration should've done more.			The Governor's trust in the Virginia Board of Medicine's mainstream approach, ignoring alternatives, broke mine. My friend's death from remdesivir and intubation confirmed this. Now, vaccinated people face abrupt deaths from compromised immune systems, Myocarditis, and turbo cancers.
70	8/24/24 4:30:47	8/24/24 4:33:24	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	There are very few emergency powers necessary during a pandemic. Any power needs legislative approval and oversight by a body of non-government officials and citizens.			
174	8/29/24 14:02:31	8/29/24 14:20:12	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I have chronic thromboembolic pulmanary hypertension and therefore am especally at risk for respiratory infections. I contacted Covid-19 for which I took hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. I was bedridden for only one day. Ivermectin should be available over the counter in Virginia.		

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387	9/28/24 18:02:57	9/28/24 18:17:22	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	I detest government mandates that closed churches, schools, and small businesses severely crippling our economy and putting many small businesses out of business. I am opposed to mandates that completely bypass an individual's right to refuse to take ANY drug without allowing for informed consent.			
363	9/28/24 8:21:25	9/28/24 8:33:52	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government of Virginia coerced businesses, under threat of removal of their business licenses, if they did not enforce what government was not constitutionally allowed to. People were othered and not allowed to participate in society without a mask, vaccines, papers proving vaccination, etc.			Legislation must be passed that makes any business being used by government to do what would normally be a government function (such as enforcing law and regulation) to be subject to the same restrictions and constitutional protection mechanisms as government itself as they act as a gov. agency.
343	9/26/24 1:02:35	9/26/24 1:06:27	Eastern					Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
185	8/30/24 7:41:54	8/30/24 7:55:38	Central	Albemarle								Education		Pathetic. Total destruction of child development for a cold. Schools should NEVER have been shutdown. We moved out of the state just for our kids to be able to continue their education. Just absolutely pathetic leadership - fear and panic is no way to lead. You robbed kids of lifetime memories.		VT same lame leadership of panic and fear. The effective mandating of the death jab just adds to the miserable approach. Sands should be fired for his complete lack of leadership. He aggressively went totally woke and the entire student body paid far too heavily. Disgusting.

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74	8/25/24 7:35:39	8/25/24 7:52:04	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Education			My boys started high school during school closures. Their grades declined. Once schools opened, they were forced to mask. The mask caused my type 1 diabetic child to have severe headaches daily and affected his blood sugar. Since the school was not issuing mask exemptions, he was homeschooled.	My daughter was in high school during Covid. She had an IEP due to a head injury that occurred at the school. The school was not able to comply with her IEP requirements because of covid restrictions/school closures. I pulled her out in 10th grade and she finished high school as a homeschooler.
75	8/25/24 7:52:55	8/25/24 8:06:26	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My mother with Parkinson's, was admitted to Chesapeake Regional due to a fall and confusion. NO ONE WAS ALLOWED IN TO ADVOCATE. She was kept 4 days, completely confused, and called me crying due to lack of care. She was finally released and they said they could find nothing wrong.		I took her to Sentara ER and she was there for 10 hours. She was released still very confused, saying nothing was wrong. Her primary care also found nothing wrong but gave her a z pack. She was better within days. Months later at a neurologist appt., it was determined the hospitals missed a UTI.
76	8/25/24 8:07:10	8/25/24 8:22:04	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	I had submitted several FOIA requests to Chesapeake Public Schools regarding their covid response which affected all 3 of my children. The fees to obtain the information were extremely high, one as much as \$16,000. The request I did pay for was over \$500. It contained information regarding			religious "accommodations" for masks. There was a secretive 3 person panel "grading" people's answers as to how religious they were. If you did not score high, no "accommodation" was granted. The accommodations were not backed by science, ie... face shields did not prevent the spread of covid.
77	8/25/24 8:49:34	8/25/24 8:56:09	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Education			My daughter attended an online only class at Tidewater Community College in 2021. On the first day during a zoom class, the teacher called out each student by name and asked them to state their vaccination status. If they said they were not vaccinated, she ridiculed them.	My daughter recorded it and I turned it into the Dean immediately. The Dean stated that the behavior by the teacher would be taken care of and that the world has gone crazy right now and no teacher was mandated to ask a student's vaccination status. The Dean said this could be a HIPAA violation.

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198	9/2/24 13:13:43	9/2/24 13:20:51	West Central		Pulaski							Government and Regulatory Systems	Northam handles Covid 19 horribly. The lockdowns, mandates concerning masks, etc. were FAR overreaching! It should have been left to each individual to decide for themselves and their families. Many small businesses were destroyed and some people died alone without their families.			I'm glad I was "non-compliant"! I will not have my personal freedoms trampled...
256	9/15/24 21:50:37	9/15/24 21:59:34	Hampton Roads				York					Education			Students around Virginia were forced to get the Covid jab if they were in extra curricular activities in high school in some areas. Some schools even required it if the student was just going to try out for an extra curricular activity. Colleges mandated the jab and even the booster. Disgusting!	My daughter was vaccine injured by the covid jab. She dropped out of college to not have to take the booster. How many students will not be able to have children? In a study of 76,000 women, 52% had menstrual issues after the jab. The education system bought the propaganda hook line and sinker.
315	9/23/24 13:20:10	9/23/24 13:22:56	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	Our governor at the time of the pandemic trampled our rights and the government allowed him to. I hope that we do not see this again and that no unconstitutional treaties are signed on our behalf. We did not vote for this and we did not vote to forego medical freedom.			
21	8/13/24 15:11:02	8/13/24 15:13:56	Northern							Culpeper		Government and Regulatory Systems	The way the pandemic was handled in VA was a disgrace. Our then governor violated our constitutional rights and human rights. We can never let this happen again.			The medical community also violated our rights by trying to coerce citizens into taking an experimental vaccine. People lost their jobs, businesses and more and were denied medical treatment for opting out. It's egregious. Never again.

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117	8/26/24 18:35:43	8/26/24 18:43:01	Northern							Spotsylvania		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government didn't do enough to keep schools open, letting each division choose, despite other countries safely reopening schools. The endless lockdowns, mask mandates and threats of mandating Vax'es was unconstitutional. Never again should anybody violate people's Constitutional rights			Only democrat ran states, at the time VA was democrat controlled, thought they were above the Constitution. Any lawmaker who violates Constitutional rights, should be immediately impeached for violating their oath.
69	8/23/24 23:06:24	8/23/24 23:18:43	Northern							Fairfax		Education		As a FCPS K-12 educator, I'd like to know when cases are up in my area, school pyramid (4), or school, depending on how specific you can be.		I know there are a lot of "Karens" out there, so you don't have to mandate masks, but I'd like to know when it would be best to wear one. My friend (in a different area) was in bed with a terrible case of covid this week. I've proof that wearing a mask protected me during the worst of the pandemic.
173	8/29/24 13:50:00	8/29/24 13:56:05	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		It disgusts me that, the vaccine was mandatory and we lost a grave amount of health-care professionals.		Makes me ill that people had to die alone, for one of the biggest government hoax in my lifetime.
150	8/27/24 12:10:41	8/27/24 12:47:08	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems				Seriously 300 characters? Examine all positions of authority for their truthfulness and remove from that position, if they acted w/o knowledge or were "just doing what they were told". Next time TELL THE TRUTH! We need leaders not lemmings.
20	8/13/24 14:59:22	8/13/24 15:04:59	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		A severe lack of rational judgment based on known infection control practices was shown. A lack of evidence-based knowledge on how to treat respiratory infections. The use of ineffective masks for infection control. Delays in treatment in the most vulnerable populations.		Information was not given to residents on long term infection control and health management. Falso information was given on the spread of respiratory diseases.

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221	9/13/24 14:45:20	9/13/24 14:53:45	Eastern					Lancaster				Education			After watching the Lancaster School Board force children to wear masks when returning to school, I did research on the effects of Covid-19 on children's health, the effectiveness of masks, the effects of wearing masks for hours daily, and the effects of sunshine and vitamin D on the virus.	After doing research, it was clear the Lancaster School Board AND the State School Board did not do adequate research on these topics or did not care to protect the physical and/or mental health of our students.
243	9/15/24 15:49:01	9/15/24 15:59:21	Northern							Alexandria		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Mask mandates and Any Vaccine mandates violate my Constitutional, civil and human rights.		People lost jobs if we refused vaccine mandate. We were forced to wear masks against our will at work for four years. I feel violated. Mask mandates and Any Vaccine mandates violate my Constitutional, civil and human rights. I have a right to breathe the air and to refuse all vaccines.
14	8/13/24 14:33:31	8/13/24 14:45:02	Valley								Augusta	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		This group of professional are largely populated with individuals who value their untested knowledge base over the rights and freedoms of citizens. They readily go beyond recommendations to requirements and are influenced by activists to leverage minority opinions into required behaviors.		The word 'Management' should be removed from Emergency Management and replaced with Preparedness, which is their true role. If they erroneously believe they are 'managing' a crisis situation, it is too easy for them to translate their recommendations into requirements which have the effect of law.
182	8/29/24 21:58:01	8/29/24 21:59:40	Central	New Kent								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government was absolutely ridiculous with their masking requirements and vaccine pushing. It is insane to force Americans to wear a mask when they do not want to.			
309	9/23/24 11:30:28	9/23/24 11:43:21	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The level of intrusiveness associated with preventing people from earning a living subject to an arbitrary selection of what is 'vital' employment or profession should never, ever be repeated. The level of economic destruction by closing of businesses and churches was not warranted.			Political elites seen disobeying their own proclamations was shameful. Regrettably they seem to know no shame!

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260	9/16/24 0:06:49	9/16/24 0:08:39	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	Never lock down and close business			
400	9/29/24 22:13:37	9/29/24 22:16:13	Hampton Roads				Hampton					Education			Basically destroyed my hopes of going to collage for something I loved thanks	
144	8/27/24 9:33:08	8/27/24 9:43:29	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Overly punitive unnecessary restrictions on citizens and their right to earn a living. Just plain ignorant decisions with NO FACTUAL evidence that they were helpful.			common sense and our rightssks, (DIRTY FACE DIAPERS), RESTAURANT RULES. BTH MY PARENTS DIED DURING THIS TIME. In their 90s --not from covid. I COULD NOT BE WITH MY DAD IN A NURSING HOME HE DIED ALONE. the governor was a pure nazi idiot!!!!!!
246	9/15/24 17:58:03	9/15/24 18:05:54	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor & VA DOH must never again be able to violate Virginians' bodily autonomy rights including choice of whether or not to receive medical treatment/vaccines and whether to wear masks. My young daughter suffered serious mental health consequences due to forced school masking in 2021-2022.			
37	8/13/24 21:24:26	8/13/24 21:39:28	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	US Government should reject treaties making WHO recommendations supersede our national interests in emergency response. Doctors, researchers, virologists, etc. should have the freedom to discuss and try creative solutions without being crushed by government.			
27	8/13/24 17:16:16	8/13/24 17:23:50	Northern							Loudoun		Education			Closing schools for as long as you did caused long lasting damage mentally, socially and educationally. Kids missed crucial milestones that they will never get back. I think the way everything was handled was a total disgrace.	

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380	9/28/24 14:40:57	9/28/24 14:47:54	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The powers exercised by the Governor at that time were overly broad and should have been checked. There was no data nor research to support travel bans within the state, masking, shutdown of businesses, nor penalties for violations of these unlawful powers.			Legislation must be passed to limit any such authority to a maximum of 7 days if that long. The data related to the pandemic was circumspect with many studies now out clearly contradicting the CDC guidance. Commerce, education, and personal freedom were all negatively impacted by this overreach.
152	8/27/24 13:04:21	8/27/24 13:15:28	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		January2022. Care for Covid, denied. All were tested that came to ER but sent home. Results not available for 2 weeks by then you were either dead or had recovered. Only offered a ventilator and Remdesiver which by then everyone knew was a killer. Not allowed to even mention Ivermectin.		After recovery but left with long Covid, all Sentara facilities and partners would run all kinds of test but wouldn't diagnose anything and Drs. seemed to be afraid to answer any questions (like the room was bugged).
4	8/5/24 17:34:27	8/5/24 17:40:01	Central	Hanover								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Stockpiles of monoclonal antibodies went unused, and were not broadly available. Healthcare centers, including primary care physicians, hospitals, urgent care centers did not provide the treatment as an option to patients.		Hospitals and physicians followed protocols for Covid patients set by administrators, based on CMS reimbursement, rather than allowing physicians practicing medicine. Pharmacies determined whether or not they would dispense medication's prescribed by physicians. PharmD do not practice medicine.
5	8/5/24 17:40:38	8/5/24 17:44:02	Central	Hanover								Education			These were determined regarding masking without sufficient clinical evidence that would support the measure. Schools were closed and studies regarding the detrimental effects to children were ignored. Counties made decisions on closing schools prior to receiving feedback from parents.	Only after pushback did schools allow for students with disabilities, Initially, ignoring the legally mandated requirement. Teachers unions and/or associations were allowed to negotiate with school boards without parents present. The state has not addressed the education gap or detrimental effects.

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6	8/5/24 19:17:31	8/5/24 19:25:39	Northern							Fauquier		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The measures implemented to stop the spread of COVID 19 harmed me and my family. The mask mandate was terrible. I have a daughter with severe hearing loss and she reads lips to help her understand. When everyone wore masks her ability to communicate was severely limited.		The closing of worship spaces grossly infringed on my freedom to worship. In the future, never make laws that quarantine healthy people or treat people like they are a contagion. What an abuse of human dignity.
104	8/26/24 14:31:52	8/26/24 14:34:47	Central	New Kent								Education			Absolutely disastrous decision to close go virtual with education. The most impacted were those already lagging behind. Losing laptops. Not everyone has internet. This was another war on the poor	
324	9/23/24 15:15:16	9/23/24 15:18:13	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	Citizens should have the option to choose how they respond to a health crisis, not the govt.			
231	9/15/24 13:13:51	9/15/24 13:23:09	West Central		Montgomery							Government and Regulatory Systems	The lack of critical thinking by leaders at VTwas appalling.I proved in real time with their own data that the vaccinated were the ones spreading COVID, after their vaccine mandate and mandatory testing for only the unvaccinated. They had no interest.			Tim Sands needs to apologize and admit he was wrong, and compensation needs to be paid to people who did not get the COVID vaccine for the harassment, invasion of privacy and their bodies with testing, and in some cases being fired or booted out of school.
81	8/26/24 12:01:49	8/26/24 12:18:03	Northern							Spotsylvania		Government and Regulatory Systems	I believe it is extremely crucial in any kind of medical emerg. pandemic type response, that the gov. control does not encroach on the critically important freedoms in our first amendment. Notably,freedom to gather in churches, & their being deemed non-essential while liquor stores were essential!			The bias in allowing mass protest for certain issues, while shutting down others, and allowing big box stores while shutting particularly schools is unconscionable for our children, and the permanent damage that was done. Never again!

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36	8/13/24 20:20:56	8/13/24 21:16:39	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Lockdowns unnecessary and caused great harm to all, Censorship.You will kill Granny unvaxxt; MPIDR -From Unicef/GME site: "The available evidence indicates the direct impact of Covid-19 on children,adolescent or youth mortality to be limited." No shots needed. Deaths in 20 and under, .4.		Sweden (schools/business stayed open) and India fared better (used Ivermectin) than US according to data shown UN/GME Unicef. in US . Uptake in deaths on graph 21/22 (after vax was rolled out). Teen suicide during/after lockdowns. Couldn't see unvaxt husband in rehab for pt; People died alone.inhu
171	8/28/24 20:44:13	8/28/24 21:02:40	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	I would have liked to have seen our elected leaders actually lead, and NOT follow. Leading means that you do your RESEARCH. Florida's AG listened to the experts and took control by pointing out the dangers of masks and mRNA injections. Please lead and do your research.			Medical decisions should never be forced onto people. Lock downs destroyed our small businesses and more children were abused. Our bodies are designed to attack viruses and then adapt to insure survival. Freedom to make one's own rational decisions is always healthier than fear tactics.
338	9/24/24 13:23:46	9/24/24 14:13:17	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		As a retired nurse at the time, I watched a disregard for standard AMA protocols. Patients were advised not to seek early treatment, denied potential life saving medications prescribed by their doctor; the terminal were forbidden needed comfort from family and clergy. All inexcusable!		The mandatory use of inadequately tested vaccines was an unconstitutional violation of human rights and is now considered criminal in many cases.
166	8/28/24 13:02:06	8/28/24 13:03:44	Central	Henrico								Education			I worked as a substitute teacher in the past for HCPS. I was also an HCPS mom of two daughters.	N/A
396	9/29/24 11:49:58	9/29/24 11:58:08	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia must reject Federal government directives on public health matters. The by the Federal government, and its censorship efforts by the CDC and the White House, created unnecessary fear and deceived millions into taking an experimental injection that proved neither safe nor effective.			Virginia must assert the Federalist principles of the Constitution and reject Federal government demands on public health issues.

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230	9/15/24 13:01:04	9/15/24 13:19:29	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		During the lockdown time frame I had many medical appointments and hospitalizations not related to Covid. I was subjected to mandatory masking in order to receive absolutely necessary treatments. Masks have been scientifically proven to be ineffective in preventing Covid yet even I useless cloth		masks were deemed acceptable. I have recently undergone lung cancer surgery and WILL NOT wear a mask at ANY medical appointment. I will never forgive my oncologist for demanding I take the vax DURING treatment for cancer, KNOWING that Ivermectin was a safe and effective treatment for Covid.
168	8/28/24 16:01:14	8/28/24 16:11:27	West Central		Campbell							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The disruption of the public school system during the pandemic was unnecessary and detrimental to the success of so many students. While a few are able to learn through online instruction, most need in-person instruction to effectual succeed.		The virus was not lethal to school aged children and care should be taken before ever putting those measures into place EVER AGAIN
169	8/28/24 16:11:43	8/28/24 16:26:10	West Central		Campbell							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		We should have ivermectin available OTC in our great state, just as public servants have implemented in Tennessee for instance. Unless you are being paid by big pharma there is absolutely no reason to put patients on a ventilator and treat with remesdevir, a death sentence.		Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine should be readily available in the early stages of an infection. The covid "vaccination" should be pulled from the market as there are zero, 0, long term studies and all previous animal testing proved fatal.
100	8/26/24 13:58:47	8/26/24 14:04:16	Hampton Roads				Newport News					Government and Regulatory Systems	Never let the media dictate the information provide to the people. It was impossible to sort out truth from lies being proved. Media scams and scare tactics dictated and were not always the truth or following the science.			No!
340	9/25/24 8:42:26	9/25/24 9:04:26	Eastern					Northumberland				Government and Regulatory Systems	Too much power was given to the government to control our private lives. Only big stores were allowed to be open while small stores were shut down. Masks were required to enter restaurants then we took them off to eat. This is faulty logic! Our civil rights and basic freedoms were lost			The government took control over our personal health care and vaccine requirements. We were lied to about vaccine effects and origins of Covid.

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385	9/28/24 17:08:52	9/28/24 17:11:33	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The legislature should establish stronger, continuing oversight by requiring legislative approval at least every 90 days for any state of emergency to continue, including any limitations enacted pursuant to such declaration			
266	9/16/24 10:21:31	9/16/24 10:30:28	Northern							Fredericksburg		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Health care systems should not be hindered by the dark agenda we faced last time. We need access to things that work like Ivermectin and we need to expose the things that do not work like Remdesivere! We all must stand together to keep our health and out industry safe.		We need to expose those willing to do harm!!
353	9/28/24 7:08:19	9/28/24 7:13:13	Hampton Roads				James City					Education			The state needs to get back to teaching children not indoctrinating them in current ideologies. My grandkids who are at the top of their classes can't do simple math, sound out words, know anything about civics, and are ignorant of simple science.	Teachers unions should be abolished! All they do is encourage and support incompetence driving actually good teachers to other professions or states/districts that don't allow teachers unions.
138	8/27/24 7:24:53	8/27/24 7:27:33	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	There should NOT be government mandates for vaccines of any kind.			More transparency regarding pharmaceutical trials must be made public.
282	9/17/24 15:56:38	9/17/24 16:15:02	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Any state govt. that participated in this federal BS campaign that only benefited Big Pharma should be completely replaced. I knew COVID was a control and greed ploy, yet our state did not protect us. They make the virus, leak it, push dangerous new vaccines on everyone and lie the whole way.		I have lost complete faith in the integrity of our govt, both federal and state. Federal because Big Pharma now owns them, and our state for not protecting us. The main reason I want Trump in office is because they don't want him there, and that tells me everything I need to know.

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369	9/28/24 9:39:37	9/28/24 9:53:30	Central	Colonial Heights								Government and Regulatory Systems	We need to know whats going on, what bills are up and whats stopped, what our governor's powers are, why dont we know what hes doing and what he's working on, what about WHO? What about emergency preparedness for that. What about illegals and gangs? What about our schools safety. And high costs.?			Im tired of nobody in authority standing up for our rights ahead of time rather than after incidents and legislation rules. No choices in choosing either. Government isnt so someone in power makes their choice, its about true constituent choices, being involved in our own rules and laws etc.
46	8/14/24 20:48:45	8/14/24 21:01:27	Northern							Clarke		Government and Regulatory Systems	Because of government overreach at all levels, citizens have lost trust in government "institutions." I left nursing after 25 years because of the villification of anyone who dared have a thought contrary to the CDC. The already existing nursing shortage was exacerbated due to this.			Government should never dictate a person must potentially poison their body or lose their means of financial provision. My friend's daughter, a healthy young woman in her 20s who worked in healthcare, became paralyzed after her 3rd job-required COVID shot.
274	9/16/24 14:43:41	9/16/24 14:45:41	Northern							Manassas		Education			Children need to be in school.	
23	8/13/24 16:07:50	8/13/24 16:12:49	Northern							Falls Church		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		During COVID the Governor mandated masks for visiting stores and other public spaces. The edict was done with out proper RCT controls indicating that masking and 6ft separation were valid public actions to decrease the spreading of a virus.		Additionally, some businesses were not allowed to conduct commerce. This was detrimental to both the public and many small business owners that never fully recovered from public policies that were implemented without scientific evidence that they would work.
314	9/23/24 13:01:31	9/23/24 13:06:34	Central	Powhatan								Education			Children should not be required to wear masks/face coverings. They do not stop the spread of viruses. Children of all ages need to be able to read/see facial expressions, read lips for comfort levels and acute learning environments	Children were never at risk of contracting and or spreading the illness. They were emotionally and academically damaged for political purposes not truth

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432	9/30/24 21:50:40	10/1/24 3:14:07	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Health Care System is incredibly compromised. Big Pharma has a heavy hand in their influence in many hospitals including what drugs, vaccines & procedures that are pushed for profits. Instead of focusing on getting folks better & listening to the families, some of these hospitals were		forcing deadly and very limiting protocols such as Remdesivir that lead to organ failure and or putting them on the ventilator where many did not recover. Some situations involved lawyers having to remove family members to a less restrictive care facility to insure their loved ones survival.
433	10/1/24 3:15:47	10/1/24 3:33:51	Central	Chesterfield								Education			Schools had horrible protocols in place for educating students during Covid. Online learning challenged many students & many found themselves isolated, depressed & some even suicidal. Additionally, in our area, special accommodations were made for the Covid vaccinated students, many who would later	test positive for Covid, could return much sooner than their peers who did not take the fairly new vaccine. Some may never have tested positive but because of proximity to a Covid infected student they were forced to stay out of school for 2 weeks. The constant Covid testing was also unnecessary.
434	10/1/24 3:34:13	10/1/24 3:53:11	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	The Government at all levels had direct affect in how businesses, restaurants, grocery, hardware stores, churches and schools took place. Instead of allowing flexibility & judgement calls by the owners there were forced shutdowns, Licenses removed, doors locked from the outside, & unnecessary			Government harassment. Not trusting the owners & how the community responded to make appropriate accommodations was a big mistake. Interesting to see how some business etc. like private schools were able to thrive by doing things that were comfortable to them for the folks who wanted to participate.
188	8/31/24 13:05:05	8/31/24 13:08:58	Hampton Roads				Gloucester					Government and Regulatory Systems				
44	8/14/24 15:55:54	8/14/24 16:05:29	Southside			Danville						Government and Regulatory Systems	Under no circumstances should there ever be mandatory vaccinations, lockdowns, restrictions, or an event related to public health that allows government to restrict the rights of individuals. ALL medical options should be allowable based on individual exercise of choice and doctor's advice.			The Commonwealth of Virginia owes an apology to every single Virginian who is a victim of being forced to take a Covid-19 mRNA vaccination and is now suffering the consequences. Every family who lost a loved one due to the mRNA shot causing death is owed compensation. There are many victims.

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205	9/7/24 0:16:35	9/7/24 0:23:44	Hampton Roads				Hampton					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Regarding masking requirements especially in medical facilities, it is inhumane to ask a pregnant woman to wear a mask for any period of time as it is well known that pregnancy causes decreased lung function at certain stages of pregnancy, and the breathing restriction of a mask is not tolerable.		I had to enter a medical facility in 2023 for a 20 week ultrasound, and was told it was the facilities policy that I must wear a mask the entire time I was in their facility. This is not healthy for a 20 week pregnant mother and child. Why did these pointless restrictions remain for so long?
259	9/15/24 23:12:03	9/15/24 23:15:04	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Governor should not allow the Virginia Department of Health or any unelected entity to decide to take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, our right to work and protect our families.		I will not allow elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable appointed bureaucrats.
252	9/15/24 18:51:21	9/15/24 18:55:48	Valley							Augusta		Government and Regulatory Systems				
297	9/23/24 11:00:08	9/23/24 11:02:42	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	I was let go due to not taking the covid shot.			I wish I had some recourse.
79	8/26/24 12:12:44	8/26/24 12:14:56	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	No more forced vaccinations, no more forced mask wearing. COVID-19 does not exist, it is a hoax.			
294	9/23/24 10:59:52	9/23/24 11:00:51	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems				
244	9/15/24 16:55:34	9/15/24 16:59:25	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	Never again should any government authority mandate vaccinations or treatments against the public's will.			
371	9/28/24 10:34:39	9/28/24 10:41:11	Hampton Roads				Portsmouth					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Hospitalized patients were denied religious rites and visitors. Forced to get "vaccines" against their religious and moral beliefs. Patients took the "vaccine" not informed of the dangers. Those who died or were injured have not been compensated while the manufacturers raked in billions in profit.		People were coerced into taking a "vaccine" that neither prevented you from contracting the disease or spreading the disease. The medical literature on vital role of Vitamin D3, Vitamin C and other supplements to boost the immune system was suppressed.

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372	9/28/24 10:42:19	9/28/24 10:46:32	Hampton Roads				Portsmouth					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Never in medicine have we strong-armed parents into giving a “vaccine” with no long-term data to our children who were at no risk of dying. Never have we given pregnant women or women of child-bearing age an injection without long term studies.		Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine and fluvoxamine were suppressed leading to needless harm or death. Inmates in our prisons or jails were forced to get the “vaccine.” A direct violation of medical ethics and Nuremberg Code.
370	9/28/24 10:26:24	9/28/24 10:31:11	Hampton Roads				Portsmouth					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government determined “essential” businesses. We know every business and job was essential, especially. Thousands of small businesses closed permanently. Many families lost their life savings. Places of worship were closed. Never in our history have we silenced worship of GOD.			The education of our children was completely disrupted. Many children lost 2-3 years of development. There are not enough resources to compensate for the damage done. The action to close schools resulted in grave harm.
373	9/28/24 10:48:00	9/28/24 10:49:54	Hampton Roads				Portsmouth					Education			Masking was known to be of no value from the beginning. A surgical mask cannot stop a virus. This is like trying to stop mosquitoes with a chain link fence. The medical community, OSHA, and engineers in air quality knew this but masks were forced upon people.	Masks caused significant harm particularly to our children. Speech and language delay, developmental delays, emotional disorders, breathing difficulties and illness were the direct results of masks.
60	8/19/24 20:09:44	8/19/24 20:18:04	Hampton Roads				Newport News					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Fort Eustis clinic called security on me for not wearing a mask; I told them I had a medical exemption (in my records, no less). Local healthcare facilities denied me any healthcare if I told them I had a medical mask exemption. I stopped telling them and just showed up for my appointment.		Langley AFB also descriminated against me, denying me care until I showed them my written exemption. When I went in the tiny changing room, they made me stay there until they needed me. Kiln Creek Vet Clinic denied me as well, and I had a pet emergency. I had to send in my animals without me.

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279	9/17/24 9:11:55	9/17/24 9:15:39	Hampton Roads				Newport News					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I was at Denbigh Family Medicine on September 17, 2024, at 0915. They made a patient put on a mask, saying the provider required it. I asked the secretary who the provider was, and she refused to give that information. What are they trying to hide?		
427	9/30/24 19:54:56	9/30/24 21:15:10	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Not one person had to die from COVID-19 if they had stayed at home and been provided with inexpensive and safe Ivermectin, zinc, vitamin C, B vitamins, and an antibiotic such as doxycycline as well as budesonide as needed at the first sign of symptoms. This protocol was truly safe and effective.		The hospitals were incentivized with huge "bonuses" by the CARES Act to administer deadly hospital protocols directed toward killing patients rather than offering a cure. Unvaccinated patients were targeted and put on protocols that used dangerous drugs and procedures without any informed consent.
376	9/28/24 11:56:07	9/28/24 12:00:19	Northern							Alexandria		Government and Regulatory Systems	No me should be telling what someone should or should not do w/ their health. We are live men and females. We are no ones guinea pigs for any government experiment. No one & I mean no one should bully, harass or intimidate anyone in their medical preference. Nuremberg 2.0 on anyone that does.			
202	9/6/24 15:59:23	9/6/24 16:05:44	Valley								Frederick	Government and Regulatory Systems	I do not want the VDH to take orders from the CDC which takes orders from the WHO. Never again should the state mandate pandemic responses which limit personal freedom and do not not work. No mandatory masks, lockdowns, social distancing or vaccines, all of which were later proven to be ineffective			The Bill of Rights should always be at the forefront of decisions made. If it is not Constitutional it should not be deployed.
203	9/6/24 16:07:34	9/6/24 16:14:10	Valley								Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Look at evidence based outcomes in deciding what medical recommendations should be made. Allow much discussion to occur and avoid groupthink. Be suspicious of recommendations being made by anyone with financial interests in the therapy being suggested or mandated.		Masks and social distancing do not work to help prevent disease. Clean air, sunshine, clean conditions and handwashing work better than anything else. Do not move sick elderly persons to nursing homes. Currently should remove Remdisivir from hospital protocols.

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204	9/6/24 16:14:24	9/6/24 16:18:41	Valley								Frederick	Education			Never again should schools be shutdown for any health related reason. Teachers are still trying to deal with the massive learning loss. Too many children dealt with mental health problems from the drastic changes in their routines.	Never again should masks and social distancing be required. Absence from school should be made based on physical symptoms not a test.
366	9/28/24 8:47:10	9/28/24 8:51:29	Central	Louisa								Government and Regulatory Systems	People would have medical freedom. People should not be treated differently due to what they choose. Also, what was done was not based on the information and stories and facts out there.			Many will not follow or believe what they are told in the future. Trust was ruined and it opened many people's eyes. That was a good thing, many needed eyes opened that aren't as educated in the medical information.
192	8/31/24 17:39:18	8/31/24 17:51:17	Eastern					Richmond				Education			against any mandatory vaccination, or health care. I do not want to be tested or vaccinated, (my choice). No one should ever be mandated to wear a mask or stay home against their own choice. Children have been severely harmed, academically, socially, and mentally due to the restrictions imposed.	Please consider the people's voice as we are extremely annoyed with the pharmaceutical companies using us Guinea pigs for their profits!! We will remember this when it is time to vote!!
96	8/26/24 13:05:43	8/26/24 13:06:55	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
226	9/15/24 11:49:01	9/15/24 11:50:59	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems				
73	8/24/24 21:59:58	8/24/24 22:05:21	Northern							Fredericksburg		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My uncle was murdered because of Covid protocols. I wrote my governor, Lt Governor, Atty General, State police superintendent, local police chief. Nobody cares, period. So many Covid vaccine injuries to discuss. God will have the final say, that I know!		The government is corrupt, period. They gaslight us, we comply! NEVER AGAIN.

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57	8/18/24 17:57:13	8/18/24 18:06:42	Valley								Frederick	Government and Regulatory Systems	Business owners lost their life savings during Covid-19. Meanwhile, Costco, ABC stores and other places were allowed to stay open. Churches were forced to remain closed. This is a double-standard and never should have happened. Any place of business that closes hurts our citizens and economy.			Forcing the wearing of masks proved futile and should never have been mandated. Forcing children to wear masks while on the bus and during school was inhumane and more harmful than not wearing a mask. This should never happen again. False information must be cleaned from your pages.
386	9/28/24 17:06:38	9/28/24 17:16:57	Valley								Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		It was unfair to demand certain businesses close their doors while allowing other businesses to remain open and thrive during the pandemic. Many businesses never reopened. Why was Costco and ABC stores allowed to remain open with no restrictions? Why were houses of worship ordered closed?		It was sick and sad to divide the people in Virginia. If people were afraid then they should stay home. But why did you order everyone to stay home? Oh, except if you are going to Costco or the liquor store, then that's OK.
323	9/23/24 15:12:41	9/23/24 15:18:07	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Taking away our basic right to decide what happens to our bodies is the biggest violation of autonomy I have ever experienced. I will forever be traumatized by forced "social" distancing rules, masking mandates and Covid vaccine mandates and propaganda.		Stolen years can not be given back, especially to our children, but some kind of accountability for those who forced unproven, unsafe, and dangerous Covid rules on us could be a good start to healing the trauma that was inflicted
345	9/26/24 14:32:56	9/26/24 14:40:34	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		We are a sovereign nation, of sovereign people. We are a constitutional republic, with a democratic election system, we are the governed and say how we are governed!!		
275	9/16/24 19:31:46	9/16/24 20:01:59	Valley								Winchester	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Let old people see their families		Would be great ti get truth instead if fear for the purposes if government control and requiring a vaccine that injured thousands and thousands of people And it was covered up. It injured me!
332	9/23/24 22:30:06	9/23/24 22:31:05	West Central		Appomattox							Education			Put God back in the schools!	
16	8/13/24 14:43:55	8/13/24 14:49:41	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Abuse and unlawful detention was rampant in some VA hospital systems with doctors out of control outing families who questioned protocols wrongly applied to other dx other then covid. PCR tests manipulated to get more money and apply killer protocols for profit not pt. benefit.		No support from government on challenging the killer protocols

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87	8/26/24 12:00:17	8/26/24 12:41:11	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Spouse held against his will, treated for covid in Inova hospital system when he did not have covid. Body/lungs destroyed w gov. profit driven interventions. Altered records months after discharge. No one going after the hospitals for unnecessary hospital deaths, abusive and cruel gov. protocols.		He was isolated, both chemically/physically restrained, starved/dehydrated, humiliated, external catheter no consent resulted in permanant damage, told to deficate in bed, phone/glasses taken away, wife abused 4 asking questions.
39	8/14/24 10:25:41	8/14/24 10:34:37	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I should never have been required to write a religous or medical accommodation for declining the vaccine mandate and to keep my job or when applying for another job. No one in this world should be mandated for any kind of medical treatment. Especially for the reason of protecting others.		Medical field personnel are there to protect the weak and infirmed. Firing the medical staff because they decline to obtain medical treatment is an oxymoron of a sorts. In a pandemic medical staff were fired! Really?!
248	9/15/24 18:05:34	9/15/24 18:24:37	West Central		Salem							Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor followed the awful protocols from the Federal Government and Fauci's absurd totalitarian dictates --- that were based on the absurd protocols of China in cahoots with the WHO. Never ever again should America follow the Marxist Chinese and WHO.			Virginia needs to think independently and realize the Feds lied to the nation and cannot be trusted. Listen to the independent doctors who knew better than the crooked CDC, FDA, and NIH --- who were all in bed with the drug companies. The shutdowns should never have happened in America.
250	9/15/24 18:25:52	9/15/24 18:48:12	West Central		Salem							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Roanoke Valley hospitals followed the nonsense that Fauci and the White House dished out because they made the most money by putting Covid patients on the ventilator, which killed them. The African countries used their traditional Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine with much fewer deaths than US.		Many of us had problems after taking the vaccines, and the feds covered that up. The feds pushed doctors to push the experimental vaccines and interfered with the doctor/patient relationship. Some of us wanted Ivermectin and the feds made it nearly impossible bc of THEIR disinformation.
251	9/15/24 18:48:36	9/15/24 18:55:19	West Central		Salem							Education			Most kids did not get Covid and those who did recovered easily. Schools should never have been shut down. The NEA told Fauci/CDC/NIH/White House to shut down. The head of NEA is an avowed Marxist. Why should she dictate to the whole country? NEVER AGAIN	America's enemies within (current Marxist Democratic Party) and abroad/the elite Oligarchies that rule the world want a one world government; these globalists will use another pandemic to destroy America if we are not prepared for the next engineered/deliberate attach via another planned pandemic.

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326	9/23/24 17:18:15	9/23/24 17:25:42	Northern							Stafford		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Masks - studies have shown that they really do not prevent the spread of the small particles of covid.		Churches should have been allowed to conduct services. We needed spirituality, God and community especially at this time.
417	9/30/24 15:46:39	9/30/24 16:14:31	Northern							Fairfax		Education			Please don't keep children out of school unnecessarily, and DO NOT take your guidance from the teacher's unions (who have their own agenda). Public School children have fallen behind as a result, while children whose parents sacrifice to send them to private schools fared much better.	
135	8/26/24 22:59:26	8/26/24 23:08:20	Southside			Pittsylvania						Government and Regulatory Systems	The government's emergency powers during the pandemic response were too broad and need to be time limited (30 days) with a two thirds legislative approval requirement for extending the emergency powers.			I would like to see government and health officials be more inquisitive and suspect of federal government recommendations and actions.
65	8/22/24 10:14:27	8/22/24 10:28:36	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The HCS promoted needless fear, having no emphasis on preventative health of which many spoke. Masking requirements were not supported scientifically and actual "science" was suppressed, with restrictions and shaming resulting. Pharmacies blocked prescriptions of Ivermectin.		Video testimony of Stephen Petty Start at 3 minutes https://www.youtube.com › watch?v=ZFjLFqESxY0 Document Stephen Petty submitted to NIH and CDC. https://thefatemperor.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CDC-Response-Letter-February-22-2022-Correct-Walenski-Zip-Code-and-Dates.pdf
31	8/13/24 17:46:24	8/13/24 18:07:14	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	There must be more measured and calculated responses to future outbreaks of viruses. Transparency, accountability, and individual freedom of choice should be the guiding factors in any future outbreaks.			Freedom of choice, including alternative therapies, must be part of the future. Those decisions should be made between a person and their healthcare professional only - not government officials at any level.

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111	8/26/24 17:23:17	8/26/24 17:30:40	Valley								Harrisonburg	Education			I worked in the Facility Depart. We worked half time do to the limitation on the number of people that could work together. Vaccines for Covid were recommended but not required. Following CDC guideline our we got room air change calculations. Based on those calculation we purchased fans.	The panic from the public was the result of misinformation on the virus produced by our federal government.
63	8/21/24 12:43:21	8/21/24 12:50:56	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Our governor needs the flexibility to declare emergencies for short duration critical situations such as hurricanes. They should NOT be able to extend these type of dictatorial powers beyond a few weeks, perhaps 8 at the very most.			We do NOT give up our inalienable rights endowed by our creator, just because some elected politician deems there to be a short duration problem. If you don't know where those terms come from, YOU are the problem.
68	8/23/24 22:26:01	8/23/24 22:34:01	Southside			Pittsylvania						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Following the CDC or WHO is bad news for Virginians & Americans. the COVID fiasco has proven that. We the People should NEVER comply with unconstitutional authorities or demands, and if the Commonwealth sees fit to ignore the will of the people, I'll gladly move to a freer state.		I will never comply with unconstitutional authorities or demands. I will not wear a mask, as I will breath clean air, not my wastes. I will not get a vaccination of any kind, as COVID has proven that was a mistake. If I die because of those actions, then so be it, at least I died a free man!
108	8/26/24 16:23:18	8/26/24 16:25:45	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Overly reliant on top down standards of care		
126	8/26/24 20:37:52	8/26/24 20:39:16	Southwest						Washington			Government and Regulatory Systems				
153	8/27/24 13:02:20	8/27/24 13:30:08	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Information that could be easily found, contradicted the advice from the medical industry. Adverse effects from the shot were reported everywhere, but the government and medical systems continued to recommend or mandate the vaccine. Nothing made sense, but pharmaceutical companies made billions.		I lost an uncle due to hospital protocols that are now known to be dangerous. I have many vaccine injured friends. College students and many in the workplace and military were FORCED to take the dangerous shot. I have lost all confidence in the health care system, CDC, FDA.

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293	9/23/24 10:50:02	9/23/24 10:55:28	Southwest						Grayson			Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		OTC drugs should not be banned from the consumer.		Medical personnel should be free to treat patients as they see fit because that is what they were trained to do. Per HIPPA, the doctor patient relationship IS and should remain confidential. The Government Should Never Intrude into authentic Health Care.
405	9/30/24 11:01:24	9/30/24 11:45:50	Northern							Fairfax		Education			The schools should never have been closed. Children were not dying from the disease. Schools Masking was especially terrible for the children. Even after the governor decreed masking to be optional, here in Fairfax County they continued to enforce the masking. A crime!!	I only hope nothing like this ever happens again.
398	9/28/24 8:26:08	9/29/24 21:03:10	Hampton Roads				Mathews					Education			Virginia's asinine & ignorant reaction to C-19 promoted senseless FEAR. No child died of Covid! Not ONE! Healthy children (& adults) would have been so much better off by having been informed how to maximize their natural immune systems & continue normal routines while protecting the vulnerable.	Follow the REAL SCIENCE [that which can be questioned, examined, & verified] not that which is provided by 'experts' with personal investments in the outcome. Give vouchers to families when public education is disrupted.
22	8/13/24 15:33:44	8/13/24 15:42:35	Eastern					Accomack				Government and Regulatory Systems	Government should never again be allowed to mandate medical interventions or require businesses to close/modify their operations. Recommendations must include the scientific data from which they are based.			Transparency and a better track record of respecting the rights and freedoms of the citizens will be required to restore trust.
196	9/1/24 16:55:30	9/1/24 16:59:25	Northern							Culpeper		Education			Parents should have rights over the state.	

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131	8/26/24 21:51:54	8/26/24 21:58:36	Northern							Culpeper		Government and Regulatory Systems	Should not have closed small business - large stores were open; should not have mandated masks - no evidence; Should not have closed schools - harm was immeasurable. Should not have implemented social distancing - no evidence. No public college should have been allowed to mandate the vaccine.			Virginia should not have just followed CDC guidelines and should have acted only on evidence
107	8/26/24 14:01:13	8/26/24 15:16:39	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I found the states response to Covid 19 to be poor at best. My advice would be to follow the FLCCC Allinaces advice, suggestions and protocol when dealing with Covid or any future viruses. covid19criticalcare.com		No
42	8/14/24 12:29:21	8/14/24 13:10:20	West Central		Franklin							Government and Regulatory Systems	Never again should the Va. government defy the U.S. Constitution by arbitrarily adopting mandates (& pressuring businesses to do the same) for vaccine compliance in order to work, go to school, or get health care; require citizens to follow rules such as masking & social distancing which no science			supports, & interfere in the ability of citizens to make a living, socialize, attend church or fill medical prescriptions. Va.'s response was the most shameful act of authoritarianism in its history surpassed only by Gov. Dunmore's use of martial law to force citizens to support the King in 1775!
130	8/26/24 21:46:44	8/26/24 21:55:30	Central	Orange								Government and Regulatory Systems	I thought the whole response was awful and an over reaction based on "feelings and fear" not facts. A shutdown like that should NEVER be allowed to happen again. I didn't comply with the stupidity then and I won't if they ever try it again.			UVA banned me from one of their offices. I've been a cancer patient for 30 years but I chose not to wear a mask. They were more of a danger to me than the other way around. Forcing school kids to wear masks was beyond any reason IMO. It will be years before many recover from the harm.
247	9/15/24 18:06:34	9/15/24 18:12:10	Northern							Fauquier		Government and Regulatory Systems	Government can never again shut us down like that again. A state of emergency is no excuse. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are not negotiable, not only valid when the government thinks it is safe, but always!			Freedom of assembly and speech being two very specific ones in the first amendment that were trampled. NEVER AGAIN.

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190	8/31/24 15:21:10	8/31/24 15:26:53	Eastern					Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The government put themselves ahead of both the people and the true science; politicizing the response to a pandemic. The Health Care Systems and Emergency Management systems exist because of the people, and yet the people were reduced to talking point but not well considered in the response.		Govern through clean thought rather than hyperbole.
154	8/27/24 13:51:15	8/27/24 13:58:57	West Central		Appomattox							Government and Regulatory Systems	Northam did a terrible job and shut down many small businesses while allowing box stores to remain open as long as there were arrows on the floor pointing the way and people at the door making sure everyone walked around like a masked fire breathing cootie. Appalling. We still haven't recovered.			We still haven't recovered from the closures and many small businesses went under.
265	9/16/24 9:54:25	9/16/24 10:03:14	West Central		Lynchburg							Government and Regulatory Systems	We won't allow elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats with financial interests in the "solutions" they mandate. The Governor shall not allow any entity to take our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our right to work & protect our families.			300 characters allows respondents only a fraction of what they need to express their contempt and disgust for how COVID was mis-managed by our "leaders." Lockdowns, masks, & vaccines were a farcical attempt to control what is now, like the flu, a virtually harmelss endemic illness.
346	9/26/24 16:07:05	9/26/24 16:07:58	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/remdesivir-recall-glass-particles-covid-hospital-protocol/?utm_source=luminate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=defender&utm_id=20240926		
19	8/13/24 14:52:34	8/13/24 14:57:12	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Governor should not have authority to shut any private business down, shut schools down for in-person education, nor prevent the public from leaving their homes when they desire for any period of time during a time like COVID-19 or any similar situation.			

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189	8/31/24 14:22:26	8/31/24 14:49:10	Northern							Fauquier		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government determined “essential” businesses. Churches & synagogues were closed. Hospital protocols were dictated not based in the evidence. Hospitalized patients were denied religious rites and visitors. Many were forced to get “vaccines” against their religious and moral beliefs.			Suppression of ivermectin and HCQ led to needless harm. Ivermectin is available without prescription in TN—why not in VA? Masking is ineffective, harmful to children. Forced vaccination violates medical ethics and the Nuremberg Code, especially for inmates. Coercion into vaccines is unjust.
121	8/26/24 19:02:57	8/26/24 19:08:54	Northern							Loudoun		Education			Absolutely abysmal. Not only were the mandates unlawful, you had no follow through with continuity of mandates and “guidelines” not letting counties set their own restrictions and policies and then after Youngkin going back and suddenly allowing them total agency over and above and the state.	So much money, time, and public school students lost, never to be regained because of corruption and loss of public confidence.
322	9/23/24 14:58:17	9/23/24 15:04:14	Central	New Kent								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should not restrict free trade or the right of the public to assemble. Businesses should not be closed; commerce should not be restricted, and churches & schools should not be closed or restricted. The government should not in any way seek to require, track or enforce vaccine status.			Pass laws that restrict the ability of the federal government to dictate compliance due to the absence any state laws to the contrary.
335	9/24/24 10:27:20	9/24/24 10:39:57	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Survivable diseases are not the reason for emergency powers. Even very deadly ones raise questions about which measures are appropriate.			Enforcing public health recommendations through police and other government force is a dictatorship.

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261	9/16/24 1:22:24	9/16/24 1:34:07	Valley								Augusta	Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor shall not allow the Virginia Department of Health or any unelected entity to decide to take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, our right to work and protect our families. Cease the medical fascism.			The WHO is corrupt don't allow their BS "treaties" any control of health. The CDC is corrupt stop following their "rubber stamp" vaccine recommendations. CMS is corrupt stop allowing them to dictate protocols via reimbursement policies. Stop killing your citizens with Remdesivir and Covid Vacs.
47	8/14/24 21:12:51	8/14/24 21:25:21	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I believe the hospital protocols accelerated the death of my late wife, instead of helping her to have a chance at recovery. She had some health issues but I believe the remdisavere further compromised her organs and doomed her chances of recovery.		It's unfortunate that politicians and the pharmaceutical companies demonized treatments that were helping many individuals, so that they could get their emergency use authorization to push unproven and dangerous "vaccines".
142	8/27/24 8:04:45	8/27/24 8:28:04	Southside			Mecklenburg						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Emergencies add to Gov't, power---excuses to tale power from citizens, when volunteers do better than, even Red Cross in meeting needs! Constitution grants Gov't no power to medicate or educate. Both are illegal, hence we owe nothing to fake providers, thieves, elder abusers have destroyed medicine!			Valley Health killed my brother so they could get Gov't reward \$16,000. He was improving from Covid, so they cut his oxygen at night. Brain dead the next day. Centra tried to kill me but doctor friend insisted NO deathly Remdesovir! They refused Ivermectin but I did get monoclonal antibodies.
378	9/28/24 12:38:33	9/28/24 12:40:06	Northern							Prince William		Government and Regulatory Systems				
195	9/1/24 11:03:01	9/1/24 11:17:15	Valley							Winchester		Education			Virtual learning was a failure. Our children, least affected by Covid now suffer the most in terms of social isolation, academic loss and rise in mental illness. Masking upon return furthered this isolation and learning. Pressure to vaccinate and test for sports was unjust and discriminatory.	
269	9/16/24 12:36:02	9/16/24 12:40:52	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Masks do not work and cause unnecessary expense to citizen. Closing businesses is wrong, unAmerican and bad for the economy. Clearly isolation isn't necessary for the healthy and young. Never isolate!		

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48	8/15/24 10:23:04	8/15/24 10:37:31	Eastern					Northumberland				Education			During the pandemic I worked as a science educator at a public school in TX. We were open for in-person learning the entire 2020-2021 school year. I went to work every single day. Some students opted for remote learning at first but by years end there were very few. Children learn best in-person!	I taught middle and high school science, students were masked but we did not have spacing requirements. I did not mask but maintained 10 ft distance. My elementary ed colleagues reported that masking severely compromised education for younger children because they need to see the teachers face!
114	8/26/24 18:03:15	8/26/24 18:18:44	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Mine is best health of anyone I know. I was shunned withstanding enormous social pressure to vaccinate. level of hysteria unnecessary. Businesses lost; Our nation shut down.The distancing and ostracizing. It brought unnecessary fear. healthy children forced masks. Educate us to be healthy instead!		I don't know the extent to which big pharma profited and continues to reap billions from peoples inability to get and stay healthy and being coerced into "health care" they don't want or need.
328	9/23/24 15:37:36	9/23/24 18:24:03	Southside			Martinsville						Government and Regulatory Systems	https://www.fluoridefreepeel.ca/fois-reveal-that-health-science-institutions-around-the-world-have-no-record-of-sars-cov-2-isolation-purification/ https://christinemasseyfois.substack.com/		https://search.mercola.com/results.aspx?q=masks#stq=masks https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2022/01/27/health-officials-deny-death-from-covid-shots.aspx https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2022/02/16/covid-patients-over-treated-to-death.aspx	
425	9/30/24 19:45:23	9/30/24 20:28:54	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	I was unlawfully and immorally fired from my state job as a result of Northam's exec. order requiring disclosure of cvd jab status by state employees, even though it was known the jabs did not prevent infection or transmission. This action violated state, federal laws and had no basis in fact.		This unlawful and wrongful termination has been emotionally and financially devastating and had no justifiable basis in reality. It was known I had covid in Dec. 2020 and was treated with Ivermectin by my doctor - and still had verified immunity at the time of my firing. This is TYRANY and INSANITY.	

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64	8/21/24 21:49:43	8/21/24 22:12:50	Southside			Brunswick						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The need to research, study and implement alternative methods of prevention, treatment of covid, and long covid. Also, to be an open minded and responsible citizen willing to investigate the effectiveness of current covid vaccines as well as the potential health damage caused by covid vaccines.		No
66	8/22/24 19:33:41	8/22/24 19:44:11	Southside			Brunswick						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I highly recommend the use of ivermectin as a supplement to prevent the onset of covid, the treatment of covid and long covid.		I highly recommend the use of ivermectin as a supplement to prevent the onset of covid, the treatment of covid and long covid.
389	9/28/24 21:38:25	9/28/24 21:40:41	West Central		Bedford							Government and Regulatory Systems	Do not mandate.			Do not mandate.
331	9/23/24 21:54:07	9/23/24 21:56:16	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	Government abused its power by coercing the public into taking experimental and unproven RNA treatment that neither was effective in preventing the virus or stopping the spread as it was initially presented. This action poses an escalation of governmental abuse and violation of trust.			
78	8/26/24 10:19:43	8/26/24 10:48:22	Hampton Roads				James City					Education			They ignored Governor Northam's guidance to allow children back in school when the cases were low, refused to adhere to Governor Youngkin's mask policy, and tried to force children into masks anyway. Please understand, a 300-character limit is too brief to analyze an 18-month policy.	My children were consistently asked if they were sick, leaving them terrified to go to school, in fear they would get disciplined if they happened to fall sick. They also refused to adhere to some of the medical professionals' guidance. It seems they based all choices on fear rather than reason.
241	9/15/24 13:54:15	9/15/24 15:46:39	West Central		Floyd							Government and Regulatory Systems	At no point does the US Constitution allow for the government of the States to set aside our protected rights to peacefully assemble or to worship as we please. Nor are they delegated the authority to curtail our access to essential goods and services.			Essential goods and services include food, medical services and supplies, firearms, shooting and hunting supplies. Government NEVER gets to decide if we are allowed to be with a loved one as they are passing.

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186	8/30/24 12:20:41	8/30/24 12:24:23	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		People with covid sometimes would not follow the safety rules for the safety of customers and ourselves and themselves. We have even gone as far as if it was close to the pharmacy asking if they could go through the drive through to pick it up if they also had medication.		If they came inside we would have to disinfect everything and ourselves
212	9/9/24 18:11:44	9/9/24 18:22:10	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Read We Are The Prey and The Real Anthony Fauci, see cases through Senator Ron Johnson & others We are currently undergoing mass genocide. Stop all above plans re plandemics. Your scientists/ agencies create the diseases & hide the natural treatments.		They make billions of dollars on the shots. Do your research. We will be taking endless supplements during our now shortened lives to keep our bodies from being overtaken by the Internet of Bodies.
35	8/13/24 20:14:01	8/13/24 20:16:50	Central	Hanover								Education			I was proud that Hanover County schools returned to in person instruction the following school year.	
348	9/26/24 21:04:59	9/26/24 21:22:10	Hampton Roads				Suffolk					Government and Regulatory Systems	I was disappointed in my Government spewing such malarkey about Covid and using it as a power play against the citizens. I grew up in a Medical Family. Good medical practices went out the door for treating Covid. Ivermectin saved me. I was ridiculed from the liberal, concierge docs that I had			I am horrified by what we are doing to children with these vaccines
49	8/15/24 10:43:06	8/15/24 10:54:17	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	No Governor or any state authority should have the tyrannical power to classify a business as "non-essential" whether it's an emergency or not. Any "emergency" order should be limited to 30 days max and legislature should be able to override it with 2/3 majority vote.			No vaccines or shots should ever be required for any citizen to exercise their right to live their lives, particularly when none of them ever since the polio one have been studied in a placebo-controlled trial (they aren't safe and effective).

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145	8/27/24 10:17:22	8/27/24 11:11:45	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Every business is essential, no matter what overblown emergency is declared, like Covid. I had a constitutional right to worship IN PERSON, not wear a face mask, take medication I want (like ivermectin), and NOT take shots that are neither safe, nor effective.		Make sure VAHD and licensing organizations do NOT attack doctors for treating Covid patients early and caring about their wellness/survival. Dr. Marik and Dr. Kory were two of thousands who were right. All the "sheep" medical professionals/hospitals who followed Fauci and "big Pharma" were wrong.
183	8/30/24 7:09:03	8/30/24 7:18:41	Central	Charlottesville								Education			My two younger children were in the Albemarle school system. My two older children were at Virginia Tech. We felt that the protocols were so extreme that we moved out of the state to give our two younger sons a chance at some normalcy. Virginia lost it's collective minds during this time.	Virginia Tech turned into a tyrannical institution. Forcing young adults to inject themselves with an untested vaccine for the sake of the "community" was downright wrong. My daughter was able to get an exemption but was forced to mask and spit in a cup weekly. (COVID test) Absurd.
71	8/24/24 17:22:05	8/24/24 17:36:36	Southwest						Scott			Government and Regulatory Systems	Regarding pandemics: GIVE US THE INFORMATION, MEDICATIONS, AND LIBERTY to care for ourselves and our families. STOP mandating useless protocols (like wearing masks/"social" distancing and other methods of inducing primal fear among the populace!). Allow our children to be students/athletes/normal!			Allow our businesses to remain open, stop paying people to stay home, and stop giving us false information as was done in 2020. Fear mongering benefits only totalitarian politicians and the pharmaceutical industry.
365	9/28/24 8:26:54	9/28/24 8:47:41	Central	Orange								Government and Regulatory Systems	Emergency powers should be the absolute total last resort. And never should the rights of our citizens be taken away by government whether elected or non elected bureaucrats. Never should your plan be based on closing down businesses, schools or houses of worship.			This last overreach & suppression of medical information by the federal and state govts was criminal. We know about Big Tech/Big Govt/Big Pharma and how they worked together to censor, control and spread fear among our people. Truth was always there; but govt chose to suppress it.

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254	9/15/24 20:17:52	9/15/24 20:29:27	West Central		Bedford							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Studies showed that masking, lockdowns & social distancing had no positive impact on transmission of C-19. The C-19 vaccines did not prevent transmission. Never again should any vaccines be mandatory; never again should doctors be prohibited from prescribing off-label medications.		No
208	9/7/24 18:56:39	9/7/24 18:58:14	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education			School Nurse	
301	9/23/24 11:08:39	9/23/24 11:18:48	Central	Charlottesville								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I have zero confidence in our Pharma-driven, money-making health care system that used a fabricated "state of emergency" to overrule the right of individuals to make their own health care decisions and often at the expense of patients lives.		The health care system in this state (and country) needs a complete overhaul and separation from big Pharma in making health care policies and protecting the rights of its citizens over the financial incentives of care providers.
307	9/23/24 11:21:43	9/23/24 11:35:29	Central	Charlottesvill e								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Please review and consider the overwhelming evidence regarding the use of Ivermectin (in particular) in the treatment of COVID found here: https://covid19criticalcare.com/medical-evidence/ Make Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other proven remedies available to Virginians.		
286	9/19/24 6:32:41	9/19/24 6:35:40	Valley							Shenandoah		Government and Regulatory Systems				
337	9/24/24 12:30:17	9/24/24 12:41:09	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I led the Norfolk District, USACE during the COVID response - and assisted VDEM, VDH, and others in our emergency response role which included surveying sites for temporary hospitals, if needed. My trust and confidence in our government, at all levels, has dropped significantly.		Every decision that government took with respect to COVID, was the wrong one. How did the FDA call a noble price winning drug (Ivermectin) "horse dewormer?" Instead of urging sunlight and fresh air, the government urged people to stay indoors. Establish a task force, do an After Action Review.

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34	8/13/24 19:53:40	8/13/24 20:05:10	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Closing churches was unconstitutional and a determinant to the community. Houses of worship are places that provide spiritual healing which was necessary during that uncertain time. Now we are finding out an epidemic of loneliness that reduces the quality of life of many and possible early death.			The Governor should not have the unilateral power to make Executive orders that close down churches, businesses and private gatherings without the approval of the General Assembly. This was a blatant abuse of power and should never happen again.
116	8/26/24 18:34:17	8/26/24 18:37:16	Central	Orange								Government and Regulatory Systems	I give you a D. Shutting down small businesses and masking was stupid. Virginia was not the worst so that is why I give it a D.			We need legislation limiting the power of politicians to declare an "emergency".
24	8/13/24 16:23:52	8/13/24 16:29:59	Hampton Roads				York					Education				As grandparents of 17 grandchildren, we were devastated by what the regulations did from the two year-old forced to wear a mask in preschool with terrified eyes, to the Virginia college student, who was forced to have the vaccine before returning to school. We don't ever want to see that again.
88	8/26/24 12:35:25	8/26/24 12:42:24	Northern							Fredericksburg		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Very well established and prepared but guilty of breaking Constitutional law, blatantly.		Healthcare is between doctor and patient. If state is not paying for it, butt out.
235	9/15/24 14:26:00	9/15/24 14:32:16	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	It became obvious, ultimately, that no one else could handle dental problems other than we dentists. So, my group opened our office and worked for the duration .			yes. To call the decisionmakers in this Biden administration "Marxists" or "socialists" is to elevate them. They are Nazis and we must prepared to take them on in a formidable manner.
15	8/13/24 14:36:32	8/13/24 14:49:09	Northern							Stafford		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		All medications that have proven to work should be available. The existing ineffective and dangerous shots should be banned. No mask or "vaccine" mandates. Requiring either should result not only in loss of funding, but loss of license and liability for criminal prosecution.		

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110	8/26/24 17:01:59	8/26/24 17:11:18	Central	Albemarle								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I disagree with the past pandemic response regarding COVID-19 since vaccines should not have been mandates and Governor Northam abused his emergency powers by placing 10 person limit for church attendance, with a pastor being arrested in Chincoteague Island for holding services with 15 people.		I hope that the Virginia State Government will impose policies that respect the medicinal freedom of all Virginians.
43	8/14/24 13:29:15	8/14/24 13:36:00	Southside			Franklin						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The response for COVID was totally ill advised, and should never be repeated. Lockdowns, mandatory masks, forced vaccinations are totally out of the question ever again!		By the way, Commonwealth citizens are THE stakeholders that matter most (or should). Limit yourself to informing the public and move on.
84	8/26/24 12:20:52	8/26/24 12:36:04	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government illegally and unnecessarily shut down many small businesses and mandated distancing protocols. It also incentivized all downstream organizations to mandate or at least strongly encourage the use of similar protocols. None of this was substantiated or beneficial to the public.			The government also incentivized the medical establishment and private companies (such as drug stores) to either ban safe, inexpensive treatments, or make them nearly inaccessible. Ex: Ivermectin and HCQ were known in early 2020 to be beneficial for C19. https://c19ivm.org/meta.html
91	8/26/24 12:37:21	8/26/24 12:49:34	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The heathcare system utterly failed in its duty to 'first do no harm'. It instead chose to profit from the incentives that the government held out if it complied with its demands. In doing so, it demonstrated that the people within the system have no principles or the backbone to stand up for them.		Here are some scientific resources to understand Ivermectin, HCQ, Vitamin D and other inexpensive treatments for C19. Note the timing of the studies. Many treatments were available in 2020 before the vaxx was released. https://c19hcq.org/meta.html , https://c19ivm.org/meta.html
159	8/27/24 21:31:56	8/27/24 21:46:35	Northern							Clarke		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Last spring I attended the Zoom session regarding healthcare rights of the Virginia citizens. I was appalled that the committee which was charged with making recommendations about healthcare rights were simply not appropriately educated to be sitting on the committee. The chair was uninterested.		Most people in the Commonwealth have no clue about 5G, EMFs and their harm to our populations. They don't even see that we now have fewer insects since the advent of 5G. Most citizens simply accept the fact that they are being poisoned by this technology or simply do not know about it!

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258	9/15/24 21:48:00	9/15/24 22:07:04	Valley								Winchester	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		In general, medical care in Virginia has become routine and one-size-fits-all in its consciousness. I want a system which seeks a variety of cures and collaborates with patients rather than forcing factory medicine on them. .		When my Winchester Medical Center cardiologist was concerned that I was not taking medications, I left his practice! He did not test me. I am now treated by a professional who utilizes muscle testing to determine what medications or supplements would be beneficial BEFORE I ingest them!! Imagine!
214	9/10/24 4:41:28	9/10/24 4:44:16	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Alternative opinions or questions were snuffed out, silenced and erased. Government ballooned and in the wrong ways. It rewarded stagnancy and lack of action. Churches and small businesses were closed, liquor stores and big box stores open. My small business was negatively effected by government.			A parent with children in public schools during the pandemic I felt education at the hands of government was substandard. Children fell through the cracks and what we had was a decline in social skills, reading, writing and math. Online education will never replace in-person learning.
215	9/10/24 4:44:23	9/10/24 4:47:28	Northern							Fairfax		Education			Schools should have stayed open. The science and proof behind it was there and it was ignored. Our children suffered greatly at the hands of K-12 guidelines.	Teachers were overwhelmed and systems were substandard for any proper kind of learning.
359	9/28/24 8:08:32	9/28/24 8:20:13	Central	Orange								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The immediate and overt pressure the government put on its constituents that forced us to give up our own bodily autonomy and medical freedoms in light of the Covid-19 "pandemic" moved our state mountains towards total government totalitarianism. This must be stopped dead in its attack & reversed.		Forcing young adults and children to take an untested vaccine was unconscionable! We won't know for years the physical affect this will have on their health, their fertility, and their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The government was wrong to force us to do this.
148	8/27/24 12:08:44	8/27/24 12:11:58	Central	Hanover								Education			Keep schools open and free of any breathing obstructions.	

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25	8/13/24 16:24:12	8/13/24 16:41:03	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	I stand on the liberties granted to me in the U.S. Constitution. These Rights are moral truths and imply my desire to live as I wish—to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I do not consent to mandated lockdown, medical directives, or overreaches by unelected or elected state actors.			I have, in my possession, a notarized document from my church exempting me from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. It is dated 10/22/2021. I would resist and refuse future state-mandated vaccines on these same religious grounds.
129	8/26/24 21:29:51	8/26/24 21:34:16	West Central		Appomattox							Education			The commonwealth and most of America handled the pandemic horribly. Shutting the country down was unnecessary and harmful. Essentially mandating online education harmed students academically. Government exceeded its constitutional authority. People should be fired for how they shut us down.	
300	9/23/24 11:06:08	9/23/24 11:15:52	Northern							Prince William		Government and Regulatory Systems	The first shot if the Pfizer vaccine caused a DVT in my right leg, then while on blood thinners for that the second shot gave me DVTs in both legs. Now I am on expensive drugs for the rest of my life and have no means of recourse.			You have all seen the studies. This vaccine has helped none and hurt many. The federal government who tries to ignore this needs to be held accountable.
355	9/28/24 7:39:59	9/28/24 7:41:58	Northern							Culpeper		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
113	8/26/24 18:14:22	8/26/24 18:16:50	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		No future mandates. No required vaccines.		No future mandates, no required vaccines
133	8/26/24 22:35:47	8/26/24 22:41:31	Central	Orange								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Follow the medical evidence rather than government policies; Ivermectin useful vs vaccine. Masks that can't stop viruses! 6 foot distance that has NO scientific validity! Lock downs of healthy people!		

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368	9/28/24 9:09:21	9/28/24 9:28:16	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		During my first episode of COVID 19, I was able to receive early treatment (within 5 days of symptoms and positive test) with Ivermectin which eliminated symptoms within 36 hours of first treatment. I took the first 3 rounds of the Moderna vax but got COVID 19 two more times		The Health Care system completely failed in dealing with COVID 19 by not allowing early effective treatments with existing medications and proven protocols.
94	8/26/24 12:49:43	8/26/24 12:58:49	Central	Richmond								Government and Regulatory Systems	I almost lost my job (incurred a disability so I did not, but would have). Was going to be forced to get a vaccine even though I was working from home! This was a State action for ALL State vendors. This was a common sense oversight in the largest degree.			I am appalled that common sense approach to remedies were neglected and forcefully stopped in Virginia (Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine should be over-the-counter as they are in most of the world). Mask serve no purpose in prevention as well. Vitamin supplements were prohibited as an option!
375	9/28/24 11:50:05	9/28/24 11:55:38	Northern					Fauquier				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Stop telling lies. People should be free to make their own decisions about their health.		
287	9/19/24 16:05:26	9/19/24 16:07:05	Hampton Roads				York					Education			Teach the Constitution	
83	8/26/24 12:23:40	8/26/24 12:32:10	Eastern					Richmond				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		the Virginia response to the COVID "pandemic" was an assault of the freedom of liberty to determine ones health needs, religious gatherings and the "essentialness" of businesses.		Doctors should be free to practice medicine in the way they determine is in the best interest of their patients.
336	9/24/24 11:58:54	9/24/24 12:01:00	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
393	9/29/24 6:14:01	9/29/24 6:55:50	Hampton Roads				York					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Ret. health administrator here (former USAFR Dep Reserve Medical Forces Advisor to AF Surgeon General).Comments=my own/not DoD.State response violated medical ethics/law/patient safety.Most egregious affront to medical ethics/law/human rights I have seen in my lifetime.Our state=disgraced.		VA participation in political/gov/corporate corruption=abhorrent. Coercion/discrimination/denied care 4 profit.Horrific: VA followed CDC ACIP blindly+STILL recommends injections 4 CHILDREN. Follow FL Dept Health's lead.Pull these dangerous products off market NOW! Shift focus to Tx 4 vacc injured.

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320	9/23/24 14:41:22	9/23/24 14:49:07	Central	Fluvanna								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government information provided was biased and misleading. Opposing medical opinions were not provided and were cancelled. As a result, I do not trust the government, the pharmaceutical companies and, to a lesser extent, the healthcare providers.			Tell the truth on vaccines and masks. Let opposing scientists and doctors have their say. Have honest debates with the differing opinions and let individuals decide what's best for them and their families.
381	9/28/24 15:28:27	9/28/24 15:34:19	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The long COVID shutdown proclaimed by the former Governor should have been reviewed and need to be approved by others before implementing It was unrealistic and caused catastrophic hardship in education, and the economy resulting in the loss of jobs and shutdown of too many small businesses.			
347	9/26/24 18:22:46	9/26/24 18:30:29	West Central		Campbell							Government and Regulatory Systems	Governmentneeds to get out peoples lives.			
424	9/30/24 18:28:39	9/30/24 18:33:13	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	The governor and government took away many of our basic freedoms- freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom to control which injections we took, the ability to choose to wear a mask or not.			My son was a high school senior/college freshman in 2020. He missed out on many life experiences due to lockdowns. Mental health of teenagers were impacted. We blindly followed the recommendations of an agency with no regard to an entire individual with mental, physical, social AND emotional needs.
149	8/27/24 12:22:38	8/27/24 12:24:54	Northern							Spotsylvania		Government and Regulatory Systems	Shutting down whole state and requiring masks and shutting down schools caused harm that can never be fixed.			

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263	9/16/24 8:43:34	9/16/24 8:47:19	Hampton Roads				Isle of Wight					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government, national, state or local, should NEVER be allowed to mandate the uptake of an ingested drug in order to keep your job. My husband was a VDOT worker and almost died of a pulmonary embolism 10 days after the clot shot. Life has not been the same since. He is now retired.			The government should also not be allowed to mandate to businesses who is Open or Closed during a time of emergency. Many were put out of a job
172	8/29/24 10:10:03	8/29/24 10:20:52	West Central		Amherst							Government and Regulatory Systems	Governors are not elected dictator. They are elected as a governor with certain powers limited by the constitution and legislation. No executive order should last over 30 days unless the General Assembly goes into session and passes a bill extending the duration of the order.			It appears that keeping children out of school did more harm than good. It would be profitable to study the lives, both health wise and educational wise of home and private schools that did not close vs those from closed schools.
224	9/15/24 11:41:30	9/15/24 11:43:59	Eastern					Accomack				Government and Regulatory Systems	retired postal			
52	8/16/24 7:11:34	8/16/24 7:28:19	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Va's DBHDS misused CARES Act funds that were designated for front line healthcare workers. DBHDS gave \$\$\$ to many with office jobs who never stepped foot near patients, meanwhile never recognizing the primary care docs in DBHDS hospitals who were on the front lines, taking care of patients.		This was a clear misuse of the federal funds. DBHDS administration had zero accountability, and when contacted about this misappropriation of federal funds, they provided a dismissive response.
139	8/27/24 7:25:57	8/27/24 7:33:25	Valley							Frederick		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Children's Health Defense legal team has written three legal notifications that anyone faced with a COVID vaccine, COVID test or mandates https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/resources-federal-law-prohibits-mandates-emergency-use-covid-vaccines-tests-masks/		Any entity or organization that require Submitting the notices prepared by Children's Health Defense is the first step prior to seeking an exemption or taking legal action. https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/resources-federal-law-prohibits-mandates-emergency-use-covid-vaccines-tests-masks/

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329	9/23/24 20:31:55	9/23/24 20:53:07	Northern							Spotsylvania		Education			We need to prioritize education, because education is our future. Respect for educators, high standards, a rigorous grading system, and attendance should be of the highest priority, even in times of difficulty.	A focus on education leads to a sense of achievement in students. It gives them purpose, goals, and a healthy emotional purpose.
407	9/30/24 13:21:35	9/30/24 13:27:05	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education			It would have been helpful to have the students attend in person once a week instead of not at all. Glad we got through it. Zoom school was not adequate and really rough on teacher and students' families.	Why did so many wonderful teachers quit? After everything they did for us, why isn't Admin supporting teachers more?
26	8/13/24 16:50:51	8/13/24 17:06:57	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		From what I have researched the Health Care systems provided during the Covid Pandemic were based on desisions made by global corporations, namely the Health Care and Pharmaceutical. These were facilitated by governments, the UN and global entities like the UN and WHO are now known to be biased.		Thus, we need a task force of people with integrity and goodwill with the public's innterest at heart to guide the process. It may not be easy to find these people so begin the search as soon as possible. Robert Kennedy will know some of them.
392	9/29/24 0:06:30	9/29/24 0:26:36	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Covid-19 was a disaster. Few people knew what was really going on in terms of how serious the situation was and what to do about it. That is probably still true today. It is my hope that HCS and EM workgroup realize that a lot of the decisions that were then made were based on misinformation.		Therefore, i suggest that Health Care Systems and EM look into Robert kennedy's information on this topic to gain a better understanding about what is appropriate in such circumstance and emergencies.
397	9/29/24 14:18:09	9/29/24 14:25:21	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	I was deeply disturbed as the pandemic response unfolded to see which places and services were deemed "essential" and which were not. Churches were closed but ABC stores were open. Public schools were kept closed and children have suffered severe gaps in learning as a result.			

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305	9/23/24 11:18:11	9/23/24 11:30:39	Valley								Rockingham	Government and Regulatory Systems	The covid state of emergency lasted entirely too long. There need to be clear restrictions on how long a state of emergency initially lasts and how long it can be extended. If over a certain period (15 days for example) the legislature should have to vote on extension.			In addition, the government should not be able to choose what are “essential” businesses. All business is essential to the families it supports. Many small businesses never reopened and the owners lost everything.
308	9/23/24 11:30:54	9/23/24 11:39:35	Valley								Rockingham	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The response was a complete disaster. Most protocols were not based on science - masking, 6ft distancing, etc. Suppression of open dialogue promoted and perpetuated practices that were at best nonsensical and at worst deadly. Trust in healthcare is gone for anyone paying attention.		The harmful ramifications of the response will be long-term and far reaching. Many people were harmed.
310	9/23/24 11:39:45	9/23/24 11:47:37	Valley								Rockingham	Education			Schools were closed far too long and when they finally reopened, masks were required. The loss of learning and the psychological damage done to children will be felt for a generation in this country.	We should look to the example of other countries - namely Sweden - in crafting our next emergency health response.
342	9/25/24 17:24:11	9/25/24 17:35:51	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I am a doctor in Northern VA. I was significantly harmed by the states, NON Science based stance on masks. The health department reported me to the board of medicine and I was fired from a job that I had been at for 20 years, due to this. My patients were also harmed by the disruption in care.		I would like to see the health department making a full apology to the citizens of Va and would like to see a plan that would preclude this type of behavior in the future.
364	9/28/24 8:37:17	9/28/24 8:41:45	Central	Richmond								Education			The closure of schools was unnecessary and destructive. The coercion used to push vaccine acceptance was unethical. The losses from that period are staggering and still affecting schools and families.	Common sense went out the window. Anyone who understands the immune system in the most rudimentary sense knows that ongoing exposure is critical to building and maintaining a strong immune system. The absolute worst thing we could do was mask citizens and close schools and businesses.
54	8/16/24 8:44:22	8/16/24 8:45:51	Central	Richmond								Government and Regulatory Systems	I took Ivermectin and got better.			I took Ivermectin and got better.

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339	9/24/24 23:41:37	9/24/24 23:43:03	West Central		Roanoke							Government and Regulatory Systems				
350	9/27/24 9:37:49	9/27/24 9:41:34	Hampton Roads				Williamsburg					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government as a whole over stepped its authority in applying draconian economy killing measures. What ever laws were used as justification need to be reevaluated and likely repealed and replaced.			
410	9/30/24 14:06:50	9/30/24 14:17:44	West Central		Montgomery							Education			There was no reason to close schools permanently March 2020. My son attended school in '20-'21 on a crazy hybrid schedule. VA was 1 of only 8 states to postpone football season. When in school in person, they were yelled at re:mask wearing and ate lunch prison-style.	My VT son was treated like a leper as he didn't take the coerced Covid-vax. VT surveiled students for gathering in groups so they could hand out code of conduct violations. Paid grad students to spy. Our tuition & tax \$ at work? Not only that, but he was shamed for being a white male thanks to DEI.
412	9/30/24 14:17:54	9/30/24 14:23:13	West Central		Montgomery							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I understand being careful in the beginning, but draconian health care rules were carried on much too long. There was no reason for keeping family members away from sick relatives. The Health Department has too much control. We need a more robust vaccine exemption.		In '21 I returned to my PCP for a physical. It turned into nothing more than him harassing me about the Covid vax. There was no exam. It was just a lecture on the vax. This was the last time I ever saw this physician. The healthcare industry has destroyed its credibility.
413	9/30/24 14:23:30	9/30/24 14:28:54	West Central		Montgomery							Government and Regulatory Systems	The governor ruled VA with a heavy hand. He had much too much control. It was ludicrous to close playgrounds, encourage people to stay inside, forbid church attendance, &c. while leaving the ABC stores open. The hyprocrisy was on exposed when protests were allowed and real life sequestered.			Mask mandates lingered much, much longer than they ever should have. The heavy-handedness on "encouraging" the vax was uncalled for.

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147	8/27/24 11:29:29	8/27/24 11:42:58	Central	King William								Government and Regulatory Systems	There was no need for the Governor or any state/local health authority to declare a prolonged state of emergency, lockdowns, closures of businesses and schools, or a snitch line. Such authoritarian measures hurt our economy, citizens' health, students' education, closed businesses,			denied services to me and my family, and continue to affect many areas today. State of emergencies should be temporary measures and not be able to be continued past 30 days. Never again should these measures occur in our constitutional republic and especially in the Commonwealth of VA.
106	8/26/24 14:33:06	8/26/24 14:49:32	Southside			Franklin						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		You blackmailed people to take a vaccine and wear masks. You lied that's was Safe and Effective. As a result thousands of people have died. I, friends, husband will never listen to CDC, FDA AMA. If you impose another shutdown I will roam the streets giving out literature proving your lies .		You should pay for your rimes against Humanity. You whole department should be disbanded and you should all go to jail for killing people.
10	8/13/24 9:56:33	8/13/24 10:09:30	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Healthcare system allowed one option for treatment. It denied people early treatment resulting in excess death. The masking, distancing and all protocols resulted in greater harm. Doctors successfully treating Covid were fired and/or lost their licenses to practices. The vaccines kill people.		There was no open discussion of healthcare professionals. The doctors who were successful were silenced. Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine were called dangerous by VDH when they are 2 of the safest meds in the world. Remdesivir had a fatality rate of greater than 50%. It remains on the protocol.
11	8/13/24 10:10:44	8/13/24 10:16:58	Central	Richmond								Education		School never should have been closed. Children were not super spreaders. Children were not dying of covid. Masking children was cruel. The masks did not prevent the spread of Covid-19 and that was known from the beginning. Masks greatly harmed children. Masks resulted in learning loss. Masks harmed		younger students more with loss of speech and language development, loss of understanding affect, created isolation, shortness of breath, anxiety, migraines, decreased attention, fatigue, depression. The government was directly responsible for harming our children. No evidence to support masks.

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12	8/13/24 10:18:12	8/13/24 10:31:30	Central	Richmond								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government took away free speech, the freedom to assemble, closed Churches, closed businesses, mandated masks, shots, where you could go, shut our schools down and there was no discussion. The governor was given unlimited power and the GA cowered in fear rather than educating themselves. The gov			coerced people to take "vaccines", a direct violation of Nuremberg Code of ethics. Those harmed by shots are ignored or denied treatment by ignorant healthcare providers because the Gov. continues to prohibit the use of Ivermectin, Hydroxychloroquine and other medications to treat the ill.
285	9/18/24 21:21:32	9/18/24 21:22:12	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		https://pierrekorymedicalmusings.com/p/policy-shifts-against-the-mrna-platform?r=iutjw&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web		
344	9/26/24 11:50:57	9/26/24 11:51:42	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/new-zealand-figures-show-covid-vaccines-were-dished-out-even-though-heart-disease-rates-were-soaring/		
3	8/5/24 16:21:41	8/5/24 16:28:39	Northern							Fairfax		Education			The response was a failure. School closures, mask mandates, testing and vaccine requirements were completely unfounded.	This survey is a joke. You obviously don't want to get feedback in all areas. The fact that you are paying \$300K for this nonsense review shows me nobody wants to do a proper study or review.
268	9/16/24 12:01:51	9/16/24 12:09:40	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Never again will the people of our community allow those in the local and state government take away our freedoms. We will not allow our schools , businesses and churches to be closed by bureaucrats. The government is the peoples business and we will not let officials impose tyranny on us.		
303	9/23/24 11:05:56	9/23/24 11:27:51	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Treatment for COVID was determined by the government and w/o the patient (PT) or MD input Many died alone visitors in hospitals The vaccine mandates were NOT based on any evidence of protection or spreading the disease. No liberty for making my choices for my body!		Many died due to the vaccine and an increase in diseases has occurred due to the vaccine. Many long term effects of the vaccine are yet to be seen in our children and young adults who were given the jab without informed consent. May those responsible for this be held accountable.

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367	9/28/24 9:14:26	9/28/24 9:24:13	Central	Henrico								Education			A better formula for schools to access, as we have a variety of county settings that could benefit from shared knowledge of best practices, challenges to the faculty, staff, and families w students. Methods used that did not work equally as important.Utilization of volunteer pta groups to assist.	There is no one way to ensure health, and wellness of schools. Top down does not equal all best practices. Use a purple crayon and create your own plan.
209	9/9/24 13:02:40	9/9/24 13:07:42	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	The pandemic response was debilitating to small businesses who were not deemed "essential". This was used as a way to shift profits from small local business to big box companies. Amazon sales skyrocketed, while family businesses went out of business. This was a fraud and scam.			The state government accepted Federal COVID funds that were really just payoffs for compliance.
210	9/9/24 13:07:52	9/9/24 13:15:04	Central	Albemarle								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		It was inhumane that my boyfriend who was hospitalized for something non-covid related was limited to 2 visitors during the time of his stay. Ivermectin & hydroxychloriquine were restricted. Many died who could have been treated with these safe drugs.		When I was sick with covid symptoms, I had to find a doctor that would prescribe ivermectin, and wait 3 days for the medicine to arrive and paid nearly \$400 for the medicine. However, I believe it may have saved my life. My boyfriend also was saved with ivermectin.
211	9/9/24 13:15:09	9/9/24 13:19:49	Central	Albemarle								Education			I worked at an ACPS during 2020. No one should be forced to wear masks,have their temp taken with a wand daily or requiring staff to test weekly if they didn't take the biological weapon. Public education is captured. My daughter was unable to finish kindergarten.	Masks don't work, there is no asymptomatic spread, this was all a push to take away the human rights of workers and children. No state or county has the authority to mandate these measures, no person.

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72	8/24/24 17:37:22	8/24/24 17:47:29	Hampton Roads				James City					Government and Regulatory Systems	The shut down of schools, churches and small businesses was disgraceful and unconstitutional. The Governor abused his emergency powers to take away our inalienable rights, causing irreparable harm to businesses, emotional harm to citizens and developmental harm to children. Never again.			Small businesses in particular suffered, restaurants were forced to adapt to outside seating and carry out to survive. Citizens suffered emotional breakdowns from mask mandates and forced social distancing. We experienced a type of mass hysteria about exposure to illness. Leadership was inept.
312	9/23/24 12:34:00	9/23/24 12:36:28	Central	Charlottesvill e								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Make Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other proven remedies available to Virginians. I dislike and distrust the coziness of pharmaceutical companies with our hospitals and doctors		
313	9/23/24 12:36:41	9/23/24 12:38:09	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should not be involved in my health care issues not dictate what medical decisions I make			
58	8/19/24 13:26:34	8/19/24 13:37:29	Northern							Stafford		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My mom was in a facility in 2020. She was very ill and passed away in August 2020. She had developed severe sepsis. One nurse telling me only 1 nurse was on an entire floor with a training nurse. It was not well thought out with how Patients were taken care of. Keeping family out worst thing.		It was a complete nightmare for my mom and her family. She died 5 months after the lock down.
219	9/13/24 9:16:45	9/13/24 12:29:52	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I had a siezure during the mandatory masking period, and a mask was put on my face (against my wishes) while unconscious (a chocking hazard and airway blockade) when O2 was critical. As my spouse wasn't allowed in hospital, I seized again and fell out of bed causing a concussion/need for a CT scan.		https://www.healthline.com/health-news/mask-mandates-in-hospitals-may-have-done-little-to-slow-covid-19-omicron-transmission

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155	8/27/24 14:29:44	8/27/24 14:32:33	Northern							Loudoun		Education			The fact that we kept kids home for as long as we did is almost inhumane. Their mental health was never ever considered and they are still suffering now! You have no idea the effects this had! It was the worst thing you could have done to children!	We should have never ever shut down!!! After the two weeks, we should have allowed everything to open! It did nothing but harm our whole society! VA was the worst! You roped off playgrounds, that is deplorable!
97	8/26/24 13:17:20	8/26/24 13:21:17	Central	New Kent								Government and Regulatory Systems	Next time abide by the United States of America Constitution & all associated documents. Tyranny is no way to govern. People in power work FOR the PEOPLE, not AGAINST the people. Ralph Northman & the Democrats who think of them selves as RULERS are mistaken. I will never forgive or forget.			Dr Fauci needs to be prosecuted for his crime against humanity.
32	8/13/24 18:06:55	8/13/24 18:07:34	Hampton Roads				Suffolk					Education			The impact on education was devastating. The random unsupported "science" used as public health measures proved the officials to be virtually inept at their jobs. So many studies, like the Flu study, showed masking has no effect on the transmission of a respiratory pathogen.	We now know, even the CDC and NIH knew social distancing and masking would have no advantageous effect on eliminating or controlling this alleged pathogen. the citizens to the stakeholders. It is insane not to have done so in the first place.
164	8/28/24 8:51:01	8/28/24 8:55:56	Central	Henrico								Education			Henrico County administration failed our students particularly children from lower-income households. Marcie Shea in particular was an awful hypocrite. She and the rest of the Board should be ashamed of themselves and their actions. Henrico was a vast wasteland absent of leadership.	Henrico County administration and School Board should reflect long and hard and apologize for their actions. They destroyed childhoods and that is irreparable

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163	8/28/24 8:50:51	8/28/24 8:55:09	Valley								Rockingham	Government and Regulatory Systems	Everything you did was outside the scope of your power. From mask mandates to plexiglass shields, none of it did anything to protect anyone. You completely overreacted to something that was barely a bad cold for most people.			Next time, stay in your lane. You do NOT “have to do something” during every crisis that comes along. Sometimes, the best thing to do is nothing.
165	8/28/24 8:55:39	8/28/24 9:04:28	Valley								Rockingham	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		This was a total and complete failure and misuse of resources across the board. You overreacted to what was, for most people, a bad cold. The patients you did get, you mistreated, and listened to those above who did NOT know what they were talking about. You mandated an experimental poison shot, and		...you suppressed effective treatments that already existed because using those would have meant the shots could not have received their EUA from the FDA. Bill Gates and big pharma made billions because you didn’t question anything your betters told you. Next time, give everyone some HCQ or Ivermectin
403	9/30/24 8:42:52	9/30/24 8:52:58	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	All prior epidemiological best practices, studies, and guidelines were blatantly disregarded in the government’s response to COVID-19. The decision to shut down private businesses, schools, churches, and gyms, while allowing large chain stores and liquor outlets to remain open..			...revealed the true nature of the response: an authoritarian power grab that undermined the Bill of Rights. This cannot be allowed to happen again. Never should the genuine science be cast aside to trample the inalienable rights of individual Americans.
295	9/23/24 10:56:48	9/23/24 11:01:53	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	I'd like to understand how our Governor & AG intend to protect Virginians' sovereignty as US citizens & Virginia residents, especially in the event of a future pandemic or state of emergency.			
289	9/22/24 6:52:56	9/22/24 7:06:01	Northern							Fauquier		Government and Regulatory Systems	The overreach of governing power during this time of pandemic was sickening. Unnecessarily and illogical measures were taken to control people but not to ensure their health or wellbeing. I had serious issues with masking and the general shutting down of facilities.			Let people breathe and smile at one another. The cure was worse than the disease. It is insane to encourage and promote OCD levels of cleanliness and order. OCD stands for Obsessive Compulsive DISORDER!

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401	9/29/24 21:15:00	9/29/24 22:33:01	Northern							Alexandria		Government and Regulatory Systems	The notion of long-term emergency powers is completely inappropriate. Emergency powers should always be temporary, to cover unforeseen circumstances where immediate actions are needed (one month max, renewable depending on the extent and uniqueness of the emergency).			Committee members involved in determining medical policies should have medical backgrounds before they go on to determine what medical measures should to be applied to all persons residing in this state.
402	9/29/24 22:33:36	9/29/24 22:43:11	Northern							Alexandria		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Committee members involved in determining medical policies should have medical backgrounds before they go on to determine what medical measures should to be applied to all persons residing in this state. Front-line medical professionals need to be included in these workgroups.		Health matters are personal to each individual. NO mandates for any medical treatments are ever appropriate.
201	9/4/24 20:23:47	9/4/24 20:58:48	Central	Goochland								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I had the responsibilty of getting my sister with Stage3 Lung Cancer to her oncologist and appointments in reference to her survival.She was forced to get the COVID JAB in order to recieve her chemo treatments and was also made to get a booster which made her so sick she was rushed to the hospital.!		Each appointment for her the staff all wore masks!Another lie we now know was unhealthy for the staff. And she was forced to wear a mask much of her time gettting treatments.WRONG!
421	9/30/24 17:18:21	9/30/24 17:33:26	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	Minority businesses were shut down FOREVER due to the COVID 19 LOCKDOWN!WOMEN owned businesses will never come back due to the SHUTDOWN.But the bigbox companies will go on thanks to the uninformed decision makers.BEST word to describe this tragedy-SHAMEFUL and SAD!ABC stores stayed open but small ..			small businesses were left out to lose everything.Forcing folks to wear masks in the businesses that were open was another sick idea that has only proof now how wrong that was as well as going into a grocery store one way and out another. HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK WE ARE!!!!!!!!!!

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423	9/30/24 17:35:19	9/30/24 17:54:30	Central	Goochland								Education			Our young children lost 2-3 years in cognitive development which likely will NEVER be restored. HOW WILL YOU FIX THIS!!You forced our precious children to wear masks all day and now you know how harmful that was to these babies! We trusted "untested true" and accurate information to be the "LAW"	AND NOW OUR CHILDREN WILL BE BEHIND! MANY WILL BE AFFECTED FOREVER.How will the uninformed decision makers make this right? THEY WILL NOT!
187	8/30/24 13:33:22	8/30/24 13:41:09	West Central		Roanoke							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Mandatory masking and distancing were hated by many, but it was a medical necessity. I fear that, because so many uneducated, gullible Americans were against it because it fed into their conspiracy theories, we're going to have an even worse compliance rate the next time around.		Maybe more PSAs next time teaching how viruses are transferred. Let's do better at educating those who think they know everything just because their leader tells them what to think.
264	9/16/24 9:54:31	9/16/24 9:58:53	West Central		Franklin							Government and Regulatory Systems	Suggestions not mandates. Factual information not scare tactics or out right LIES.			Will never submit to a medical mandate again, was lied to and the lie made it worse. I will never surrender freedoms again for a little possible, maybe, hopefully or some pie in the sky safety.
358	9/28/24 7:44:09	9/28/24 7:53:57	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	I don't know if I am volcing this correct, but I don't ever want to see the government force us take vaccines or shut us down.			
141	8/27/24 8:18:39	8/27/24 8:23:31	Hampton Roads				York					Government and Regulatory Systems	Overall, the picking and choosing of which businesses could stay open and closed, mask mandates, removing abc licenses for not enforcing mandates, healthcare providers not taking care of patients other needs and only focusing on covid patients, nonsensical Governor's executive orders ridiculous			What was done to our children's academic and mental health in the name of fake science but allowing rioting and protesting and shutting down major roadways- also ridiculous.

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377	9/28/24 12:06:06	9/28/24 12:27:34	Hampton Roads				York					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Where is the post-Covid analysis of policies that dictated decisions with dismal outcomes? Truth surrounding every aspect of what we endured needs to be shared broadly & all people involved in propagandizing & mandating need to be held fully accountable. Topics of concern: The poison pokes were		not necessary, safe, nor effective. Shot mandates. Corporations ignored doc's orders. Serious adverse reactions & deaths. Treatment protocol harmed or killed people. Suppression & censorship. Lockdowns, face diapers, school closures, endless printing of money & doling it out carelessly.
304	9/23/24 11:19:45	9/23/24 11:29:05	Southside			Prince Edward						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Dr's were spouting death was certain. They bullied people about getting tested and getting vax. I ran into it at Patient First and then a local Dr. Office. HHS were giving much misinformed. According to local pharmacies, there were NO info inserts for vaccines or so we were told.		
200	9/4/24 7:44:09	9/4/24 7:47:09	Eastern					Richmond				Government and Regulatory Systems				
216	9/10/24 9:31:36	9/10/24 9:34:03	Eastern					Richmond				Government and Regulatory Systems	I don't feel I'm getting accurate information regarding side effects and true research results			
362	9/28/24 8:28:22	9/28/24 8:32:02	Central	Nelson								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Never took a Covid shot and never was sick. Reading many informative documents on Covid it was clear to me Covid inoculations would be harmful to me health and I was right. The gov't acted too fast without proper research.		Stop giving Covid shots.
302	9/23/24 11:10:02	9/23/24 11:23:15	Central	Nelson								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My wife nor I took any Covid shots and have had no health problems. My doctor & intern tried to convince me I should take the shots - I refused. The public information on Covid convinced me the journey was a farce and the health care "big Pharma" was out to make money.		No

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383	9/28/24 16:13:42	9/28/24 16:21:40	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	My husband is a minority owner of a small business that was shut down for months in Loudoun County during the COVID-19 pandemic because then Governor Northam deemed it non-essential. My family lost 10s of thousands of dollars in income that we needed to live and will never be able to recover from.			This gross government overreach destroyed the lives of so many small business owners in VA. and today there is still no accountability for elected officials who destroyed the livelihoods of hard-working Virginians.
239	9/15/24 15:26:46	9/15/24 15:29:26	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	We will never again submit to lockdowns or mandates of any shape or form. We will not allow our elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable appointed bureaucrats.			The Governor shall not allow the Virginia Department of Health or any unelected entity to decide to take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, our right to work and protect our families
136	8/27/24 0:04:51	8/27/24 0:10:19	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	The response to the entire pandemic was over-zealous and not respectful of a diversity of scientific and medical opinions, and in the end the shutting down of schools and businesses did far more harm than good in terms of health, economy, learning, public safety, mental wellness, and family health.			Reliance on any information from CDC and WHO should be fully reconsidered given the misinformation and the intentional repression of health data and information that both of these groups knowingly perpetrated during the pandemic. Do not be complicit with this to harm our state again in the future.
316	9/23/24 13:34:55	9/23/24 13:36:41	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems				
225	9/15/24 11:44:16	9/15/24 11:47:19	Northern							Fredericksburg		Education			Schools should never have been shut down. The mandates were extreme. This is America not Germany.	
354	9/28/24 7:15:56	9/28/24 7:22:18	Central	Hanover								Government and Regulatory Systems	The powers of the government to mandate lockdowns of people/businesses should be limited. Governments, in ANY form should never be in the line of decisions on treatments for, or the prevention of illness. Mandating invasive untested treatments- like- vaccines should be irrevocably banned.			Never again.

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175	8/29/24 14:14:32	8/29/24 14:40:29 Eastern						Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The public health agencies' response to the so-called pandemic was based upon lies and disinformation. By picking "essential" businesses and closing down others, closing churches and schools, mandating masks, and restricting social activity, government did irreparable harm to its citizens. Shame!		On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (1) FDA’s Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook posts from August 21, 2021, that read, “You are not a horse. You are not a cow. Seriously, y’all. Stop it.”
176	8/29/24 14:42:40	8/29/24 14:49:19 Eastern						Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The govt's top-down treatment protocol directives destroyed the Provider-Patient relationship and threw Informed Consent out the window. Careers were ruined as people had to choose between taking an untested and unsafe "injection therapy" or quitting. All based upon dis-information & lies. Shame!		On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (2) FDA’s Instagram post from August 21, 2021 that reads, “You are not a horse. Stop it with the #ivermectin. It’s not authorized for treating #COVID.”
177	8/29/24 14:51:54	8/29/24 15:00:04 Eastern						Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Gov't agencies colluded with Mass Media to promote a massive disinformation campaign intended to stoke fear and despair in the American People (and the World for that matter) for a "disease" that only a small % of the population needed to worry about. Shame! On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a...		lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (3) FDA’s Twitter post from April 26, 2022 (ECF No. 12, Ex. 7), that reads, “Hold your horses, y’all. Ivermectin may be trending, but it still isn’t authorized or approved to treat COVID-19.”
178	8/29/24 15:00:39	8/29/24 15:12:20 Eastern						Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Our public health agencies responses to the non-pandemic were a power grab and a test to see how far WE THE PEOPLE would go along and comply. Lives and fortunes have been lost. Adverse events from the unsafe (and ineffective) experimental therapies abound. Look at VAERS for Christ's sake! Shame!		On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (4) all other social media posts on FDA accounts that link to Why You Should Not Use Ivermectin to Treat or Prevent COVID-19. WHY DID FDA AGREE TO THIS?

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382	9/28/24 16:10:58	9/28/24 16:19:00	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	No government should be allowed to force U.S. Citizens to take unwanted vaccines. The COVID crisis was worse because vaccine had not completed long term testing; was thus experimental. Further,some people had adverse reactions to their first shot, nevertheless they were encouraged to take a second!			Government officials and doctors who pushed the experimental vaccines should be prosecuted and fined. If they caused physical harm they should be imprisoned.
296	9/23/24 10:53:05	9/23/24 11:02:02	Northern							Loudoun		Education			It is imperative as we move forward to make decisions based on truth, real science that has already been studied and proven (such as natural immunity). Please let us learn from this “reactionary response” and take our time to clearly, thoughtfully and honestly assess any situation in the future.	
120	8/26/24 18:20:51	8/26/24 19:06:53	Central	King William								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My wife and I were denied Ivermectin, HCQ and budesonide by our family doctor. Instead, he prescribed us monoclonal IV that could only be administered at the Williamsburg Sentara. The hospital informed me that the Biden administration cut off supplies of this treatment to Virginia.		The government needs to stay out of healthcare choices of citizens. Your meddling almost cost us our lives. Your "expert medical advice" was wrong. It is now proven that the alternative treatments were more safe and effective than than Remdesivir, which killed a lot more people.
414	9/30/24 15:11:38	9/30/24 15:30:33	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Many were forced to get “vaccines” against their religious and moral beliefs. Even those who willingly took the “vaccine” were not informed of the dangers. Those who died or were injured from the vaccines have not been compensated while the manufacturers raked in billions in profit.		Never in medicine have we given pregnant women or women of child-bearing age an injection without long term studies. Early treatments with medications like ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine and fluvoxamine were suppressed leading to needless harm or death.

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415	9/30/24 15:30:44	9/30/24 15:35:54	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government determined “essential” businesses. We know every business and job was essential, especially, if it was yours. Thousands of small businesses closed permanently. Many families lost their life savings. Hospitalized patients were denied religious rites and visitors.			Churches, synagogues and small business were closed, while liquor stores, strip clubs and big box stores stayed open. The church is the MOST essential, especially in times of death and crisis. Never in our history have we silenced that which our country was founded upon, a firm belief in God.
416	9/30/24 15:36:43	9/30/24 15:42:27	Northern							Fairfax		Education		Education was completely disrupted, children lost 2-3 years of development. Closing schools caused so much harm, including suicides of children. Parents forced to give kids a “vaccine” with no long-term data who were at no risk of dying. Our individual rights & parental rights were trampled!		Masks caused significant harm particularly to our children, when they were known to be ineffective from the beginning. Speech and language delay, developmental delays, emotional disorders, breathing difficulties and illness were the direct results of masks. Fauci lied, people died.
223	9/15/24 11:41:01	9/15/24 11:41:52	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Education			Even conservative School Boards would not follow the science.	
55	8/16/24 18:02:09	8/16/24 18:17:32	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I see an overabundance of fear porn in the US Healthcare systems as a whole today, and I long for honesty and truth to be told to We the Citizens. Exposing the unholy alliances between Govt Bureaucrats, Big Pharma, Big Ag, Big Tech and other institutions would be nice to see as well.		I've made my peace. Thank you.
151	8/27/24 12:46:48	8/27/24 12:50:28	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Society will suffer for over a decade from the learning losses our students suffered during the school lockdowns. We will have a generation that may not recover at all. Socially.			Visitation restrictions in the healthcare were absolutely inhumane. My father passed away in a hospital while it was under visitation restrictions. While he laid in the hospital bed for a week, I was not allowed to visit until the last 15 hours after he was incoherent and unable to communicate.
277	9/16/24 20:13:33	9/16/24 20:15:45	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		People should be able to choose their own healthcare and doctors without interference!		

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278	9/16/24 20:15:53	9/16/24 20:17:54	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	We do not want any lockdowns or closing of schools and businesses! No WHO mandates should apply to our country or state!			
193	8/31/24 20:31:16	8/31/24 20:52:51	Northern							Spotsylvania		Government and Regulatory Systems	The State of Virginia allowed thousands to die and forced workers to get an untested vaccine this is now killing thousands. The people of Virginia were denied care during covid, women were forced to give brith alone and they were not allowed to properly bury their dead.			There was treatment for covid that worked , I know because lvused it as a preventative. It is shameful how covid was handled. It must never happen again.
227	9/15/24 12:29:21	9/15/24 12:36:32	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				When we were told that we needed to get a vaccine that suddenly appeared and had not gone through the approval process that is applied to other drugs that should have raised concerns in everyone’s mind.
51	8/15/24 12:28:11	8/15/24 12:39:05	Central	Louisa								Government and Regulatory Systems	Mandating Covid-19 vaccination was an egregious violation of human rights. Government-ordered closures of businesses and schools was unnecessary and injurious to individuals and families, damaging the economy and stunting education.			State agency University of Virginia fired employees for declining the barely-tested, largely useless, and potentially dangerous Covid-19 vaccination. Those employees must all receive back pay and be offered reinstatement without penalty.
311	9/23/24 12:10:16	9/23/24 12:15:11	West Central		Roanoke							Government and Regulatory Systems	Even in a so called state of emergency, the Constitution remains the law of the land! You may make suggestions. You work for We the People! The Governor's powers to keep us in a state of Emergency needs a check and balance codified!			
99	8/26/24 13:17:11	8/26/24 13:22:34	West Central		Roanoke							Government and Regulatory Systems	The unlimited and unchecked power of the Governor's executive and/or emergency orders needs SEVERE restriction and accountability with codified, pre-set time limits.			

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170	8/28/24 19:35:41	8/28/24 19:36:53	West Central		Franklin							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
95	8/26/24 12:59:16	8/26/24 13:01:57	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	My rights were violated. I was not allowed to shop at Giant without a mask. I was kicked out of CVS because I didn't wear a mask. I was put through medical tyranny in public places.			I will not comply with anything like the lockdowns/mandates again.

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10/1/2024 3:34	10/1/2024 3:53	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	The Government at all levels had direct affect in how businesses, restaurants, grocery, hardware stores, churches and schools took place. Instead of allowing flexibility & judgement calls by the owners there were forced shutdowns, Licenses removed, doors locked from the outside, & unnecessary			Government harassment. Not trusting the owners & how the community responded to make appropriate accommodations was a big mistake. Interesting to see how some business etc. like private schools were able to thrive by doing things that were comfortable to them for the folks who wanted to participate.
8/5/2024 17:34	8/5/2024 17:40	Central	Hanover	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Stockpiles of monoclonal antibodies went unused, and were not broadly available. Healthcare centers, including primary care physicians, hospitals, urgent care centers did not provide the treatment as an option to patients.		Hospitals and physicians followed protocols for Covid patients set by administrators, based on CMS reimbursement, rather than allowing physicians practicing medicine. Pharmacies determined whether or not they would dispense medication’s prescribed by physicians. PharmD do not practice medicine.
8/5/2024 17:40	8/5/2024 17:44	Central	Hanover	Education			These were determined regarding masking without sufficient clinical evidence that would support the measure. Schools were closed and studies regarding the detrimental effects to children were ignored. Counties made decisions on closing schools prior to receiving feedback from parents.	Only after pushback did schools allow for students with disabilities, Initially, ignoring the legally mandated requirement. Teachers unions and/or associations were allowed to negotiate with school boards without parents present. The state has not addressed the education gap or detrimental effects.
10/1/2024 3:15	10/1/2024 3:33	Central	Chesterfield	Education			Schools had horrible protocols in place for educating students during Covid. Online learning challenged many students & many found themselves isolated, depressed & some even suicidal. Additionally, in our area, special accommodations were made for the Covid vaccinated students, many who would later	test positive for Covid, could return much sooner than their peers who did not take the fairly new vaccine. Some may never have tested positive but because of proximity to a Covid infected student they were forced to stay out of school for 2 weeks. The constant Covid testing was also unnecessary.
9/30/2024 21:50	10/1/2024 3:14	Central	Chesterfield	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Health Care System is incredibly compromised. Big Pharma has a heavy hand in their influence in many hospitals including what drugs, vaccines & procedures that are pushed for profits. Instead of focusing on getting folks better & listening to the families, some of these hospitals were		forcing deadly and very limiting protocols such as Remdesivir that lead to organ failure and or putting them on the ventilator where many did not recover. Some situations involved lawyers having to remove family members to a less restrictive care facility to insure their loved ones survival.
9/30/2024 22:19	9/30/2024 22:32	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Absolutely no emergency use authorization of experimental medical intervention. Non interference in doctor patient relationship by government. Allow doctors to prescribe as they see fit vs limiting their options and preventing pharmacies from dispensing medicine prescribed.		Listen to the doctors vs telling them what they can and can't do. Put liability back on pharmaceutical companies for vaccine injury. If you want to stockpile medicines, pick tried and true ones, preferably generic and low cost. Less interference is better.
9/30/2024 21:06	9/30/2024 21:09	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems				The checks and balances of the government should keep them from overstepping their authority to encroach on personal liberties.
8/13/2024 9:56	8/13/2024 10:09	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Healthcare system allowed one option for treatment. It denied people early treatment resulting in excess death. The masking, distancing and all protocols resulted in greater harm. Doctors successfully treating Covid were fired and/or lost their licenses to practices. The vaccines kill people.		There was no open discussion of healthcare professionals. The doctors who were successful were silenced. Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine were called dangerous by VDH when they are 2 of the safest meds in the world. Remdesivir had a fatality rate of greater than 50%. It remains on the protocol.
8/13/2024 10:10	8/13/2024 10:16	Central	Richmond	Education			School never should have been closed. Children were not super spreaders. Children were not dying of covid. Masking children was cruel. The masks did not prevent the spread of Covid-19 and that was known from the beginning. Masks greatly harmed children. Masks resulted in learning loss. Masks harmed	younger students more with loss of speech and language development, loss of understanding affect, created isolation, shortness of breath, anxiety, migraines, decreased attention, fatigue, depression. The government was directly responsible for harming our children. No evidence to support masks.
8/13/2024 10:18	8/13/2024 10:31	Central	Richmond	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government took away free speech, the freedom to assemble, closed Churches, closed businesses, mandated masks, shots, where you could go, shut our schools down and there was no discussion. The governor was given unlimited power and the GA cowered in fear rather than educating themselves. The gov			coerced people to take "vaccines", a direct violation of Nuremberg Code of ethics. Those harmed by shots are ignored or denied treatment by ignorant healthcare providers because the Gov. continues to prohibit the use of Ivermectin, Hydroxychloroquine and other medications to treat the ill.
9/30/2024 19:45	9/30/2024 20:28	Central	Henrico	Government and Regulatory Systems	I was unlawfully and immorally fired from my state job as a result of Northam’s exec. order requiring disclosure of cvd jab status by state employees, even though it was known the jabs did not prevent infection or transmission. This action violated state, federal laws and had no basis in fact.			This unlawful and wrongful termination has been emotionally and financially devastating and had no justifiable basis in reality. It was known I had covid in Dec. 2020 and was treated with Ivermectin by my doctor - and still had verified immunity at the time of my firing. This is TYRANY and INSANITY.
9/30/2024 18:28	9/30/2024 18:33	Central	Henrico	Government and Regulatory Systems	The governor and government took away many of our basic freedoms-freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom to control which injections we took, the ability to choose to wear a mask or not.			My son was a high school senior/college freshman in 2020. He missed out on many life experiences due to lockdowns. Mental health of teenagers were impacted. We blindly followed the recommendations of an agency with no regard to an entire individual with mental, physical, social AND emotional needs.

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9/30/2024 17:35	9/30/2024 17:54	Central	Goochland	Education			Our young children lost 2-3 years in cognitive development which likely will NEVER be restored. HOW WILL YOU FIX THIS!!You forced our precious children to wear masks all day and now you know how harmful that was to these babies! We trusted "untested true" and accurate information to be the "I AM!"	AND NOW OUR CHILDREN WILL BE BEHIND! MANY WILL BE AFFECTED FOREVER.How will the uninformed decision makers make this right? THEY WILL NOT!
9/30/2024 17:27	9/30/2024 17:39	Central	Goochland	Education			The knee jerk reaction of closing all our schools for roughly 2 years was devastating to our children and has negatively impacted them both educationally and socially. This is unforgivable and was based on faulty information and perhaps on intentionally misleading information. Who is responsible?	We now know that school age children were virtually impervious to Covid and if a child was actually infected, there were virtually no symptoms and the death rate amongst children was almost zero! We simply cannot have this kind of overreaction. Closing schools should not be an option.
9/30/2024 17:18	9/30/2024 17:33	Central	Goochland	Government and Regulatory Systems	Minority businesses were shut down FOREVER due to the COVID 19 LOCKDOWN!WOMEN owned businesses will never come back due to the SHUTDOWN.But the bigbox companies will go on thanks to the uninformed decision makers.BEST word to describe this tragedy-SHAMEFUL and SAD!ABC stores stayed open but small			small businesses were left out to lose everything.Forcing folks to wear masks in the businesses that were open was another sick idea that has only proof now how wrong that was as well as going into a grocery store one way and out another. HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK WE ARE!!!!!!!!!!
9/30/2024 17:09	9/30/2024 17:26	Central	Goochland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Let's remember, first, DO NO HARM. Our health care system was all about masking, social distancing, Covid testing and jabs and boosters, all of which have proven to be detrimental, not helpful. We have seen rising death rates, myocarditis in the young, dropping fertility rates, turbo cancers, etc.		The use of Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine were prohibited in favor of more expensive and profitable drugs even though they were proven to be very effective. Change the emphasis of our healthcare system from pursuing profits to actually curing the patient. Prohibit \$\$ incentives from Big Pharma.
9/30/2024 17:04	9/30/2024 17:09	Central	Charlottesville	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Make Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other proven remedies available to Virginians.		
9/30/2024 16:55	9/30/2024 17:07	Central	Goochland	Government and Regulatory Systems	No government official, agency, legislative branch, judge, etc., shall have the authority to issue health and safety directives that infringe on any citizens unalienable rights as defined in the Constitution. Mandating social distancing, mask wearing, church and school closings, is unconstitutional			We simply cannot have decrees handed down when they are not based on any medical facts. The vaccines were never tested appropriately and as such were nothing more than experimental shots and we the people were the guinea pigs. Government's chief duty is to protect their citizens, not harm them!
9/30/2024 11:54	9/30/2024 12:00	Central	Henrico	Government and Regulatory Systems	No reason for fed govt to require draconian measures when they have no idea what the required shots would do either to or for us. In my mind Fauci is a traitor when you see the social and economic changes he thrust upon us. Also check out his motives and who i he is related to!			When Fouci was at Richmond Forum as the speaker he had a difficult time defending himself.
9/29/2024 21:24	9/29/2024 21:42	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		"WE THE PEOPLE" are the Stakeholders and no Government or Medical (Acting or Emergency) has no Power to violate the Rights of its Citizens.		Americans have been lied to of the effectiveness of vaccines. www.tga.au/sites/default/files/foi-2389-06.pdf shows that Covid Vax does not stay in the arm but affects the entire body. Yet the Medical field push vax through advertising(Federal,State,Pharma Companies and Retail) which is fraud
9/28/2024 22:28	9/28/2024 22:29	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		https://popularrationalism.substack.com/p/researchers-find-anomalies-in-covid?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email-restack-comment&r=8m0n8&triedRedirect=true		Speak the TRUTH
9/28/2024 9:39	9/28/2024 9:53	Central	Colonial Heights	Government and Regulatory Systems	We need to know whats going on, what bills are up and whats stopped, what our governor's powers are, why dont we know what hes doing and what he's working on, what about WHO? What about emergency preparedness for that. What about illegals and gangs? What about our schools safety. And high costs?			Im tired of nobody in authority standing up for our rights ahead of time rather than after incidents and legislation rules. No choices in choosing either. Government isnt so someone in power makes their choice, its about true constituent choices, being involved in our own rules and laws etc.
8/13/2024 16:24	8/13/2024 16:41	Central	Albemarle	Government and Regulatory Systems	I stand on the liberties granted to me in the U.S. Constitution. These Rights are moral truths and imply my desire to live as I wish—to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I do not consent to mandated lockdown, medical directives, or overreaches by unelected or elected state actors.			I have, in my possession, a notarized document from my church exempting me from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. It is dated 10/22/2021. I would resist and refuse future state-mandated vaccines on these same religious grounds.
9/28/2024 9:09	9/28/2024 9:28	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		During my first episode of COVID 19, I was able to receive early treatment (within 5 days of symptoms and positive test) with Ivermectin which eliminated symptoms within 36 hours of first treatment. I took the first 3 rounds of the Moderna vax but got COVID 19 two more times		The Health Care system completely failed in dealing with COVID 19 by not allowing early effective treatments with existing medications and proven protocols.
9/28/2024 9:14	9/28/2024 9:24	Central	Henrico	Education			A better formula for schools to access, as we have a variety of county settings that could benefit from shared knowledge of best practices, challenges to the faculty, staff, and families w students. Methods used that did not work equally as important.Utilization of volunteer pta groups to assist.	There is no one way to ensure health, and wellness of schools. Top down does not equal all best practices. Use a purple crayon and create your own plan.

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9/28/2024 8:47	9/28/2024 8:51	Central	Louisa	Government and Regulatory Systems	People would have medical freedom. People should not be treated differently due to what they choose. Also, what was done was not based on the information and stories and facts out there.			Many will not follow or believe what they are told in the future. Trust was ruined and it opened many people's eyes. That was a good thing, many needed eyes opened that aren't as educated in the medical information.
9/28/2024 8:26	9/28/2024 8:47	Central	Orange	Government and Regulatory Systems	Emergency powers should be the absolute total last resort. And never should the rights of our citizens be taken away by government whether elected or non elected bureaucrats. Never should your plan be based on closing down businesses, schools or houses of worship.			This last overreach & suppression of medical information by the federal and state govts was criminal. We know about Big Tech/Big Govt/Big Pharma and how they worked together to censor, control and spread fear among our people. Truth was always there; but govt chose to suppress it.
9/28/2024 8:37	9/28/2024 8:41	Central	Richmond	Education			The closure of schools was unnecessary and destructive. The coercion used to push vaccine acceptance was unethical. The losses from that period are staggering and still affecting schools and families.	Common sense went out the window. Anyone who understands the immune system in the most rudimentary sense knows that ongoing exposure is critical to building and maintaining a strong immune system. The absolute worst thing we could do was mask citizens and close schools and businesses.
8/13/2024 17:46	8/13/2024 18:07	Central	Albemarle	Government and Regulatory Systems	There must be more measured and calculated responses to future outbreaks of viruses. Transparency, accountability, and individual freedom of choice should be the guiding factors in any future outbreaks.			Freedom of choice, including alternative therapies, must be part of the future. Those decisions should be made between a person and their healthcare professional only - not government officials at any level.
9/28/2024 8:28	9/28/2024 8:32	Central	Nelson	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Never took a Covid shot and never was sick. Reading many informative documents on Covid it was clear to me Covid inoculations would be harmful to me health and I was right. The gov't acted too fast without proper research.		Stop giving Covid shots.
9/28/2024 8:16	9/28/2024 8:25	Central	Richmond	Education			The government shutdown of schools and the following shift to online "learning" was devastating to all children- especially low-income students. The shutdowns suggest that school is optional and not the best way out of poverty. The learning loss will likely never be recovered.	It is disheartening to me that those tasked with leading education policy did not consider the long-term effects of their decisions and bowed to the wishes of school boards and unions at the expense of children and their futures.
9/28/2024 8:08	9/28/2024 8:20	Central	Orange	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The immediate and overt pressure the government put on its constituents that forced us to give up our own bodily autonomy and medical freedoms in light of the Covid-19 "pandemic" moved our state mountains towards total government totalitarianism. This must be stopped dead in its attack & reversed.		Forcing young adults and children to take an untested vaccine was unconscionable! We won't know for years the physical affect this will have on their health, their fertility, and their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The government was wrong to force us to do this.
8/13/2024 20:14	8/13/2024 20:16	Central	Hanover	Education			I was proud that Hanover County schools returned to in person instruction the following school year.	
8/13/2024 20:20	8/13/2024 21:16	Central	Chesterfield	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Lockdowns unnecessary and caused great harm to all, Censorship.You will kill Granny unvaxxt; MPIDR -From Unicef/GME site: "The available evidence indicates the direct impact of Covid-19 on children,adolescent or youth mortality to be limited." No shots needed. Deaths in 20 and under-4		Sweden (schools/business stayed open) and India fared better (used Ivermectin) than US according to data shown UN/GME Unicef. in US . Uptake in deaths on graph 21/22 (after vax was rolled out). Teen suicide during/after lockdowns. Couldn't see unvax husband in rehab for pt; People died alone.inhu
8/13/2024 21:24	8/13/2024 21:39	Central	Henrico	Government and Regulatory Systems	US Government should reject treaties making WHO recommendations supersede our national interests in emergency response. Doctors, researchers, virologists, etc. should have the freedom to discuss and try creative solutions without being crushed by government.			
8/14/2024 7:37	8/14/2024 7:39	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		No mandates are acceptable!!!!		
9/28/2024 7:36	9/28/2024 7:44	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor and/or Legislators should NEVER have the authority to close our churches or forbid the movement of its citizens.			Yes....our government should NEVER again force any kind of vaccine (experimental or not) on its citizens.
9/28/2024 7:15	9/28/2024 7:22	Central	Hanover	Government and Regulatory Systems	The powers of the government to mandate lockdowns of people/businesses should be limited. Governments, in ANY form should never be in the line of decisions on treatments for, or the prevention of illness. Mandating invasive untested treatments- like- vaccines should be irrevocably banned.			Never again.
9/27/2024 9:26	9/27/2024 9:33	Central	Goochland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Govt response was criminal. Children are still paying the price for forced injections, in 2024 & will continue to have severe health problems.		Our children are not being educated, but indoctrinated by lies, & for 'big pharma' to get richer & to deasease the population.
9/26/2024 16:07	9/26/2024 16:07	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/remdesivir-recall-glass-particles-covid-hospital-protocol/?utm_source=luminat&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=defender&utm_id=20240926		
9/26/2024 11:50	9/26/2024 11:51	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/new-zealand-figures-show-covid-vaccines-were-dished-out-even-though-heart-disease-rates-were-soaring/		

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9/24/2024 13:23	9/24/2024 14:13	Central	Chesterfield	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		As a retired nurse at the time, I watched a disregard for standard AMA protocols. Patients were advised not to seek early treatment, denied potential life saving medications prescribed by their doctor; the terminal were forbidden needed comfort from family and clergy. All inexcusable! I am a healthcare provider.		The mandatory use of inadequately tested vaccines was an unconstitutional violation of human rights and is now considered criminal in many cases.
8/14/2024 16:47	8/14/2024 16:52	Central	Louisa	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				No government or "system" should be allowed to mandate what any sound-minded individual deems inappropriate for themselves.
9/24/2024 11:58	9/24/2024 12:01	Central	Chesterfield	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
9/23/2024 22:39	9/23/2024 22:51	Central	New Kent	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				After car accidents I couldn't get the necessary health care without being masked, vaxed or social distancing. I have religious objections to them but couldn't get care without being masked properly, which changed with everywhere I went & called. I'm still having issues with my injuries due to that.
9/23/2024 21:01	9/23/2024 21:13	Central	Charles City	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The response to the pandemic was totally corrupted. Doctors were silenced, nurses willing participants, pharmacist guardians of the "goods". All around bad. Families unable to see their loved ones, hostility to the unvaccinated, poor communication, abuse of power, no leadership.		
8/15/2024 10:43	8/15/2024 10:54	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	No Governor or any state authority should have the tyrannical power to classify a business as "non-essential" whether it's an emergency or not. Any "emergency" order should be limited to 30 days max and legislature should be able to override it with 2/3 majority vote.			No vaccines or shots should ever be required for any citizen to exercise their right to live their lives, particularly when none of them ever since the polio one have been studied in a placebo-controlled trial (they aren't safe and effective).
8/15/2024 10:57	8/15/2024 11:03	Central	Powhatan	Government and Regulatory Systems	The ability of the governor to decide on a unilateral basis which businesses were "essential" and which ones weren't demonstrated a level of overreach that simply must never be allowed again. Close churches but leave liquor stores open, because liquor stores posed a lower infection risk?			I worked as a pharmacist at a level 1 trauma center in Richmond throughout the pandemic and never caught COVID-19. I declined the vaccine and lost my job, remaining unemployable for over 2 years because of mandates. I am looking for answers and accountability.
8/15/2024 12:28	8/15/2024 12:39	Central	Louisa	Government and Regulatory Systems	Mandating Covid-19 vaccination was an egregious violation of human rights. Government-ordered closures of businesses and schools was unnecessary and injurious to individuals and families, damaging the economy and stunting education.			State agency University of Virginia fired employees for declining the barely-tested, largely useless, and potentially dangerous Covid-19 vaccination. Those employees must all receive back pay and be offered reinstatement without penalty.
8/16/2024 7:11	8/16/2024 7:28	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Va's DBHDS misused CARES Act funds that were designated for front line healthcare workers. DBHDS gave \$\$\$ to many with office jobs who never stepped foot near patients, meanwhile never recognizing the primary care docs in DBHDS hospitals who were on the front lines, taking care of patients.		This was a clear misuse of the federal funds. DBHDS administration had zero accountability, and when contacted about this misappropriation of federal funds, they provided a dismissive response.
9/23/2024 15:15	9/23/2024 15:18	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	Citizens should have the option to choose how they respond to a health crisis, not the govt.			
8/16/2024 8:44	8/16/2024 8:45	Central	Richmond	Government and Regulatory Systems	I took Ivermectin and got better.			I took Ivermectin and got better.
8/16/2024 18:02	8/16/2024 18:17	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I see an overabundance of fear porn in the US Healthcare systems as a whole today, and I long for honesty and truth to be told to We the Citizens. Exposing the unholy alliances between Govt Bureaucrats, Big Pharma, Big Ag, Big Tech and other institutions would be nice to see as well.		I've made my peace. Thank you.
8/17/2024 17:31	8/17/2024 17:36	Central	Chesterfield	Education			There was never a need to mask children and limit their oxygen to their brains!! They have robust immune systems & natural immunity has and always will be far superior to any man made "solutions". Do not repeat the awful mistakes of the past children are still suffering from these poor decisions.	Parental choice should matter and parent's input is essential. Oxygen and safety is also essential. No need to distance and put children in danger as there was never evidence that proved it helpful. Do the research next time please.
9/23/2024 14:58	9/23/2024 15:04	Central	New Kent	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should not restrict free trade or the right of the public to assemble. Businesses should not be closed; commerce should not be restricted, and churches & schools should not be closed or restricted. The government should not in any way seek to require, track or enforce vaccine status.			Pass laws that restrict the ability of the federal government to dictate compliance due to the absence any state laws to the contrary.
9/23/2024 14:41	9/23/2024 14:49	Central	Fluvanna	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government information provided was biased and misleading. Opposing medical opinions were not provided and were cancelled. As a result, I do not trust the government, the pharmaceutical companies and, to a lesser extent, the healthcare providers.			Tell the truth on vaccines and masks. Let opposing scientists and doctors have their say. Have honest debates with the differing opinions and let individuals decide what's best for them and their families.

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8/19/2024 17:15	8/19/2024 17:48	Central	Goochland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Understanding now that the vaccine was never "safe and effective" and was never tested in such a way as to be able to say so, it is abundantly clear that our healthcare decisions should not be bound by claims made by the CDC, the FDA, the NIH, Mr. Fauci, etc. We must think for ourselves.		We know now that Ivermectin is very effective in treating covid but Doctors would not prescribe it as they were told not to do so. Why, because Big Pharma paid them for every jab, paid hospitals for Covid diagnoses, Intubations and Covid deaths! Outlaw the practice of cash incentives in medicine.
9/23/2024 13:34	9/23/2024 13:36	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	Education			
8/20/2024 12:03	8/20/2024 12:17	Central	Goochland				We must never again shut down our schools and churches for a supposed pandemic. Our children have been seriously compromised both intellectually and socially by being isolated from other school-aged children and by online learning, which we know was a poor substitute for classroom-based education.	The fact that any school, college or university can mandate to students that they must submit to an injection of foreign material into their bodies is incomprehensible and, as has been shown by evidence, was actually very harmful in many circumstances. This action violates Constitutional rights.
8/20/2024 12:20	8/20/2024 12:39	Central	Goochland	Government and Regulatory Systems	Our legislature should immediately pass a law stating that Virginia is not bound by any decrees issued by the WHO or bound by International Health Regulations. Those decrees and regulations should only be used in an advisory capacity as none of the officials are actually elected by U.S. citizens.			The announcement of a pandemic, real or not, does not strip individuals of their God-given rights! When we see that a vaccine does not protect, but actually harms, we should enact legislation that prohibits any advertisement that continues to advocate for the jab and enact penalties for doing so.
9/23/2024 13:01	9/23/2024 13:06	Central	Powhatan	Education			Children should not be required to wear masks/face coverings. They do not stop the spread of viruses. Children of all ages need to be able to read/see facial expressions, read lips for comfort levels and acute learning environments	Children were never at risk of contracting and or spreading the illness. They were emotionally and academically damaged for political purposes not truth
9/23/2024 12:36	9/23/2024 12:38	Central	Albemarle	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should not be involved in my health care issues not dictate what medical decisions I make			
9/23/2024 12:34	9/23/2024 12:36	Central	Charlottesville	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Make Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other proven remedies available to Virginians. I dislike and distrust the coziness of pharmaceutical companies with our hospitals and doctors		
9/23/2024 11:21	9/23/2024 11:35	Central	Charlottesville	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Please review and consider the overwhelming evidence regarding the use of Ivermectin (in particular) in the treatment of COVID found here: https://covid19criticalcare.com/medical-evidence/ Make Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other proven remedies available to Virginians.		
9/23/2024 11:05	9/23/2024 11:27	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Treatment for COVID was determined by the government and w/o the patient (PT) or MD input Many died alone visitors in hospitals The vaccine mandates were NOT based on any evidence of protection or spreading the disease. No liberty for making my choices for my body!		Many died due to the vaccine and an increase in diseases has occurred due to the vaccine. Many long term effects of the vaccine are yet to be seen in our children and young adults who were given the jab without informed consent. May those responsible for this be held accountable.
9/23/2024 11:10	9/23/2024 11:23	Central	Nelson	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My wife nor I took any Covid shots and have had no health problems. My doctor & intern tried to convince me I should take the shots - I refused. The public information on Covid convinced me the journey was a farce and the health care "big Pharma" was out to make money.		No
9/23/2024 11:08	9/23/2024 11:18	Central	Charlottesville	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I have zero confidence in our Pharma-driven, money-making health care system that used a fabricated "state of emergency" to overrule the right of individuals to make their own health care decisions and often at the expense of patients lives.		The health care system in this state (and country) needs a complete overhaul and separation from big Pharma in making health care policies and protecting the rights of its citizens over the financial incentives of care providers.
9/23/2024 11:00	9/23/2024 11:06	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Allow medical providers to personalize care based on their experience and expertise ie ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, other proven protocols vs last minute big pharma remedies.		Stop politicization of these agencies.
9/18/2024 21:21	9/18/2024 21:22	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		https://pierrekorymedicalmusings.com/p/policy-shifts-against-the-mrna-platform?r=iutjw&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web		
9/17/2024 22:20	9/17/2024 23:15	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Pandemic Response was shocking. Patients denied access to life saving drugs like Ivermectin treated instead to Remdesivir causing kidney failure. Flu practically disappeared being diagnosed as COVID instead w faulty false positive PCR tests as hospitals were rewarded financially for Covid deaths.		Killing people in nursing homes thru exposure. Creating fear thru contrived deaths to manipulate masses to taking an untested deadly vaccine that was neither safe or effective. I personally know people injured and/or killed by these shots. And sudden death syndrome was witnessed on media.
9/16/2024 20:15	9/16/2024 20:17	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	We do not want any lockdowns or closing of schools and businesses! No WHO mandates should apply to our country or state!			
9/16/2024 20:13	9/16/2024 20:15	Central	Chesterfield	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		People should be able to choose their own healthcare and doctors without interference!		

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9/16/2024 14:28	9/16/2024 14:38	Central	Henrico	Government and Regulatory Systems	Government should never mandate healthcare. The tyranny caused unnecessary deaths and physical and financial suffering continue.			Government should not insert itself in healthcare.
9/16/2024 13:13	9/16/2024 13:37	Central	Chesterfield	Education			I was a teacher during the Pandemic at a local Elementary School, I witnessed first hand how the response literally ruined the progress many children made. We should have got schools up and running way before we did.	Most of us teachers dropped our masks as soon as we were in planning periods and hardly anyone got COVID. We could have avoided this huge learning deficit that has affected millions of children, if we had reopened schools in the Fall of 2020 in person as normal.
9/16/2024 13:14	9/16/2024 13:24	Central	Hanover	Education			I am very concerned with the very poor decisions made by most countries to keep children out of schools during a pandemic that rarely impacted children with the illness. The results of this decision appear to have long term effects on the test scores and mental health of our young people.	Little accountability for these decisions.
9/16/2024 12:36	9/16/2024 12:40	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Masks do not work and cause unnecessary expense to citizen. Closing businesses is wrong, unAmerican and bad for the economy. Clearly isolation isn't necessary for the healthy and young. Never isolate!		
9/16/2024 12:01	9/16/2024 12:09	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Never again will the people of our community allow those in the local and state government take away our freedoms. We will not allow our schools , businesses and churches to be closed by bureaucrats. The government is the peoples business and we will not let officials impose tyranny on us.		
8/26/2024 12:00	8/26/2024 12:16	Central	Hanover	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		In "worst epidemic" I didnt have work for 5 mo! It's the ONLY time in 36 yr therapy career that I didnt have full time work available. Once@work, no monitoring of vaccine injury. Staff don't know what VAERS is despite having given millions of injections of an experimental mRNA shot.		
9/16/2024 10:28	9/16/2024 10:32	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should never lockdown the people again. The government is supposed to serve the people, not rule over them. The people are the rulers of the land and should be free to go where they choose as well as to take whatever medical treatments the people deem fit.			Seek wisdom from above in all that you do.
9/16/2024 7:55	9/16/2024 7:58	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The health care systems have sold their soul to Big Pharm...and just repeat the government nonsense		There needs to be an entity that can determine if these vaccines are truly safe and effective prior to the community being told they are!!
9/16/2024 0:06	9/16/2024 0:08	Central	Albemarle	Government and Regulatory Systems	Never lock down and close business			
9/15/2024 22:05	9/15/2024 22:06	Central	Chesterfield	Education				
8/26/2024 12:22	8/26/2024 12:36	Central	Albemarle	Government and Regulatory Systems	I understand that health emergencies may require extraordinary actions by our government but the extent of the shutdowns was too broad and for too long. This lead to some very erratic and inconsistent applications, for instance regarding grocery stores as essential but not churches.			I think the pathological example of the misapplications of shutdowns was in the schools. The lethality of COVID for young persons was very low and with the vaccine broadly rolled out, the schools should have remained open for 2021.
8/26/2024 12:19	8/26/2024 12:37	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government did not act in the best interests of the public.Open scientific dialogue was censored and practitioner feedback from the front lines was excluded.Mandates violated due process and Geneva Conventions.Businesses were force to shutter and experimental injectables mandated			under threat of loss of employment, banishment from school, and restriction of travel liberties.Public comment and testimony were censored.Many Constitutional rights were egregiously violated: free speech, private property, due process, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement.
9/15/2024 18:42	9/15/2024 18:44	Central	Greene	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
9/15/2024 17:59	9/15/2024 18:00	Central	Charlottesville	Government and Regulatory Systems	NO mandates for ANY "vaccine"			
9/15/2024 15:26	9/15/2024 15:29	Central	Henrico	Government and Regulatory Systems	We will never again submit to lockdowns or mandates of any shape or form. We will not allow our elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable appointed bureaucrats.			The Governor shall not allow the Virginia Department of Health or any unelected entity to decide to take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, our right to work and protect our families
8/26/2024 12:37	8/26/2024 12:44	Central	Albemarle	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Masking requirements were all over the place. Do I really think masking was effective when less than N95 certified masks were used, or that when I sit down in a public place for a meal that I'm protected when I have the mask off while eating?		I have serious doubts that masking was helpful in any context except close, long-term congregate settings. So applying this to general business environments and gatherings was "theater" at best and financially and psychologically damaging at worst.
9/15/2024 13:01	9/15/2024 13:19	Central	Chesterfield	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		During the lockdown time frame I had many medical appointments and hospitalizations not related to Covid. I was subjected to mandatory masking in order to receive absolutely necessary treatments. Masks have been scientifically proven to be ineffective in preventing Covid yet even I useless cloth		masks were deemed acceptable. I have recently undergone lung cancer surgery and WILL NOT wear a mask at ANY medical appointment. I will never forgive my oncologist for demanding I take the vax DURING treatment for cancer, KNOWING that Ivermectin was a safe and effective treatment for Covid.

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8/26/2024 12:45	8/26/2024 12:51	Central	Albemarle	Education			There was little reason to keep schools online after the Fall 2020 semester. With vaccine rollouts at the start of 2021, the schools should have re-opened then. Loss of learning due to mass online learning will leave a significant cohort of students behind the curve for decades.	I'm for the abolition of teacher unions. But if that is not tolerable, then provisions need to be made in contracts so they can't keep the schools closed during a health emergency.
8/26/2024 12:47	8/26/2024 12:53	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	The draconian government edicts forced on Americans during the COVID outbreak was outrageous, an affront to our freedom as Americans and caused great harm to the elderly, their family members who were kept away as they were dying and to children who did not need the drugs that were forced on them.			There must not be any future attempt to force Americans to take drugs or to close schools and churches due to a predominantly non-lethal virus. It was ab outrage.
8/26/2024 12:49	8/26/2024 12:58	Central	Richmond	Government and Regulatory Systems	I almost lost my job (incurred a disability so I did not, but would have). Was going to be forced to get a vaccine even though I was working from home! This was a State action for ALL State vendors. This was a common sense oversight in the largest degree.			I am appalled that common sense approach to remedies were neglected and forcefully stopped in Virginia (Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine should be over-the-counter as they are in most of the world). Mask serve no purpose in prevention as well. Vitamin supplements were prohibited as an option!
9/15/2024 12:48	9/15/2024 12:59	Central	Hanover	Government and Regulatory Systems	In the time of any emergency, Government and it's supporting agencies should never have the power to close schools & universities, churches, and/or places of business.			
8/26/2024 13:05	8/26/2024 13:06	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
8/26/2024 13:17	8/26/2024 13:21	Central	New Kent	Government and Regulatory Systems	Next time abide by the United States of America Constitution & all associated documents. Tyranny is no way to govern. People in power work FOR the PEOPLE, not AGAINST the people. Ralph Northman & the Democrats who think of them selves as RULERS are mistaken. I will never forgive or forget.			Dr Fauci needs to be prosecuted for his crime against humanity.
8/26/2024 13:14	8/26/2024 13:21	Central	Henrico	Government and Regulatory Systems	The forceable shut-down of my small business within the wedding industry was catastrophic and noticeably unfair. In comparison to high school and college graduations, church services, open-air concerts, etc, weddings were restricted time and time again, subject to the whims of former Gov Northam.			I have so much more to say, but you only allow so many characters. To keep things succinct, VA government did a horrible job at keeping small businesses afloat, protecting our freedoms, punishing rioters & bullies destroying our capital, and maintaining American decency
9/15/2024 12:29	9/15/2024 12:36	Central	Chesterfield	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				When we were told that we needed to get a vaccine that suddenly appeared and had not gone through the approval process that is applied to other drugs that should have raised concerns in everyone's mind.
9/15/2024 11:49	9/15/2024 11:50	Central	Henrico	Government and Regulatory Systems				
8/26/2024 13:56	8/26/2024 14:17	Central	Hanover	Government and Regulatory Systems	A single mask cannot be worn for a full school day and be expected to provide protection of any kind. Those in nursing homes need advocates -family members to ensure physical needs are being met, cleanliness, and pick-up on early signs for medical care needed. Don't restrict them from visiting.			Federal Agencies Like the FDA show how we need more Americans to master science specialties and adhere strongly scientific methodology and protocols for accurate results and reporting. Politics and money should not dictate how fast or the manner solutions should be reached.
9/9/2024 13:15	9/9/2024 13:19	Central	Albemarle	Education			I worked at an ACPS during 2020. No one should be forced to wear masks,have their temp taken with a wand daily or requiring staff to test weekly if they didn't take the biological weapon. Public education is captured. My daughter was unable to finish kindergarten.	Masks don't work, there is no asymptomatic spread, this was all a push to take away the human rights of workers and children. No state or county has the authority to mandate these measures, no person.
9/9/2024 13:07	9/9/2024 13:15	Central	Albemarle	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		It was inhumane that my boyfriend who was hospitalized for something non-covid related was limited to 2 visitors during the time of his stay. Ivermectin & hydroxychloriquine were restricted. Many died who could have been treated with these safe drugs.		When I was sick with covid symptoms, I had to find a doctor that would prescribe ivermectin, and wait 3 days for the medicine to arrive and paid nearly \$400 for the medicine. However, I believe it may have saved my life. My boyfriend also was saved with ivermectin.
8/26/2024 14:31	8/26/2024 14:34	Central	New Kent	Education			Absolutely disastrous decision to close go virtual with education. The most impacted were those already lagging behind. Losing laptops. Not everyone has internet. This was another war on the noir.	
9/9/2024 13:02	9/9/2024 13:07	Central	Albemarle	Government and Regulatory Systems	The pandemic response was debilitating to small businesses who were not deemed "essential". This was used as a way to shift profits from small local business to big box companies. Amazon sales skyrocketed, while family businesses went out of business. This was a fraud and scam.			The state government accepted Federal COVID funds that were really just payoffs for compliance.

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9/4/2024 20:23	9/4/2024 20:58	Central	Goochland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I had the responsibility of getting my sister with Stage3 Lung Cancer to her oncologist and appointments in reference to her survival.She was forced to get the COVID JAB in order to receive her chemo treatments and was also made to get a booster which made her so sick she was rushed to the hospital.!		Each appointment for her the staff all wore masks!Another lie we now know was unhealthy for the staff. And she was forced to wear a mask much of her time getting treatments.WRONG!
8/26/2024 14:01	8/26/2024 15:16	Central	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I found the states response to Covid 19 to be poor at best. My advice would be to follow the FLCCC Allinaces advice, suggestions and protocol when dealing with Covid or any future viruses. covid19criticalcare.com		No
9/1/2024 10:10	9/1/2024 10:42	Central	Goochland	Government and Regulatory Systems	Your first problem-listening to Fauci and drug companies-all self-serving opportunists. Fauci should be charged with murder! Listen to qualified doctors not people getting rich			No
8/26/2024 16:10	8/26/2024 16:58	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems	Although I never got Covid, I got sick due to the requirements of the gov't to stay home. My apt's HVAC system & all the vents were covered with mold & I got mold toxicity. I suffered from & still do from chronic anxiety with chest pain, chronic fatigue, neuropathy in my feet,headaches,SIBO,IBS.			
8/26/2024 17:01	8/26/2024 17:11	Central	Albemarle	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I disagree with the past pandemic response regarding COVID-19 since vaccines should not have been mandates and Governor Northam abused his emergency powers by placing 10 person limit for church attendance, with a pastor being arrested in Chincoteague Island for holding services with 15 people		I hope that the Virginia State Government will impose policies that respect the medicinal freedom of all Virginians.
8/30/2024 7:41	8/30/2024 7:55	Central	Albemarle	Education			Pathetic. Total destruction of child development for a cold. Schools should NEVER have been shutdown. We moved out of the state just for our kids to be able to continue their education. Just absolutely pathetic leadership - fear and panic is no way to lead. You robbed kids of lifetime memories.	VT same lame leadership of panic and fear. The effective mandating of the death jab just adds to the miserable approach. Sands should be fired for his complete lack of leadership. He aggressively went totally woke and the entire student body paid far too heavily. Disgusting.
8/26/2024 18:12	8/26/2024 18:16	Central	Orange	Education			Using executive orders and misappropriating them as law to coerce all institutions to shut down “for the greater good” was a total disaster. As a result test scores decreased, behavior got worse, and distrust for all government entities grew exponentially.	
8/30/2024 7:09	8/30/2024 7:18	Central	Charlottesville	Education			My two younger children were in the Albemarle school system. My two older children were at Virginia Tech. We felt that the protocols were so extreme that we moved out of the state to give our two younger sons a chance at some normalcy. Virginia lost it's collective minds during this time.	Virginia Tech turned into a tyrannical institution. Forcing young adults to inject themselves with an untested vaccine for the sake of the "community" was downright wrong. My daughter was able to get an exemption but was forced to mask and spit in a cup weekly. (COVID test) Absurd.
8/29/2024 21:58	8/29/2024 21:59	Central	New Kent	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government was absolutely ridiculous with their masking requirements and vaccine pushing. It is insane to force Americans to wear a mask when they do not want to.			
8/26/2024 18:13	8/26/2024 18:20	Central	Orange	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		There should have been no restrictions. All you accomplished was cause people to die in misery and loose trust in the medical field. No shots, no masks, and no more putting medical facilities in a position to make money by encouraging it to be COVID related deaths		It was handled poorly. Grade F-
8/26/2024 18:34	8/26/2024 18:37	Central	Orange	Government and Regulatory Systems	I give you a D. Shutting down small businesses and masking was stupid. Virginia was not the worst so that is why I give it a D.			We need legislation limiting the power of politicians to declare an "emergency".
8/29/2024 14:02	8/29/2024 14:20	Central	Henrico	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I have chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension and therefore am especially at risk for respiratory infections. I contacted Covid-19 for which I took hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. I was bedridden for only one day. Ivermectin should be available over the counter in Virginia.		
8/26/2024 18:57	8/26/2024 19:02	Central	Orange	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		At the time I was the nursing supervisor for a 180 bed facility. We locked down. Families were deprived of their loved ones and pts suffered depression, behaviors, falls, died alone, transferred to EDs and died. Staff was 1 nurse per 40 patients and 1 cna per 60 patients worked 14-20 days in a row.		1 mask and 1set of goggles for 7 days, janitors often skipped work d/t fears, sourced hand sanitizer from a distillery, many staff quit because they couldn't work in the conditions or bear to see the pts so upset or sick. Families assaulted us. Broke windows.

Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	Central Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
8/28/2024 20:44	8/28/2024 21:02	Central	Goochland	Government and Regulatory Systems	I would have liked to have seen our elected leaders actually lead, and NOT follow. Leading means that you do your RESEARCH. Florida's AG listened to the experts and took control by pointing out the dangers of masks and mRNA injections. Please lead and do your research			Medical decisions should never be forced onto people. Lock downs destroyed our small businesses and more children were abused. Our bodies are designed to attack viruses and then adapt to insure survival. Freedom to make one's own rational decisions is always healthier than fear tactics.
8/26/2024 18:20	8/26/2024 19:06	Central	King William	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My wife and I were denied Ivermectin, HCQ and budesonide by our family doctor. Instead, he prescribed us monoclonal IV that could only be administered at the Williamsburg Sentera. The hospital informed me that the Biden administration cut off supplies of this treatment to Virginia.		The government needs to stay out of healthcare choices of citizens. Your meddling almost cost us our lives. Your "expert medical advice" was wrong. It is now proven that the alternative treatments were more safe and effective than than Remdesivir, which killed a lot more people.
8/28/2024 13:02	8/28/2024 13:03	Central	Henrico	Education			I worked as a substitute teacher in the past for HCPS. I was also an HCPS mom of two daughters.	N/A
8/28/2024 8:51	8/28/2024 8:55	Central	Henrico	Education			Henrico County administration failed our students particularly children from lower-income households. Marcie Shea in particular was an awful hypocrite. She and the rest of the Board should be ashamed of themselves and their actions. Henrico was a vast wasteland absent of leadership.	Henrico County administration and School Board should reflect long and hard and apologize for their actions. They destroyed childhoods and that is irreparable
8/28/2024 8:23	8/28/2024 8:48	Central	Henrico	Education			The pandemic response was the most corrupt event that directly impacted me, my family and showed me how easily the government can manipulate its people and how people can be manipulated by fear. Please watch this simulation: https://youtu.be/61j4jmSLhQc?si=83lm5C5xRW-qgnVx "The Great Reset".	"The New Normal". Then read these: https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202106/1227219.shtml https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1094347/world-military-games-illness-covid-19 Forced Vaccines, Forced Masking, keeping kids out of school, people out of church. Just pure evil!! NEVER AGAIN!!!
8/27/2024 20:13	8/27/2024 20:46	Central	Goochland	Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia's handling of the "COVID Crisis" was disappointing, except for the Governor's stance against mandates. I expected protection like in Florida or South Dakota. My employer ignored accommodations, and I feared losing my job for two years. A Republican administration should've done more.			The Governor's trust in the Virginia Board of Medicine's mainstream approach, ignoring alternatives, broke mine. My friend's death from remdesivir and intubation confirmed this. Now, vaccinated people face abrupt deaths from compromised immune systems, Myocarditis, and turbo cancers.
8/27/2024 12:10	8/27/2024 12:47	Central	Chesterfield	Government and Regulatory Systems				Seriously 300 characters? Examine all positions of authority for their truthfulness and remove from that position, if they acted w/o knowledge or were "just doing what they were told". Next time TELL THE TRUTH! We need leaders not lemmings.
8/27/2024 12:08	8/27/2024 12:11	Central	Hanover	Education			Keep schools open and free of any breathing obstructions.	
8/26/2024 20:55	8/26/2024 21:04	Central	Greene	Government and Regulatory Systems	Our elected officials are responsible for public policy and accountable for their decisions outcome. In turn these officials must keep the unelected officials and experts accountable for their particular areas of expertise			In regards to the COVID-19 scam-demic I believe the elected officials and experts failed the citizens of Virginia and US in general. Please keep politics out of decision making for the public wellbeing.
8/27/2024 11:29	8/27/2024 11:42	Central	King William	Government and Regulatory Systems	There was no need for the Governor or any state/local health authority to declare a prolonged state of emergency, lockdowns, closures of businesses and schools, or a snitch line. Such authoritarian measures hurt our economy, citizens' health, students' education, closed businesses,			denied services to me and my family, and continue to affect many areas today. State of emergencies should be temporary measures and not be able to be continued past 30 days. Never again should these measures occur in our constitutional republic and especially in the Commonwealth of VA.
8/27/2024 10:17	8/27/2024 11:11	Central	Chesterfield	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Every business is essential, no matter what overblown emergency is declared, like Covid. I had a constitutional right to worship IN PERSON, not wear a face mask, take medication I want (like ivermectin), and NOT take shots that are neither safe, nor effective.		Make sure VAHD and licensing organizations do NOT attack doctors for treating Covid patients early and caring about their wellness/survival. Dr. Marik and Dr. Kory were two of thousands who were right. All the "sheep" medical professionals/hospitals who followed Fauci and "big Pharma" were wrong.
8/26/2024 21:46	8/26/2024 21:55	Central	Orange	Government and Regulatory Systems	I thought the whole response was awful and an over reaction based on "feelings and fear" not facts. A shutdown like that should NEVER be allowed to happen again. I didn't comply with the stupidity then and I won't if they ever try it again.			UVA banned me from one of their offices. I've been a cancer patient for 30 years but I chose not to wear a mask. They were more of a danger to me than the other way around. Forcing school kids to wear masks was beyond any reason IMO. It will be years before many recover from the harm.
8/26/2024 22:35	8/26/2024 22:41	Central	Orange	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Follow the medical evidence rather than government policies; Ivermectin useful vs vaccine. Masks that can't stop viruses! 6 foot distance that has NO scientific validity! Lock downs of healthy people!		

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9/26/2024 1:02	9/26/2024 1:06	Eastern	Northumberland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
9/25/2024 8:42	9/25/2024 9:04	Eastern	Northumberland	Government and Regulatory Systems	Too much power was given to the government to control our private lives. Only big stores were allowed to be open while small stores were shut down. Masks were required to enter restaurants then we took them off to eat. This is faulty logic! Our civil rights and basic freedoms were lost			The government took control over our personal health care and vaccine requirements. We were lied to about vaccine effects and origins of Covid.
9/15/2024 11:41	9/15/2024 11:43	Eastern	Accomack	Government and Regulatory Systems	retired postal			
9/13/2024 14:45	9/13/2024 14:53	Eastern	Lancaster	Education			After watching the Lancaster School Board force children to wear masks when returning to school, I did research on the effects of Covid-19 on children's health, the effectiveness of masks, the effects of wearing masks for hours daily, and the effects of sunshine and vitamin D on the virus.	After doing research, it was clear the Lancaster School Board AND the State School Board did not do adequate research on these topics or did not care to protect the physical and/or mental health of our students.
9/10/2024 9:31	9/10/2024 9:34	Eastern	Richmond	Government and Regulatory Systems	I don't feel I'm getting accurate information regarding side effects and true research results			
9/4/2024 7:44	9/4/2024 7:47	Eastern	Richmond	Government and Regulatory Systems				
8/31/2024 17:39	8/31/2024 17:51	Eastern	Richmond	Education			against any mandatory vaccination, or health care. I do not want to be tested or vaccinated, (my choice). No one should ever be mandated to wear a mask or stay home against their own choice. Children have been severely harmed, academically, socially, and mentally due to the restrictions imposed.	Please consider the people's voice as we are extremely annoyed with the pharmaceutical companies using us Guinea pigs for their profits!! We will remember this when it is time to vote!!
8/31/2024 15:21	8/31/2024 15:26	Eastern	Northumberland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The government put themselves ahead of both the people and the true science; politicizing the response to a pandemic. The Health Care Systems and Emergency Management systems exist because of the people, and yet the people were reduced to talking point but not well considered in the response.		Govern through clean thought rather than hyperbole.
8/29/2024 15:00	8/29/2024 15:12	Eastern	Northumberland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Our public health agencies responses to the non-pandemic were a power grab and a test to see how far WE THE PEOPLE would go along and comply. Lives and fortunes have been lost. Adverse events from the unsafe (and ineffective) experimental therapies abound. Look at VAERS for Christ's sake! Shame!		On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (4) all other social media posts on FDA accounts that link to Why You Should Not Use Ivermectin to Treat or Prevent COVID-19. WHY DID FDA AGREE TO THIS?
8/29/2024 14:51	8/29/2024 15:00	Eastern	Northumberland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Gov't agencies colluded with Mass Media to promote a massive disinformation campaign intended to stoke fear and despair in the American People (and the World for that matter) for a "disease" that only a small % of the population needed to worry about. Shame! On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a...		lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (3) FDA's Twitter post from April 26, 2022 (ECF No. 12, Ex. 7), that reads, "Hold your horses, y'all. Ivermectin may be trending, but it still isn't authorized or approved to treat COVID-19."

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8/29/2024 14:42	8/29/2024 14:49	Eastern	Northumberland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The govt's top-down treatment protocol directives destroyed the Provider-Patient relationship and threw Informed Consent out the window. Careers were ruined as people had to choose between taking an untested and unsafe "injection therapy" or quitting. All based upon dis-information & lies. Shame!		On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (2) FDA's Instagram post from August 21, 2021 that reads, "You are not a horse. Stop it with the #ivermectin. It's not authorized for treating #COVID."
8/29/2024 14:14	8/29/2024 14:40	Eastern	Northumberland	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The public health agencies' response to the so-called pandemic was based upon lies and disinformation. By picking "essential" businesses and closing down others, closing churches and schools, mandating masks, and restricting social activity, government did irreparable harm to its citizens. Shame!		On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (1) FDA's Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook posts from August 21, 2021, that read, "You are not a horse. You are not a cow. Seriously, y'all. Stop it."
8/26/2024 12:23	8/26/2024 12:32	Eastern	Richmond	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		the Virginia response to the COVID "pandemic" was an assault of the freedom of liberty to determine ones health needs, religious gatherings and the "essentialness" of businesses.		Doctors should be free to practice medicine in the way they determine is in the best interest of their patients.
8/15/2024 10:23	8/15/2024 10:37	Eastern	Northumberland	Education			During the pandemic I worked as a science educator at a public school in TX. We were open for in-person learning the entire 2020-2021 school year. I went to work every single day. Some students opted for remote learning at first but by years end there were very few. Children learn best in-person!	I taught middle and high school science, students were masked but we did not have spacing requirements. I did not mask but maintained 10 ft distance. My elementary ed colleagues reported that masking severely compromised education for younger children because they need to see the teachers face!
8/13/2024 15:33	8/13/2024 15:42	Eastern	Accomack	Government and Regulatory Systems	Government should never again be allowed to mandate medical interventions or require businesses to close/modify their operations. Recommendations must include the scientific data from which they are based.			Transparency and a better track record of respecting the rights and freedoms of the citizens will be required to restore trust.

Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	Hampton Roads Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
9/30/2024 23:40	10/1/2024 0:00	Hampton Roads	Mathews	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		We have God given rights from our Creator to decide what goes into our bodies. In preparation for a health crisis, pandemic or infectious disease emergency, I hope it is obvious to anyone in the medical field that vaccinations and masks do not work.		When you encroach upon our body autonomy, you have taken away our freedom. We the people reserve the right to make the best decisions for our health. No mandatory shots or mask mandates in Virginia. No government shut down of churches!
9/30/2024 23:28	9/30/2024 23:52	Hampton Roads	Mathews	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Mandatory vaccinations and masking are a big mistake for the people of Virginia. Regardless of popular beliefs about the safety of vaccinations/masks, we are a self-governing people in a free nation who have bodily autonomy under God's rulership. We can choose to stop infection naturally.		We can choose to trust God with our health and safety and choose the products we believe will provide necessary healing. We can exercise our God-given freedoms without help from the government. I urge you to stop pushing shots and masking this go round and stand for health freedom. We decide.
9/30/2024 19:54	9/30/2024 21:15	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Not one person had to die from COVID-19 if they had stayed at home and been provided with inexpensive and safe Ivermectin, zinc, vitamin C, B vitamins, and an antibiotic such as doxycycline as well as budesonide as needed at the first sign of symptoms. This protocol was truly safe and effective.		The hospitals were incentivized with huge "bonuses" by the CARES Act to administer deadly hospital protocols directed toward killing patients rather than offering a cure. Unvaccinated patients were targeted and put on protocols that used dangerous drugs and procedures without any informed consent.
9/30/2024 13:21	9/30/2024 13:27	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Education			It would have been helpful to have the students attend in person once a week instead of not at all. Glad we got through it. Zoom school was not adequate and really rough on teacher and students' families.	Why did so many wonderful teachers quit? After everything they did for us, why isn't Admin supporting teachers more?
9/30/2024 10:28	9/30/2024 10:37	Hampton Roads	James City	Government and Regulatory Systems	As U.S. Senate Health Committee member Rand Paul agreed with expected Trump chronic disease commission head RFK, "there is no pandemic exception to the constitution": https://x.com/brixwe/status/1593029522685067265			If a Republican legislator is decent, he should consider intro'ing bill to clarify right of vaccine religious exemption during an emergency: https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2020/08/24/bill-would-add-religious-exemption-if-coronavirus-vaccine-becomes-mandatory-in-virginia/
9/29/2024 22:13	9/29/2024 22:16	Hampton Roads	Hampton	Education			Basically destroyed my hopes of going to collage for something I loved thanks	
9/28/2024 8:26	9/29/2024 21:03	Hampton Roads	Mathews	Education			Virginia's asinine & ignorant reaction to C-19 promoted senseless FEAR. No child died of Covid! Not ONE! Healthy children (& adults) would have been so much better off by having been informed how to maximize their natural immune systems & continue normal routines while protecting the vulnerable.	Follow the REAL SCIENCE [that which can be questioned, examined, & verified] not that which is provided by 'experts' with personal investments in the outcome. Give vouchers to families when public education is disrupted.
9/29/2024 8:59	9/29/2024 9:04	Hampton Roads	Gloucester	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should not mandate our freedoms. Our choice of care. Government should not shut down churches and businesses			
9/29/2024 8:28	9/29/2024 8:54	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	Seems you really do not want public comment with only 600 characters available for words to encapsulate 4 years of deplorable diabolical responses. A grand measure of calculated failure. I offer Senator Ron Johnson's hearing from 1/24/22 on the matter. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asw_FBipVpg			Senator Ron Johnson's "American Health and Nutrition: A Second Opinion" roundtable discussion from 9/23/24. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iWE465RCOK I feel thankful one person in an elected representative seat cares enough to investigate.

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9/29/2024 6:14	9/29/2024 6:55	Hampton Roads	York	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Ret. health administrator here (former USAFR Dep Reserve Medical Forces Advisor to AF Surgeon General).Comments=my own/not DoD.State response violated medical ethics/law/patient safety.Most egregious affront to medical ethics/law/human rights I have seen in my lifetime.Our state=disgraced.		VA participation in political/gov/corporate corruption=abhorrent. Coercion/discrimination/denied care 4 profit.Horrific: VA followed CDC ACIP blindly+STILL recommends injections 4 CHILDREN. Follow FL Dept Health's lead.Pull these dangerous products off market NOW! Shift focus to Tx 4 vacc injured.
9/29/2024 0:06	9/29/2024 0:26	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Covid-19 was a disaster. Few people knew what was really going on in terms of how serious the situation was and what to do about it. That is probably still true today. It is my hope that HCS and EM workgroup realize that a lot of the decisions that were then made were based on misinformation.		Therefore, i suggest that Health Care Systems and EM look into Robert kennedy's information on this topic to gain a better understanding about what is appropriate in such circumstance and emergencies.
9/28/2024 21:54	9/28/2024 22:30	Hampton Roads	James City	Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia needs to create a medical freedom constitutional amendment. A U.S. doctor wrote one for El Salvador because the country's leader knows what freedom is and how to implement it. Our governor, general assembly, VDH, and police force do NOT have the right to tell Virginians to mask, inject,			or take medical treatments they don't want even in times of "emergencies." They don't have the right to control doctor's clinical treatment decisions. Virginia needs to act as an autonomous state, not follow untested and unconstitutional federal/CDC dictates. We control our bodies, not the state.
9/28/2024 19:11	9/28/2024 19:18	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The people that I was teaching were not a risk but yet they were told things to make them so afraid to not wear a mask way after the plans evolved. These teens were so psychologically affected as if they would kill the older ones or their siblings if they did not mask.		And they were stunted by only having on line school thst I saw their brilliance decline abd their hope defer.
9/28/2024 12:06	9/28/2024 12:27	Hampton Roads	York	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Where is the post-Covid analysis of policies that dictated decisions with dismal outcomes? Truth surrounding every aspect of what we endured needs to be shared broadly & all people involved in propagandizing & mandating need to be held fully accountable. Topics of concern: The poison pokes were		not necessary, safe, nor effective. Shot mandates. Corporations ignored doc's orders. Serious adverse reactions & deaths. Treatment protocol harmed or killed people. Suppression & censorship. Lockdowns, face diapers, school closures, endless printing of money & doling it out carelessly.
8/13/2024 14:47	8/13/2024 14:55	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My experience was the State Health Dept botched things badly. Did not respond to my questions, submitted by email and phone, changed “dashboard” parameters at whim, data provided was inconsistent with what was published in Va Pilot, and single solution policy was---well, short sighted or dumb.		Very disappointed with State Health leadership. Lacked courage in doing what was right or better for residents in lieu of what i can only suppose was changed motivation for financial gain over informed and tailored care for Va residents.
9/28/2024 10:48	9/28/2024 10:49	Hampton Roads	Portsmouth	Education			Masking was known to be of no value from the beginning. A surgical mask cannot stop a virus. This is like trying to stop mosquitoes with a chain link fence. The medical community, OSHA, and engineers in air quality knew this but masks were forced upon people.	Masks caused significant harm particularly to our children. Speech and language delay, developmental delays, emotional disorders, breathing difficulties and illness were the direct results of masks.
9/28/2024 10:42	9/28/2024 10:46	Hampton Roads	Portsmouth	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Never in medicine have we strong-armed parents into giving a “vaccine” with no long-term data to our children who were at no risk of dying. Never have we given pregnant women or women of child-bearing age an injection without long term studies.		Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine and fluvoxamine were suppressed leading to needless harm or death. Inmates in our prisons or jails were forced to get the “vaccine.” A direct violation of medical ethics and Nuremberg Code.

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9/28/2024 10:34	9/28/2024 10:41	Hampton Roads	Portsmouth	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Hospitalized patients were denied religious rites and visitors. Forced to get “vaccines” against their religious and moral beliefs. Patients took the “vaccine” not informed of the dangers. Those who died or were injured have not been compensated while the manufacturers raked in billions in profit.		People were coerced into taking a “vaccine” that neither prevented you from contracting the disease or spreading the disease. The medical literature on vital role of Vitamin D3, Vitamin C and other supplements to boost the immune system was suppressed.
9/28/2024 10:26	9/28/2024 10:31	Hampton Roads	Portsmouth	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government determined “essential” businesses. We know every business and job was essential, especially. Thousands of small businesses closed permanently. Many families lost their life savings. Places of worship were closed. Never in our history have we silenced worship of GOD.			The education of our children was completely disrupted. Many children lost 2-3 years of development. There are not enough resources to compensate for the damage done. The action to close schools resulted in grave harm.
9/28/2024 8:21	9/28/2024 8:33	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government of Virginia coerced businesses, under threat of removal of their business licenses, if they did not enforce what government was not constitutionally allowed to. People were othered and not allowed to participate in society without a mask, vaccines, papers proving vaccination, etc.			Legislation must be passed that makes any business being used by government to do what would normally be a government function (such as enforcing law and regulation) to be subject to the same restrictions and constitutional protection mechanisms as government itself as they act as a gov. agency.
9/28/2024 7:21	9/28/2024 7:44	Hampton Roads	James City	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		All people need the freedom to research and select the best health for themselves and their families. No person should be forced to succumb to drugs, surgeries, mask-wearing, or any other medical procedure in order to boost pharmaceutical, hospital, and other medical company revenue.		It should be illegal for lawmakers to take contributions from pharmaceutical companies.
8/13/2024 16:23	8/13/2024 16:29	Hampton Roads	York	Education			As grandparents of 17 grandchildren, we were devastated by what the regulations did from the two year-old forced to wear a mask in preschool with terrified eyes, to the Virginia college student, who was forced to have the vaccine before returning to school. We don't ever want to see that again.	
9/28/2024 7:08	9/28/2024 7:13	Hampton Roads	James City	Education			The state needs to get back to teaching children not indoctrinating them in current ideologies. My grandkids who are at the top of their classes can't do simple math, sound out words, know anything about civics, and are ignorant of simple science.	Teachers unions should be abolished! All they do is encourage and support incompetence driving actually good teachers to other professions or states/districts that don't allow teachers unions.
8/13/2024 16:50	8/13/2024 17:06	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		From what I have researched the Health Care systems provided during the Covid Pandemic were based on desisions made by global corporations, namely the Health Care and Pharmaceutical. These were facilitated by governments, the UN and global entities like the UN and WHO are now known to be biased.		Thus, we need a task force of people with integrity and goodwill with the public's innterest at heart to guide the process. It may not be easy to find these people so begin the search as soon as possible. Robert Kennedy will know some of them.
9/27/2024 15:32	9/27/2024 15:52	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Patients denied access to alternative treatments. Protocols designated, no ability of doctors to try treatments that were/had been working. Big Pharma treatments untested were forced onto patients. Underlying infections untreated. Children forced without longterm data. Religious exemption denied.		The oppressive tactics employed, and the violation of civil liberties enacted by the state, were emblematic of an oppressive dictatorship.

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9/27/2024 9:37	9/27/2024 9:41	Hampton Roads	Williamsburg	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government as a whole over stepped its authority in applying draconian economy killing measures. What ever laws were used as justification need to be reevaluated and likely repealed and replaced.			
9/26/2024 21:04	9/26/2024 21:22	Hampton Roads	Suffolk	Government and Regulatory Systems	I was disappointed in my Government spewing such malarkey about Covid and using it as a power play against the citizens. I grew up in a Medical Family. Good medical practices went out the door for treating Covid. Ivermectin saved me. I was ridiculed from the liberal, concierge docs that I had			I am horrified by what we are doing to children with these vaccines
9/25/2024 11:03	9/25/2024 13:06	Hampton Roads	York	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I am highly disturbed, disgusted, and disappointed at the handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Wrongful protocols & mandates were forced on the American ppl against their wishes, & there were massive deaths as a result. Meds were able to help, but were denied. Inhumane that ppl died alone!		When wicked leaders rule, the people mourn. The wicked will make war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of Lord's and King of King's and with Him will be His called, chosen, and faithful followers!
9/24/2024 12:30	9/24/2024 12:41	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I led the Norfolk District, USACE during the COVID response - and assisted VDEM, VDH, and others in our emergency response role which included surveying sites for temporary hospitals, if needed. My trust and confidence in our government, at all levels, has dropped significantly.		Every decision that government took with respect to COVID, was the wrong one. How did the FDA call a noble price winning drug (Ivermectin) "horse dewormer?" Instead of urging sunlight and fresh air, the government urged people to stay indoors. Establish a task force, do an After Action Review.
8/13/2024 18:06	8/13/2024 18:07	Hampton Roads	Suffolk	Education			The impact on education was devastating. The random unsupported "science" used as public health measures proved the officials to be virtually inept at their jobs. So many studies, like the Flu study, showed masking has no effect on the transmission of a respiratory pathogen.	We now know, even the CDC and NIH knew social distancing and masking would have no advantageous effect on eliminating or controlling this alleged pathogen. the citizens to the stakeholders. It is insane not to have done so in the first place.
9/23/2024 21:54	9/23/2024 21:56	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Government and Regulatory Systems	Government abused its power by coercing the public into taking experimental and unproven RNA treatment that neither was effective in preventing the virus or stopping the spread as it was initially presented. This action poses an escalation of governmental abuse and violation of trust.			
9/23/2024 10:56	9/23/2024 11:01	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	I'd like to understand how our Governor & AG intend to protect Virginians' sovereignty as US citizens & Virginia residents, especially in the event of a future pandemic or state of emergency.			
9/23/2024 10:59	9/23/2024 11:00	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Government and Regulatory Systems				
9/19/2024 16:05	9/19/2024 16:07	Hampton Roads	York	Education			Teach the Constitution	
9/17/2024 17:24	9/17/2024 17:52	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	Heretofore, during times of crisis, particularly health, the government, et al, has acted in a tyrannical fashion rather than as the people's servant. Health and well being decisions were fundamentally arbitrary, influenced by political biases and intentionally ignoring the finest world experts.			Comprehensively, the deterioration of trust in our societal systems, i.e healthcare & elections, was a result of arrogant behavior on a level of hubris. Broad accountability was denied to the finest advisors America could hope for. Little to nothing has been effected to correct those malefactions.

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9/17/2024 15:56	9/17/2024 16:15	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Any state govt. that participated in this federal BS campaign that only benefited Big Pharma should be completely replaced. I knew COVID was a control and greed ploy, yet our state did not protect us. They make the virus, leak it, push dangerous new vaccines on everyone and lie the whole way.		I have lost complete faith in the integrity of our govt, both federal and state. Federal because Big Pharma now owns them, and our state for not protecting us. The main reason I want Trump in office is because they don't want him there, and that tells me everything I need to know.
8/14/2024 10:25	8/14/2024 10:34	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I should never have been required to write a religous or medical accommodation for declining the vaccine mandate and to keep my job or when applying for another job. No one in this world should be mandated for any kind of medical treatment. Especially for the reason of protecting others.		Medical field personnel are there to protect the weak and infirmed. Firing the medical staff because they decline to obtain medical treatment is an oxymoron of a sorts. In a pandemic medical staff were fired! Really?!
9/17/2024 11:18	9/17/2024 11:38	Hampton Roads	Gloucester	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Forced, masking, social isolation and vaccination were the main tactics to combat the spread of COVID. While the use of know inexpensive pharmaceuticals and natural treatments were suppressed or vilified. Big Pharma had complete control of this entire pandemic and profited from it.		The state did nothing to protect its citizens. Our basic rights and freedoms were discarded. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://standforhealthfreedom.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/COVID-19-Data-Collection-Comorbidity-Federal.pdf
9/17/2024 11:10	9/17/2024 11:17	Hampton Roads	Gloucester	Education			The forced masking of our children was ineffective, harmful and ridiculous. Parents have the right to make health decisions for themselves and their children. The state does not have authority to dictate or demand what medical interventions myself or my child receives.	Link to study on ineffectiveness of masking. https://www.meehanmd.com/blog/post/173679/an-evidence-based-scientific-analysis-ofwhy-masks-are-ineffective-unnecessary-and-harmful
9/17/2024 9:11	9/17/2024 9:15	Hampton Roads	Newport News	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I was at Denbigh Family Medicine on September 17, 2024, at 0915. They made a patient put on a mask, saying the provider required it. I asked the secretary who the provider was, and she refused to give that information. What are they trying to hide?		
9/16/2024 8:43	9/16/2024 8:47	Hampton Roads	Isle of Wight	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government, national, state or local, should NEVER be allowed to mandate the uptake of an ingested drug in order to keep your job. My husband was a VDOT worker and almost died of a pulmonary embolism 10 days after the clot shot. Life has not been the same since. He is now retired.			The government should also not be allowed to mandate to businesses who is Open or Closed during a time of emergency. Many were put out of a job
9/15/2024 23:12	9/15/2024 23:15	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Governor should not allow the Virginia Department of Health or any unelected entity to decide to take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, our right to work and protect our families.		I will not allow elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable appointed bureaucrats.
9/15/2024 21:50	9/15/2024 21:59	Hampton Roads	York	Education			Students around Virginia were forced to get the Covid jab if they were in extra curricular activities in high school in some areas. Some schools even required it if the student was just going to try out for an extra curricular activity. Colleges mandated the jab and even the booster. Disgusting!	My daughter was vaccine injured by the covid jab. She dropped out of college to not have to take the booster. How many students will not be able to have children? In a study of 76,000 women, 52% had menstrual issues after the jab. The education system bought the propaganda hook line and sinker.
9/15/2024 15:44	9/15/2024 15:53	Hampton Roads	Williamsburg	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		As a retired RN who volunteers in healthcare I just recently got the FL regulations for the upcoming Covid 19 fall push.....they don't recommend it..... really sick of this "pandemic" talk		Eat real food and get sleep

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9/15/2024 14:46	9/15/2024 15:01	Hampton Roads	Williamsburg	Government and Regulatory Systems	Power to shut down businesses, schools, public gathering places such as churches should not be in control of one executive or one party control of the General Assembly. Virginia should not be under the influence of global partnerships like WHO.			
9/15/2024 14:23	9/15/2024 14:29	Hampton Roads	York	Education			Government should take more careful note of the actual mortality from a virus or biotic among school-age children before ordering public and private schools closed in an "epidemic." Our children will never completely recover from the learning missed during the unwarranted COVID closures.	
9/15/2024 13:26	9/15/2024 13:32	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Government and Regulatory Systems	Our Republic's sovereignty should not be overridden by the WHO when health decision issues are to be determined			
9/15/2024 12:29	9/15/2024 12:43	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	Government regs cannot ever again be used to allow unelected bureaucrats to seize control over the citizens autonomy. Our rights to move about freely, control over our own bodies, our freedom to work, care for our families, all garranteed under our constitution. The government must follow the law!			
9/15/2024 11:41	9/15/2024 11:41	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Education			Even conservative School Boards would not follow the science.	
9/13/2024 12:30	9/13/2024 12:37	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Education			Both our daughters (now 16 & 12) were forced to wear masks to attend school, creating a severe isolation/anxiety in our oldest, who is only now- after 4 years- willing to attend school again w/ kids her age. She feels unable to connect to other teens and battles w/ the sadness that creates.	https://collateralglobal.org/article/teen-brains-structurally-altered-by-lockdowns-in-pattern-linked-to-chronic-stress/
8/16/2024 7:22	8/16/2024 7:28	Hampton Roads	James City	Government and Regulatory Systems	Proud to have stood up against the mandates and mania. It is disgusting to watch these DEIA initiatives, and yet, folks treated the unvax like we had leprosy. If you are still taking the boosters, good for you. If you stopped, you owe all of us an apology for your prejudice and stupidity!			Hold your Doctors and Hospitals accountable too! They were equally as stupid!
9/13/2024 9:16	9/13/2024 12:29	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I had a siezure during the mandatory masking period, and a mask was put on my face (against my wishes) while unconscious (a chocking hazard and airway blockade) when O2 was critical. As my spouse wasn't allowed in hospital, I seized again and fell out of bed causing a concussion/need for a CT scan.		https://www.healthline.com/health-news/mask-mandates-in-hospitals-may-have-done-little-to-slow-covid-19-omicron-transmission
9/9/2024 18:11	9/9/2024 18:22	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Read We Are The Prey and The Real Anthony Fauci, see cases through Senator Ron Johnson & others We are currently undergoing mass genocide. Stop all above plans re plandemics. Your scientists/ agencies create the diseases & hide the natural treatments.		They make billions of dollars on the shots. Do your research. We will be taking endless supplements during our now shortened lives to keep our bodies from being overtaken by the Internet of Bodies.
9/7/2024 18:56	9/7/2024 18:58	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Education			School Nurse	
9/7/2024 15:53	9/7/2024 16:17	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Hospitalized patients were DENIED life saving treatment for COVID. Doctors were using HCQ, Ivermectin, elevated vitamin C and D to cure patients in the early stages of COVID. Their treatment was curative. People died because this treatment was denied by hospital protocol. A crime against humanity.		The whole notion that COVID was a life threatening virus to all people was an out and out lie. The elderly and those with complicated health issues were vulnerable. Ventilators killed people.

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9/7/2024 0:16	9/7/2024 0:23	Hampton Roads	Hampton	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Regarding masking requirements especially in medical facilities, it is inhumane to ask a pregnant woman to wear a mask for any period of time as it is well known that pregnancy causes decreased lung function at certain stages of pregnancy, and the breathing restriction of a mask is not tolerable.		I had to enter a medical facility in 2023 for a 20 week ultrasound, and was told it was the facilities policy that I must wear a mask the entire time I was in their facility. This is not healthy for a 20 week pregnant mother and child. Why did these pointless restrictions remain for so long?
9/2/2024 16:04	9/2/2024 16:35	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Education			Open schools reduce learning loss, social & emotional well-being risks & food scarcity; provide equity access for learning & econ. stability; eliminates childcare and safety issues & provides supporting evidence on transmission. Schools are NOT primary sources of transmission/at-risk population.	Rural divisions in VA generally returned to in-person learning sooner than others. Private institutions remained open. Closed schools = educ & social impacts (absenteeism, learning gaps, loss of teachers, etc). https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2022-pandemic-impact-on-k-12-education.asp
8/19/2024 20:09	8/19/2024 20:18	Hampton Roads	Newport News	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Fort Eustis clinic called security on me for not wearing a mask; I told them I had a medical exemption (in my records, no less). Local healthcare facilities denied me any healthcare if I told them I had a medical mask exemption. I stopped telling them and just showed up for my appointment.		Langley AFB also descriminated against me, denying me care until I showed them my written exemption. When I went in the tiny changing room, they made me stay there until they needed me. Kiln Creek Vet Clinic denied me as well, and I had a pet emergency. I had to send in my animals without me.
8/31/2024 13:05	8/31/2024 13:08	Hampton Roads	Gloucester	Government and Regulatory Systems				
8/30/2024 12:20	8/30/2024 12:24	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		People with covid sometimes would not follow the safety rules for the safety of customers and ourselves and themselves. We have even gone as far as if it was close to the pharmacy asking if they could go through the drive through to pick it up if they also had medication.		If they came inside we would have to disinfect everything and ourselves
8/21/2024 12:43	8/21/2024 12:50	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	Our governor needs the flexibility to declare emergencies for short duration critical situations such as hurricanes. They should NOT be able to extend these type of dictatorial powers beyond a few weeks, perhaps 8 at the very most.			We do NOT give up our inalienable rights endowed by our creator, just because some elected politician deems there to be a short duration problem. If you don't know where those terms come from, YOU are the problem.
8/29/2024 21:20	8/29/2024 21:27	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Education			We removed our kids from public education. Doing classes remotely is a joke. We all know the horrible effects that this had on learning outcomes for children. The response from local governments created a generation of kids who are scared of their own shadows. The government created	this problem and the vast majority went along with it. Interestingly the kids who did the worst were the ones who already had a tough time. Single parent households, or where parents were both working outside the home. What education did those kids receive?
8/29/2024 21:15	8/29/2024 21:20	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I'm not against vaccines however in this response to Covid-19 it became apparent quickly that the media, government, major medical were all in lockstep to ensure that there was one and only one viable solution to covid. That was that everyone be shot with their "vaccine". They denied or silenced		anyone who had a differing opinion or suggested any other therapy that could work. They only listened to "experts" who supported their conclusions. They dreamt up the 6 foot rule and swore up and down that wearing silly masks would protect us! The amount of coercion was infuriating.
8/29/2024 20:55	8/29/2024 21:15	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	Governments at all levels overstepped their bounds in their response to covid-19. I remember that we were not allowed to go to the beach. Knowing that vitamin D was a key factor in fighting covid why were playgrounds and beaches closed?			Governments quickly fell into line by agreeing to a single solution to the virus being getting vaccinated. Essentially the government became a mouthpiece for pharmaceutical companies to profit off the virus. Medical experts who said anything outside of the "approved narrative" were silenced.
8/28/2024 13:18	8/28/2024 13:22	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		VDH did a poor job with registration for vaccinations. VDH took a long time to update their website with covid-19 data.		

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8/27/2024 13:02	8/27/2024 13:30	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Information that could be easily found, contradicted the advice from the medical industry. Adverse effects from the shot were reported everywhere, but the government and medical systems continued to recommend or mandate the vaccine. Nothing made sense, but pharmaceutical companies made billions.		I lost an uncle due to hospital protocols that are now known to be dangerous. I have many vaccine injured friends. College students and many in the workplace and military were FORCED to take the dangerous shot. I have lost all confidence in the health care system, CDC, FDA.
8/27/2024 13:04	8/27/2024 13:15	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		January2022. Care for Covid, denied. All were tested that came to ER but sent home. Results not available for 2 weeks by then you were either dead or had recovered. Only offered a ventilator and Remdesiver which by then everyone knew was a killer. Not allowed to even mention Ivermectin.		After recovery but left with long Covid, all Sentara facilities and partners would run all kinds of test but wouldn't diagnose anything and Drs. seemed to be afraid to answer any questions (like the room was bugged).
8/27/2024 12:46	8/27/2024 12:50	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	Society will suffer for over a decade from the learning losses our students suffered during the school lockdowns. We will have a generation that may not recover at all. Socially.			Visitation restrictions in the healthcare were absolutely inhumane. My father passed away in a hospital while it was under visitation restrictions. While he laid in the hospital bed for a week, I was not allowed to visit until the last 15 hours after he was incoherent and unable to communicate.
8/27/2024 9:33	8/27/2024 9:43	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	Overly punitive unnecessary restrictions on citizens and their right to earn a living. Just plain ignorant decisions with NO FACTUAL evidence that they were helpful.			common sense and our rightssks, (DIRTY FACE DIAPERS), RESTAURANT RULES. BTH MY PARENTS DIED DURING THIS TIME. In their 90s -- not from covid. I COULD NOT BE WITH MY DAD IN A NURSING HOME HE DIED ALONE. the governor was a pure nazi idiot!!!!!!
8/24/2024 17:37	8/24/2024 17:47	Hampton Roads	James City	Government and Regulatory Systems	The shut down of schools, churches and small businesses was disgraceful and unconstitutional. The Governor abused his emergency powers to take away our inalienable rights, causing irreparable harm to businesses, emotional harm to citizens and developmental harm to children. Never again.			Small businesses in particular suffered, restaurants were forced to adapt to outside seating and carry out to survive. Citizens suffered emotional breakdowns from mask mandates and forced social distancing. We experienced a type of mass hysteria about exposure to illness. Leadership was inept.
8/27/2024 8:51	8/27/2024 8:58	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Government and Regulatory Systems	There is no such thing as a “state of emergency” that authorizes a reprobate government to trample the constitutional rights of the citizens. “It was for a good cause” is completely unacceptable.			
8/25/2024 7:35	8/25/2024 7:52	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Education			My boys started high school during school closures. Their grades declined. Once schools opened, they were forced to mask. The mask caused my type 1 diabetic child to have severe headaches daily and affected his blood sugar. Since the school was not issuing mask exemptions, he was homeschooled.	My daughter was in high school during Covid. She had an IEP due to a head injury that occurred at the school. The school was not able to comply with her IEP requirements because of covid restrictions/school closures. I pulled her out in 10th grade and she finished high school as a homeschooler.
8/25/2024 7:52	8/25/2024 8:06	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My mother with Parkinson's, was admitted to Chesapeake Regional due to a fall and confusion. NO ONE WAS ALLOWED IN TO ADVOCATE. She was kept 4 days, completely confused, and called me crying due to lack of care. She was finally released and they said they could find nothing wrong.		I took her to Sentara ER and she was there for 10 hours. She was released still very confused, saying nothing was wrong. Her primary care also found nothing wrong but gave her a z pack. She was better within days. Months later at a neurologist appt., it was determined the hospitals missed a UTI.

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8/25/2024 8:07	8/25/2024 8:22	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Government and Regulatory Systems	I had submitted several FOIA requests to Chesapeake Public Schools regarding their covid response which affected all 3 of my children. The fees to obtain the information were extremely high, one as much as \$16,000. The request I did pay for was over \$500. It contained information regarding			religious "accommodations" for masks. There was a secretive 3 person panel "grading" people's answers as to how religious they were. If you did not score high, no "accommodation" was granted. The accommodations were not backed by science, ie... face shields did not prevent the spread of covid.
8/25/2024 8:49	8/25/2024 8:56	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Education			My daughter attended an online only class at Tidewater Community College in 2021. On the first day during a zoom class, the teacher called out each student by name and asked them to state their vaccination status. If they said they were not vaccinated, she ridiculed them.	My daughter recorded it and I turned it into the Dean immediately. The Dean stated that the behavior by the teacher would be taken care of and that the world has gone crazy right now and no teacher was mandated to ask a student's vaccination status. The Dean said this could be a HIPAA violation.
8/26/2024 10:19	8/26/2024 10:48	Hampton Roads	James City	Education			They ignored Governor Northam's guidance to allow children back in school when the cases were low, refused to adhere to Governor Youngkin's mask policy, and tried to force children into masks anyway. Please understand, a 300-character limit is too brief to analyze an 18-month policy.	My children were consistently asked if they were sick, leaving them terrified to go to school, in fear they would get disciplined if they happened to fall sick. They also refused to adhere to some of the medical professionals' guidance. It seems they based all choices on fear rather than reason.
8/26/2024 12:12	8/26/2024 12:14	Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	Government and Regulatory Systems	No more forced vaccinations, no more forced mask wearing. COVID-19 does not exist, it is a hoax.			
8/27/2024 8:18	8/27/2024 8:23	Hampton Roads	York	Government and Regulatory Systems	Overall, the picking and choosing of which businesses could stay open and closed, mask mandates, removing abc licenses for not enforcing mandates, healthcare providers not taking care of patients other needs and only focusing on covid patients, nonsensical Governor's executive orders ridiculous			What was done to our children's academic and mental health in the name of fake science but allowing rioting and protesting and shutting down major roadways- also ridiculous.
8/27/2024 7:42	8/27/2024 7:43	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Education				No.
8/27/2024 7:24	8/27/2024 7:27	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	There should NOT be government mandates for vaccines of any kind.			More transparency regarding pharmaceutical trials must be made public.
8/27/2024 7:01	8/27/2024 7:04	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Education			The teacher unions keep schools closed because they did not want to go back to in person teaching. Children were the least vulnerable. Children lost 19 percentiles of learning due to fear of catching what essentially was the bad flu strain.	No
8/27/2024 0:04	8/27/2024 0:10	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	The response to the entire pandemic was over-zealous and not respectful of a diversity of scientific and medical opinions, and in the end the shutting down of schools and businesses did far more harm than good in terms of health, economy, learning, public safety, mental wellness, and family health.			Reliance on any information from CDC and WHO should be fully reconsidered given the misinformation and the intentional repression of health data and information that both of these groups knowingly perpetrated during the pandemic. Do not be complicit with this to harm our state again in the future.
8/26/2024 21:26	8/26/2024 21:32	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I was fired by my Sentara PCP in 2022 because I questioned her on prior statements she made about Covid vaccine safety and efficacy. After my annual physical where I politely explained why I never got the Covid vax, Sentara sent me a certified letter telling me I was no longer welcome at Sentara.		COVID has shown that our medical system is a real trouble. The way they treat patients is appalling. The doctor-patient relationship is now a one-way street. Disagree with the doctor and you're dead to them.

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8/26/2024 19:07	8/26/2024 19:18	Hampton Roads	Hampton	Government and Regulatory Systems	VA's pandemic response was draconian and unconstitutional. From denying churches to congregate, CLOSING schools, not holding meetings in person (ex: VASAP) to mandating masks was so detrimental to our family. My son was in 3rd grade they just basically halted school in March 2020.			My son was also forced to wear a mask - OUTSIDE - in July. While Virginians were lied to! Covid tests aren't virus specific and were simply mislabeling influenza and other viruses. The USA flu rate went from 38M to >2000 instantly. All the while we had a curfew imposed and our lives were upended.
8/26/2024 19:00	8/26/2024 19:06	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Government and Regulatory Systems	During the pandemic there was a complete government over reach. Stopping citizens from sitting in the beach, closing schools,many other restrictions! Most importantly Virginia Universities and colleges mandated an experimental vaccine with no long term studies. This is against the Nuremberg Code.			Many young people who were mandated to take the experimental vaccine now have severe health issues such as myocarditis due to the vaccine. That should never happen again!
8/26/2024 18:03	8/26/2024 18:18	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Mine is best health of anyone I know. I was shunned withstanding enormous social pressure to vaccinate. level of hysteria unnecessary. Businesses lost; Our nation shut down.The distancing and ostracizing. It brought unnecessary fear. healthy children forced masks. Educate us to be healthy instead!		I don't know the extent to which big pharma profited and continues to reap billions from peoples inability to get and stay healthy and being coerced into "health care" they don't want or need.
8/26/2024 16:23	8/26/2024 16:25	Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Overly reliant on top down standards of care		
8/26/2024 13:58	8/26/2024 14:04	Hampton Roads	Newport News	Government and Regulatory Systems	Never let the media dictate the information provide to the people. It was impossible to sort out truth from lies being proved. Media scams and scare tactics dictated and were not always the truth or following the science.			No!

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8/5/2024 16:21	8/5/2024 16:28	Northern	Fairfax	Education			The response was a failure. School closures, mask mandates, testing and vaccine requirements were completely unfounded.	This survey is a joke. You obviously don't want to get feedback in all areas. The fact that you are paying \$300K for this nonsense review shows me nobody wants to do a proper study or review.
10/1/2024 0:00	10/1/2024 0:02	Northern	Falls Church	Government and Regulatory Systems	Governement should have no or extremely limited input on our choices. Stay out of the educational choices and leave us alone!! .			Let families and individuals decide what they need.
9/30/2024 15:46	9/30/2024 16:14	Northern	Fairfax	Education			Please don't keep children out of school unnecessarily, and DO NOT take your guidance from the teacher's unions (who have their own agenda). Public School children have fallen behind as a result, while children whose parents sacrifice to send them to private schools fared much better.	
8/5/2024 19:17	8/5/2024 19:25	Northern	Fauquier	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The measures implemented to stop the spread of COVID 19 harmed me and my family. The mask mandate was terrible. I have a daughter with severe hearing loss and she reads lips to help her understand. When everyone wore masks her ability to communicate was severely limited.		The closing of worship spaces grossly infringed on my freedom to worship. In the future, never make laws that quarantine healthy people or treat people like they are a contagion. What an abuse of human dignity.
8/6/2024 13:20	8/6/2024 13:33	Northern	Fauquier	Government and Regulatory Systems	I believe Virginia's government failed to preserve the rights of its citizens during the pandemic. The closing of religious houses of worship, in particular, while other activities were condoned, and the complete unwillingness to question the Federal narrative were a disgrace.			I am a minister and combat veteran, a native of VA - You failed me, Virginia - and there are hundreds of thousands like me that feel the same way - I challenge you to verify this claim, and when you do, to offer a formal apology to the people of the Commonwealth.
9/30/2024 15:36	9/30/2024 15:42	Northern	Fairfax	Education			Education was completely disrupted, children lost 2-3 years of development. Closing schools caused so much harm, including suicides of children. Parents forced to give kids a “vaccine” with no long-term data who were at no risk of dying. Our individual rights & parental rights were trampled!	Masks caused significant harm particularly to our children, when they were known to be ineffective from the beginning. Speech and language delay, developmental delays, emotional disorders, breathing difficulties and illness were the direct results of masks. Fauci lied, people died.
9/30/2024 15:30	9/30/2024 15:35	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government determined “essential” businesses. We know every business and job was essential, especially, if it was yours. Thousands of small businesses closed permanently. Many families lost their life savings. Hospitalized patients were denied religious rites and visitors.			Churches, synagogues and small business were closed, while liquor stores, strip clubs and big box stores stayed open. The church is the MOST essential, especially in times of death and crisis. Never in our history have we silenced that which our country was founded upon, a firm belief in God.
9/30/2024 15:11	9/30/2024 15:30	Northern	Fairfax	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Many were forced to get “vaccines” against their religious and moral beliefs. Even those who willingly took the “vaccine” were not informed of the dangers. Those who died or were injured from the vaccines have not been compensated while the manufacturers raked in billions in profit.		Never in medicine have we given pregnant women or women of child-bearing age an injection without long term studies. Early treatments with medications like ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine and fluvoxamine were suppressed leading to needless harm or death.

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9/30/2024 14:14	9/30/2024 14:20	Northern	Fauquier	Education			Covid did not impact children under 18, yet they were forced to wear masks and social distance. Virginia did not consider the psychological impact that masks and social distancing would have on children. These should have been weighed vs. health effects before implementing mandates at schools.	Schools should not have closed at all - if teachers were afraid and if masks worked, the teachers should have worn masks. Only SICK PEOPLE need masks to prevent them from spreading to others. The CHILDREN SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FORCED TO WEAR MASKS!
9/30/2024 14:05	9/30/2024 14:13	Northern	Fauquier	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Healthcare systems continually violated all common sense and medical reason. They forced people to wear masks who had medical conditions that could not tolerate masks (asthma, post surgery, physical impairments) My daughter has asthma - was harassed to wear mask even though it impaired her breathing		My friend woke up from surgery at UVA wearing a mask - still under effects of anesthesia which suppresses lung function - SHE HAD AN EXEMPTION FROM UVA HOSPITAL because of damage due to radiation treatments - IGNORED HER PAIN AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING-AFTER SHE TESTED NEGATIVE FOR COVID!
9/30/2024 13:41	9/30/2024 14:03	Northern	Fauquier	Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia Governor Ralph Northam had no legal right to make mask use mandatory. This violated personal health, individual freedom and was downright unconstitutional. 1st Amendment - violated freedom of speech, assembly and association - we have a right to speak, unencumbered by masks, and to assemble			Violated ADA accommodations requirements - there are people with real medical or psychological reasons they cannot wear masks - those people were ignored and even harassed. EO-79 stated "Any person who declines to wear a mask because of a medical condition shall not be required to produce or ..."
9/30/2024 11:01	9/30/2024 11:45	Northern	Fairfax	Education			The schools should never have been closed. Children were not dying from the disease. Schools Masking was especially terrible for the children. Even after the governor decreed masking to be optional, here in Fairfax County they continued to enforce the masking. A crime!!	I only hope nothing like this ever happens again.
8/13/2024 14:36	8/13/2024 14:49	Northern	Stafford	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		All medications that have proven to work should be available. The existing ineffective and dangerous shots should be banned. No mask or "vaccine" mandates. Requiring either should result not only in loss of funding, but loss of license and liability for criminal prosecution.		
8/13/2024 14:43	8/13/2024 14:49	Northern	Loudoun	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Abuse and unlawful detention was rampant in some VA hospital systems with doctors out of control outing families who questioned protocols wrongly applied to other dx other then covid. PCR tests manipulated to get more money and apply killer protocols for profit not pt. benefit.		No support from government on challenging the killer protocols

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9/30/2024 8:42	9/30/2024 8:52	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	All prior epidemiological best practices, studies, and guidelines were blatantly disregarded in the government's response to COVID-19. The decision to shut down private businesses, schools, churches, and gyms, while allowing large chain stores and liquor outlets to remain open..			..revealed the true nature of the response: an authoritarian power grab that undermined the Bill of Rights. This cannot be allowed to happen again. Never should the genuine science be cast aside to trample the inalienable rights of individual Americans.
8/13/2024 14:52	8/13/2024 14:56	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	Over stepped and violated our Constitutional Rights. Should never again be given the ability to shut down the economy.			Allow more freedom, less government involvement and regulation in all areas.
8/13/2024 14:52	8/13/2024 14:57	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	Governor should not have authority to shut any private business down, shut schools down for in-person education, nor prevent the public from leaving their homes when they desire for any period of time during a time like COVID-19 or any similar situation.			
8/13/2024 14:59	8/13/2024 15:04	Northern	Fairfax	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		A severe lack of rational judgment based on known infection control practices was shown. A lack of evidence-based knowledge on how to treat respiratory infections. The use of ineffective masks for infection control. Delays in treatment in the most vulnerable populations.		Information was not given to residents on long term infection control and health management. Falso information was given on the spread of respiratory diseases.
8/13/2024 15:11	8/13/2024 15:13	Northern	Culpeper	Government and Regulatory Systems	The way the pandemic was handled in VA was a disgrace. Our then governor violated our constitutional rights and human rights. We can never let this happen again.			The medical community also violated our rights by trying to coerce citizens into taking an experimental vaccine. People lost their jobs, businesses and more and were denied medical treatment for opting out. It's egregious. Never again.
9/29/2024 22:33	9/29/2024 22:43	Northern	Alexandria	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Committee members involved in determining medical policies should have medical backgrounds before they go on to determine what medical measures should to be applied to all persons residing in this state. Front-line medical professionals need to be included in these workgroups.		Health matters are personal to each individual. NO mandates for any medical treatments are ever appropriate.
8/13/2024 16:07	8/13/2024 16:12	Northern	Falls Church	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		During COVID the Governor mandated masks for visiting stores and other public spaces. The edict was done with out proper RCT controls indicating that masking and 6ft separation were valid public actions to decrease the spreading of a virus.		Additionally, some businesses were not allowed to conduct commerce. This was detrimental to both the public and many small business owners that never fully recovered from public policies that were implemented without scientific evidence that they would work.
9/29/2024 21:15	9/29/2024 22:33	Northern	Alexandria	Government and Regulatory Systems	The notion of long-term emergency powers is completely inappropriate. Emergency powers should always be temporary, to cover unforeseen circumstances where immediate actions are needed (one month max, renewable depending on the extent and uniqueness of the emergency).			Committee members involved in determining medical policies should have medical backgrounds before they go on to determine what medical measures should to be applied to all persons residing in this state.

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9/29/2024 14:18	9/29/2024 14:25	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	I was deeply disturbed as the pandemic response unfolded to see which places and services were deemed “essential” and which were not. Churches were closed but ABC stores were open. Public schools were kept closed and children have suffered severe gaps in learning as a result.			
9/29/2024 11:49	9/29/2024 11:58	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia must reject Federal government directives on public health matters. The by the Federal government, and its censorship efforts by the CDC and the White House, created unnecessary fear and deceived millions into taking an experimental injection that proved neither safe nor effective.			Virginia must assert the Federalist principles of the Constitution and reject Federal government demands on public health issues.
8/13/2024 17:16	8/13/2024 17:23	Northern	Loudoun	Education			Closing schools for as long as you did caused long lasting damage mentally, socially and educationally. Kids missed crucial milestones that they will never get back. I think the way everything was handled was a total disgrace.	
8/13/2024 17:26	8/13/2024 17:43	Northern	Stafford	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Just one example. Previously acceptable media care procedures were completely abandoned. I spent 33 years in the health care system and it was well accepted masks do not prevent transmission of viruses.		The government should not be telling medically trained or action eta how to treat or and what to prescribe for their patients.
8/13/2024 17:44	8/13/2024 17:47	Northern	Stafford	Government and Regulatory Systems	No government agency should be allowed to continue operates for more than 90 days with out elected officials approving another 90 extension.			Government completely overstepped their bounds into citizens private life restricting constitutional given freedom.
8/13/2024 17:47	8/13/2024 17:52	Northern	Stafford	Education			Children should never be sacrificed for anything or anyone. The response of the educational system has caused great harm to a whole generation of children when they were at a very low risk medically.	This was definitely a case of tje treatment being worse than the disease.
9/28/2024 18:02	9/28/2024 18:17	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	I detest government mandates that closed churches, schools, and small businesses severely crippling our economy and putting many small businesses out of business. I am opposed to mandates that completely bypass an individual's right to refuse to take ANY drug without allowing for informed consent.			
9/28/2024 17:08	9/28/2024 17:11	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	The legislature should establish stronger, continuing oversight by requiring legislative approval at least every 90 days for any state of emergency to continue, including any limitations enacted pursuant to such declaration			
8/13/2024 19:33	8/13/2024 19:42	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	There need to be limits on the Govenors powers to declare a state of emergency. Mandatory business closures should never happen again. Laws need to be passed limiting the power of government to mandate any action by private citizens (masks) & businesses for any reason.			All government officials elected or not who supported mandates and closures should be investigated and if found to have conflicts of interest should be prosecuted by Virginia.

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8/13/2024 19:53	8/13/2024 20:05	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	Closing churches was unconstitutional and a determinant to the community. Houses of worship are places that provide spiritual healing which was necessary during that uncertain time. Now we are finding out an epidemic of loneliness that reduces the quality of life of many and possible early death.			The Governor should not have the unilateral power to make Executive orders that close down churches, businesses and private gatherings without the approval of the General Assembly. This was a blatant abuse of power and should never happen again.
9/28/2024 17:03	9/28/2024 17:09	Northern	Fairfax	Education			Children’s education suffered by being removed from the classroom. It is shocking and disturbing that we removed standardized testing requirements for so long.	I remain disturbed to this day that we suspended the standardized testing requirements for so long. I take that as the school system’s acknowledgement that children were not learning and therefore wouldn’t pass, and that leaders wanted to hide that from the public. We owe our students better.
9/28/2024 16:13	9/28/2024 16:21	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	My husband is a minority owner of a small business that was shut down for months in Loudoun County during the COVID-19 pandemic because then Governor Northam deemed it non-essential. My family lost 10s of thousands of dollars in income that we needed to live and will never be able to recover from.			This gross government overreach destroyed the lives of so many small business owners in VA. and today there is still no accountability for elected officials who destroyed the livelihoods of hard-working Virginians.
9/28/2024 16:10	9/28/2024 16:19	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	No government should be allowed to force U.S. Citizens to take unwanted vaccines. The COVID crisis was worse because vaccine had not completed long term testing; was thus experimental. Further,some people had adverse reactions to their first shot, nevertheless they were encouraged to take a second!			Government officials and doctors who pushed the experimental vaccines should be prosecuted and fined. If they caused physical harm they should be imprisoned.
9/28/2024 15:28	9/28/2024 15:34	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	The long COVID shutdown proclaimed by the former Governor should have been reviewed and need to be approved by others before implementing It was unrealistic and caused catastrophic hardship in education, and the economy resulting in the loss of jobs and shutdown of too many small businesses.			
9/28/2024 14:40	9/28/2024 14:47	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	The powers exercised by the Governor at that time were overly broad and should have been checked. There was no data nor research to support travel bans within the state, masking, shutdown of businesses, nor penalties for violations of these unlawful powers.			Legislation must be passed to limit any such authority to a maximum of 7 days if that long. The data related to the pandemic was circumspect with many studies now out clearly contradicting the CDC guidance. Commerce, education, and personal freedom were all negatively impacted by this overreach.
8/14/2024 12:42	8/14/2024 12:46	Northern	Fauquier	Government and Regulatory Systems	I was nearly fired from my job for refusing to get the vaccine. I was pregnant and wasn’t comfortable with the risks and unknowns. Although I ended up not being fired due to the mandate being lifted, I still experienced a mental and emotional toll from the stress of worrying about losing my income.			No vaccine should ever be mandated or forced upon a person in any way. Threatening people’s livelihoods was a crime against humanity.
8/14/2024 12:46	8/14/2024 12:49	Northern	Fauquier	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I gave birth to my daughter in December 2020 and the staff tried to force me to wear a mask during labor. Labor is difficult enough without one’s breathing being impaired. The mask mandates were ridiculous, cruel, unfair, and unhealthy.		Breathing properly has so many benefits and masks inhibit this ability. There should be no mask mandates anywhere at any time. It should be one’s choice.

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9/28/2024 14:19	9/28/2024 14:26	Northern	Arlington	Education			Keeping kids out of school buildings for months resulted in huge learning losses both in curriculum & social development. Hurt special needs & low income kids most. NEVER do this again.	Do not mandate vaccines that are not fully tested. Young people never needed the vaccines as COVID was not severe.
9/28/2024 12:38	9/28/2024 12:40	Northern	Prince William	Government and Regulatory Systems				
9/28/2024 11:56	9/28/2024 12:00	Northern	Alexandria	Government and Regulatory Systems	No me should be telling what someone should or should not do w/ their health. We are live men and females. We are no ones guinea pigs for any government experiment. No one & I mean no one should bully, harass or intimidate anyone in their medical preference. Nuremberg 2.0 on anyone that does.			
9/28/2024 11:50	9/28/2024 11:55	Northern	Fauquier	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Stop telling lies. People should be free to make their own decisions about their health.		
8/14/2024 20:48	8/14/2024 21:01	Northern	Clarke	Government and Regulatory Systems	Because of government overreach at all levels, citizens have lost trust in government "institutions." I left nursing after 25 years because of the vilification of anyone who dared have a thought contrary to the CDC. The already existing nursing shortage was exacerbated due to this.			Government should never dictate a person must potentially poison their body or lose their means of financial provision. My friend's daughter, a healthy yound woman in her 20s who worked in healthcare, became paralyzed after her 3rd job-required COVID shot.
8/14/2024 21:12	8/14/2024 21:25	Northern	Fairfax	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I believe the hospital protocols accelerated the death of my late wife, instead of helping her to have a chance at recovery. She had some health issues but I believe the remdisavere further compromised her organs and doomed her chances of recovery.		It's unfortunate that politicians and the pharmaceutical companies demonized treatments that were helping many individuals, so that they could get their emergency use authorization to push unproven and dangerous "vaccines".
9/28/2024 10:55	9/28/2024 10:55	Northern	Manassas	Government and Regulatory Systems				
9/28/2024 8:13	9/28/2024 8:25	Northern	Spotsylvania	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		No violation of our constitutional rights by mandated vaccination, mandated closures of businesses and restrictions on drugs that have been safely used for decades by bureaucrats who are not trained physicians.		Let doctors be doctors and prescribe for their patients and get pharmacies out of the business of needing to know diagnoses to fill a script. It's an invasion of privacy and violation of HIPA
9/28/2024 7:44	9/28/2024 7:53	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	I don't know if I am volcing this correct, but I don't ever want to see the government force us take vaccines or shut us down.			
9/28/2024 7:39	9/28/2024 7:41	Northern	Culpeper	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
9/28/2024 6:36	9/28/2024 6:42	Northern	Rappahannock	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Never will I support giving up sovereignty to non elected international organizations regarding pandemic responses and preparedness. Virginia should remain completely sovereign and reject recommendations and decrees such as those from the WHO whICH is a communist organization controlled by the CCP.		We must always uphold the constitution and never restrict our rights and freedoms safeguarded by our constitution. It is our representatives duty and oath to protect and defend the constitution.
9/26/2024 14:32	9/26/2024 14:40	Northern	Spotsylvania	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		We are a sovereign nation, of sovereign people. We are a constitutional republic, with a democratic election system, we are the governed and say how we are governed!!		

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9/25/2024 17:24	9/25/2024 17:35	Northern	Loudoun	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I am a doctor in Northern VA. I was significantly harmed by the states, NON Science based stance on masks. The health department reported me to the board of medicine and I was fired from a job that I had been at for 20 years, due to this. My patients were also harmed by the disruption in care.		I would like to see the health department making a full apology to the citizens of Va and would like to see a plan that would preclude this type of behavior in the future.
9/24/2024 10:27	9/24/2024 10:39	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	Survivable diseases are not the reason for emergency powers. Even very deadly ones raise questions about which measures are appropriate.			Enforcing public health recommendations through police and other government force is a dictatorship.
9/23/2024 20:31	9/23/2024 20:53	Northern	Spotsylvania	Education			We need to prioritize education, because education is our future. Respect for educators, high standards, a rigorous grading system, and attendance should be of the highest priority, even in times of difficulty.	A focus on education leads to a sense of achievement in students. It gives them purpose, goals, and a healthy emotional purpose.
9/23/2024 11:44	9/23/2024 17:31	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	The rights to assemble, speak freely, worship, control our bodies, earn a living, & travel, were all impeded by this over sensationalized illness. Early studies showed improvement by Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, & monoclonal antibodies, Why were we forced to be lab rats for an untested vaccine?			300 characters is NOT ENOUGH to state how corrupt, illegal and immoral the entire Covid lockdown was AND CONTINUES TO BE. People lost their jobs, home and family members. The Freedom of Speech was denied to all, but most especially by the government and big tech WHO MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.
8/19/2024 13:26	8/19/2024 13:37	Northern	Stafford	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My mom was in a facility in 2020. She was very ill and passed away in August 2020. She had developed severe sepsis. One nurse telling me only 1 nurse was on an entire floor with a training nurse. It was not well thought out with how Patients were taken care of. Keeping family out worst thing.		It was a complete nightmare for my mom and her family. She died 5 months after the lock down.
9/23/2024 17:18	9/23/2024 17:25	Northern	Stafford	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Masks - studies have shown that they really do not prevent the spread of the small particles of covid.		Churches should have been allowed to conduct services. We needed spirituality, God and community especially at this time.
9/23/2024 16:02	9/23/2024 16:17	Northern	Loudoun	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		By insisting on untested vaccines and refusing ivermectin and similar drugs, the medical community stands guilty of thousands of deaths and still more adverse reactions to the vaccine. The medical community stands guilty of murder.		No
9/23/2024 15:12	9/23/2024 15:18	Northern	Fairfax	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Taking away our basic right to decide what happens to our bodies is the biggest violation of autonomy I have ever experienced. I will forever be traumatized by forced “social” distancing rules, masking mandates and Covid vaccine mandates and propaganda.		Stolen years can not be given back, especially to our children, but some kind of accountability for those who forced unproven, unsafe, and dangerous Covid rules on us could be a good start to healing the trauma that was inflicted
9/23/2024 14:49	9/23/2024 14:54	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government has no authority to shut down businesses under a so-called pandemic emergency or to force people to get any shot(s) or wear masks. This violates our rights under the Constitution on Virginia and the US Constitution.			Leave people and businesses alone!

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9/23/2024 14:11	9/23/2024 14:33	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	Advised by a corrupt medical establishment, and without any cost benefit analysis, you implemented policies which (a) harmed business and family (closing business, church, school) (b) had no scientific basis, and served no useful purpose (masks, distancing) (c) were unethical and illegal			No
9/23/2024 14:26	9/23/2024 14:28	Northern	Prince William	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Need to avoid payments to illegals		no
8/22/2024 10:14	8/22/2024 10:28	Northern	Fairfax	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The HCS promoted needless fear, having no emphasis on preventative health of which many spoke. Masking requirements were not supported scientifically and actual "science" was suppressed, with restrictions and shaming resulting. Pharmacies blocked prescriptions of Ivermectin.		Video testimony of Stephen Petty Start at 3 minutes https://www.youtube.com › watch?v=ZFjLFqESxY0 Document Stephen Petty submitted to NIH and CDC. https://thefatemperor.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CDC-Response-Letter-February-22-2022-Correct-Walenski-Zip-Code-and-Dates.pdf
9/23/2024 13:34	9/23/2024 13:43	Northern	Arlington	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Closing the schools, small businesses and lockdowns was a complete disaster. Children were never at risk. The mask wearing caused irreparable harm, physically and mentally. Why close small businesses and not the large?		
8/23/2024 21:03	8/23/2024 21:05	Northern	Loudoun	Education			Do not shut down schools again, much damage was done educationally and emotionally. Criminal.	
9/23/2024 13:20	9/23/2024 13:22	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	Our governor at the time of the pandemic trampled our rights and the government allowed him to. I hope that we do not see this again and that no unconstitutional treaties are signed on our behalf. We did not vote for this and we did not vote to forego medical freedom.			
8/23/2024 23:06	8/23/2024 23:18	Northern	Fairfax	Education			As a FCPS K-12 educator, I'd like to know when cases are up in my area, school pyramid (4), or school, depending on how specific you can be.	I know there are a lot of "Karens" out there, so you don't have to mandate masks, but I'd like to know when it would be best to wear one. My friend (in a different area) was in bed with a terrible case of covid this week. I've proof that wearing a mask protected me during the worst of the pandemic.
8/24/2024 4:30	8/24/2024 4:33	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	There are very few emergency powers necessary during a pandemic. Any power needs legislative approval and oversight by a body of non-government officials and citizens.			
9/23/2024 11:30	9/23/2024 11:43	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	The level of intrusiveness associated with preventing people from earning a living subject to an arbitrary selection of what is 'vital' employment or profession should never, ever be repeated. The level of economic destruction by closing of businesses and churches was not warranted.			Political elites seen disobeying their own proclamations was shameful. Regrettably they seem to know no shame!

Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	Northern Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
9/23/2024 11:07	9/23/2024 11:32	Northern	Spotsylvania	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I have 4 grown children. One of them and their spouse took injection and boosters and are now infertile. The other 3 grown children with no vaccine have 8 children between them! You must be aware of the national drop in fertility rates; are you investigating injection connection?		
8/24/2024 21:59	8/24/2024 22:05	Northern	Fredericksburg	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		My uncle was murdered because of Covid protocols. I wrote my governor, Lt Governor, Atty General, State police superintendent, local police chief. Nobody cares, period. So many Covid vaccine injuries to discuss. God will have the final say, that I know!		The government is corrupt, period. They gaslight us, we comply! NEVER AGAIN.
9/23/2024 11:06	9/23/2024 11:15	Northern	Prince William	Government and Regulatory Systems	The first shot if the Pfizer vaccine caused a DVT in my right leg, then while on blood thinners for that the second shot gave me DVTs in both legs. Now I am on expensive drugs for the rest of my life and have no means of recourse.			You have all seen the studies. This vaccine has helped none and hurt many. The federal government who tries to ignore this needs to be held accountable.
9/23/2024 10:55	9/23/2024 11:03	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government (the CDC) lied about Ivermectin, despite the evidence that it was effective. The perpetrators of the lie should be severally punished. They caused many to die. The CDC now silently admits it is effective.			The CDC's lies and the media's lies are destroying the country.
9/23/2024 11:00	9/23/2024 11:02	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	I was let go due to not taking the covid shot.			I wish I had some recourse.
9/23/2024 10:53	9/23/2024 11:02	Northern	Loudoun	Education			It is imperative as we move forward to make decisions based on truth, real science that has already been studied and proven (such as natural immunity). Please let us learn from this “reactionary response” and take our time to clearly, thoughtfully and honestly assess any situation in the future.	
9/22/2024 15:06	9/22/2024 15:08	Northern	Prince William	Education			Many students were isolated when they tested positive. We are still feeling the consequences of children who did not attend school in person. Many of them were graduated to the next grade, but were not adequately prepared for it.	What should we do the next time there is a pandemic? Nothing!!! Unless it was deliberately created then we need to prosecute those involved.
9/22/2024 15:02	9/22/2024 15:06	Northern	Prince William	Government and Regulatory Systems	I believe the response to the Covid-19 virus was inhumane. The response took away a person's right to choose what to do, and tried to coerce everyone to do what the creator of the response wanted them to do (bully). Many people had medical or religious reasons not to take the vaccine.			. The entire spectacle reminded me of children who are bullies and want to get their way.
9/22/2024 14:23	9/22/2024 15:02	Northern	Prince William	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I believe the response to the Covid-19 virus was inhumane. College students were isolated when they tested positive. Family members told other members to sit six feet from them (very rude), and many relationships were destroyed (intentional).		I would like to conclude with how this affected those who were employed. The food pantries, if they were open, were inundated with extra clients who did not have income due to being laid off. Do we still have Covid? Yes, we do. What should we do the next time there is a pandemic? Nothing!!!

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8/26/2024 12:01	8/26/2024 12:18	Northern	Spotsylvania	Government and Regulatory Systems	I believe it is extremely crucial in any kind of medical emerg. pandemic type response, that the gov. control does not encroach on the critically important freedoms in our first amendment. Notably,freedom to gather in churches, & their being deemed non-essential while liquor stores were essential!			The bias in allowing mass protest for certain issues, while shutting down others, and allowing big box stores while shutting particularly schools is unconscionable for our children, and the permanent damage that was done. Never again!
8/26/2024 12:28	8/26/2024 12:29	Northern	Fairfax	Education			Director level	
9/22/2024 6:52	9/22/2024 7:06	Northern	Fauquier	Government and Regulatory Systems	The overreach of governing power during this time of pandemic was sickening. Unnecessarily and illogical measures were taken to control people but not to ensure their health or wellbeing. I had serious issues with masking and the general shutting down of facilities.			Let people breathe and smile at one another. The cure was worse than the disease. It is insane to encourage and promote OCD levels of cleanliness and order. OCD stands for Obsessive Compulsive DISORDER!
8/26/2024 12:20	8/26/2024 12:36	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government illegally and unnecessarily shut down many small businesses and mandated distancing protocols. It also incentivized all downstream organizations to mandate or at least strongly encourage the use of similar protocols. None of this was substantiated or beneficial to the public.			The government also incentivized the medical establishment and private companies (such as drug stores) to either ban safe, inexpensive treatments, or make them nearly inaccessible. Ex: Ivermectin and HCQ were known in early 2020 to be beneficial for C19. https://c19ivm.org/meta.html
9/16/2024 14:43	9/16/2024 14:45	Northern	Manassas	Education			Children need to be in school.	
9/16/2024 12:28	9/16/2024 12:47	Northern	Fairfax	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I never again would like to see a government entity instill fear and tyrannical information about a virus like Sars-Cov2, which could not be challenged. We now learn that Dr. Fauci was wrong about the injections and the masking.		
8/26/2024 12:00	8/26/2024 12:41	Northern	Loudoun	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Spouse held against his will, treated for covid in Inova hospital system when he did not have covid. Body/lungs destroyed w gov. profit driven interventions. Altered records months after discharge. No one going after the hospitals for unnecessary hospital deaths, abusive and cruel gov. protocols.		He was isolated, both chemically/physically restrained, starved/dehydrated, humiliated, external catheter no consent resulted in permanant damage, told to deficate in bed, phone/glasses taken away, wife abused 4 asking questions.
8/26/2024 12:35	8/26/2024 12:42	Northern	Fredericksburg	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Very well established and prepared but guilty of breaking Constitutional law, blatantly.		Healthcare is between doctor and patient. If state is not paying for it, butt out.
8/26/2024 12:31	8/26/2024 12:42	Northern	Prince William	Government and Regulatory Systems	It's wrong that the government at any level mandated a pharmaceutical product that was unknown and untested. It was wrong that VA went along with the public health measures that were not scientifically sound. Ostracizing doctors who actually did the science and closing small businesses was wrong.			We need to protect the rights of people to live the free and independent lives that we are allowed under our constitution. We don't need more pandemic bureaucratic nonsense.

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9/16/2024 10:21	9/16/2024 10:30	Northern	Fredericksburg	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Health care systems should not be hindered by the dark agenda we faced last time. We need access to things that work like Ivermectin and we need to expose the things that do not work like Remdesivir! We all must stand together to keep our health and our industry safe.		We need to expose those willing to do harm!!
8/26/2024 12:37	8/26/2024 12:49	Northern	Fairfax	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The healthcare system utterly failed in its duty to 'first do no harm'. It instead chose to profit from the incentives that the government held out if it complied with its demands. In doing so, it demonstrated that the people within the system have no principles or the backbone to stand up for them.		Here are some scientific resources to understand Ivermectin, HCQ, Vitamin D and other inexpensive treatments for COVID. Note the timing of the studies. Many treatments were available in 2020 before the vaccine was released. https://c19hcq.org/meta.html , https://c19ivm.org/meta.html
9/15/2024 19:14	9/15/2024 19:17	Northern	Fairfax	Education			Shutting down schools caused a mental health burden on children, teachers, and working parents. Schools should have reopened much earlier than they did.	
9/15/2024 18:06	9/15/2024 18:12	Northern	Fauquier	Government and Regulatory Systems	Government can never again shut us down like that again. A state of emergency is no excuse. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are not negotiable, not only valid when the government thinks it is safe, but always!			Freedom of assembly and speech being two very specific ones in the first amendment that were trampled. NEVER AGAIN.
9/15/2024 17:58	9/15/2024 18:05	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor & VA DOH must never again be able to violate Virginians' bodily autonomy rights including choice of whether or not to receive medical treatment/vaccines and whether to wear masks. My young daughter suffered serious mental health consequences due to forced school masking in 2021-2022.			
8/26/2024 12:59	8/26/2024 13:01	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	My rights were violated. I was not allowed to shop at Giant without a mask. I was kicked out of CVS because I didn't wear a mask. I was put through medical tyranny in public places.			I will not comply with anything like the lockdowns/mandates again.
9/15/2024 16:55	9/15/2024 16:59	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	Never again should any government authority mandate vaccinations or treatments against the public's will.			
9/15/2024 15:49	9/15/2024 15:59	Northern	Alexandria	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Mask mandates and Any Vaccine mandates violate my Constitutional, civil and human rights.		People lost jobs if we refused vaccine mandate. We were forced to wear masks against our will at work for four years. I feel violated. Mask mandates and Any Vaccine mandates violate my Constitutional, civil and human rights. I have a right to breathe the air and to refuse all vaccines.
9/15/2024 14:26	9/15/2024 14:32	Northern	Spotsylvania	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		It became obvious, ultimately, that no one else could handle dental problems other than we dentists. So, my group opened our office and worked for the duration.		yes. To call the decisionmakers in this Biden administration "Marxists" or "socialists" is to elevate them. They are Nazis and we must be prepared to take them on in a formidable manner.
9/15/2024 11:44	9/15/2024 11:47	Northern	Fredericksburg	Education			Schools should never have been shut down. The mandates were extreme. This is America not Germany.	

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9/11/2024 14:40	9/11/2024 14:54	Northern	Fairfax	Education			During the Covid emergency the school system was not prepared when the schools were closed and as a result many students did not receive adequate schooling . My question is has a plane be developed that would meet the students needs and not compromise their education.	
9/10/2024 18:48	9/10/2024 19:11	Northern	Rappahannock	Government and Regulatory Systems	Your survey limitation to address only 1 of the 3 categories - despite the overlap of their impact on each other tells me that you aren't really interested in the TRUE impact of these interventions. All of them were in violation of the constitution and all were absent any valid scientific basis.			No "health minister" or "health authority" should ever be given such sweeping powers again. The fact that you limit comments to 300 characters is a great example of the lack of real interest in the negative impacts of these egregious policies.
9/10/2024 4:44	9/10/2024 4:47	Northern	Fairfax	Education			Schools should have stayed open. The science and proof behind it was there and it was ignored. Our children suffered greatly at the hands of K-12 guidelines.	Teachers were overwhelmed and systems were substandard for any proper kind of learning.
8/26/2024 14:20	8/26/2024 14:33	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should never be able to mandate or coerce the use of an experimental medical product. We should always follow the Nuremberg Code and the principle of informed consent. In the case of the Covid "vaccine," it wasn't even a true vaccine; it was an experimental gene therapy.			During the pandemic I was prevented by local police from going to two different parks on two occasions. This was absolutely crazy -- the best place to be was outside, getting some sunlight and improving my Vitamin D levels. So many public officials seem to be clueless about true health.
9/10/2024 4:41	9/10/2024 4:44	Northern	Fairfax	Government and Regulatory Systems	Alternative opinions or questions were snuffed out, silenced and erased. Government ballooned and in the wrong ways. It rewarded stagnancy and lack of action. Churches and small businesses were closed, liquor stores and big box stores open. My small business was negatively effected by government.			A parent with children in public schools during the pandemic I felt education at the hands of government was substandard. Children fell through the cracks and what we had was a decline in social skills, reading, writing and math. Online education will never replace in-person learning.
8/26/2024 14:35	8/26/2024 14:45	Northern	Loudoun	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The health care systems provided incorrect information repeatedly - they said the "vaccine" would prevent transmission (that was wrong); they said the spike protein from the shot would stay locally in the arm (that was wrong); they said masks would stop the spread of the virus (also wrong); etc.		The CDC is a captured agency. They have become nothing more that a promotional arm of Big Pharma. The number of deaths and injuries from the Covid shots were very high (just look at CDC's own VAERS database). My doctor used Ivermectin w/ patients very successfully but couldn't talk about it.
9/10/2024 4:17	9/10/2024 4:41	Northern	Fairfax	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Our daughter was born with TEF-Fistula in 2018. She was denied medical procedures to stretch her esophagus for the next two years, on a regular basis, to avoid asphyxiation caused by scar tissue. When she did return for surgeries only one parent was able to attend to her at the hospital!		It was a lonely and horrible experience. She was on deaths doorstep for the first year and a half of her life. She was abandoned by the heathcare system.
9/1/2024 16:55	9/1/2024 16:59	Northern	Culpeper	Education			Parents should have rights over the state.	

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8/31/2024 20:31	8/31/2024 20:52	Northern	Spotsylvania	Government and Regulatory Systems	The State of Virginia allowed thousands to die and forced workers to get an untested vaccine this is now killing thousands. The people of Virginia were denied care during covid, women were forced to give brith alone and they were not allowed to properly bury their dead.			There was treatment for covid that worked , I know because lvused it as a preventative. It is shameful how covid was handled. It must never happen again.
8/27/2024 17:54	8/31/2024 17:38	Northern	Loudoun	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The declaration of a state of emergency and the shutting down of small businesses and churches was horrible. We have lost many of our small businesses, especially small restaurants in this area. As a small business owner, I had to rebuild my business after being shutdown for 14 weeks!		People were afraid to leave their homes and to receive the medical and holistic services that they needed. It is very sad what I have seen happen to my clientele with regard to their health and well-being.
8/31/2024 14:22	8/31/2024 14:49	Northern	Fauquier	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government determined “essential” businesses. Churches & synagogues were closed. Hospital protocols were dictated not based in the evidence. Hospitalized patients were denied religious rites and visitors. Many were forced to get “vaccines” against their religious and moral beliefs.			Suppression of ivermectin and HCQ led to needless harm. Ivermectin is available without prescription in TN—why not in VA? Masking is ineffective, harmful to children. Forced vaccination violates medical ethics and the Nuremberg Code, especially for inmates. Coercion into vaccines is unjust.
8/29/2024 13:50	8/29/2024 13:56	Northern	Spotsylvania	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		It disgusts me that, the vaccine was mandatory and we lost a grave amount of health-care professionals.		Makes me ill that people had to die alone, for one of the biggest government hoax in my lifetime.
8/28/2024 8:03	8/28/2024 8:08	Northern	Loudoun	Education			I have never been so frustrated and at a loss in my life. I truly felt my freedoms had been stripped. There was no one I could call or write for help. I had a school age child in 2020 and I saw him wilting before my eyes. And he was one of the successful ones!!!!	I wrote letter after letter to my school board member, to the superintendent of education for LCPS and to the governors office. No one. Not one person replied. I explained that the Catholic school less than a mile for the school board remained open. They lost no one!!!!
8/26/2024 18:14	8/26/2024 18:16	Northern	Spotsylvania	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		No future mandates. No required vaccines.		No future mandates, no required vaccines
8/27/2024 21:57	8/27/2024 22:04	Northern	Loudoun	Education			It was a disgrace that our children were masked against our consent /will as well as forced to do remote learning which is complete nonsense. Children learn in group settings in person and need facial and emotional interactions with each other. Our children were robbed of their educational rights.	The government should have never forced the mask mandate especially on our children and keeping them home from school for months and months damaged their social development gravely. They may never recover from what they were subjected to in the new “normal”. I moved out of VA to FL for this reason.
8/27/2024 21:31	8/27/2024 21:46	Northern	Clarke	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Last spring I attended the Zoom session regarding healthcare rights of the Virginia citizens. I was appalled that the committee which was charged with making recommendations about healthcare rights were simply not appropriately educated to be sitting on the committee. The chair was uninterested.		Most people in the Commonwealth have no clue about 5G, EMFs and their harm to our populations. They don't even see that we now have fewer insects since the advent of 5G. Most citizens simply accept the fact that they are being poisoned by this technology or simply do not know about it!

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8/27/2024 17:46	8/27/2024 17:54	Northern	Loudoun	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government during COVID was entirely over zealous with lockdowns, masks, shutdowns of small businesses, etc. What I witnessed in my region were people acting like little tyrants -- like fascists, really. The loss of many small businesses, especially local restaurants was horrific.			I knew of teenagers kicked off of basketball courts. I myself was assaulted by a woman while I was jogging outdoors, because I was not wearing a mask. These behaviors were provoked by the government overreach. The executive branch should not have so much power that they can shut people out of work
8/26/2024 18:35	8/26/2024 18:43	Northern	Spotsylvania	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government didn't do enough to keep schools open, letting each division choose, despite other countries safely reopening schools. The endless lockdowns, mask mandates and threats of mandating Vax'es was unconstitutional. Never again should anybody violate people's Constitutional rights			Only democrat ran states, at the time VA was democrat controlled, thought they were above the Constitution. Any lawmaker who violates Constitutional rights, should be immediately impeached for violating their oath.
8/27/2024 14:29	8/27/2024 14:32	Northern	Loudoun	Education			The fact that we kept kids home for as long as we did is almost inhumane. Their mental health was never ever considered and they are still suffering now! You have no idea the effects this had! It was the worst thing you could have done to children!	We should have never ever shut down!!! After the two weeks, we should have allowed everything to open! It did nothing but harm our whole society! VA was the worst! You roped off playgrounds, that is deplorable!
8/27/2024 12:22	8/27/2024 12:24	Northern	Spotsylvania	Government and Regulatory Systems	Shutting down whole state and requiring masks and shutting down schools caused harm that can never be fixed.			
8/26/2024 21:43	8/26/2024 22:02	Northern	Culpeper	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Health Care Systems showed how ill-prepared they were to handle the covid pandemic, but a lot of the issues were not entirely their fault but rather from the restrictions placed on them by the government. My hope is that some best practices have been implemented due to the covid experience.		I am not sure who would be responsible for this change, but until the covid pandemic, I was not aware that we relied so heavily on other countries for our medicines. Some of these countries are not really our friends and this puts us in a very vulnerable position. We need to change this ASAP.
8/26/2024 19:02	8/26/2024 19:08	Northern	Loudoun	Education			Absolutely abysmal. Not only were the mandates unlawful, you had no follow through with continuity of mandates and "guidelines" not letting counties set their own restrictions and policies and then after Youngkin going back and suddenly allowing them total agency over and above and the state.	So much money, time, and public school students lost, never to be regained because of corruption and loss of public confidence.
8/26/2024 21:51	8/26/2024 21:58	Northern	Culpeper	Government and Regulatory Systems	Should not have closed small business - large stores were open; should not have mandated masks - no evidence; Should not have closed schools - harm was immeasurable. Should not have implemented social distancing - no evidence. No public college should have been allowed to mandate the vaccine.			Virginia should not have just followed CDC guidelines and should have acted only on evidence
8/26/2024 20:12	8/26/2024 20:16	Northern	Culpeper	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Hospitals and nursing homes became prisons. The doctor's were bribed to call everything covid and hospitals were paid for death.... need Nuremberg 2.0 for the way it was handled.		
8/26/2024 20:07	8/26/2024 20:12	Northern	Culpeper	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government became tyrannical under the guise of safety, complete power grab.			Very disappointed

Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	Southside Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
9/24/2024 8:42	9/24/2024 8:51	Southside	Prince Edward	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		During the COVID pandemic, the healthcare industry made it clear that their allegiance wasn't to the patients they claim to serve, but to the government, Big Pharma, and the media.		I have lost most of my trust in the healthcare industry. They pushed a poorly tested, novel medical treatment (mNRA) upon millions of people who were not at risk, and silenced those who questioned it. I cannot forgive what was done to our citizens.
9/23/2024 15:37	9/23/2024 18:24	Southside	Martinsville	Government and Regulatory Systems	https://www.fluoridefreepeel.ca/fois-reveal-that-health-science-institutions-around-the-world-have-no-record-of-sars-cov-2-isolation-purification/ https://christinemasseyfois.substack.com/			https://search.mercola.com/results.aspx?q=masks#stq=masks https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2022/01/27/health-officials-deny-death-from-covid-shots.aspx https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2022/02/16/covid-patients-over-treated-to-death.aspx
9/23/2024 11:19	9/23/2024 11:29	Southside	Prince Edward	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Dr's were spouting death was certain. They bullied people about getting tested and getting vax. I ran into it at Patient First and then a local Dr. Office. HHS were giving much misinformed. According to local pharmacies, there were NO info inserts for vaccines or so we were told.		
8/27/2024 8:04	8/27/2024 8:28	Southside	Mecklenburg	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Emergencies add to Gov't, power---excuses to tale power from citizens, when volunteers do better than, even Red Cross in meeting needs! Constitution grants Gov't no power to medicate or educate. Both are illegal, hence we owe nothing to fake providers, thieves, elder abusers have destroyed medicine!		Valley Health killed my brother so they could get Gov't reward \$16,000. He was improving from Covid, so they cut his oxygen at night. Brain dead the next day. Centra tried to kill me but doctor friend insisted NO deathly Remdesovir! They refused Ivermectin but I did get monoclonal antibodies.
8/26/2024 22:59	8/26/2024 23:08	Southside	Pittsylvania	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government's emergency powers during the pandemic response were too broad and need to be time limited (30 days) with a two thirds legislative approval requirement for extending the emergency powers.			I would like to see government and health officials be more inquisitive and suspect of federal government recommendations and actions.
8/26/2024 14:33	8/26/2024 14:49	Southside	Franklin	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		You blackmailed people to take a vaccine and wear masks. You lied that's was Safe and Effective. As a result thousands of people have died. I, friends, husband will never listen to CDC, FDA AMA. If you impose another shutdown I will roam the streets giving out literature proving your lies .		You should pay for your rimes against Humanity. You whole department should be disbanded and you should all go to jail for killing people.
8/23/2024 22:26	8/23/2024 22:34	Southside	Pittsylvania	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Following the CDC or WHO is bad news for Virginians & Americans. the COVID fiasco has proven that. We the People should NEVER comply with unconstitutional authorities or demands, and if the Commonwealth sees fit to ignore the will of the people, I'll gladly move to a freer state.		I will never comply with unconstitutional authorities or demands. I will not wear a mask, as I will breath clean air, not my wastes. I will not get a vaccination of any kind, as COVID has proven that was a mistake. If I die because of those actions, then so be it, at least I died a free man!
8/22/2024 19:33	8/22/2024 19:44	Southside	Brunswick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I highly recommend the use of ivermectin as a supplement to prevent the onset of covid, the treatment of covid and long covid.		I highly recommend the use of ivermectin as a supplement to prevent the onset of covid, the treatment of covid and long covid.
8/21/2024 21:49	8/21/2024 22:12	Southside	Brunswick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The need to research, study and implement alternative methods of prevention, treatment of covid, and long covid. Also, to be an open minded and responsible citizen willing to investigate the effectiveness of current covid vaccines as well as the potential health damage caused by covid vaccines.		No

8/14/2024 15:55	8/14/2024 16:05 Southside	Danville	Government and Regulatory Systems	Under no circumstances should there ever be mandatory vaccinations, lockdowns, restrictions, or an event related to public health that allows government to restrict the rights of individuals. ALL medical options should be allowable based on individual exercise of choice and doctor's advice.		The Commonwealth of Virginia owes an apology to every single Virginian who is a victim of being forced to take a Covid-19 mRNA vaccination and is now suffering the consequences. Every family who lost a loved one due to the mRNA shot causing death is owed compensation. There are many victims.
8/14/2024 13:29	8/14/2024 13:36 Southside	Franklin	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The response for COVID was totally ill advised, and should never be repeated. Lockdowns, mandatory masks, forced vaccinations are totally out of the question ever again!	By the way, Commonwealth citizens are THE stakeholders that matter most (or should). Limit yourself to informing the public and move on.

Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	Southwest Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
9/23/2024 10:50	9/23/2024 10:55	Southwest	Grayson	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		OTC drugs should not be banned from the consumer.		Medical personnel should be free to treat patients as they see fit because that is what they were trained to do. Per HIPPA, the doctor patient relationship IS and should remain confidential. The Government Should Never Intrude into authentic Health Care.
9/21/2024 17:52	9/21/2024 17:59	Southwest	Wise	Government and Regulatory Systems	We will NEVER AGAIN submit to lockdowns or mandates of any shape or form. The Governor, the Virginia Department of Health nor any unelected entity will NOT take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, or our right to work and protect our families.			We will NOT allow our elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable appointed bureaucrats! NEVER AGAIN will we submit to lockdowns, masking, nor any the other nonsense that was perpetrated during the 2020 PLANDEMIC!
8/27/2024 15:24	8/27/2024 15:40	Southwest	Galax	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The confidence of people in the healthcare system has been destroyed by the misinformation, disinformation and pure propaganda perpetrated at all levels from the federal government down to local healthcare agencies. The pandemic was about money and power, not about providing a medical solution.		Prosecute Pfizer, Fauci and all those who profited from the misery and death associated with this virus for starts.
8/26/2024 20:37	8/26/2024 20:39	Southwest	Washington	Government and Regulatory Systems				
8/24/2024 17:22	8/24/2024 17:36	Southwest	Scott	Government and Regulatory Systems	Regarding pandemics: GIVE US THE INFORMATION, MEDICATIONS, AND LIBERTY to care for ourselves and our families. STOP mandating useless protocols (like wearing masks/“social” distancing and other methods of inducing primal fear among the populace!). Allow our children to be students/athletes/normal!			Allow our businesses to remain open, stop paying people to stay home, and stop giving us false information as was done in 2020. Fear mongering benefits only totalitarian politicians and the pharmaceutical industry.

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9/28/2024 17:06	9/28/2024 17:16	Valley	Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		It was unfair to demand certain businesses close their doors while allowing other businesses to remain open and thrive during the pandemic. Many businesses never reopened. Why was Costco and ABC stores allowed to remain open with no restrictions? Why were houses of worship ordered closed?		It was sick and sad to divide the people in Virginia. If people were afraid then they should stay home. But why did you order everyone to stay home? Oh, except if you are going to Costco or the liquor store, then that's OK.
9/23/2024 11:39	9/23/2024 11:47	Valley	Rockingham	Education			Schools were closed far too long and when they finally reopened, masks were required. The loss of learning and the psychological damage done to children will be felt for a generation in this country.	We should look to the example of other countries - namely Sweden - in crafting our next emergency health response.
9/23/2024 11:30	9/23/2024 11:39	Valley	Rockingham	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The response was a complete disaster. Most protocols were not based on science - masking, 6ft distancing, etc. Suppression of open dialogue promoted and perpetuated practices that were at best nonsensical and at worst deadly. Trust in healthcare is gone for anyone paying attention.		The harmful ramifications of the response will be long-term and far reaching. Many people were harmed.
9/23/2024 11:18	9/23/2024 11:30	Valley	Rockingham	Government and Regulatory Systems	The covid state of emergency lasted entirely too long. There need to be clear restrictions on how long a state of emergency initially lasts and how long it can be extended. If over a certain period (15 days for example) the legislature should have to vote on extension.			In addition, the government should not be able to choose what are "essential" businesses. All business is essential to the families it supports. Many small businesses never reopened and the owners lost everything.
9/19/2024 6:32	9/19/2024 6:35	Valley	Shenandoah	Government and Regulatory Systems				
8/6/2024 14:05	8/6/2024 14:11	Valley	Frederick	Education			The closing of the public schools and the forced masking mandates were an outrage and a dismal failure. Although the schools were already underperforming, this policy made things exponentially worse. Even worse was the attempt to force vaccinations for the staff, teachers, and children.	No.
8/6/2024 17:24	8/6/2024 17:31	Valley	Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Thank you for doing a wonderful job protecting the population of Virginia during COVID! Quick action to close schools, businesses, and public areas to keep us safe. Sacrifices were needed and called for. Thank you for doing the right thing. Many lives were saved due to the government's quick action!		No
9/16/2024 19:31	9/16/2024 20:01	Valley	Winchester	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Let old people see their families		Would be great ti get truth instead if fear for the purposes if government control and requiring a vaccine that injured thousands and thousands of people And it was covered up. It injured me!

Valley Region respondents:								
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9/16/2024 1:22	9/16/2024 1:34	Valley	Augusta	Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor shall not allow the Virginia Department of Health or any unelected entity to decide to take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, our right to work and protect our families. Cease the medical fascism.			The WHO is corrupt don't allow their BS "treaties" any control of health. The CDC is corrupt stop following their "rubber stamp" vaccine recommendations. CMS is corrupt stop allowing them to dictate protocols via reimbursement policies. Stop killing your citizens with Remdesivir and Covid Vacs.
9/15/2024 21:48	9/15/2024 22:07	Valley	Winchester	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		In general, medical care in Virginia has become routine and one-size-fits-all in its consciousness. I want a system which seeks a variety of cures and collaborates with patients rather than forcing factory medicine on them. .		When my Winchester Medical Center cardiologist was concerned that I was not taking medications, I left his practice! He did not test me. I am now treated by a professional who utilizes muscle testing to determine what medications or supplements would be beneficial BEFORE I ingest them!! Imagine!
8/13/2024 14:37	8/13/2024 14:40	Valley	Staunton	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The way Covid was handled was tyranny at its highest. To mandate workers to take an experimental shot and don masks with the knowledge that they would not make a difference is the exact opposite of science and good research.		
8/13/2024 14:33	8/13/2024 14:45	Valley	Augusta	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		This group of professional are largely populated with individuals who value their untested knowledge base over the rights and freedoms of citizens. They readily go beyond recommendations to requirements and are influenced by activists to leverage minority opinions into required behaviors.		The word ‘Management’ should be removed from Emergency Management and replaced with Preparedness, which is their true role. If they erroneously believe they are ‘managing’ a crisis situation, it is too easy for them to translate their recommendations into requirements which have the effect of law.
9/15/2024 21:17	9/15/2024 21:28	Valley	Augusta	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The government must allow citizens to be responsive to the known emergency situation. That includes, for example, that citizens must be able to freely obtain medicines such as Ivermectin which was reported by some medical groups as effective when used quickly against COVID.		
9/15/2024 18:51	9/15/2024 18:55	Valley	Augusta	Government and Regulatory Systems				
9/15/2024 15:32	9/15/2024 15:33	Valley	Winchester	Education				
9/15/2024 14:38	9/15/2024 14:43	Valley	Frederick	Education			Public education was/is horrendous. Children should be included regardless of whether they wear a mask or are vaccinated. Parents should be encouraged to participate in their children’s education. They should never be told they don’t belong.	Public education must stop indoctrination and teach children critical thinking skills. Children should be taught to think, not what to think. Also every student should be treated the same. Get rid of bias programs, like SEL and CRT.

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9/15/2024 14:32	9/15/2024 14:38	Valley	Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		No one should be denied healthcare. Healthcare should be provided regardless of whether or not the individual is wearing a mask or has been vaccinated. Your ability to have a family/friend with you as your advocate should never be taken away.		Healthcare should be separate from government intervention. We need healthcare providers who will learn and treat people to the best of their ability. They shouldn't just follow a government flow chart nor an insurance flow chart. Use your degree. Don't be puppets.
9/15/2024 14:23	9/15/2024 14:32	Valley	Frederick	Government and Regulatory Systems	The Government's response was terrible. The America people need a government which supports freedom of choice in the health care system. The Government should not apply pressure to force any form of medical care, prevention of illness, treatment of illness, or bypass research.			We need FREEDOM. Medicare/Medicaid/Affordable Care Act should be optional, not mandatory. None of them should be tied to your ability to have insurance or your ability to collect Social Security. Government should not tell you what form of insurance you must have. Leave the people alone.
9/15/2024 10:52	9/15/2024 10:54	Valley	Waynesboro	Government and Regulatory Systems	Stop lording over people and trampling Constitutional rights.			Everyone will remember COVID the next event you strong-arm a response onto everyone like fascists and they won't go along with it. You really fucked up last time.
9/7/2024 11:51	9/7/2024 12:00	Valley	Frederick	Government and Regulatory Systems	I think the Commonwealth did a good job of protecting citizens by closing down businesses, calling for masking, etc. during the pandemic. I appreciate the efforts to protect the public health and good.			No.
9/6/2024 16:14	9/6/2024 16:18	Valley	Frederick	Education			Never again should schools be shutdown for any health related reason. Teachers are still trying to deal with the massive learning loss. Too many children dealt with mental health problems from the drastic changes in their routines.	Never again should masks and social distancing be required. Absence from school should be made based on physical symptoms not a test.
9/6/2024 16:07	9/6/2024 16:14	Valley	Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Look at evidence based outcomes in deciding what medical recommendations should be made. Allow much discussion to occur and avoid groupthink. Be suspicious of recommendations being made by anyone with financial interests in the therapy being suggested or mandated.		Masks and social distancing do not work to help prevent disease. Clean air, sunshine, clean conditions and handwashing work better than anything else. Do not move sick elderly persons to nursing homes. Currently should remove Remdisivir from hospital protocols.
9/6/2024 15:59	9/6/2024 16:05	Valley	Frederick	Government and Regulatory Systems	I do not want the VDH to take orders from the CDC which takes orders from the WHO. Never again should the state mandate pandemic responses which limit personal freedom and do not not work. No mandatory masks, lockdowns, social distancing or vaccines, all of which were later proven to be ineffective			The Bill of Rights should always be at the forefront of decisions made. If it is not Constitutional it should not be deployed.
9/2/2024 13:01	9/2/2024 13:03	Valley	Staunton	Government and Regulatory Systems				

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9/1/2024 11:03	9/1/2024 11:17	Valley	Winchester	Education			Virtual learning was a failure. Our children, least affected by Covid now suffer the most in terms of social isolation, academic loss and rise in mental illness. Masking upon return furthered this isolation and learning. Pressure to vaccinate and test for sports was unjust and discriminatory.	
8/28/2024 8:55	8/28/2024 9:04	Valley	Rockingham	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		This was a total and complete failure and misuse of resources across the board. You overreacted to what was, for most people, a bad cold. The patients you did get, you mistreated, and listened to those above who did NOT know what they were talking about. You mandated an experimental poison shot, and		...you suppressed effective treatments that already existed because using those would have meant the shots could not have received their EUA from the FDA. Bill Gates and big pharma made billions because you didn't question anything your betters told you. Next time, give everyone some HCQ or Ivermectin
8/28/2024 8:50	8/28/2024 8:55	Valley	Rockingham	Government and Regulatory Systems	Everything you did was outside the scope of your power. From mask mandates to plexiglass shields, none of it did anything to protect anyone. You completely overreacted to something that was barely a bad cold for most people.			Next time, stay in your lane. You do NOT "have to do something" during every crisis that comes along. Sometimes, the best thing to do is nothing.
8/27/2024 11:09	8/27/2024 11:15	Valley	Waynesboro	Government and Regulatory Systems	The government is not prepared to respond to health emergencies. Health and Human services were not responsive in the crisis. There were not enough hospital beds, ventilators or staff to cope with the crisis. The response was panic. The response was find a cure at any cost and finance it.			Healthcare workers left the field because of the difficult decisions that had to be made. They also became ill because of the lack of personal protective equipment.
8/27/2024 7:25	8/27/2024 7:33	Valley	Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Children's Health Defense legal team has written three legal notifications that anyone faced with a COVID vaccine, COVID test or mandates https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/resources-federal-law-prohibits-mandates-emergency-use-covid-vaccines-tests-masks/		Any entity or organization that require Submitting the notices prepared by Children's Health Defense is the first step prior to seeking an exemption or taking legal action. https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/resources-federal-law-prohibits-mandates-emergency-use-covid-vaccines-tests-masks/
8/26/2024 19:57	8/26/2024 20:00	Valley	Augusta	Government and Regulatory Systems	Above all else your role is protect natural rights—irregardless of convenience and public opinion. Virginia failed miserably during the COVID Pandemic.			Natural rights are not optional. Everyone should have free will to live as they are convicted. Mandating face masks and vaccines was a horrific moment in Americas history and I will never forget.

Valley Region respondents:								
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8/26/2024 17:23	8/26/2024 17:30	Valley	Harrisonburg	Education			I worked in the Facility Depart. We worked half time do to the limitation on the number of people that could work together. Vaccines for Covid were recommended but not required. Following CDC guideline our we got room air change calculations. Based on those calculation we purchased fans.	The panic from the public was the result of misinformation on the virus produced by our federal government.
8/26/2024 14:16	8/26/2024 14:22	Valley	Augusta	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		*Vaccines* were pushed too hard, not tested, and not even true vaccines. Many treatments such as remdesevir did far more harm that good. Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine were brushed under the rug, though very effective.		The *J&J Vaccine* changed my 64 year old husband and 34 year old daughter's Alpha-1 Antitrypsin recessive gene from recessive dominant. Husband died after 2 miserable years and daughter is very sick. NOBODY IN GOVERNMENT CARES!!!!
8/18/2024 17:57	8/18/2024 18:06	Valley	Frederick	Government and Regulatory Systems	Business owners lost their life savings during Covid-19. Meanwhile, Costco, ABC stores and other places were allowed to stay open. Churches were forced to remain closed. This is a double-standard and never should have happened. Any place of business that closes hurts our citizens and economy.			Forcing the wearing of masks proved futile and should never have been mandated. Forcing children to wear masks while on the bus and during school was inhumane and more harmful than not wearing a mask. This should never happen again. False information must be cleaned from your pages.

Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	West Central Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
9/30/2024 14:23	9/30/2024 14:28	West Central	Montgomery	Government and Regulatory Systems	The governor ruled VA with a heavy hand. He had much too much control. It was ludicrous to close playgrounds, encourage people to stay inside, forbid church attendance, &c. while leaving the ABC stores open. The hyprocrisy was on exposed when protests were allowed and real life sequestered.			Mask mandates lingered much, much longer than they ever should have. The heavy-handedness on "encouraging" the vax was uncalled for.
9/30/2024 14:17	9/30/2024 14:23	West Central	Montgomery	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		I understand being careful in the beginning, but draconian health care rules were carried on much too long. There was no reason for keeping family members away from sick relatives. The Health Department has too much control. We need a more robust vaccine exemption.		In '21 I returned to my PCP for a physical. It turned into nothing more than him harassing me about the Covid vax. There was no exam. It was just a lecture on the vax. This was the last time I ever saw this physician. The healthcare industry has destroyed its credibility.
9/30/2024 14:06	9/30/2024 14:17	West Central	Montgomery	Education			There was no reason to close schools permanently March 2020. My son attended school in '20-'21 on a crazy hybrid schedule. VA was 1 of only 8 states to postpone football season. When in school in person, they were yelled at re:mask wearing and ate lunch prison-style.	My VT son was treated like a leper as he didn't take the coerced Covid-vax. VT surveiled students for gathering in groups so they could hand out code of conduct violations. Paid grad students to spy. Our tuition & tax \$ at work? Not only that, but he was shamed for being a white male thanks to DEI.
9/28/2024 21:38	9/28/2024 21:40	West Central	Bedford	Government and Regulatory Systems	Do not mandate.			Do not mandate.
9/26/2024 18:22	9/26/2024 18:30	West Central	Campbell	Government and Regulatory Systems	Governmentneeds to get out peoples lives.			
9/24/2024 23:41	9/24/2024 23:43	West Central	Roanoke	Government and Regulatory Systems				
9/23/2024 22:30	9/23/2024 22:31	West Central	Appomattox	Education			Put God back in the schools!	
9/23/2024 12:10	9/23/2024 12:15	West Central	Roanoke	Government and Regulatory Systems	Even in a so called state of emergency, the Constitution remains the law of the land! You may make suggestions. You work for We the People! The Governor's powers to keep us in a state of Emergency needs a check and balance codified!			
9/16/2024 19:23	9/16/2024 20:02	West Central	Lynchburg	Government and Regulatory Systems	Governor/Lt. Governor/State Attorney General/State Congress: you must uphold the medical freedoms of the sovereign people of Virginia to make it illegal to mandate any medicines and medical therapies. Also the state should not consent to WHO regulations by unelected officials.			As part of medical freedoms the state should not mandate Fluoride, Chlorine and other toxins in our public drinking water. The state should promote Primary Water for all municipal water. http://primarywaterinstitute.org https://primarywater.org/
9/16/2024 9:54	9/16/2024 10:03	West Central	Lynchburg	Government and Regulatory Systems	We won't allow elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats with financial interests in the "solutions" they mandate. The Governor shall not allow any entity to take our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our right to work & protect our families.			300 characters allows respondents only a fraction of what they need to express their contempt and disgust for how COVID was mis-managed by our "leaders." Lockdowns, masks, & vaccines were a farcical attempt to control what is now, like the flu, a virtually harmelss endemic illness.
9/16/2024 9:54	9/16/2024 9:58	West Central	Franklin	Government and Regulatory Systems	Suggestions not mandates. Factual information not scare tactics or out right LIES.			Will never submit to a medical mandate again, was lied to and the lie made it worse. I will never surrender freedoms again for a little possible, maybe, hopefully or some pie in the sky safety.
9/15/2024 20:17	9/15/2024 20:29	West Central	Bedford	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Studies showed that masking, lockdowns & social distancing had no positive impact on transmission of C-19. The C-19 vaccines did not prevent transmission. Never again should any vaccines be mandatory; never again should doctors be prohibited from prescribing off-label medications.		No

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9/15/2024 18:48	9/15/2024 18:55	West Central	Salem	Education			Most kids did not get Covid and those who did recovered easily. Schools should never have been shut down. The NEA told Fauci/CDC/NIH/White House to shut down. The head of NEA is an avowed Marxist. Why should she dictate to the whole country? NEVER AGAIN	America's enemies within (current Marxist Democratic Party) and abroad/the elite Oligarchies that rule the world want a one world government; these globalists will use another pandemic to destroy America if we are not prepared for the next engineered/deliberate attach via another planned pandemic.
9/15/2024 18:25	9/15/2024 18:48	West Central	Salem	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Roanoke Valley hospitals followed the nonsense that Fauci and the White House dished out because they made the most money by putting Covid patients on the ventilator, which killed them. The African countries used their traditional Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine with much fewer deaths than US.		Many of us had problems after taking the vaccines, and the feds covered that up. The feds pushed doctors to push the experimental vaccines and interfered with the doctor/patient relationship. Some of us wanted Ivermectin and the feds made it nearly impossible bc of THEIR disinformation.
9/15/2024 18:05	9/15/2024 18:24	West Central	Salem	Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor followed the awful protocols from the Federal Government and Fauci's absurd totalitarian dictates --- that were based on the absurd protocols of China in cahoots with the WHO. Never ever again should America follow the Marxist Chinese and WHO.			Virginia needs to think independently and realize the Feds lied to the nation and cannot be trusted. Listen to the independent doctors who knew better than the crooked CDC, FDA, and NIH --- who were all in bed with the drug companies. The shutdowns should never have happened in America.
9/15/2024 13:54	9/15/2024 15:46	West Central	Floyd	Government and Regulatory Systems	At no point does the US Constitution allow for the government of the States to set aside our protected rights to peacefully assemble or to worship as we please. Nor are they delegated the authority to curtail our access to essential goods and services.			Essential goods and services include food, medical services and supplies, firearms, shooting and hunting supplies. Government NEVER gets to decide if we are allowed to be with a loved one as they are passing.
9/15/2024 13:13	9/15/2024 13:23	West Central	Montgomery	Government and Regulatory Systems	The lack of critical thinking by leaders at VTwas appalling.I proved in real time with their own data that the vaccinated were the ones spreading COVID, after their vaccine mandate and mandatory testing for only the unvaccinated. They had no interest.			Tim Sands needs to apologize and admit he was wrong, and compensation needs to be paid to people who did not get the COVID vaccine for the harassment, invasion of privacy and their bodies with testing, and in some cases being fired or booted out of school.
9/2/2024 13:13	9/2/2024 13:20	West Central	Pulaski	Government and Regulatory Systems	Northam handles Covid 19 horribly. The lockdowns, mandates concerning masks, etc. were FAR overreaching! It should have been left to each individual to decide for themselves and their families. Many small businesses were destroyed and some people died alone without their families.			I'm glad I was "non-compliant"! I will not have my personal freedoms trampled...
8/30/2024 13:33	8/30/2024 13:41	West Central	Roanoke	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		Mandatory masking and distancing were hated by many, but it was a medical necessity. I fear that, because so many uneducated, gullible Americans were against it because it fed into their conspiracy theories, we're going to have an even worse compliance rate the next time around.		Maybe more PSAs next time teaching how viruses are transferred. Let's do better at educating those who think they know everything just because their leader tells them what to think.
8/30/2024 7:31	8/30/2024 7:49	West Central	Botetourt	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The Virginia response was authorian and rejection of medical science. Effective repurposed drugs were banned, and replaced with more expensive ineffective drugs. Virginia's pandemic response was a total sellout to Big Pharma and big government. I have zero trust in the medical profession.		The response should be thoroughly reviewed. Those responsible for the denial of good medical care should be punished. This (mandates for vaccines, masks, church, school business closures) should never be allowed to happen again. NEVER!

Start time	Completion time	Please select the region in which you reside.	West Central Region respondents: Please select the city or county in which you reside.	Please choose the workgroup that best matches the subject of your comment.	Please provide comments for the Government and Regulatory Systems workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Health Care Systems and Emergency Management workgroup.	Please provide comments for the Education workgroup.	Do you have anything else you would like to include?
8/29/2024 10:10	8/29/2024 10:20	West Central	Amherst	Government and Regulatory Systems	Governors are not elected dictator. They are elected as a governor with certain powers limited by the constitution and legislation. No executive order should last over 30 days unless the General Assembly goes into session and passes a bill extending the duration of the order.			It appears that keeping children out of school did more harm than good. It would be profitable to study the lives, both health wise and educational wise of home and private schools that did not close vs those from closed schools.
8/28/2024 19:35	8/28/2024 19:36	West Central	Franklin	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management				
8/28/2024 16:11	8/28/2024 16:26	West Central	Campbell	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		We should have ivermectin available OTC in our great state, just as public servants have implemented in Tennessee for instance. Unless you are being paid by big pharma there is absolutely no reason to put patients on a ventilator and treat with remesdevir, a death sentence.		Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine should be readily available in the early stages of an infection. The covid "vaccination" should be pulled from the market as there are zero, 0, long term studies and all previous animal testing proved fatal.
8/28/2024 16:01	8/28/2024 16:11	West Central	Campbell	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		The disruption of the public school system during the pandemic was unnecessary and detrimental to the success of so many students. While a few are able to learn through online instruction, most need in-person instruction to effectual succeed.		The virus was not lethal to school aged children and care should be taken before ever putting those measures into place EVER AGAIN
8/27/2024 13:51	8/27/2024 13:58	West Central	Appomattox	Government and Regulatory Systems	Northam did a terrible job and shut down many small businesses while allowing box stores to remain open as long as there were arrows on the floor pointing the way and people at the door making sure everyone walked around like a masked fire breathing cootie. Appalling. We still haven't recovered.			We still haven't recovered from the closures and many small businesses went under.
8/26/2024 22:37	8/26/2024 22:42	West Central	Lynchburg	Education			GUV. Nawfum(Northam) made kids sit home, forced teachers to work online, and passed students to the next grade withva 0.0 grade average. Good job! Keep them dimb and more easy to control.	One student did ONE assignment the entire year. But he got to move to the 9th grade. Explain to me how that is "education"?
8/26/2024 21:29	8/26/2024 21:34	West Central	Appomattox	Education			The commonwealth and most of America handled the pandemic horribly. Shutting the country down was unnecessary and harmful. Essentially mandating online education harmed students academically. Government exceeded its constitutional authority. People should be fired for how they shut us down.	
8/26/2024 13:17	8/26/2024 13:22	West Central	Roanoke	Government and Regulatory Systems	The unlimited and unchecked power of the Governor's executive and/or emergency orders needs SEVERE restriction and accountability with codified, pre-set time limits.			
8/14/2024 12:29	8/14/2024 13:10	West Central	Franklin	Government and Regulatory Systems	Never again should the Va. government defy the U.S. Constitution by arbitrarily adopting mandates (& pressuring businesses to do the same) for vaccine compliance in order to work, go to school, or get health care; require citizens to follow rules such as masking & social distancing which no science			supports, & interfere in the ability of citizens to make a living, socialize, attend church or fill medical prescriptions. Va.'s response was the most shameful act of authoritarianism in its history surpassed only by Gov. Dunmore's use of martial law to force citizens to support the King in 1775!

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8/5/2024 16:21	8/5/2024 16:28	Northern							Fairfax		Education	The response was a failure. School closures, mask mandates, testing and vaccine requirements were completely unfounded.	This survey is a joke. You obviously don't want to get feedback in all areas. The fact that you are paying \$300K for this nonsense review shows me nobody wants to do a proper study or review.
10/1/2024 3:15	10/1/2024 3:33	Central	Chesterfield								Education	Schools had horrible protocols in place for educating students during Covid. Online learning challenged many students & many found themselves isolated, depressed & some even suicidal. Additionally, in our area, special accommodations were made for the Covid vaccinated students, many who would later	test positive for Covid, could return much sooner than their peers who did not take the fairly new vaccine. Some may never have tested positive but because of proximity to a Covid infected student they were forced to stay out of school for 2 weeks. The constant Covid testing was also unnecessary.
8/5/2024 17:40	8/5/2024 17:44	Central	Hanover								Education	These were determined regarding masking without sufficient clinical evidence that would support the measure. Schools were closed and studies regarding the detrimental effects to children were ignored. Counties made decisions on closing schools prior to receiving feedback from parents.	Only after pushback did schools allow for students with disabilities, Initially, ignoring the legally mandated requirement. Teachers unions and/or associations were allowed to negotiate with school boards without parents present. The state has not addressed the education gap or detrimental effects.
9/30/2024 17:35	9/30/2024 17:54	Central	Goochland								Education	Our young children lost 2-3 years in cognitive development which likely will NEVER be restored. HOW WILL YOU FIX THIS!!You forced our precious children to wear masks all day and now you know how harmful that was to these babies! We trusted "untested true" and accurate information to be the "LAW"	AND NOW OUR CHILDREN WILL BE BEHIND! MANY WILL BE AFFECTED FOREVER.How will the uninformed decision makers make this right? THEY WILL NOT!
9/30/2024 17:27	9/30/2024 17:39	Central	Goochland								Education	The knee jerk reaction of closing all our schools for roughly 2 years was devastating to our children and has negatively impacted them both educationally and socially. This is unforgivable and was based on faulty information and perhaps on intentionally misleading information. Who is responsible?	We now know that school age children were virtually impervious to Covid and if a child was actually infected, there were virtually no symptoms and the death rate amongst children was almost zero! We simply cannot have this kind of overreaction. Closing schools should not be an option.
8/6/2024 14:05	8/6/2024 14:11	Valley								Frederick	Education	The closing of the public schools and the forced masking mandates were an outrage and a dismal failure. Although the schools were already underperforming, this policy made things exponentially worse. Even worse was the attempt to force vaccinations for the staff, teachers, and children.	No.
9/30/2024 15:46	9/30/2024 16:14	Northern							Fairfax		Education	Please don't keep children out of school unnecessarily, and DO NOT take your guidance from the teacher's unions (who have their own agenda). Public School children have fallen behind as a result, while children whose parents sacrifice to send them to private schools fared much better.	

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9/30/2024 15:36	9/30/2024 15:42	Northern							Fairfax		Education	Education was completely disrupted, children lost 2-3 years of development. Closing schools caused so much harm, including suicides of children. Parents forced to give kids a “vaccine” with no long-term data who were at no risk of dying. Our individual rights & parental rights were trampled!	Masks caused significant harm particularly to our children, when they were known to be ineffective from the beginning. Speech and language delay, developmental delays, emotional disorders, breathing difficulties and illness were the direct results of masks. Fauci lied, people died.
8/13/2024 10:10	8/13/2024 10:16	Central	Richmond								Education	School never should have been closed. Children were not super spreaders. Children were not dying of covid. Masking children was cruel. The masks did not prevent the spread of Covid-19 and that was known from the beginning. Masks greatly harmed children. Masks resulted in learning loss. Masks harmed	younger students more with loss of speech and language development, loss of understanding affect, created isolation, shortness of breath, anxiety, migraines, decreased attention, fatigue, depression. The government was directly responsible for harming our children. No evidence to support masks.
9/30/2024 14:14	9/30/2024 14:20	Northern							Fauquier		Education	Covid did not impact children under 18, yet they were forced to wear masks and social distance. Virginia did not consider the psychological impact that masks and social distancing would have on children. These should have been weighed vs. health effects before implementing mandates at schools.	Schools should not have closed at all - if teachers were afraid and if masks worked, the teachers should have worn masks. Only SICK PEOPLE need masks to prevent them from spreading to others. The CHILDREN SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FORCED TO WEAR MASKS!
9/30/2024 14:06	9/30/2024 14:17	West Central		Montgomery							Education	There was no reason to close schools permanently March 2020. My son attended school in '20-'21 on a crazy hybrid schedule. VA was 1 of only 8 states to postpone football season. When in school in person, they were yelled at re:mask wearing and ate lunch prison-style.	My VT son was treated like a leper as he didn't take the coerced Covid-vax. VT surveilled students for gathering in groups so they could hand out code of conduct violations. Paid grad students to spy. Our tuition & tax \$ at work? Not only that, but he was shamed for being a white male thanks to DEI.
9/30/2024 13:21	9/30/2024 13:27	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education	It would have been helpful to have the students attend in person once a week instead of not at all. Glad we got through it. Zoom school was not adequate and really rough on teacher and students’ families.	Why did so many wonderful teachers quit? After everything they did for us, why isn’t Admin supporting teachers more?
9/30/2024 11:01	9/30/2024 11:45	Northern							Fairfax		Education	The schools should never have been closed. Children were not dying from the disease. Schools Masking was especially terrible for the children. Even after the governor decreed masking to be optional, here in Fairfax County they continued to enforce the masking. A crime!!	I only hope nothing like this ever happens again.
9/29/2024 22:13	9/29/2024 22:16	Hampton Roads				Hampton					Education	Basically destroyed my hopes of going to collage for something I loved thanks	
9/28/2024 8:26	9/29/2024 21:03	Hampton Roads				Mathews					Education	Virginia's asinine & ignorant reaction to C-19 promoted senseless FEAR. No child died of Covid! Not ONE! Healthy children (& adults) would have been so much better off by having been informed how to maximize their natural immune systems & continue normal routines while protecting the vulnerable.	Follow the REAL SCIENCE [that which can be questioned, examined, & verified] not that which is provided by 'experts' with personal investments in the outcome. Give vouchers to families when public education is disrupted.

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9/28/2024 17:03	9/28/2024 17:09	Northern							Fairfax		Education	Children’s education suffered by being removed from the classroom. It is shocking and disturbing that we removed standardized testing requirements for so long.	I remain disturbed to this day that we suspended the standardized testing requirements for so long. I take that as the school system’s acknowledgement that children were lot learning and therefore wouldn’t pass, and that leaders wanted to hide that from the public. We owe our students better.
9/28/2024 14:19	9/28/2024 14:26	Northern							Arlington		Education	Keeping kids out of school buildings for months resulted in huge learning losses both in curriculum & social development. Hurt special needs & low income kids most. NEVER do this again.	Do not mandate vaccines that are not fully tested. Young people never needed the vaccines as COVID was not severe.
9/28/2024 10:48	9/28/2024 10:49	Hampton Roads				Portsmouth					Education	Masking was known to be of no value from the beginning. A surgical mask cannot stop a virus. This is like trying to stop mosquitoes with a chain link fence. The medical community, OSHA, and engineers in air quality knew this but masks were forced upon people.	Masks caused significant harm particularly to our children. Speech and language delay, developmental delays, emotional disorders, breathing difficulties and illness were the direct results of masks.
9/28/2024 9:14	9/28/2024 9:24	Central	Henrico								Education	A better formula for schools to access, as we have a variety of county settings that could benefit from shared knowledge of best practices, challenges to the faculty, staff, and families w students. Methods used that did not work equally as important.Utilization of volunteer pta groups to assist.	There is no one way to ensure health, and wellness of schools. Top down does not equal all best practices. Use a purple crayon and create your own plan.
9/28/2024 8:37	9/28/2024 8:41	Central	Richmond								Education	The closure of schools was unnecessary and destructive. The coercion used to push vaccine acceptance was unethical. The losses from that period are staggering and still affecting schools and families.	Common sense went out the window. Anyone who understands the immune system in the most rudimentary sense knows that ongoing exposure is critical to building and maintaining a strong immune system. The absolute worst thing we could do was mask citizens and close schools and businesses.
9/28/2024 8:16	9/28/2024 8:25	Central	Richmond								Education	The government shutdown of schools and the following shift to online “learning” was devastating to all children- especially low-income students. The shutdowns suggest that school is optional and not the best way out of poverty. The learning loss will likely never be recovered.	It is disheartening to me that those tasked with leading education policy did not consider the long-term effects of their decisions and bowed to the wishes of school boards and unions at the expense of children and their futures.
8/13/2024 16:23	8/13/2024 16:29	Hampton Roads				York					Education	As grandparents of 17 grandchildren, we were devastated by what the regulations did from the two year-old forced to wear a mask in preschool with terrified eyes, to the Virginia college student, who was forced to have the vaccine before returning to school. We don’t ever want to see that again.	
9/28/2024 7:08	9/28/2024 7:13	Hampton Roads				James City					Education	The state needs to get back to teaching children not indoctrinating them in current ideologies. My grandkids who are at the top of their classes can’t do simple math, sound out words, know anything about civics, and are ignorant of simple science.	Teachers unions should be abolished! All they do is encourage and support incompetence driving actually good teachers to other professions or states/districts that don't allow teachers unions.
9/23/2024 22:30	9/23/2024 22:31	West Central		Appomattox							Education	Put God back in the schools!	

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8/13/2024 17:16	8/13/2024 17:23	Northern							Loudoun		Education	Closing schools for as long as you did caused long lasting damage mentally, socially and educationally. Kids missed crucial milestones that they will never get back. I think the way everything was handled was a total disgrace.	
9/23/2024 20:31	9/23/2024 20:53	Northern							Spotsylvania		Education	We need to prioritize education, because education is our future. Respect for educators, high standards, a rigorous grading system, and attendance should be of the highest priority, even in times of difficulty.	A focus on education leads to a sense of achievement in students. It gives them purpose, goals, and a healthy emotional purpose.
9/23/2024 13:01	9/23/2024 13:06	Central	Powhatan								Education	Children should not be required to wear masks/face coverings. They do not stop the spread of viruses. Children of all ages need to be able to read/see facial expressions, read lips for comfort levels and acute learning environments	Children were never at risk of contracting and or spreading the illness. They were emotionally and academically damaged for political purposes not truth
8/13/2024 17:47	8/13/2024 17:52	Northern							Stafford		Education	Children should never be sacrificed for anything or anyone. The response of the educational system has caused great harm to a whole generation of children when they were at a very low risk medically.	This was definitely a case of tje treatment being worse than the disease.
9/23/2024 11:39	9/23/2024 11:47	Valley								Rockingham	Education	Schools were closed far too long and when they finally reopened, masks were required. The loss of learning and the psychological damage done to children will be felt for a generation in this country.	We should look to the example of other countries - namely Sweden - in crafting our next emergency health response.
8/13/2024 18:06	8/13/2024 18:07	Hampton Roads				Suffolk					Education	The impact on education was devastating. The random unsupported "science" used as public health measures proved the officials to be virtually inept at their jobs. So many studies, like the Flu study, showed masking has no effect on the transmission of a respiratory pathogen.	We now know, even the CDC and NIH knew social distancing and masking would have no advantageous effect on eliminating or controlling this alleged pathogen. the citizens to the stakeholders. It is insane not to have done so in the first place.
9/23/2024 10:53	9/23/2024 11:02	Northern							Loudoun		Education	It is imperative as we move forward to make decisions based on truth, real science that has already been studied and proven (such as natural immunity). Please let us learn from this “reactionary response” and take our time to clearly, thoughtfully and honestly assess any situation in the future.	
9/22/2024 15:06	9/22/2024 15:08	Northern							Prince William		Education	Many students were isolated when they tested positive. We are still feeling the consequences of children who did not attend school in person. Many of them were graduated to the next grade, but were not adequately prepared for it.	What should we do the next time there is a pandemic? Nothing!!! Unless it was deliberately created then we need to prosecute those involved.
8/13/2024 20:14	8/13/2024 20:16	Central	Hanover								Education	I was proud that Hanover County schools returned to in person instruction the following school year.	
9/19/2024 16:05	9/19/2024 16:07	Hampton Roads				York					Education	Teach the Constitution	
9/17/2024 11:10	9/17/2024 11:17	Hampton Roads				Gloucester					Education	The forced masking of our children was ineffective, harmful and ridiculous. Parents have the right to make health decisions for themselves and their children. The state does not have authority to dictate or demand what medical interventions myself or my child receives.	Link to study on ineffectiveness of masking. https://www.meehanmd.com/blog/post/173679/an-evidence-based-scientific-analysis-ofwhy-masks-are-ineffective-unnecessary-and-harmful

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9/16/2024 14:43	9/16/2024 14:45	Northern							Manassas		Education	Children need to be in school.	
9/16/2024 13:13	9/16/2024 13:37	Central	Chesterfield								Education	I was a teacher during the Pandemic at a local Elementary School, I witnessed first hand how the response literally ruined the progress many children made. We should have got schools up and running way before we did.	Most of us teachers dropped our masks as soon as we were in planning periods and hardly anyone got COVID. We could have avoided this huge learning deficit that has affected millions of children, if we had reopened schools in the Fall of 2020 in person as normal.
9/16/2024 13:14	9/16/2024 13:24	Central	Hanover								Education	I am very concerned with the very poor decisions made by most countries to keep children out of schools during a pandemic that rarely impacted children with the illness. The results of this decision appear to have long term effects on the test scores and mental health of our young people.	
9/15/2024 22:05	9/15/2024 22:06	Central	Chesterfield								Education		Little accountability for these decisions.
9/15/2024 21:50	9/15/2024 21:59	Hampton Roads				York					Education	Students around Virginia were forced to get the Covid jab if they were in extra curricular activities in high school in some areas. Some schools even required it if the student was just going to try out for an extra curricular activity. Colleges mandated the jab and even the booster. Disgusting!	My daughter was vaccine injured by the covid jab. She dropped out of college to not have to take the booster. How many students will not be able to have children? In a study of 76,000 women, 52% had menstrual issues after the jab. The education system bought the propaganda hook line and sinker.
9/15/2024 19:14	9/15/2024 19:17	Northern							Fairfax		Education	Shutting down schools caused a mental health burden on children, teachers, and working parents. Schools should have reopened much earlier than they did.	
9/15/2024 18:48	9/15/2024 18:55	West Central		Salem							Education	Most kids did not get Covid and those who did recovered easily. Schools should never have been shut down. The NEA told Fauci/CDC/NIH/White House to shut down. The head of NEA is an avowed Marxist. Why should she dictate to the whole country? NEVER AGAIN	America's enemies within (current Marxist Democratic Party) and abroad/the elite Oligarchies that rule the world want a one world government; these globalists will use another pandemic to destroy America if we are not prepared for the next engineered/deliberate attach via another planned pandemic.
9/15/2024 15:32	9/15/2024 15:33	Valley								Winchester	Education		
9/15/2024 14:38	9/15/2024 14:43	Valley								Frederick	Education	Public education was/is horrendous. Children should be included regardless of whether they wear a mask or are vaccinated. Parents should be encouraged to participate in their children's education. They should never be told they don't belong.	Public education must stop indoctrination and teach children critical thinking skills. Children should be taught to think, not what to think. Also every student should be treated the same. Get rid of bias programs, like SEL and CRT.
9/15/2024 14:23	9/15/2024 14:29	Hampton Roads				York					Education	Government should take more careful note of the actual mortality from a virus or biotic among school-age children before ordering public and private schools closed in an "epidemic." Our children will never completely recover from the learning missed during the unwarranted COVID closures.	

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8/15/2024 10:23	8/15/2024 10:37	Eastern					Northumberland				Education	During the pandemic I worked as a science educator at a public school in TX. We were open for in-person learning the entire 2020-2021 school year. I went to work every single day. Some students opted for remote learning at first but by years end there were very few. Children learn best in-person!	I taught middle and high school science, students were masked but we did not have spacing requirements. I did not mask but maintained 10 ft distance. My elementary ed colleagues reported that masking severely compromised education for younger children because they need to see the teachers face!
9/15/2024 11:44	9/15/2024 11:47	Northern							Fredericksburg		Education	Schools should never have been shut down. The mandates were extreme. This is America not Germany.	
9/15/2024 11:41	9/15/2024 11:41	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Education	Even conservative School Boards would not follow the science.	
9/13/2024 14:45	9/13/2024 14:53	Eastern					Lancaster				Education	After watching the Lancaster School Board force children to wear masks when returning to school, I did research on the effects of Covid-19 on children's health, the effectiveness of masks, the effects of wearing masks for hours daily, and the effects of sunshine and vitamin D on the virus.	After doing research, it was clear the Lancaster School Board AND the State School Board did not do adequate research on these topics or did not care to protect the physical and/or mental health of our students.
9/13/2024 12:30	9/13/2024 12:37	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education	Both our daughters (now 16 & 12) were forced to wear masks to attend school, creating a severe isolation/anxiety in our oldest, who is only now- after 4 years- willing to attend school again w/ kids her age. She feels unable to connect to other teens and battles w/ the sadness that creates.	https://collateralglobal.org/article/teen-brains-structurally-altered-by-lockdowns-in-pattern-linked-to-chronic-stress/
9/11/2024 14:40	9/11/2024 14:54	Northern							Fairfax		Education	During the Covid emergency the school system was not prepared when the schools were closed and as a result many students did not receive adequate schooling . My question is has a plan be developed that would meet the students needs and not compromise their education.	
9/10/2024 4:44	9/10/2024 4:47	Northern							Fairfax		Education	Schools should have stayed open. The science and proof behind it was there and it was ignored. Our children suffered greatly at the hands of K-12 guidelines.	Teachers were overwhelmed and systems were substandard for any proper kind of learning.
9/9/2024 13:15	9/9/2024 13:19	Central	Albemarle								Education	I worked at an ACPS during 2020. No one should be forced to wear masks, have their temp taken with a wand daily or requiring staff to test weekly if they didn't take the biological weapon. Public education is captured. My daughter was unable to finish kindergarten.	Masks don't work, there is no asymptomatic spread, this was all a push to take away the human rights of workers and children. No state or county has the authority to mandate these measures, no person.
8/17/2024 17:31	8/17/2024 17:36	Central	Chesterfield								Education	There was never a need to mask children and limit their oxygen to their brains!! They have robust immune systems & natural immunity has and always will be far superior to any man made "solutions". Do not repeat the awful mistakes of the past children are still suffering from these poor decisions.	Parental choice should matter and parent's input is essential. Oxygen and safety is also essential. No need to distance and put children in danger as there was never evidence that proved it helpful. Do the research next time please.
9/7/2024 18:56	9/7/2024 18:58	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education	School Nurse	

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9/6/2024 16:14	9/6/2024 16:18	Valley								Frederick	Education	Never again should schools be shutdown for any health related reason. Teachers are still trying to deal with the massive learning loss. Too many children dealt with mental health problems from the drastic changes in their routines.	Never again should masks and social distancing be required. Absence from school should be made based on physical symptoms not a test.
9/2/2024 16:04	9/2/2024 16:35	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Education	Open schools reduce learning loss, social & emotional well-being risks & food scarcity; provide equity access for learning & econ. stability; eliminates childcare and safety issues & provides supporting evidence on transmission. Schools are NOT primary sources of transmission/at-risk population.	Rural divisions in VA generally returned to in-person learning sooner than others. Private institutions remained open. Closed schools = educ & social impacts (absenteeism, learning gaps, loss of teachers, etc). https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2022-pandemic-impact-on-k-12-education.asp
9/1/2024 16:55	9/1/2024 16:59	Northern							Culpeper		Education	Parents should have rights over the state.	
8/20/2024 12:03	8/20/2024 12:17	Central	Goochland								Education	We must never again shut down our schools and churches for a supposed pandemic. Our children have been seriously compromised both intellectually and socially by being isolated from other school-aged children and by online learning, which we know was a poor substitute for classroom-based education.	The fact that any school, college or university can mandate to students that they must submit to an injection of foreign material into their bodies is incomprehensible and, as has been shown by evidence, was actually very harmful in many circumstances. This action violates Constitutional rights.
9/1/2024 11:03	9/1/2024 11:17	Valley							Winchester		Education	Virtual learning was a failure. Our children, least affected by Covid now suffer the most in terms of social isolation, academic loss and rise in mental illness. Masking upon return furthered this isolation and learning. Pressure to vaccinate and test for sports was unjust and discriminatory.	
8/31/2024 17:39	8/31/2024 17:51	Eastern					Richmond				Education	against any mandatory vaccination, or health care. I do not want to be tested or vaccinated, (my choice). No one should ever be mandated to wear a mask or stay home against their own choice. Children have been severely harmed, academically, socially, and mentally due to the restrictions imposed.	Please consider the people's voice as we are extremely annoyed with the pharmaceutical companies using us Guinea pigs for their profits!! We will remember this when it is time to vote!!
8/30/2024 7:41	8/30/2024 7:55	Central	Albemarle								Education	Pathetic. Total destruction of child development for a cold. Schools should NEVER have been shutdown. We moved out of the state just for our kids to be able to continue their education. Just absolutely pathetic leadership - fear and panic is no way to lead. You robbed kids of lifetime memories.	VT same lame leadership of panic and fear. The effective mandating of the death jab just adds to the miserable approach. Sands should be fired for his complete lack of leadership. He aggressively went totally woke and the entire student body paid far too heavily. Disgusting.
8/30/2024 7:09	8/30/2024 7:18	Central	Charlottesville								Education	My two younger children were in the Albemarle school system. My two older children were at Virginia Tech. We felt that the protocols were so extreme that we moved out of the state to give our two younger sons a chance at some normalcy. Virginia lost it's collective minds during this time.	Virginia Tech turned into a tyrannical institution. Forcing young adults to inject themselves with an untested vaccine for the sake of the "community" was downright wrong. My daughter was able to get an exemption but was forced to mask and spit in a cup weekly. (COVID test) Absurd.

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8/29/2024 21:20	8/29/2024 21:27	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education	We removed our kids from public education. Doing classes remotely is a joke. We all know the horrible effects that this had on learning outcomes for children. The response from local governments created a generation of kids who are scared of their own shadows. The government created	this problem and the vast majority went along with it. Interestingly the kids who did the worst were the ones who already had a tough time. Single parent households, or where parents were both working outside the home. What education did those kids receive?
8/23/2024 21:03	8/23/2024 21:05	Northern							Loudoun		Education	Do not shut down schools again, much damage was done educationally and emotionally. Criminal.	
8/28/2024 13:02	8/28/2024 13:03	Central	Henrico								Education	I worked as a substitute teacher in the past for HCPS. I was also an HCPS mom of two daughters.	N/A
8/23/2024 23:06	8/23/2024 23:18	Northern							Fairfax		Education	As a FCPS K-12 educator, I'd like to know when cases are up in my area, school pyramid (4), or school, depending on how specific you can be.	I know there are a lot of “Karens” out there, so you don’t have to mandate masks, but I’d like to know when it would be best to wear one. My friend (in a different area) was in bed with a terrible case of covid this week. I’ve proof that wearing a mask protected me during the worst of the pandemic.
8/28/2024 8:51	8/28/2024 8:55	Central	Henrico								Education	Henrico County administration failed our students particularly children from lower-income households. Marcie Shea in particular was an awful hypocrite. She and the rest of the Board should be ashamed of themselves and their actions. Henrico was a vast wasteland absent of leadership.	Henrico County administration and School Board should reflect long and hard and apologize for their actions. They destroyed childhoods and that is irreparable
8/28/2024 8:23	8/28/2024 8:48	Central	Henrico								Education	The pandemic response was the most corrupt event that directly impacted me, my family and showed me how easily the government can manipulate its people and how people can be manipulated by fear. Please watch this simulation: https://youtu.be/61j4jmSLhQc?si=83lm5C5xRW-qgnVx "The Great Reset".	"The New Normal". Then read these: https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202106/1227219.shtml https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1094347/world-military-games-illness-covid-19 Forced Vaccines, Forced Masking, keeping kids out of school, people out of church. Just pure evil! NEVER AGAIN!!!
8/28/2024 8:03	8/28/2024 8:08	Northern							Loudoun		Education	I have never been so frustrated and at a loss in my life. I truly felt my freedoms had been stripped. There was no one I could call or write for help. I had a school age child in 2020 and I saw him wilting before my eyes. And he was one of the successful ones!!!!	I wrote letter after letter to my school board member, to the superintendent of education for LCPS and to the governors office. No one. Not one person replied. I explained that the Catholic school less than a mile for the school board remained open. They lost no one!!!!
8/27/2024 21:57	8/27/2024 22:04	Northern							Loudoun		Education	It was a disgrace that our children were masked against our consent /will as well as forced to do remote learning which is complete nonsense. Children learn in group settings in person and need facial and emotional interactions with each other. Our children were robbed of their educational rights.	The government should have never forced the mask mandate especially on our children and keeping them home from school for months and months damaged their social development gravely. They may never recover from what they were subjected to in the new “normal”. I moved out of VA to FL for this reason.

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8/25/2024 7:35	8/25/2024 7:52	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Education	My boys started high school during school closures. Their grades declined. Once schools opened, they were forced to mask. The mask caused my type 1 diabetic child to have severe headaches daily and affected his blood sugar. Since the school was not issuing mask exemptions, he was homeschooled.	My daughter was in high school during Covid. She had an IEP due to a head injury that occurred at the school. The school was not able to comply with her IEP requirements because of covid restrictions/school closures. I pulled her out in 10th grade and she finished high school as a homeschooler.
8/27/2024 14:29	8/27/2024 14:32	Northern							Loudoun		Education	The fact that we kept kids home for as long as we did is almost inhumane. Their mental health was never ever considered and they are still suffering now! You have no idea the effects this had! It was the worst thing you could have done to children!	We should have never ever shut down!!! After the two weeks, we should have allowed everything to open! It did nothing but harm our whole society! VA was the worst! You roped off playgrounds, that is deplorable!
8/27/2024 12:08	8/27/2024 12:11	Central	Hanover								Education	Keep schools open and free of any breathing obstructions.	
8/25/2024 8:49	8/25/2024 8:56	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Education	My daughter attended an online only class at Tidewater Community College in 2021. On the first day during a zoom class, the teacher called out each student by name and asked them to state their vaccination status. If they said they were not vaccinated, she ridiculed them.	My daughter recorded it and I turned it into the Dean immediately. The Dean stated that the behavior by the teacher would be taken care of and that the world has gone crazy right now and no teacher was mandated to ask a student's vaccination status. The Dean said this could be a HIPAA violation.
8/26/2024 10:19	8/26/2024 10:48	Hampton Roads				James City					Education	They ignored Governor Northam's guidance to allow children back in school when the cases were low, refused to adhere to Governor Youngkin's mask policy, and tried to force children into masks anyway. Please understand, a 300-character limit is too brief to analyze an 18-month policy.	My children were consistently asked if they were sick, leaving them terrified to go to school, in fear they would get disciplined if they happened to fall sick. They also refused to adhere to some of the medical professionals' guidance. It seems they based all choices on fear rather than reason.
8/27/2024 7:42	8/27/2024 7:43	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education		No.
8/27/2024 7:01	8/27/2024 7:04	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Education	The teacher unions keep schools closed because they did not want to go back to in person teaching. Children were the least vulnerable. Children lost 19 percentiles of learning due to fear of catching what essentially was the bad flu strain.	No
8/26/2024 22:37	8/26/2024 22:42	West Central		Lynchburg							Education	GUV. Nawfum(Northam) made kids sit home, forced teachers to work online, and passed students to the next grade withva 0.0 grade average. Good job! Keep them dimb and more easy to control.	One student did ONE assignment the entire year. But he got to move to the 9th grade. Explain to me how that is "education"?
8/26/2024 12:28	8/26/2024 12:29	Northern							Fairfax		Education	Director level	
8/26/2024 21:29	8/26/2024 21:34	West Central		Appomattox							Education	The commonwealth and most of America handled the pandemic horribly. Shutting the country down was unnecessary and harmful. Essentially mandating online education harmed students academically. Government exceeded its constitutional authority. People should be fired for how they shut us down.	

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8/26/2024 19:02	8/26/2024 19:08	Northern							Loudoun		Education	Absolutely abysmal. Not only were the mandates unlawful, you had no follow through with continuity of mandates and “guidelines” not letting counties set their own restrictions and policies and then after Youngkin going back and suddenly allowing them total agency over and above and the state.	So much money, time, and public school students lost, never to be regained because of corruption and loss of public confidence.
8/26/2024 18:12	8/26/2024 18:16	Central	Orange								Education	Using executive orders and misappropriating them as law to coerce all institutions to shut down “for the greater good” was a total disaster. As a result test scores decreased, behavior got worse, and distrust for all government entities grew exponentially.	
8/26/2024 17:23	8/26/2024 17:30	Valley								Harrisonburg	Education	I worked in the Facility Depart. We worked half time do to the limitation on the number of people that could work together. Vaccines for Covid were recommended but not required. Following CDC guideline our we got room air change calculations. Based on those calculation we purchased fans.	The panic from the public was the result of misinformation on the virus produced by our federal government.
8/26/2024 14:31	8/26/2024 14:34	Central	New Kent								Education	Absolutely disastrous decision to close go virtual with education. The most impacted were those already lagging behind. Losing laptops. Not everyone has internet. This was another war on the poir	
8/26/2024 12:45	8/26/2024 12:51	Central	Albemarle								Education	There was little reason to keep schools online after the Fall 2020 semester. With vaccine rollouts at the start of 2021, the schools should have re-opened then. Loss of learning due to mass online learning will leave a significant cohort of students behind the curve for decades.	I'm for the abolition of teacher unions. But if that is not tolerable, then provisions need to be made in contracts so they can't keep the schools closed during a health emergency.

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10/1/2024 3:34	10/1/2024 3:53	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	The Government at all levels had direct affect in how businesses, restaurants, grocery, hardware stores, churches and schools took place. Instead of allowing flexibility & judgement calls by the owners there were forced shutdowns, Licenses removed, doors locked from the outside, & unnecessary	Government harassment. Not trusting the owners & how the community responded to make appropriate accommodations was a big mistake. Interesting to see how some business etc. like private schools were able to thrive by doing things that were comfortable to them for the folks who wanted to participate.
10/1/2024 0:00	10/1/2024 0:02	Northern						Falls Church			Government and Regulatory Systems	Governement should have no or extremely limited input on our choices. Stay out of the educational choices and leave us alone!!	Let families and individuals decide what they need.
9/30/2024 21:06	9/30/2024 21:09	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems		The checks and balances of the government should keep them from overstepping their authority to encroach on personal liberties.
9/30/2024 19:45	9/30/2024 20:28	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	I was unlawfully and immorally fired from my state job as a result of Northam’s exec. order requiring disclosure of cvd jab status by state employees, even though it was known the jabs did not prevent infection or transmission. This action violated state, federal laws and had no basis in fact.	This unlawful and wrongful termination has been emotionally and financially devastating and had no justifiable basis in reality. It was known I had covid in Dec. 2020 and was treated with Ivermectin by my doctor - and still had verified immunity at the time of my firing. This is TYRANY and INSANITY.
8/6/2024 13:20	8/6/2024 13:33	Northern						Fauquier			Government and Regulatory Systems	I believe Virginia's government failed to preserve the rights of its citizens during the pandemic. The closing of religious houses of worship, in particular, while other activities were condoned, and the complete unwillingness to question the Federal narrative were a disgrace.	I am a minister and combat veteran, a native of VA - You failed me, Virginia - and there are hundreds of thousands like me that feel the same way - I challenge you to verify this claim, and when you do, to offer a formal apology to the people of the Commonwealth.
9/30/2024 18:28	9/30/2024 18:33	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	The governor and government took away many of our basic freedoms-freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom to control which injections we took, the ability to choose to wear a mask or not.	My son was a high school senior/college freshman in 2020. He missed out on many life experiences due to lockdowns. Mental health of teenagers were impacted. We blindly followed the recommendations of an agency with no regard to an entire individual with mental, physical, social AND emotional needs.

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9/30/2024 17:18	9/30/2024 17:33	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	Minority businesses were shut down FOREVER due to the COVID 19 LOCKDOWN!WOMEN owned businesses will never come back due to the SHUTDOWN.But the bigbox companies will go on thanks to the uninformed decision makers.BEST word to describe this tragedy-SHAMEFUL and SAD!ABC stores stayed open but small ..	small businesses were left out to lose everything.Forcing folks to wear masks in the businesses that were open was another sick idea that has only proof now how wrong that was as well as going into a grocery store one way and out another. HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK WE ARE!!!!!!!
9/30/2024 16:55	9/30/2024 17:07	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	No government official, agency, legislative branch, judge, etc., shall have the authority to issue health and safety directives that infringe on any citizens unalienable rights as defined in the Constitution. Mandating social distancing, mask wearing, church and school closings, is unconstitutional	We simply cannot have decrees handed down when they are not based on any medical facts. The vaccines were never tested appropriately and as such were nothing more than experimental shots and we the people were the guinea pigs. Government's chief duty is to protect their citizens, not harm them!
9/30/2024 15:30	9/30/2024 15:35	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	The government determined "essential" businesses. We know every business and job was essential, especially, if it was yours. Thousands of small businesses closed permanently. Many families lost their life savings. Hospitalized patients were denied religious rites and visitors.	Churches, synagogues and small business were closed, while liquor stores, strip clubs and big box stores stayed open. The church is the MOST essential, especially in times of death and crisis. Never in our history have we silenced that which our country was founded upon, a firm belief in God.
8/13/2024 10:18	8/13/2024 10:31	Central	Richmond								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government took away free speech, the freedom to assemble, closed Churches, closed businesses, mandated masks, shots, where you could go, shut our schools down and there was no discussion. The governor was given unlimited power and the GA cowered in fear rather than educating themselves. The gov	coerced people to take "vaccines", a direct violation of Nuremberg Code of ethics. Those harmed by shots are ignored or denied treatment by ignorant healthcare providers because the Gov. continues to prohibit the use of Ivermectin, Hydroxychloroquine and other medications to treat the ill.
9/30/2024 14:23	9/30/2024 14:28	West Central		Montgomery							Government and Regulatory Systems	The governor ruled VA with a heavy hand. He had much too much control. It was ludicrous to close playgrounds, encourage people to stay inside, forbid church attendance, &c. while leaving the ABC stores open. The hypocrisy was on exposed when protests were allowed and real life sequestered.	Mask mandates lingered much, much longer than they ever should have. The heavy-handedness on "encouraging" the vax was uncalled for.

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9/30/2024 13:41	9/30/2024 14:03	Northern							Fauquier		Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia Governor Ralph Northam had no legal right to make mask use mandatory. This violated personal health, individual freedom and was downright unconstitutional. 1st Amendment - violated freedom of speech, assembly and association - we have a right to speak, unencumbered by masks, and to assemble	Violated ADA accommodations requirements - there are people with real medical or psychological reasons they cannot wear masks - those people were ignored and even harassed. EO-79 stated "Any person who declines to wear a mask because of a medical condition shall not be required to produce or ..."
9/30/2024 11:54	9/30/2024 12:00	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	No reason for fed govt to require draconian measures when they have no idea what the required shots would do either to or for us. In my mind Fauci is a traitor when you see the social and economic changes he thrust upon us. Also check out his motives and who i he is related to!	When Fouci was at Richmond Forum as the speaker he had a difficult time defending himself.
9/30/2024 10:28	9/30/2024 10:37	Hampton Roads				James City					Government and Regulatory Systems	As U.S. Senate Health Committee member Rand Paul agreed with expected Trump chronic disease commission head RFK, "there is no pandemic exception to the constitution": https://x.com/brixwe/status/1593029522685067265	If a Republican legislator is decent, he should consider intro'ing bill to clarify right of vaccine religious exemption during an emergency: https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2020/08/24/bill-would-add-religious-exemption-if-coronavirus-vaccine-becomes-mandatory-in-virginia/
9/30/2024 8:42	9/30/2024 8:52	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	All prior epidemiological best practices, studies, and guidelines were blatantly disregarded in the government's response to COVID-19. The decision to shut down private businesses, schools, churches, and gyms, while allowing large chain stores and liquor outlets to remain open..	..revealed the true nature of the response: an authoritarian power grab that undermined the Bill of Rights. This cannot be allowed to happen again. Never should the genuine science be cast aside to trample the inalienable rights of individual Americans.
8/13/2024 14:52	8/13/2024 14:56	Northern							Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	Over stepped and violated our Constitutional Rights. Should never again be given the ability to shut down the economy.	Allow more freedom, less government involvement and regulation in all areas.
8/13/2024 14:52	8/13/2024 14:57	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Governor should not have authority to shut any private business down, shut schools down for in-person education, nor prevent the public from leaving their homes when they desire for any period of time during a time like COVID-19 or any similar situation.	

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9/29/2024 21:15	9/29/2024 22:33	Northern							Alexandria		Government and Regulatory Systems	The notion of long-term emergency powers is completely inappropriate. Emergency powers should always be temporary, to cover unforeseen circumstances where immediate actions are needed (one month max, renewable depending on the extent and uniqueness of the emergency).	Committee members involved in determining medical policies should have medical backgrounds before they go on to determine what medical measures should to be applied to all persons residing in this state.
8/13/2024 15:11	8/13/2024 15:13	Northern							Culpeper		Government and Regulatory Systems	The way the pandemic was handled in VA was a disgrace. Our then governor violated our constitutional rights and human rights. We can never let this happen again.	The medical community also violated our rights by trying to coerce citizens into taking an experimental vaccine. People lost their jobs, businesses and more and were denied medical treatment for opting out. It's egregious. Never again.
8/13/2024 15:33	8/13/2024 15:42	Eastern					Accomack				Government and Regulatory Systems	Government should never again be allowed to mandate medical interventions or require businesses to close/modify their operations. Recommendations must include the scientific data from which they are based.	Transparency and a better track record of respecting the rights and freedoms of the citizens will be required to restore trust.
9/29/2024 14:18	9/29/2024 14:25	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	I was deeply disturbed as the pandemic response unfolded to see which places and services were deemed "essential" and which were not. Churches were closed but ABC stores were open. Public schools were kept closed and children have suffered severe gaps in learning as a result.	
9/29/2024 11:49	9/29/2024 11:58	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia must reject Federal government directives on public health matters. The by the Federal government, and its censorship efforts by the CDC and the White House, created unnecessary fear and deceived millions into taking an experimental injection that proved neither safe nor effective.	Virginia must assert the Federalist principles of the Constitution and reject Federal government demands on public health issues.
8/13/2024 16:24	8/13/2024 16:41	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	I stand on the liberties granted to me in the U.S. Constitution. These Rights are moral truths and imply my desire to live as I wish—to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I do not consent to mandated lockdown, medical directives, or overreaches by unelected or elected state actors.	I have, in my possession, a notarized document from my church exempting me from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. It is dated 10/22/2021. I would resist and refuse future state-mandated vaccines on these same religious grounds.

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9/29/2024 8:59	9/29/2024 9:04		Hampton Roads			Gloucester					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should not mandate our freedoms. Our choice of care. Government should not shut down churches and businesses	
9/29/2024 8:28	9/29/2024 8:54		Hampton Roads			Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Seems you really do not want public comment with only 600 characters available for words to encapsulate 4 years of deplorable diabolical responses. A grand measure of calculated failure. I offer Senator Ron Johnson's hearing from 1/24/22 on the matter. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asw_FBipVpg	Senator Ron Johnson's "American Health and Nutrition: A Second Opinion" roundtable discussion from 9/23/24. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iWE465RC0k I feel thankful one person in an elected representative seat cares enough to investigate.
9/28/2024 21:54	9/28/2024 22:30		Hampton Roads			James City					Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia needs to create a medical freedom constitutional amendment. A U.S. doctor wrote one for El Salvador because the country's leader knows what freedom is and how to implement it. Our governor, general assembly, VDH, and police force do NOT have the right to tell Virginians to mask, inject,	or take medical treatments they don't want even in times of "emergencies." They don't have the right to control doctor's clinical treatment decisions. Virginia needs to act as an autonomous state, not follow untested and unconstitutional federal/CDC dictates. We control our bodies, not the state.
8/13/2024 17:44	8/13/2024 17:47		Northern					Stafford			Government and Regulatory Systems	No government agency should be allowed to continue operates for more than 90 days with out elected officials approving another 90 extension.	Government completely overstepped their bounds into citizens private life restricting constitutional given freedom.
9/28/2024 21:38	9/28/2024 21:40		West Central	Bedford							Government and Regulatory Systems	Do not mandate.	Do not mandate.
8/13/2024 17:46	8/13/2024 18:07		Central	Albemarle							Government and Regulatory Systems	There must be more measured and calculated responses to future outbreaks of viruses. Transparency, accountability, and individual freedom of choice should be the guiding factors in any future outbreaks.	Freedom of choice, including alternative therapies, must be part of the future. Those decisions should be made between a person and their healthcare professional only - not government officials at any level.
9/28/2024 18:02	9/28/2024 18:17		Northern					Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	I detest government mandates that closed churches, schools, and small businesses severely crippling our economy and putting many small businesses out of business. I am opposed to mandates that completely bypass an individual's right to refuse to take ANY drug without allowing for informed consent.	

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8/13/2024 19:33	8/13/2024 19:42	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	There need to be limits on the Govenors powers to declare a state of emergency. Mandatory business closures should never happen again. Laws need to be passed limiting the power of government to mandate any action by private citizens (masks) & businesses for any reason.	All government officials elected or not who supported mandates and closures should be investigated and if found to have conflicts of interest should be prosecuted by Virginia.
8/13/2024 19:53	8/13/2024 20:05	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	Closing churches was unconstitutional and a determinant to the community. Houses of worship are places that provide spiritual healing which was necessary during that uncertain time. Now we are finding out an epidemic of loneliness that reduces the quality of life of many and possible early death.	The Governor should not have the unilateral power to make Executive orders that close down churches, businesses and private gatherings without the approval of the General Assembly. This was a blatant abuse of power and should never happen again.
9/28/2024 17:08	9/28/2024 17:11	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	The legislature should establish stronger, continuing oversight by requiring legislative approval at least every 90 days for any state of emergency to continue, including any limitations enacted pursuant to such declaration	
9/28/2024 16:13	9/28/2024 16:21	Northern						Loudoun			Government and Regulatory Systems	My husband is a minority owner of a small business that was shut down for months in Loudoun County during the COVID-19 pandemic because then Governor Northam deemed it non-essential. My family lost 10s of thousands of dollars in income that we needed to live and will never be able to recover from.	This gross government overreach destroyed the lives of so many small business owners in VA. and today there is still no accountability for elected officials who destroyed the livelihoods of hard-working Virginians.
8/13/2024 21:24	8/13/2024 21:39	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	US Government should reject treaties making WHO recommendations supersede our national interests in emergency response. Doctors, researchers, virologists, etc. should have the freedom to discuss and try creative solutions without being crushed by government.	
9/28/2024 16:10	9/28/2024 16:19	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	No government should be allowed to force U.S. Citizens to take unwanted vaccines. The COVID crisis was worse because vaccine had not completed long term testing; was thus experimental. Further,some people had adverse reactions to their first shot, nevertheless they were encouraged to take a second!	Government officials and doctors who pushed the experimental vaccines should be prosecuted and fined. If they caused physical harm they should be imprisoned.

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9/28/2024 15:28	9/28/2024 15:34	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	The long COVID shutdown proclaimed by the former Governor should have been reviewed and need to be approved by others before implementing It was unrealistic and caused catastrophic hardship in education, and the economy resulting in the loss of jobs and shutdown of too many small businesses.	
8/14/2024 12:42	8/14/2024 12:46	Northern						Fauquier			Government and Regulatory Systems	I was nearly fired from my job for refusing to get the vaccine. I was pregnant and wasn't comfortable with the risks and unknowns. Although I ended up not being fired due to the mandate being lifted, I still experienced a mental and emotional toll from the stress of worrying about losing my income.	No vaccine should ever be mandated or forced upon a person in any way. Threatening people's livelihoods was a crime against humanity.
9/28/2024 14:40	9/28/2024 14:47	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	The powers exercised by the Governor at that time were overly broad and should have been checked. There was no data nor research to support travel bans within the state, masking, shutdown of businesses, nor penalties for violations of these unlawful powers.	Legislation must be passed to limit any such authority to a maximum of 7 days if that long. The data related to the pandemic was circumspect with many studies now out clearly contradicting the CDC guidance. Commerce, education, and personal freedom were all negatively impacted by this overreach.
8/14/2024 12:29	8/14/2024 13:10	West Central		Franklin							Government and Regulatory Systems	Never again should the Va. government defy the U.S. Constitution by arbitrarily adopting mandates (& pressuring businesses to do the same) for vaccine compliance in order to work, go to school, or get health care; require citizens to follow rules such as masking & social distancing which no science	supports, & interfere in the ability of citizens to make a living, socialize, attend church or fill medical prescriptions. Va.'s response was the most shameful act of authoritarianism in its history surpassed only by Gov. Dunmore's use of martial law to force citizens to support the King in 1775!
9/28/2024 12:38	9/28/2024 12:40	Northern						Prince William			Government and Regulatory Systems		
8/14/2024 15:55	8/14/2024 16:05	Southside			Danville						Government and Regulatory Systems	Under no circumstances should there ever be mandatory vaccinations, lockdowns, restrictions, or an event related to public health that allows government to restrict the rights of individuals. ALL medical options should be allowable based on individual exercise of choice and doctor's advice.	The Commonwealth of Virginia owes an apology to every single Virginian who is a victim of being forced to take a Covid-19 mRNA vaccination and is now suffering the consequences. Every family who lost a loved one due to the mRNA shot causing death is owed compensation. There are many victims.

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9/28/2024 11:56	9/28/2024 12:00	Northern							Alexandria		Government and Regulatory Systems	No me should be telling what someone should or should not do w/ their health. We are live men and females. We are no ones guinea pigs for any government experiment. No one & I mean no one should bully, harass or intimidate anyone in their medical preference. Nuremberg 2.0 on anyone that does.	
8/14/2024 20:48	8/14/2024 21:01	Northern							Clarke		Government and Regulatory Systems	Because of government overreach at all levels, citizens have lost trust in government "institutions." I left nursing after 25 years because of the villification of anyone who dared have a thought contrary to the CDC. The already existing nursing shortage was exacerbated due to this.	Government should never dictate a person must potentially poison their body or lose their means of financial provision. My friend's daughter, a healthy yound woman in her 20s who worked in healthcare, became paralyzed after her 3rd job-required COVID shot.
9/28/2024 10:55	9/28/2024 10:55	Northern							Manassas		Government and Regulatory Systems		
9/28/2024 10:26	9/28/2024 10:31	Hampton Roads				Portsmouth					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government determined "essential" businesses. We know every business and job was essential, especially. Thousands of small businesses closed permanently. Many families lost their life savings. Places of worship were closed. Never in our history have we silenced worship of GOD.	The education of our children was completely disrupted. Many children lost 2-3 years of development. There are not enough resources to compensate for the damage done. The action to close schools resulted in grave harm.
8/15/2024 10:43	8/15/2024 10:54	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	No Governor or any state authority should have the tyrannical power to classify a business as "non-essential" whether it's an emergency or not. Any "emergency" order should be limited to 30 days max and legislature should be able to override it with 2/3 majority vote.	No vaccines or shots should ever be required for any citizen to exercise their right to live their lives, particularly when none of them ever since the polio one have been studied in a placebo-controlled trial (they aren't safe and effective).
8/15/2024 10:57	8/15/2024 11:03	Central	Powhatan								Government and Regulatory Systems	The ability of the governor to decide on a unilateral basis which businesses were "essential" and which ones weren't demonstrated a level of overreach that simply must never be allowed again. Close churches but leave liquor stores open, because liquor stores posed a lower infection risk?	I worked as a pharmacist at a level 1 trauma center in Richmond throughout the pandemic and never caught COVID-19. I declined the vaccine and lost my job, remaining unemployable for over 2 years because of mandates. I am looking for answers and accountability.

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8/15/2024 12:28	8/15/2024 12:39	Central	Louisa								Government and Regulatory Systems	Mandating Covid-19 vaccination was an egregious violation of human rights. Government-ordered closures of businesses and schools was unnecessary and injurious to individuals and families, damaging the economy and stunting education.	State agency University of Virginia fired employees for declining the barely-tested, largely useless, and potentially dangerous Covid-19 vaccination. Those employees must all receive back pay and be offered reinstatement without penalty.
9/28/2024 9:39	9/28/2024 9:53	Central	Colonial Heights								Government and Regulatory Systems	We need to know whats going on, what bills are up and whats stopped, what our governor's powers are, why dont we know what hes doing and what he's working on, what about WHO? What about emergency preparedness for that. What about illegals and gangs? What about our schools safety. And high costs.?	Im tired of nobody in authority standing up for our rights ahead of time rather than after incidents and legislation rules. No choices in choosing either. Government isnt so someone in power makes their choice, its about true constituent choices, being involved in our own rules and laws etc.
8/16/2024 7:22	8/16/2024 7:28	Hampton Roads				James City					Government and Regulatory Systems	Proud to have stood up against the mandates and mania. It is disgusting to watch these DEIA initiatives, and yet, folks treated the unvax like we had leprosy. If you are still taking the boosters, good for you. If you stopped, you owe all of us an apology for your prejudice and stupidity!	Hold your Doctors and Hospitals accountable too! They were equally as stupid!
8/16/2024 8:44	8/16/2024 8:45	Central	Richmond								Government and Regulatory Systems	I took Ivermectin and got better.	I took Ivermectin and got better.
9/28/2024 8:47	9/28/2024 8:51	Central	Louisa								Government and Regulatory Systems	People would have medical freedom. People should not be treated differently due to what they choose. Also, what was done was not based on the information and stories and facts out there.	Many will not follow or believe what they are told in the future. Trust was ruined and it opened many people's eyes. That was a good thing, many needed eyes opened that aren't as educated in the medical information.
9/28/2024 8:26	9/28/2024 8:47	Central	Orange								Government and Regulatory Systems	Emergency powers should be the absolute total last resort. And never should the rights of our citizens be taken away by government whether elected or non elected bureaucrats. Never should your plan be based on closing down businesses, schools or houses of worship.	This last overreach & suppression of medical information by the federal and state govts was criminal. We know about Big Tech/Big Govt/Big Pharma and how they worked together to censor, control and spread fear among our people. Truth was always there; but govt chose to suppress it.
8/18/2024 17:57	8/18/2024 18:06	Valley							Frederick		Government and Regulatory Systems	Business owners lost their life savings during Covid-19. Meanwhile, Costco, ABC stores and other places were allowed to stay open. Churches were forced to remain closed. This is a double-standard and never should have happened. Any place of business that closes hurts our citizens and economy.	Forcing the wearing of masks proved futile and should never have been mandated. Forcing children to wear masks while on the bus and during school was inhumane and more harmful than not wearing a mask. This should never happen again. False information must be cleaned from your pages.

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9/28/2024 8:21	9/28/2024 8:33		Hampton Roads			Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government of Virginia coerced businesses, under threat of removal of their business licenses, if they did not enforce what government was not constitutionally allowed to. People were othered and not allowed to participate in society without a mask, vaccines, papers proving vaccination, etc.	Legislation must be passed that makes any business being used by government to do what would normally be a government function (such as enforcing law and regulation) to be subject to the same restrictions and constitutional protection mechanisms as government itself as they act as a gov. agency.
9/28/2024 7:44	9/28/2024 7:53			Northern				Loudoun			Government and Regulatory Systems	I don't know if I am volcing this correct, but I don't ever want to see the government force us take vaccines or shut us down.	
9/28/2024 7:36	9/28/2024 7:44		Central	Chesterfield							Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor and/or Legislators should NEVER have the authority to close our churches or forbid the movement of its citizens.	Yes....our government should NEVER again force any kind of vaccine (experictional or not) on its citizens.
9/28/2024 7:15	9/28/2024 7:22		Central	Hanover							Government and Regulatory Systems	The powers of the government to mandate lockdowns of people/businesses should be limited. Governments, in ANY form should never be in the line of decisions on treatments for, or the prevention of illness. Mandating invasive untested treatments- like- vaccines should be irrevocably banned.	Never again.
8/20/2024 12:20	8/20/2024 12:39		Central	Goochland							Government and Regulatory Systems	Our legislature should immediately pass a law stating that Virginia is not bound by any decrees issued by the WHO or bound by International Health Regulations. Those decrees and regulations should only be used in an advisory capacity as none of the officials are actually elected by U.S. citizens.	The announcement of a pandemic, real or not, does not strip individuals of their God-given rights! When we see that a vaccine does not protect, but actually harms, we should enact legislation that prohibits any advertisement that continues to advocate for the jab and enact penalties for doing so.
8/21/2024 12:43	8/21/2024 12:50			Hampton Roads		Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Our governor needs the flexibility to declare emergencies for short duration critical situations such as hurricanes. They should NOT be able to extend these type of dictatorial powers beyond a few weeks, perhaps 8 at the very most.	We do NOT give up our inalienable rights endowed by our creator, just because some elected politician deems there to be a short duration problem. If you don't know where those terms come from, YOU are the problem.
9/27/2024 9:37	9/27/2024 9:41		Hampton Roads			Williamsburg					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government as a whole over stepped its authority in applying draconian economy killing measures. What ever laws were used as justification need to be reevaluated and likely repealed and replaced.	

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9/26/2024 21:04	9/26/2024 21:22	Hampton Roads				Suffolk					Government and Regulatory Systems	I was disappointed in my Government spewing such malarkey about Covid and using it as a power play against the citizens. I grew up in a Medical Family. Good medical practices went out the door for treating Covid. Ivermectin saved me. I was ridiculed from the liberal, concierge docs that I had	I am horrified by what we are doing to children with these vaccines
9/26/2024 18:22	9/26/2024 18:30	West Central		Campbell							Government and Regulatory Systems	Governmentneeds to get out peoples lives.	
9/25/2024 8:42	9/25/2024 9:04	Eastern					Northumberland				Government and Regulatory Systems	Too much power was given to the government to control our private lives. Only big stores were allowed to be open while small stores were shut down. Masks were required to enter restaurants then we took them off to eat. This is faulty logic! Our civil rights and basic freedoms were lost	The government took control over our personal health care and vaccine requirements. We were lied to about vaccine effects and origins of Covid.
9/24/2024 23:41	9/24/2024 23:43	West Central		Roanoke							Government and Regulatory Systems		
9/24/2024 10:27	9/24/2024 10:39	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	Survivable diseases are not the reason for emergency powers. Even very deadly ones raise questions about which measures are appropriate.	Enforcing public health recommendations through police and other government force is a dictatorship.
8/24/2024 4:30	8/24/2024 4:33	Northern						Loudoun			Government and Regulatory Systems	There are very few emergency powers necessary during a pandemic. Any power needs legislative approval and oversight by a body of non-government officials and citizens.	
8/24/2024 17:22	8/24/2024 17:36	Southwest						Scott			Government and Regulatory Systems	Regarding pandemics: GIVE US THE INFORMATION, MEDICATIONS, AND LIBERTY to care for ourselves and our families. STOP mandating useless protocols (like wearing masks/“social” distancing and other methods of inducing primal fear among the populace!). Allow our children to be students/athletes/normal!	Allow our businesses to remain open, stop paying people to stay home, and stop giving us false information as was done in 2020. Fear mongering benefits only totalitarian politicians and the pharmaceutical industry.
8/24/2024 17:37	8/24/2024 17:47	Hampton Roads				James City					Government and Regulatory Systems	The shut down of schools, churches and small businesses was disgraceful and unconstitutional. The Governor abused his emergency powers to take away our inalienable rights, causing irreparable harm to businesses, emotional harm to citizens and developmental harm to children. Never again.	Small businesses in particular suffered, restaurants were forced to adapt to outside seating and carry out to survive. Citizens suffered emotional breakdowns from mask mandates and forced social distancing. We experienced a type of mass hysteria about exposure to illness. Leadership was inept.

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9/23/2024 21:54	9/23/2024 21:56		Hampton Roads			Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	Government abused its power by coercing the public into taking experimental and unproven RNA treatment that neither was effective in preventing the virus or stopping the spread as it was initially presented. This action poses an escalation of governmental abuse and violation of trust.	
9/23/2024 15:37	9/23/2024 18:24		Southside		Martinsville						Government and Regulatory Systems	https://www.fluoridefreepeel.ca/fois-reveal-that-health-science-institutions-around-the-world-have-no-record-of-sars-cov-2-isolation-purification/ https://christinemasseyfois.substack.com/	https://search.mercola.com/results.aspx?q=masks#stq=masks https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2022/01/27/health-officials-deny-death-from-covid-shots.aspx https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2022/02/16/covid-patients-over-treated-to-death.aspx
9/23/2024 11:44	9/23/2024 17:31		Northern					Loudoun			Government and Regulatory Systems	The rights to assemble, speak freely, worship, control our bodies, earn a living, & travel, were all impeded by this oversensationalized illness. Early studies showed improvement by Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, & monoclonal antibodies, Why were we forced to be lab rats for an untested vaccine?	300 characters is NOT ENOUGH to state how corrupt, illegal and immoral the entire Covid lockdown was AND CONTINUES TO BE. People lost their jobs, home and family members. The Freedom of Speech was denied to all, but most especially by the government and big tech WHO MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.
8/25/2024 8:07	8/25/2024 8:22		Hampton Roads			Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	I had submitted several FOIA requests to Chesapeake Public Schools regarding their covid response which affected all 3 of my children. The fees to obtain the information were extremely high, one as much as \$16,000. The request I did pay for was over \$500. It contained information regarding	religious "accommodations" for masks. There was a secretive 3 person panel "grading" people's answers as to how religious they were. If you did not score high, no "accommodation" was granted. The accommodations were not backed by science, ie... face shields did not prevent the spread of covid.
9/23/2024 15:15	9/23/2024 15:18		Central			Chesterfield					Government and Regulatory Systems	Citizens should have the option to choose how they respond to a health crisis, not the govt.	
9/23/2024 14:58	9/23/2024 15:04		Central			New Kent					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should not restrict free trade or the right of the public to assemble. Businesses should not be closed; commerce should not be restricted, and churches & schools should not be closed or restricted. The government should not in any way seek to require, track or enforce vaccine status.	Pass laws that restrict the ability of the federal government to dictate compliance due to the absence any state laws to the contrary.

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8/26/2024 12:12	8/26/2024 12:14		Hampton Roads			Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	No more forced vaccinations, no more forced mask wearing. COVID-19 does not exist, it is a hoax.	
9/23/2024 14:49	9/23/2024 14:54		Northern						Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government has no authority to shut down businesses under a so-called pandemic emergency or to force people to get any shot(s) or wear masks. This violates our rights under the Constitution on Virginia and the US Constitution.	Leave people and businesses alone!
8/26/2024 12:01	8/26/2024 12:18		Northern						Spotsylvania		Government and Regulatory Systems	I believe it is extremely crucial in any kind of medical emerg. pandemic type response, that the gov. control does not encroach on the critically important freedoms in our first amendment. Notably, freedom to gather in churches, & their being deemed non-essential while liquor stores were essential!	The bias in allowing mass protest for certain issues, while shutting down others, and allowing big box stores while shutting particularly schools is unconscionable for our children, and the permanent damage that was done. Never again!
9/23/2024 14:41	9/23/2024 14:49		Central	Fluvanna							Government and Regulatory Systems	The government information provided was biased and misleading. Opposing medical opinions were not provided and were cancelled. As a result, I do not trust the government, the pharmaceutical companies and, to a lesser extent, the healthcare providers.	Tell the truth on vaccines and masks. Let opposing scientists and doctors have their say. Have honest debates with the differing opinions and let individuals decide what's best for them and their families.
9/23/2024 14:11	9/23/2024 14:33		Northern						Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Advised by a corrupt medical establishment, and without any cost benefit analysis, you implemented policies which (a) harmed business and family (closing business, church, school) (b) had no scientific basis, and served no useful purpose (masks, distancing) (c) were unethical and illegal	No
8/26/2024 12:20	8/26/2024 12:36		Northern						Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government illegally and unnecessarily shut down many small businesses and mandated distancing protocols. It also incentivized all downstream organizations to mandate or at least strongly encourage the use of similar protocols. None of this was substantiated or beneficial to the public.	The government also incentivized the medical establishment and private companies (such as drug stores) to either ban safe, inexpensive treatments, or make them nearly inaccessible. Ex: Ivermectin and HCQ were known in early 2020 to be beneficial for C19. https://c19ivm.org/meta.html

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8/26/2024 12:22	8/26/2024 12:36	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	I understand that health emergencies may require extraordinary actions by our government but the extent of the shutdowns was too broad and for too long. This lead to some very erratic and inconsistent applications, for instance regarding grocery stores as essential but not churches.	I think the pathological example of the misapplications of shutdowns was in the schools. The lethality of COVID for young persons was very low and with the vaccine broadly rolled out, the schools should have remained open for 2021.
8/26/2024 12:19	8/26/2024 12:37	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government did not act in the best interests of the public.Open scientific dialogue was censored and practitioner feedback from the front lines was excluded.Mandates violated due process and Geneva Conventions.Businesses were force to shutter and experimental injectables mandated	under threat of loss of employment, banishment from school, and restriction of travel liberties.Public comment and testimony were censored.Many Constitutional rights were egregiously violated: free speech, private property, due process, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement.
9/23/2024 13:34	9/23/2024 13:36	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems		
9/23/2024 13:20	9/23/2024 13:22	Northern						Loudoun			Government and Regulatory Systems	Our governor at the time of the pandemic trampled our rights and the government allowed him to. I hope that we do not see this again and that no unconstitutional treaties are signed on our behalf. We did not vote for this and we did not vote to forego medical freedom.	
8/26/2024 12:31	8/26/2024 12:42	Northern						Prince William			Government and Regulatory Systems	It's wrong that the government at any level mandated a pharmaceutical product that was unknown and untested. It was wrong that VA went along with the public health measures that were not scientifically sound. Ostracizing doctors who actually did the science and closing small businesses was wrong.	We need to protect the rights of people to live the free and independent lives that we are allowed under our constitution. We don't need more pandemic bureaucratic nonsense.
9/23/2024 12:36	9/23/2024 12:38	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should not be involved in my health care issues not dictate what medical decisions I make	
9/23/2024 12:10	9/23/2024 12:15	West Central		Roanoke							Government and Regulatory Systems	Even in a so called state of emergency, the Constitution remains the law of the land! You may make suggestions. You work for We the People! The Governor's powers to keep us in a state of Emergency needs a check and balance codified!	

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9/23/2024 11:30	9/23/2024 11:43	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	The level of intrusiveness associated with preventing people from earning a living subject to an arbitrary selection of what is 'vital' employment or profession should never, ever be repeated. The level of economic destruction by closing of businesses and churches was not warranted.	Political elites seen disobeying their own proclamations was shameful. Regrettably they seem to know no shame!
8/26/2024 12:47	8/26/2024 12:53	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	The draconian government edicts forced on Americans during the COVID outbreak was outrageous, an affront to our freedom as Americans and caused great harm to the elderly, their family members who were kept away as they were dying and to children who did not need the drugs that were forced on them.	There must not be any future attempt to force Americans to take drugs or to close schools and churches due to a predominantly non-lethal virus. It was ab outrage.
8/26/2024 12:49	8/26/2024 12:58	Central	Richmond								Government and Regulatory Systems	I almost lost my job (incurred a disability so I did not, but would have). Was going to be forced to get a vaccine even though I was working from home! This was a State action for ALL State vendors. This was a common sense oversight in the largest degree.	I am appalled that common sense approach to remedies were neglected and forcefully stopped in Virginia (Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine should be over-the-counter as they are in most of the world). Mask serve no purpose in prevention as well. Vitamin supplements were prohibited as an option!
8/26/2024 12:59	8/26/2024 13:01	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	My rights were violated. I was not allowed to shop at Giant without a mask. I was kicked out of CVS because I didn't wear a mask. I was put through medical tyranny in public places.	I will not comply with anything like the lockdowns/mandates again.
9/23/2024 11:18	9/23/2024 11:30	Valley								Rockingham	Government and Regulatory Systems	The covid state of emergency lasted entirely too long. There need to be clear restrictions on how long a state of emergency initially lasts and how long it can be extended. If over a certain period (15 days for example) the legislature should have to vote on extension.	In addition, the government should not be able to choose what are “essential” businesses. All business is essential to the families it supports. Many small businesses never reopened and the owners lost everything.
8/26/2024 13:17	8/26/2024 13:21	Central	New Kent								Government and Regulatory Systems	Next time abide by the United States of America Constitution & all associated documents. Tyranny is no way to govern. People in power work FOR the PEOPLE, not AGAINST the people. Ralph Northman & the Democrats who think of them selves as RULERS are mistaken. I will never forgive or forget.	Dr Fauci needs to be prosecuted for his crime against humanity.

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8/26/2024 13:14	8/26/2024 13:21	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	The forceable shut-down of my small business within the wedding industry was catastrophic and noticeably unfair. In comparison to high school and college graduations, church services, open-air concerts, etc, weddings were restricted time and time again, subject to the whims of former Gov Northam.	I have so much more to say, but you only allow so many characters. To keep things succinct, VA government did a horrible job at keeping small businesses afloat, protecting our freedoms, punishing rioters & bullies destroying our capital, and maintaining American decency
8/26/2024 13:17	8/26/2024 13:22	West Central		Roanoke							Government and Regulatory Systems	The unlimited and unchecked power of the Governor's executive and/or emergency orders needs SEVERE restriction and accountability with codified, pre-set time limits.	
8/26/2024 13:58	8/26/2024 14:04	Hampton Roads				Newport News					Government and Regulatory Systems	Never let the media dictate the information provide to the people. It was impossible to sort out truth from lies being proved. Media scams and scare tactics dictated and were not always the truth or following the science.	No!
8/26/2024 13:56	8/26/2024 14:17	Central	Hanover								Government and Regulatory Systems	A single mask cannot be worn for a full school day and be expected to provide protection of any kind. Those in nursing homes need advocates -family members to ensure physical needs are being met, cleanliness, and pick-up on early signs for medical care needed. Don't restrict them from visiting.	Federal Agencies Like the FDA show how we need more Americans to master science specialties and adhere strongly scientific methodology and protocols for accurate results and reporting. Politics and money should not dictate how fast or the manner solutions should be reached.
9/23/2024 11:06	9/23/2024 11:15	Northern						Prince William			Government and Regulatory Systems	The first shot if the Pfizer vaccine caused a DVT in my right leg, then while on blood thinners for that the second shot gave me DVTs in both legs. Now I am on expensive drugs for the rest of my life and have no means of recourse.	You have all seen the studies. This vaccine has helped none and hurt many. The federal government who tries to ignore this needs to be held accountable.
8/26/2024 14:20	8/26/2024 14:33	Northern						Loudoun			Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should never be able to mandate or coerce the use of an experimental medical product. We should always follow the Nuremberg Code and the principle of informed consent. In the case of the Covid "vaccine," it wasn't even a true vaccine; it was an experimental gene therapy.	During the pandemic I was prevented by local police from going to two different parks on two occasions. This was absolutely crazy -- the best place to be was outside, getting some sunlight and improving my Vitamin D levels. So many public officials seem to be clueless about true health.
9/23/2024 10:55	9/23/2024 11:03	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	The government (the CDC) lied about Ivermectin, despite the evidence that it was effective. The perpetrators of the lie should be severally punished. They caused many to die. The CDC now silently admits it is effective.	The CDC's lies and the media's lies are destroying the country.

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9/23/2024 11:00	9/23/2024 11:02								Loudoun		Government and Regulatory Systems	I was let go due to not taking the covid shot.	I wish I had some recourse.
9/23/2024 10:56	9/23/2024 11:01		Hampton Roads			Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	I'd like to understand how our Governor & AG intend to protect Virginians' sovereignty as US citizens & Virginia residents, especially in the event of a future pandemic or state of emergency.	
9/23/2024 10:59	9/23/2024 11:00		Hampton Roads			Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems		
9/22/2024 15:02	9/22/2024 15:06							Prince William			Government and Regulatory Systems	I believe the response to the Covid-19 virus was inhumane. The response took away a person's right to choose what to do, and tried to coerce everyone to do what the creator of the response wanted them to do (bully). Many people had medical or religious reasons not to take the vaccine.	. The entire spectacle reminded me of children who are bullies and want to get their way.
8/26/2024 16:10	8/26/2024 16:58		Central	Chesterfield							Government and Regulatory Systems	Although I never got Covid, I got sick due to the requirements of the gov't to stay home. My apt's HVAC system & all the vents were covered with mold & I got mold toxicity. I suffered from & still do from chronic anxiety with chest pain, chronic fatigue, neuropathy in my feet,headaches,SIBO,IBS.	
9/22/2024 6:52	9/22/2024 7:06								Fauquier		Government and Regulatory Systems	The overreach of governing power during this time of pandemic was sickening. Unnecessarily and illogical measures were taken to control people but not to ensure their health or wellbeing. I had serious issues with masking and the general shutting down of facilities.	Let people breathe and smile at one another. The cure was worse than the disease. It is insane to encourage and promote OCD levels of cleanliness and order. OCD stands for Obsessive Compulsive DISORDER!
9/21/2024 17:52	9/21/2024 17:59							Wise			Government and Regulatory Systems	We will NEVER AGAIN submit to lockdowns or mandates of any shape or form. The Governor, the Virginia Department of Health nor any unelected entity will NOT take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, or our right to work and protect our families.	We will NOT allow our elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable appointed bureaucrats! NEVER AGAIN will we submit to lockdowns, masking, nor any the other nonsense that was perpetrated during the 2020 PLANDEMIC!
9/19/2024 6:32	9/19/2024 6:35		Valley							Shenandoah	Government and Regulatory Systems		

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9/17/2024 17:24	9/17/2024 17:52		Hampton Roads			Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Heretofore, during times of crisis, particularly health, the government, et al, has acted in a tyrannical fashion rather than as the people's servant. Health and well being decisions were fundamentally arbitrary, influenced by political biases and intentionally ignoring the finest world experts.	Comprehensively, the deterioration of trust in our societal systems, i.e healthcare & elections, was a result of arrogant behavior on a level of hubris. Broad accountability was denied to the finest advisors America could hope for. Little to nothing has been effected to correct those malefactions.
9/16/2024 20:15	9/16/2024 20:17	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	We do not want any lockdowns or closing of schools and businesses! No WHO mandates should apply to our country or state!	
9/16/2024 19:23	9/16/2024 20:02	West Central		Lynchburg							Government and Regulatory Systems	Governor/Lt. Governor/State Attorney General/State Congress: you must uphold the medical freedoms of the sovereign people of Virginia to make it illegal to mandate any medicines and medical therapies. Also the state should not consent to WHO regulations by unelected officials.	As part of medical freedoms the state should not mandate Fluoride, Chlorine and other toxins in our public drinking water. The state should promote Primary Water for all municipal water. http://primarywaterinstitute.org https://primarywater.org/
8/26/2024 18:34	8/26/2024 18:37	Central	Orange								Government and Regulatory Systems	I give you a D. Shutting down small businesses and masking was stupid. Virginia was not the worst so that is why I give it a D.	We need legislation limiting the power of politicians to declare an "emergency".
8/26/2024 18:35	8/26/2024 18:43	Northern						Spotsylvania			Government and Regulatory Systems	The government didn't do enough to keep schools open, letting each division choose, despite other countries safely reopening schools. The endless lockdowns, mask mandates and threats of mandating Vax'es was unconstitutional. Never again should anybody violate people's Constitutional rights	Only democrat ran states, at the time VA was democrat controlled, thought they were above the Constitution. Any lawmaker who violates Constitutional rights, should be immediately impeached for violating their oath.
9/16/2024 14:28	9/16/2024 14:38	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	Government should never mandate healthcare. The tyranny caused unnecessary deaths and physical and financial suffering continue.	Government should not insert itself in healthcare.
8/26/2024 19:00	8/26/2024 19:06		Hampton Roads			Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	During the pandemic there was a complete government over reach. Stopping citizens from sitting in the beach, closing schools,many other restrictions! Most importantly Virginia Universities and colleges mandated an experimental vaccine with no long term studies. This is against the Nuremberg Code.	Many young people who were mandated to take the experimental vaccine now have severe health issues such as myocarditis due to the vaccine. That should never happen again!

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9/16/2024 10:28	9/16/2024 10:32	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems	The government should never lockdown the people again. The government is supposed to serve the people, not rule over them. The people are the rulers of the land and should be free to go where they choose as well as to take whatever medical treatments the people deem fit.	Seek wisdom from above in all that you do.
9/16/2024 9:54	9/16/2024 10:03	West Central		Lynchburg							Government and Regulatory Systems	We won't allow elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats with financial interests in the "solutions" they mandate. The Governor shall not allow any entity to take our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our right to work & protect our families.	300 characters allows respondents only a fraction of what they need to express their contempt and disgust for how COVID was mis-managed by our "leaders." Lockdowns, masks, & vaccines were a farcical attempt to control what is now, like the flu, a virtually harmelss endemic illness.
8/26/2024 19:07	8/26/2024 19:18	Hampton Roads				Hampton					Government and Regulatory Systems	VA's pandemic response was draconian and unconstitutional. From denying churches to congregate, CLOSING schools, not holding meetings in person (ex: VASAP) to mandating masks was so detrimental to our family. My son was in 3rd grade they just basically halted school in March 2020.	My son was also forced to wear a mask - OUTSIDE - in July. While Virginians were lied to! Covid tests aren't virus specific and were simply mislabeling influenza and other viruses. The USA flu rate went from 38M to >2000 instantly. All the while we had a curfew imposed and our lives were upended.
8/26/2024 19:57	8/26/2024 20:00	Valley								Augusta	Government and Regulatory Systems	Above all else your role is protect natural rights—irregardless of convenience and public opinion. Virginia failed miserably during the COVID Pandemic.	Natural rights are not optional. Everyone should have free will to live as they are convicted. Mandating face masks and vaccines was a horrific moment in Americas history and I will never forget.
8/26/2024 20:07	8/26/2024 20:12	Northern							Culpeper		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government became tyrannical under the guise of safety, complete power grab.	Very disappointed
9/16/2024 9:54	9/16/2024 9:58	West Central		Franklin							Government and Regulatory Systems	Suggestions not mandates. Factual information not scare tactics or out right LIES.	Will never submit to a medical mandate again, was lied to and the lie made it worse. I will never surrender freedoms again for a little possible, maybe, hopefully or some pie in the sky safety.
8/26/2024 20:37	8/26/2024 20:39	Southwest						Washington			Government and Regulatory Systems		
8/26/2024 20:55	8/26/2024 21:04	Central	Greene								Government and Regulatory Systems	Our elected officials are responsible for public policy and accountable for their decisions outcome. In turn these officials must keep the unelected officials and experts accountable for their particular areas of expertise.	In regards to the COVID-19 scam-demic I believe the elected officials and experts failed the citizens of Virginia and US in general. Please keep politics out of decision making for the public wellbeing.

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9/16/2024 8:43	9/16/2024 8:47		Hampton Roads			Isle of Wight					Government and Regulatory Systems	The government, national, state or local, should NEVER be allowed to mandate the uptake of an ingested drug in order to keep your job. My husband was a VDOT worker and almost died of a pulmonary embolism 10 days after the clot shot. Life has not been the same since. He is now retired.	The government should also not be allowed to mandate to businesses who is Open or Closed during a time of emergency. Many were put out of a job
9/16/2024 1:22	9/16/2024 1:34		Valley						Augusta		Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor shall not allow the Virginia Department of Health or any unelected entity to decide to take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, our right to work and protect our families. Cease the medical fascism.	The WHO is corrupt don't allow their BS "treaties" any control of health. The CDC is corrupt stop following their "rubber stamp" vaccine recommendations. CMS is corrupt stop allowing them to dictate protocols via reimbursement policies. Stop killing your citizens with Remdesivir and Covid Vaccs.
8/26/2024 21:46	8/26/2024 21:55		Central	Orange							Government and Regulatory Systems	I thought the whole response was awful and an over reaction based on "feelings and fear" not facts. A shutdown like that should NEVER be allowed to happen again. I didn't comply with the stupidity then and I won't if they ever try it again.	UVA banned me from one of their offices. I've been a cancer patient for 30 years but I chose not to wear a mask. They were more of a danger to me than the other way around. Forcing school kids to wear masks was beyond any reason IMO. It will be years before many recover from the harm.
8/26/2024 21:51	8/26/2024 21:58		Northern					Culpeper			Government and Regulatory Systems	Should not have closed small business - large stores were open; should not have mandated masks - no evidence; Should not have closed schools - harm was immeasurable. Should not have implemented social distancing - no evidence. No public college should have been allowed to mandate the vaccine.	Virginia should not have just followed CDC guidelines and should have acted only on evidence
9/16/2024 0:06	9/16/2024 0:08		Central	Albemarle							Government and Regulatory Systems	Never lock down and close business	
9/15/2024 18:51	9/15/2024 18:55		Valley						Augusta		Government and Regulatory Systems		
9/15/2024 18:05	9/15/2024 18:24		West Central	Salem							Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor followed the awful protocols from the Federal Government and Fauci's absurd totalitarian dictates --- that were based on the absurd protocols of China in cahoots with the WHO. Never ever again should America follow the Marxist Chinese and WHO.	Virginia needs to think independently and realize the Feds lied to the nation and cannot be trusted. Listen to the independent doctors who knew better than the crooked CDC, FDA, and NIH --- who were all in bed with the drug companies. The shutdowns should never have happened in America.

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8/26/2024 22:59	8/26/2024 23:08	Southside			Pittsylvania						Government and Regulatory Systems	The government's emergency powers during the pandemic response were too broad and need to be time limited (30 days) with a two thirds legislative approval requirement for extending the emergency powers.	I would like to see government and health officials be more inquisitive and suspect of federal government recommendations and actions.
8/27/2024 0:04	8/27/2024 0:10	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	The response to the entire pandemic was over-zealous and not respectful of a diversity of scientific and medical opinions, and in the end the shutting down of schools and businesses did far more harm than good in terms of health, economy, learning, public safety, mental wellness, and family health.	Reliance on any information from CDC and WHO should be fully reconsidered given the misinformation and the intentional repression of health data and information that both of these groups knowingly perpetrated during the pandemic. Do not be complicit with this to harm our state again in the future.
9/15/2024 18:06	9/15/2024 18:12	Northern						Fauquier			Government and Regulatory Systems	Government can never again shut us down like that again. A state of emergency is no excuse. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are not negotiable, not only valid when the government thinks it is safe, but always!	Freedom of assembly and speech being two very specific ones in the first amendment that were trampled. NEVER AGAIN.
8/27/2024 7:24	8/27/2024 7:27	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	There should NOT be government mandates for vaccines of any kind.	More transparency regarding pharmaceutical trials must be made public.
9/15/2024 17:58	9/15/2024 18:05	Northern						Fairfax			Government and Regulatory Systems	The Governor & VA DOH must never again be able to violate Virginians' bodily autonomy rights including choice of whether or not to receive medical treatment/vaccines and whether to wear masks. My young daughter suffered serious mental health consequences due to forced school masking in 2021-2022.	
9/15/2024 17:59	9/15/2024 18:00	Central	Charlottesville								Government and Regulatory Systems	NO mandates for ANY "vaccine"	
8/27/2024 8:18	8/27/2024 8:23	Hampton Roads				York					Government and Regulatory Systems	Overall, the picking and choosing of which businesses could stay open and closed, mask mandates, removing abc licenses for not enforcing mandates, healthcare providers not taking care of patients other needs and only focusing on covid patients, nonsensical Governor's executive orders ridiculous	What was done to our children's academic and mental health in the name of fake science but allowing rioting and protesting and shutting down major roadways- also ridiculous.
9/15/2024 16:55	9/15/2024 16:59	Northern						Loudoun			Government and Regulatory Systems	Never again should any government authority mandate vaccinations or treatments against the public's will.	

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8/27/2024 8:51	8/27/2024 8:58	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	There is no such thing as a “state of emergency” that authorizes a reprobate government to trample the constitutional rights of the citizens. “It was for a good cause” is completely unacceptable.	
8/27/2024 9:33	8/27/2024 9:43	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Overly punitive unnecessary restrictions on citizens and their right to earn a living. Just plain ignorant decisions with NO FACTUAL evidence that they were helpful.	common sense and our rightssks, (DIRTY FACE DIAPERS), RESTAURANT RULES. BTH MY PARENTS DIED DURING THIS TIME. In their 90s --not from covid. I COULD NOT BE WITH MY DAD IN A NURSING HOME HE DIED ALONE. the governor was a pure nazi idiot!!!!!!
9/15/2024 13:54	9/15/2024 15:46	West Central		Floyd							Government and Regulatory Systems	At no point does the US Constitution allow for the government of the States to set aside our protected rights to peacefully assemble or to worship as we please. Nor are they delegated the authority to curtail our access to essential goods and services.	Essential goods and services include food, medical services and supplies, firearms, shooting and hunting supplies. Government NEVER gets to decide if we are allowed to be with a loved one as they are passing.
8/27/2024 11:09	8/27/2024 11:15	Valley							Waynesboro		Government and Regulatory Systems	The government is not prepared to respond to health emergencies. Health and Human services were not responsive in the crisis. There were not enough hospital beds, ventilators or staff to cope with the crisis. The response was panic. The response was find a cure at any cost and finance it.	Healthcare workers left the field because of the difficult decisions that had to be made. They also became ill because of the lack of personal protective equipment.
8/27/2024 11:29	8/27/2024 11:42	Central	King William								Government and Regulatory Systems	There was no need for the Governor or any state/local health authority to declare a prolonged state of emergency, lockdowns, closures of businesses and schools, or a snitch line. Such authoritarian measures hurt our economy, citizens' health, students' education, closed businesses,	denied services to me and my family, and continue to affect many areas today. State of emergencies should be temporary measures and not be able to be continued past 30 days. Never again should these measures occur in our constitutional republic and especially in the Commonwealth of VA.
9/15/2024 15:26	9/15/2024 15:29	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems	We will never again submit to lockdowns or mandates of any shape or form. We will not allow our elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable appointed bureaucrats.	The Governor shall not allow the Virginia Department of Health or any unelected entity to decide to take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, our right to work and protect our families
8/27/2024 12:22	8/27/2024 12:24	Northern							Spotsylvania		Government and Regulatory Systems	Shutting down whole state and requiring masks and shutting down schools caused harm that can never be fixed.	

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8/27/2024 12:10	8/27/2024 12:47	Central	Chesterfield								Government and Regulatory Systems		Seriously 300 characters? Examine all positions of authority for their truthfulness and remove from that position, if they acted w/o knowledge or were "just doing what they were told". Next time TELL THE TRUTH! We need leaders not lemmings.
8/27/2024 12:46	8/27/2024 12:50	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Society will suffer for over a decade from the learning losses our students suffered during the school lockdowns. We will have a generation that may not recover at all. Socially.	Visitation restrictions in the healthcare were absolutely inhumane. My father passed away in a hospital while it was under visitation restrictions. While he laid in the hospital bed for a week, I was not allowed to visit until the last 15 hours after he was incoherent and unable to communicate.
9/15/2024 14:46	9/15/2024 15:01	Hampton Roads				Williamsburg					Government and Regulatory Systems	Power to shut down businesses, schools, public gathering places such as churches should not be in control of one executive or one party control of the General Assembly. Virginia should not be under the influence of global partnerships like WHO.	
9/15/2024 14:23	9/15/2024 14:32	Valley							Frederick		Government and Regulatory Systems	The Government's response was terrible. The America people need a government which supports freedom of choice in the health care system. The Government should not apply pressure to force any form of medical care, prevention of illness, treatment of illness, or bypass research.	We need FREEDOM. Medicare/Medicaid/Affordable Care Act should be optional, not mandatory. None of them should be tied to your ability to have insurance or your ability to collect Social Security. Government should not tell you what form of insurance you must have. Leave the people alone.
8/27/2024 13:51	8/27/2024 13:58	West Central		Appomattox							Government and Regulatory Systems	Northam did a terrible job and shut down many small businesses while allowing box stores to remain open as long as there were arrows on the floor pointing the way and people at the door making sure everyone walked around like a masked fire breathing cootie. Appalling. We still haven't recovered.	We still haven't recovered from the closures and many small businesses went under.
9/15/2024 13:26	9/15/2024 13:32	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Government and Regulatory Systems	Our Republic's sovereignty should not be overridden by the WHO when health decision issues are to be determined	

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9/15/2024 13:13	9/15/2024 13:23	West Central		Montgomery							Government and Regulatory Systems	The lack of critical thinking by leaders at VTwas appalling.I proved in real time with their own data that the vaccinated were the ones spreading COVID, after their vaccine mandate and mandatory testing for only the unvaccinated. They had no interest.	Tim Sands needs to apologize and admit he was wrong, and compensation needs to be paid to people who did not get the COVID vaccine for the harassment, invasion of privacy and their bodies with testing, and in some cases being fired or booted out of school.
8/27/2024 17:46	8/27/2024 17:54	Northern						Loudoun			Government and Regulatory Systems	The government during COVID was entirely over zealous with lockdowns, masks, shutdowns of small businesses, etc. What I witnessed in my region were people acting like little tyrants -- like fascists, really. The loss of many small businesses, especially local restaurants was horrific.	I knew of teenagers kicked off of basketball courts. I myself was assaulted by a woman while I was jogging outdoors, because I was not wearing a mask. These behaviors were provoked by the government overreach. The executive branch should not have so much power that they can shut people out of work
8/27/2024 20:13	8/27/2024 20:46	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	Virginia's handling of the "COVID Crisis" was disappointing, except for the Governor's stance against mandates. I expected protection like in Florida or South Dakota. My employer ignored accommodations, and I feared losing my job for two years. A Republican administration should've done more.	The Governor's trust in the Virginia Board of Medicine's mainstream approach, ignoring alternatives, broke mine. My friend's death from remdesivir and intubation confirmed this. Now, vaccinated people face abrupt deaths from compromised immune systems, Myocarditis, and turbo cancers.
9/15/2024 12:48	9/15/2024 12:59	Central	Hanover								Government and Regulatory Systems	In the time of any emergency, Government and it's supporting agencies should never have the power to close schools & universities, churches, and/or places of business.	
9/15/2024 12:29	9/15/2024 12:43	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	Government regs cannot ever again be used to allow unelected burocrats to seize control over the citizens autonomy. Our rights to move about freely, control over our own bodies, our freedom to work, care for our families, all garranteed under our constitution. The government must follow the law!	
9/15/2024 11:49	9/15/2024 11:50	Central	Henrico								Government and Regulatory Systems		
9/15/2024 11:41	9/15/2024 11:43	Eastern					Accomack				Government and Regulatory Systems	retired postal	

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8/28/2024 8:50	8/28/2024 8:55	Valley								Rockingham	Government and Regulatory Systems	Everything you did was outside the scope of your power. From mask mandates to plexiglass shields, none of it did anything to protect anyone. You completely overreacted to something that was barely a bad cold for most people.	Next time, stay in your lane. You do NOT "have to do something" during every crisis that comes along. Sometimes, the best thing to do is nothing.
9/15/2024 10:52	9/15/2024 10:54	Valley								Waynesboro	Government and Regulatory Systems	Stop lording over people and trampling Constitutional rights.	Everyone will remember COVID the next event you strong-arm a response onto everyone like fascists and they won't go along with it. You really fucked up last time.
9/10/2024 18:48	9/10/2024 19:11	Northern							Rappahannock		Government and Regulatory Systems	Your survey limitation to address only 1 of the 3 categories - despite the overlap of their impact on each other tells me that you aren't really interested in the TRUE impact of these interventions. All of them were in violation of the constitution and all were absent any valid scientific basis.	No "health minister" or "health authority" should ever be given such sweeping powers again. The fact that you limit comments to 300 characters is a great example of the lack of real interest in the negative impacts of these egregious policies.
9/10/2024 9:31	9/10/2024 9:34	Eastern					Richmond				Government and Regulatory Systems	I don't feel I'm getting accurate information regarding side effects and true research results	
9/10/2024 4:41	9/10/2024 4:44	Northern							Fairfax		Government and Regulatory Systems	Alternative opinions or questions were snuffed out, silenced and erased. Government ballooned and in the wrong ways. It rewarded stagnancy and lack of action. Churches and small businesses were closed, liquor stores and big box stores open. My small business was negatively effected by government.	A parent with children in public schools during the pandemic I felt education at the hands of government was substandard. Children fell through the cracks and what we had was a decline in social skills, reading, writing and math. Online education will never replace in-person learning.
9/9/2024 13:02	9/9/2024 13:07	Central	Albemarle								Government and Regulatory Systems	The pandemic response was debilitating to small businesses who were not deemed "essential". This was used as a way to shift profits from small local business to big box companies. Amazon sales skyrocketed, while family businesses went out of business. This was a fraud and scam.	The state government accepted Federal COVID funds that were really just payoffs for compliance.
9/7/2024 11:51	9/7/2024 12:00	Valley								Frederick	Government and Regulatory Systems	I think the Commonwealth did a good job of protecting citizens by closing down businesses, calling for masking, etc. during the pandemic. I appreciate the efforts to protect the public health and good.	No.

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9/6/2024 15:59	9/6/2024 16:05	Valley								Frederick	Government and Regulatory Systems	I do not want the VDH to take orders from the CDC which takes orders from the WHO. Never again should the state mandate pandemic responses which limit personal freedom and do not not work. No mandatory masks, lockdowns, social distancing or vaccines, all of which were later proven to be ineffective	The Bill of Rights should always be at the forefront of decisions made. If it is not Constitutional it should not be deployed.
8/28/2024 20:44	8/28/2024 21:02	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	I would have liked to have seen our elected leaders actually lead, and NOT follow. Leading means that you do your RESEARCH. Florida's AG listened to the experts and took control by pointing out the dangers of masks and mRNA injections. Please lead and do your research.	Medical decisions should never be forced onto people. Lock downs destroyed our small businesses and more children were abused. Our bodies are designed to attack viruses and then adapt to insure survival. Freedom to make one's own rational decisions is always healthier than fear tactics.
8/29/2024 10:10	8/29/2024 10:20	West Central		Amherst							Government and Regulatory Systems	Governors are not elected dictator. They are elected as a governor with certain powers limited by the constitution and legislation. No executive order should last over 30 days unless the General Assembly goes into session and passes a bill extending the duration of the order.	It appears that keeping children out of school did more harm than good. It would be profitable to study the lives, both health wise and educational wise of home and private schools that did not close vs those from closed schools.
9/4/2024 7:44	9/4/2024 7:47	Eastern					Richmond				Government and Regulatory Systems		
9/2/2024 13:13	9/2/2024 13:20	West Central		Pulaski							Government and Regulatory Systems	Northam handles Covid 19 horribly. The lockdowns, mandates concerning masks, etc. were FAR overreaching! It should have been left to each individual to decide for themselves and their families. Many small businesses were destroyed and some people died alone without their families.	I'm glad I was "non-compliant"! I will not have my personal freedoms trampled...
9/2/2024 13:01	9/2/2024 13:03	Valley							Staunton		Government and Regulatory Systems		
9/1/2024 10:10	9/1/2024 10:42	Central	Goochland								Government and Regulatory Systems	Your first problem-listening to Fauci and drug companies-all self-serving opportunists. Fauci should be charged with murder! Listen to qualified doctors not people getting rich	No

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8/31/2024 20:31	8/31/2024 20:52	Northern							Spotsylvania		Government and Regulatory Systems	<p>The State of Virginia allowed thousands to die and forced workers to get an untested vaccine this is now killing thousands.</p> <p>The people of Virginia were denied care during covid, women were forced to give brith alone and they were not allowed to properly bury their dead.</p>	<p>There was treatment for covid that worked , I know because lvused it as a preventative. It is shameful how covid was handled. It must never happen again.</p>
8/31/2024 14:22	8/31/2024 14:49	Northern							Fauquier		Government and Regulatory Systems	<p>The government determined “essential” businesses. Churches & synagogues were closed. Hospital protocols were dictated not based in the evidence. Hospitalized patients were denied religious rites and visitors. Many were forced to get “vaccines” against their religious and moral beliefs.</p>	<p>Suppression of ivermectin and HCQ led to needless harm. Ivermectin is available without prescription in TN—why not in VA? Masking is ineffective, harmful to children. Forced vaccination violates medical ethics and the Nuremberg Code, especially for inmates. Coercion into vaccines is unjust.</p>
8/29/2024 20:55	8/29/2024 21:15	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Government and Regulatory Systems	<p>Governments at all levels overstepped their bounds in their response to covid-19. I remember that we were not allowed to go to the beach. Knowing that vitamin D was a key factor in fighting covid why were playgrounds and beaches closed?</p>	<p>Governments quickly fell into line by agreeing to a single solution to the virus being getting vaccinated. Essentially the government became a mouthpiece for pharmaceutical companies to profit off the virus. Medical experts who said anything outside of the "approved narrative" were silenced.</p>
8/31/2024 13:05	8/31/2024 13:08	Hampton Roads				Gloucester					Government and Regulatory Systems		
8/29/2024 21:58	8/29/2024 21:59	Central	New Kent								Government and Regulatory Systems	<p>The government was absolutely ridiculous with their masking requirements and vaccine pushing. It is insane to force Americans to wear a mask when they do not want to.</p>	

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9/30/2024 21:50	10/1/2024 3:14	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The Health Care System is incredibly compromised. Big Pharma has a heavy hand in their influence in many hospitals including what drugs, vaccines & procedures that are pushed for profits. Instead of focusing on getting folks better & listening to the families, some of these hospitals were	forcing deadly and very limiting protocols such as Remdesivir that lead to organ failure and or putting them on the ventilator where many did not recover. Some situations involved lawyers having to remove family members to a less restrictive care facility to insure their loved ones survival.
8/5/2024 17:34	8/5/2024 17:40	Central	Hanover								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Stockpiles of monoclonal antibodies went unused, and were not broadly available. Healthcare centers, including primary care physicians, hospitals, urgent care centers did not provide the treatment as an option to patients.	Hospitals and physicians followed protocols for Covid patients set by administrators, based on CMS reimbursement, rather than allowing physicians practicing medicine. Pharmacies determined whether or not they would dispense medication's prescribed by physicians. PharmD do not practice medicine.
9/30/2024 23:40	10/1/2024 0:00	Hampton Roads				Mathews					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	We have God given rights from our Creator to decide what goes into our bodies. In preparation for a health crisis, pandemic or infectious disease emergency, I hope it is obvious to anyone in the medical field that vaccinations and masks do not work.	When you encroach upon our body autonomy, you have taken away our freedom. We the people reserve the right to make the best decisions for our health. No mandatory shots or mask mandates in Virginia. No government shut down of churches!
8/5/2024 19:17	8/5/2024 19:25	Northern							Fauquier		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	<p>The measures implemented to stop the spread of COVID 19 harmed me and my family.</p> <p>The mask mandate was terrible. I have a daughter with severe hearing loss and she reads lips to help her understand. When everyone wore masks her ability to communicate was severely limited.</p>	<p>The closing of worship spaces grossly infringed on my freedom to worship.</p> <p>In the future, never make laws that quarantine healthy people or treat people like they are a contagion. What an abuse of human dignity.</p>
9/30/2024 23:28	9/30/2024 23:52	Hampton Roads				Mathews					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Mandatory vaccinations and masking are a big mistake for the people of Virginia. Regardless of popular beliefs about the safety of vaccinations/masks, we are a self-governing people in a free nation who have bodily autonomy under God's rulership. We can choose to stop infection naturally.	We can choose to trust God with our health and safety and choose the products we believe will provide necessary healing. We can exercise our God-given freedoms without help from the government. I urge you to stop pushing shots and masking this go round and stand for health freedom. We decide.
9/30/2024 22:19	9/30/2024 22:32	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Absolutely no emergency use authorization of experimental medical intervention. Non interference in doctor patient relationship by government. Allow doctors to prescribe as they see fit vs limiting their options and preventing pharmacies from dispensing medicine prescribed.	Listen to the doctors vs telling them what they can and can't do. Put liability back on pharmaceutical companies for vaccine injury. If you want to stockpile medicines, pick tried and true ones, preferably generic and low cost. Less interference is better.

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8/6/2024 17:24	8/6/2024 17:31	Valley								Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Thank you for doing a wonderful job protecting the population of Virginia during COVID! Quick action to close schools, businesses, and public areas to keep us safe. Sacrifices were needed and called for. Thank you for doing the right thing. Many lives were saved due to the government's quick action!	No
8/13/2024 9:56	8/13/2024 10:09	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The Healthcare system allowed one option for treatment. It denied people early treatment resulting in excess death. The masking, distancing and all protocols resulted in greater harm. Doctors successfully treating Covid were fired and/or lost their licenses to practices. The vaccines kill people.	There was no open discussion of healthcare professionals. The doctors who were successful were silenced. Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine were called dangerous by VDH when they are 2 of the safest meds in the world. Remdesivir had a fatality rate of greater than 50%. It remains on the protocol.
9/30/2024 19:54	9/30/2024 21:15	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Not one person had to die from COVID-19 if they had stayed at home and been provided with inexpensive and safe Ivermectin, zinc, vitamin C, B vitamins, and an antibiotic such as doxycycline as well as budesonide as needed at the first sign of symptoms. This protocol was truly safe and effective.	The hospitals were incentivized with huge "bonuses" by the CARES Act to administer deadly hospital protocols directed toward killing patients rather than offering a cure. Unvaccinated patients were targeted and put on protocols that used dangerous drugs and procedures without any informed consent.
9/30/2024 17:09	9/30/2024 17:26	Central	Goochland								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Let's remember, first, DO NO HARM. Our health care system was all about masking, social distancing, Covid testing and jabs and boosters, all of which have proven to be detrimental, not helpful. We have seen rising death rates, myocarditis in the young, dropping fertility rates, turbo cancers, etc.	The use of Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine were prohibited in favor of more expensive and profitable drugs even though they were proven to be very effective. Change the emphasis of our healthcare system from pursuing profits to actually curing the patient. Prohibit \$\$ incentives from Big Pharma.
8/13/2024 14:37	8/13/2024 14:40	Valley								Staunton	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The way Covid was handled was tyranny at its highest. To mandate workers to take an experimental shot and don masks with the knowledge that they would not make a difference is the exact opposite of science and good research.	
8/13/2024 14:33	8/13/2024 14:45	Valley								Augusta	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	This group of professional are largely populated with individuals who value their untested knowledge base over the rights and freedoms of citizens. They readily go beyond recommendations to requirements and are influenced by activists to leverage minority opinions into required behaviors.	The word ‘Management’ should be removed from Emergency Management and replaced with Preparedness, which is their true role. If they erroneously believe they are ‘managing’ a crisis situation, it is too easy for them to translate their recommendations into requirements which have the effect of law.

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8/13/2024 14:36	8/13/2024 14:49	Northern							Stafford		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	All medications that have proven to work should be available. The existing ineffective and dangerous shots should be banned. No mask or "vaccine" mandates. Requiring either should result not only in loss of funding, but loss of license and liability for criminal prosecution.	
8/13/2024 14:43	8/13/2024 14:49	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Abuse and unlawful detention was rampant in some VA hospital systems with doctors out of control outing families who questioned protocols wrongly applied to other dx other then covid. PCR tests manipulated to get more money and apply killer protocols for profit not pt. benefit.	No support from government on challenging the killer protocols
8/13/2024 14:47	8/13/2024 14:55	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	My experience was the State Health Dept botched things badly. Did not respond to my questions, submitted by email and phone, changed “dashboard” parameters at whim, data provided was inconsistent with what was published in Va Pilot, and single solution policy was—well, short sighted or dumb.	Very disappointed with State Health leadership. Lacked courage in doing what was right or better for residents in lieu of what i can only suppose was changed motivation for financial gain over informed and tailored care for Va residents.
9/30/2024 17:04	9/30/2024 17:09	Central	Charlottesville								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Make Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other proven remedies available to Virginians.	
9/30/2024 15:11	9/30/2024 15:30	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Many were forced to get “vaccines” against their religious and moral beliefs. Even those who willingly took the “vaccine” were not informed of the dangers. Those who died or were injured from the vaccines have not been compensated while the manufacturers raked in billions in profit.	Never in medicine have we given pregnant women or women of child-bearing age an injection without long term studies. Early treatments with medications like ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine and fluvoxamine were suppressed leading to needless harm or death.
8/13/2024 14:59	8/13/2024 15:04	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	A severe lack of rational judgment based on known infection control practices was shown. A lack of evidence-based knowledge on how to treat respiratory infections. The use of ineffective masks for infection control. Delays in treatment in the most vulnerable populations.	Information was not given to residents on long term infection control and health management. Falso information was given on the spread of respiratory diseases.
9/30/2024 14:17	9/30/2024 14:23	West Central		Montgomery							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I understand being careful in the beginning, but draconian health care rules were carried on much too long. There was no reason for keeping family members away from sick relatives. The Health Department has too much control. We need a more robust vaccine exemption.	In '21 I returned to my PCP for a physical. It turned into nothing more than him harassing me about the Covid vax. There was no exam. It was just a lecture on the vax. This was the last time I ever saw this physician. The healthcare industry has destroyed its credibility.

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9/30/2024 14:05	9/30/2024 14:13	Northern							Fauquier		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Healthcare systems continually violated all common sense and medical reason. They forced people to wear masks who had medical conditions that could not tolerate masks (asthma, post surgery, physical impairments) My daughter has asthma - was harassed to wear mask even though it impaired her breathing	My friend woke up from surgery at UVA wearing a mask - still under effects of anesthesia which suppresses lung function - SHE HAD AN EXEMPTION FROM UVA HOSPITAL because of damage due to radiation treatments - IGNORED HER PAIN AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING- AFTER SHE TESTED NEGATIVE FOR COVID!
8/13/2024 16:07	8/13/2024 16:12	Northern							Falls Church		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	During COVID the Governor mandated masks for visiting stores and other public spaces. The edict was done with out proper RCT controls indicating that masking and 6ft separation were valid public actions to decrease the spreading of a virus.	Additionally, some businesses were not allowed to conduct commerce. This was detrimental to both the public and many small business owners that never fully recovered from public policies that were implemented without scientific evidence that they would work.
9/29/2024 22:33	9/29/2024 22:43	Northern							Alexandria		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Committee members involved in determining medical policies should have medical backgrounds before they go on to determine what medical measures should to be applied to all persons residing in this state. Front-line medical professionals need to be included in these workgroups.	Health matters are personal to each individual. NO mandates for any medical treatments are ever appropriate.
9/29/2024 21:24	9/29/2024 21:42	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	"WE THE PEOPLE" are the Stakeholders and no Government or Medical (Acting or Emergency) has no Power to violate the Rights of its Citizens.	Americans have been lied to of the effectiveness of vaccines. www.tga.au/sites/default/files/foi-2389-06.pdf shows that Covid Vax does not stay in the arm but affects the entire body. Yet the Medical field push vax through advertising(Federal,State,Pharma Companies and Retail) which is fraud.
8/13/2024 16:50	8/13/2024 17:06	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	From what I have researched the Health Care systems provided during the Covid Pandemic were based on desisions made by global corporations, namely the Health Care and Pharmaceutical. These were facilitated by governments, the UN and global entities like the UN and WHO are now known to be biased.	Thus, we need a task force of people with integrity and goodwill with the public's innterest at heart to guide the process. It may not be easy to find these people so begin the search as soon as possible. Robert Kennedy will know some of them.
9/29/2024 6:14	9/29/2024 6:55	Hampton Roads				York					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Ret. health administrator here (former USAFR Dep Reserve Medical Forces Advisor to AF Surgeon General).Comments=my own/not DoD.State response violated medical ethics/law/patient safety.Most egregious affront to medical ethics/law/human rights I have seen in my lifetime.Our state=disgraced.	VA participation in political/gov/corporate corruption=abhorrent. Coercion/discrimination/denied care 4 profit.Horrific: VA followed CDC ACIP blindly+STILL recommends injections 4 CHILDREN. Follow FL Dept Health's lead.Pull these dangerous products off market NOW! Shift focus to Tx 4 vacc injured.

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8/13/2024 17:26	8/13/2024 17:43	Northern							Stafford		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Just one example. Previously acceptable media care procedures were completely abandoned. I spent 33 years in the health care system and it was well accepted masks do not prevent transmission of viruses.	The government should not be telling medically trained or action eta how to treat or and what to prescribe for their patients.
9/29/2024 0:06	9/29/2024 0:26	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Covid-19 was a disaster. Few people knew what was really going on in terms of how serious the situation was and what to do about it. That is probably still true today. It is my hope that HCS and EM workgroup realize that a lot of the decisions that were then made were based on misinformation.	Therefore, i suggest that Health Care Systems and EM look into Robert Kennedy's information on this topic to gain a better understanding about what is appropriate in such circumstance and emergencies.
9/28/2024 22:28	9/28/2024 22:29	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	https://popularrationalism.substack.com/p/researchers-find-anomalies-in-covid?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email-restack-comment&r=8m0o8&triedRedirect=true	Speak the TRUTH
9/28/2024 19:11	9/28/2024 19:18	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The people that I was teaching were not a risk but yet they were told things to make them so afraid to not wear a mask way after the plans evolved. These teens were so psychologically affected as if they would kill the older ones or their siblings if they did not mask.	And they were stunted by only having on line school thst I saw their brilliance decline abd their hope defer.
9/28/2024 17:06	9/28/2024 17:16	Valley								Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	It was unfair to demand certain businesses close their doors while allowing other businesses to remain open and thrive during the pandemic. Many businesses never reopened. Why was Costco and ABC stores allowed to remain open with no restrictions? Why were houses of worship ordered closed?	It was sick and sad to divide the people in Virginia. If people were afraid then they should stay home. But why did you order everyone to stay home? Oh, except if you are going to Costco or the liquor store, then that's OK.
9/28/2024 12:06	9/28/2024 12:27	Hampton Roads				York					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Where is the post-Covid analysis of policies that dictated decisions with dismal outcomes? Truth surrounding every aspect of what we endured needs to be shared broadly & all people involved in propagandizing & mandating need to be held fully accountable. Topics of concern: The poison pokes were	not necessary, safe, nor effective. Shot mandates. Corporations ignored doc's orders. Serious adverse reactions & deaths. Treatment protocol harmed or killed people. Suppression & censorship. Lockdowns, face diapers, school closures, endless printing of money & doling it out carelessly.
9/28/2024 11:50	9/28/2024 11:55	Northern							Fauquier		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Stop telling lies. People should be free to make their own decisions about their health.	

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9/28/2024 10:42	9/28/2024 10:46	Hampton Roads				Portsmouth					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Never in medicine have we strong-armed parents into giving a “vaccine” with no long-term data to our children who were at no risk of dying. Never have we given pregnant women or women of child-bearing age an injection without long term studies.	Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine and fluvoxamine were suppressed leading to needless harm or death. Inmates in our prisons or jails were forced to get the “vaccine.” A direct violation of medical ethics and Nuremberg Code.
8/13/2024 20:20	8/13/2024 21:16	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Lockdowns unnecessary and caused great harm to all, Censorship.You will kill Granny unvaxxt; MPIDR -From Unicef/GME site: "The available evidence indicates the direct impact of Covid-19 on children,adolescent or youth mortality to be limited." No shots needed. Deaths in 20 and under, .4.	Sweden (schools/business stayed open) and India fared better (used Ivermectin) than US according to data shown UN/GME Unicef. in US . Uptake in deaths on graph 21/22 (after vax was rolled out). Teen suicide during/after lockdowns. Couldn't see unvaxt husband in rehab for pt; People died alone.inhu
9/28/2024 10:34	9/28/2024 10:41	Hampton Roads				Portsmouth					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Hospitalized patients were denied religious rites and visitors. Forced to get “vaccines” against their religious and moral beliefs. Patients took the “vaccine” not informed of the dangers. Those who died or were injured have not been compensated while the manufacturers raked in billions in profit.	People were coerced into taking a “vaccine” that neither prevented you from contracting the disease or spreading the disease. The medical literature on vital role of Vitamin D3, Vitamin C and other supplements to boost the immune system was suppressed.
8/14/2024 7:37	8/14/2024 7:39	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	No mandates are acceptable!!!!	
8/14/2024 10:25	8/14/2024 10:34	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I should never have been required to write a religous or medical accommodation for declining the vaccine mandate and to keep my job or when applying for another job. No one in this world should be mandated for any kind of medical treatment. Especially for the reason of protecting others.	Medical field personnel are there to protect the weak and infirmed. Firing the medical staff because they decline to obtain medical treatment is an oxymoron of a sorts. In a pandemic medical staff were fired! Really?!
9/28/2024 9:09	9/28/2024 9:28	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	During my first episode of COVID 19, I was able to receive early treatment (within 5 days of symptoms and positive test) with Ivermectin which eliminated symptoms within 36 hours of first treatment. I took the first 3 rounds of the Moderna vax but got COVID 19 two more times	The Health Care system completely failed in dealing with COVID 19 by not allowing early effective treatments with existing medications and proven protocols.
8/14/2024 12:46	8/14/2024 12:49	Northern							Fauquier		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I gave birth to my daughter in December 2020 and the staff tried to force me to wear a mask during labor. Labor is difficult enough without one’s breathing being impaired. The mask mandates were ridiculous, cruel, unfair, and unhealthy.	Breathing properly has so many benefits and masks inhibit this ability. There should be no mask mandates anywhere at any time. It should be one’s choice.

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9/28/2024 8:28	9/28/2024 8:32	Central	Nelson								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Never took a Covid shot and never was sick. Reading many informative documents on Covid it was clear to me Covid inoculations would be harmful to me health and I was right. The gov't acted too fast without proper research.	Stop giving Covid shots.
8/14/2024 13:29	8/14/2024 13:36	Southside			Franklin						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The response for COVID was totally ill advised, and should never be repeated. Lockdowns, mandatory masks, forced vaccinations are totally out of the question ever again!	By the way, Commonwealth citizens are THE stakeholders that matter most (or should). Limit yourself to informing the public and move on.
9/28/2024 8:13	9/28/2024 8:25	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	No violation of our constitutional rights by mandated vaccination, mandated closures of businesses and restrictions on drugs that have been safely used for decades by bureaucrats who are not trained physicians.	Let doctors be doctors and prescribe for their patients and get pharmacies out of the business of needing to know diagnoses to fill a script. It's an invasion of privacy and violation of HIPA
8/14/2024 16:47	8/14/2024 16:52	Central	Louisa								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I am a healthcare provider.	No government or "system" should be allowed to mandate what any sound-minded individual deems inappropriate for themselves.
9/28/2024 8:08	9/28/2024 8:20	Central	Orange								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The immediate and overt pressure the government put on its constituents that forced us to give up our own bodily autonomy and medical freedoms in light of the Covid-19 "pandemic" moved our state mountains towards total government totalitarianism. This must be stopped dead in its attack & reversed.	Forcing young adults and children to take an untested vaccine was unconscionable! We won't know for years the physical affect this will have on their health, their fertility, and their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The government was wrong to force us to do this.
8/14/2024 21:12	8/14/2024 21:25	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I believe the hospital protocols accelerated the death of my late wife, instead of helping her to have a chance at recovery. She had some health issues but I believe the remdisavere further compromised her organs and doomed her chances of recovery.	It's unfortunate that politicians and the pharmaceutical companies demonized treatments that were helping many individuals, so that they could get their emergency use authorization to push unproven and dangerous "vaccines".
9/28/2024 7:21	9/28/2024 7:44	Hampton Roads				James City					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	All people need the freedom to research and select the best health for themselves and their families. No person should be forced to succumb to drugs, surgeries, mask-wearing, or any other medical procedure in order to boost pharmaceutical, hospital, and other medical company revenue.	It should be illegal for lawmakers to take contributions from pharmaceutical companies.
9/28/2024 7:39	9/28/2024 7:41	Northern							Culpeper		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		

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9/28/2024 6:36	9/28/2024 6:42	Northern							Rappahannock		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Never will I support giving up sovereignty to non elected international organizations regarding pandemic responses and preparedness. Virginia should remain completely sovereign and reject recommendations and decrees such as those from the WHO which is a communist organization controlled by the CCP.	We must always uphold the constitution and never restrict our rights and freedoms safeguarded by our constitution. It is our representatives duty and oath to protect and defend the constitution.
9/27/2024 15:32	9/27/2024 15:52	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Patients denied access to alternative treatments. Protocols designated, no ability of doctors to try treatments that were/had been working. Big Pharma treatments untested were forced onto patients. Underlying infections untreated. Children forced without longterm data. Religious exemption denied.	The oppressive tactics employed, and the violation of civil liberties enacted by the state, were emblematic of an oppressive dictatorship.
8/16/2024 7:11	8/16/2024 7:28	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Va's DBHDS misused CARES Act funds that were designated for front line healthcare workers. DBHDS gave \$\$\$ to many with office jobs who never stepped foot near patients, meanwhile never recognizing the primary care docs in DBHDS hospitals who were on the front lines, taking care of patients.	This was a clear misuse of the federal funds. DBHDS administration had zero accountability, and when contacted about this misappropriation of federal funds, they provided a dismissive response.
9/27/2024 9:26	9/27/2024 9:33	Central	Goochland								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Govt response was criminal. Children are still paying the price for forced injections, in 2024 & will continue to have severe health problems.	Our children are not being educated, but indoctrinated by lies, & for 'big pharma' to get richer & to de cease the population.
9/26/2024 16:07	9/26/2024 16:07	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/remdesivir-recall-glass-particles-covid-hospital-protocol/?utm_source=luminate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=defender&utm_id=20240926	
8/16/2024 18:02	8/16/2024 18:17	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I see an overabundance of fear porn in the US Healthcare systems as a whole today, and I long for honesty and truth to be told to We the Citizens. Exposing the unholy alliances between Govt Bureaucrats, Big Pharma, Big Ag, Big Tech and other institutions would be nice to see as well.	I've made my peace. Thank you.
9/26/2024 14:32	9/26/2024 14:40	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	We are a sovereign nation, of sovereign people. We are a constitutional republic, with a democratic election system, we are the governed and say how we are governed!!	
9/26/2024 11:50	9/26/2024 11:51	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/new-zealand-figures-show-covid-vaccines-were-dished-out-even-though-heart-disease-rates-were-soaring/	

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8/19/2024 13:26	8/19/2024 13:37	Northern							Stafford		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	My mom was in a facility in 2020. She was very ill and passed away in August 2020. She had developed severe sepsis. One nurse telling me only 1 nurse was on an entire floor with a training nurse. It was not well thought out with how Patients were taken care of. Keeping family out worst thing.	It was a complete nightmare for my mom and her family. She died 5 months after the lock down.
8/19/2024 17:15	8/19/2024 17:48	Central	Goochland								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Understanding now that the vaccine was never "safe and effective" and was never tested in such a way as to be able to say so, it is abundantly clear that our healthcare decisions should not be bound by claims made by the CDC, the FDA, the NIH, Mr. Fauci, etc. We must think for ourselves.	We know now that Ivermectin is very effective in treating covid but Doctors would not prescribe it as they were told not to do so. Why, because Big Pharma paid them for every jab, paid hospitals for Covid diagnoses, Intubations and Covid deaths! Outlaw the practice of cash incentives in medicine.
8/19/2024 20:09	8/19/2024 20:18	Hampton Roads				Newport News					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Fort Eustis clinic called security on me for not wearing a mask; I told them I had a medical exemption (in my records, no less). Local healthcare facilities denied me any healthcare if I told them I had a medical mask exemption. I stopped telling them and just showed up for my appointment.	Langley AFB also descriminated against me, denying me care until I showed them my written exemption. When I went in the tiny changing room, they made me stay there until they needed me. Kiln Creek Vet Clinic denied me as well, and I had a pet emergency. I had to send in my animals without me.
9/26/2024 1:02	9/26/2024 1:06	Eastern					Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		
9/25/2024 17:24	9/25/2024 17:35	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I am a doctor in Northern VA. I was significantly harmed by the states, NON Science based stance on masks. The health department reported me to the board of medicine and I was fired from a job that I had been at for 20 years, due to this. My patients were also harmed by the disruption in care.	I would like to see the health department making a full apology to the citizens of Va and would like to see a plan that would preclude this type of behavior in the future.
9/25/2024 11:03	9/25/2024 13:06	Hampton Roads				York					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I am highly disturbed, disgusted, and disappointed at the handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Wrongful protocols & mandates were forced on the American ppl against their wishes, & there were massive deaths as a result. Meds were able to help, but were denied. Inhumane that ppl died alone!	When wicked leaders rule, the people mourn. The wicked will make war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of Lord's and King of King's and with Him will be His called, chosen, and faithful followers!
8/21/2024 21:49	8/21/2024 22:12	Southside			Brunswick						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The need to research, study and implement alternative methods of prevention, treatment of covid, and long covid. Also, to be an open minded and responsible citizen willing to investigate the effectiveness of current covid vaccines as well as the potential health damage caused by covid vaccines.	No

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8/22/2024 10:14	8/22/2024 10:28	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	<p>The HCS promoted needless fear, having no emphasis on preventative health of which many spoke. Masking requirements were not supported scientifically and actual "science" was suppressed, with restrictions and shaming resulting. Pharmacies blocked prescriptions of Ivermectin.</p>	<p>Video testimony of Stephen Petty Start at 3 minutes https://www.youtube.com › watch?v=ZFjLFqESxY0 Document Stephen Petty submitted to NIH and CDC. https://thefatemperor.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CDC-Response-Letter-February-22-2022-Correct-Walenski-Zip-Code-and-Dates.pdf</p>
8/22/2024 19:33	8/22/2024 19:44	Southside			Brunswick						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I highly recommend the use of ivermectin as a supplement to prevent the onset of covid, the treatment of covid and long covid.	I highly recommend the use of ivermectin as a supplement to prevent the onset of covid, the treatment of covid and long covid.
9/24/2024 13:23	9/24/2024 14:13	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	<p>As a retired nurse at the time, I watched a disregard for standard AMA protocols. Patients were advised not to seek early treatment, denied potential life saving medications prescribed by their doctor; the terminal were forbidden needed comfort from family and clergy. All inexcusable!</p>	The mandatory use of inadequately tested vaccines was an unconstitutional violation of human rights and is now considered criminal in many cases.
8/23/2024 22:26	8/23/2024 22:34	Southside			Pittsylvania						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	<p>Following the CDC or WHO is bad news for Virginians & Americans. the COVID fiasco has proven that. We the People should NEVER comply with unconstitutional authorities or demands, and if the Commonwealth sees fit to ignore the will of the people, I'll gladly move to a freer state.</p>	I will never comply with unconstitutional authorities or demands. I will not wear a mask, as I will breath clean air, not my wastes. I will not get a vaccination of any kind, as COVID has proven that was a mistake. If I die because of those actions, then so be it, at least I died a free man!
9/24/2024 12:30	9/24/2024 12:41	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	<p>I led the Norfolk District, USACE during the COVID response - and assisted VDEM, VDH, and others in our emergency response role which included surveying sites for temporary hospitals, if needed. My trust and confidence in our government, at all levels, has dropped significantly.</p>	<p>Every decision that government took with respect to COVID, was the wrong one. How did the FDA call a noble price winning drug (Ivermectin) "horse dewormer?" Instead of urging sunlight and fresh air, the government urged people to stay indoors. Establish a task force, do an After Action Review.</p>
9/24/2024 11:58	9/24/2024 12:01	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		
9/24/2024 8:42	9/24/2024 8:51	Southside			Prince Edward						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	<p>During the COVID pandemic, the healthcare industry made it clear that their allegiance wasn't to the patients they claim to serve, but to the government, Big Pharma, and the media.</p>	I have lost most of my trust in the healthcare industry. They pushed a poorly tested, novel medical treatment (mNRA) upon millions of people who were not at risk, and silenced those who questioned it. I cannot forgive what was done to our citizens.

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9/23/2024 22:39	9/23/2024 22:51	Central	New Kent								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		After car accidents I couldn't get the necessary health care without being masked, vaxed or social distancing. I have religious objections to them but couldn't get care without being masked properly, which changed with everywhere I went & called. I'm still having issues with my injuries due to that.
8/24/2024 21:59	8/24/2024 22:05	Northern						Fredericksburg			Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	My uncle was murdered because of Covid protocols. I wrote my governor, Lt Governor, Atty General, State police superintendent, local police chief. Nobody cares, period. So many Covid vaccine injuries to discuss. God will have the final say, that I know!	The government is corrupt, period. They gaslight us, we comply! NEVER AGAIN.
9/23/2024 21:01	9/23/2024 21:13	Central	Charles City								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The response to the pandemic was totally corrupted. Doctors were silenced, nurses willing participants, pharmacist guardians of the "goods". All around bad. Families unable to see their loved ones, hostility to the unvaccinated, poor communcation, abuse of power, no leadership.	
8/25/2024 7:52	8/25/2024 8:06	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	My mother with Parkinson's, was admitted to Chesapeake Regional due to a fall and confusion. NO ONE WAS ALLOWED IN TO ADVOCATE. She was kept 4 days, completely confused, and called me crying due to lack of care. She was finally released and they said they could find nothing wrong.	I took her to Sentara ER and she was there for 10 hours. She was released still very confused, saying nothing was wrong. Her primary care also found nothing wrong but gave her a z pack. She was better within days. Months later at a neurologist appt., it was determined the hospitals missed a UTI.
9/23/2024 17:18	9/23/2024 17:25	Northern							Stafford		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Masks - studies have shown that they really do not prevent the spread of the small particles of covid.	Churches should have been allowed to conduct services. We needed spirituality, God and community especially at this time.
9/23/2024 16:02	9/23/2024 16:17	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	By insisting on untested vaccines and refusing ivermectin and similar drugs, the medical community stands guilty of thousands of deaths and still more adverse reactions to the vaccine. The medical community stands guilty of murder.	No
9/23/2024 15:12	9/23/2024 15:18	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Taking away our basic right to decide what happens to our bodies is the biggest violation of autonomy I have ever experienced. I will forever be traumatized by forced “social” distancing rules, masking mandates and Covid vaccine mandates and propaganda.	Stolen years can not be given back, especially to our children, but some kind of accountability for those who forced unproven, unsafe, and dangerous Covid rules on us could be a good start to healing the trauma that was inflicted
9/23/2024 14:26	9/23/2024 14:28	Northern							Prince William		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Need to avoid payments to illegals	no

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8/26/2024 12:00	8/26/2024 12:16	Central	Hanover								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	In “worst epidemic” I didnt have work for 5 mo! It’s the ONLY time in 36 yr therapy career that I didnt have full time work available. Once@work, no monitoring of vaccine injury. Staff don’t know what VAERS is despite having given millions of injections of an experimental mRNA shot.	
9/23/2024 13:34	9/23/2024 13:43	Northern							Arlington		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Closing the schools, small businesses and lockdowns was a complete disaster. Children were never at risk. The mask wearing caused irreparable harm, physically and mentally. Why close small businesses and not the large?	
9/23/2024 12:34	9/23/2024 12:36	Central	Charlottesville								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Make Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other proven remedies available to Virginians. I dislike and distrust the coziness of pharmaceutical companies with our hospitals and doctors	
8/26/2024 12:23	8/26/2024 12:32	Eastern					Richmond				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	the Virginia response to the COVID "pandemic" was an assault of the freedom of liberty to determine ones health needs, religious gatherings and the "essentialness" of businesses.	Doctors should be free to practice medicine in the way they determine is in the best interest of their patients.
9/23/2024 11:30	9/23/2024 11:39	Valley								Rockingham	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The response was a complete disaster. Most protocols were not based on science - masking, 6ft distancing, etc. Suppression of open dialogue promoted and perpetuated practices that were at best nonsensical and at worst deadly. Trust in healthcare is gone for anyone paying attention.	The harmful ramifications of the response will be long-term and far reaching. Many people were harmed.
9/23/2024 11:21	9/23/2024 11:35	Central	Charlottesville								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Please review and consider the overwhelming evidence regarding the use of Ivermectin (in particular) in the treatment of COVID found here: https://covid19criticalcare.com/medical-evidence/ Make Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and other proven remedies available to Virginians.	
9/23/2024 11:07	9/23/2024 11:32	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I have 4 grown children. One of them and their spouse took injection and boosters and are now infertile. The other 3 grown children with no vaccine have 8 children between them! You must be aware of the national drop in fertility rates; are you investigating injection connection?	

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8/26/2024 12:00	8/26/2024 12:41	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Spouse held against his will, treated for covid in Inova hospital system when he did not have covid. Body/lungs destroyed w gov. profit driven interventions. Altered records months after discharge. No one going after the hospitals for unnecessary hospital deaths, abusive and cruel gov. protocols.	He was isolated, both chemically/physically restrained, starved/dehydrated, humiliated, external catheter no consent resulted in permanant damage, told to defecate in bed, phone/glasses taken away, wife abused 4 asking questions.
8/26/2024 12:35	8/26/2024 12:42	Northern							Fredericksburg		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Very well established and prepared but guilty of breaking Constitutional law, blatantly.	Healthcare is between doctor and patient. If state is not paying for it, butt out.
9/23/2024 11:19	9/23/2024 11:29	Southside			Prince Edward						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Dr's were spouting death was certain. They bullied people about getting tested and getting vax. I ran into it at Patient First and then a local Dr. Office. HHS were giving much misinformed. According to local pharmacies, there were NO info inserts for vaccines or so we were told.	
8/26/2024 12:37	8/26/2024 12:44	Central	Albemarle								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Masking requirements were all over the place. Do I really think masking was effective when less than N95 certified masks were used, or that when I sit down in a public place for a meal that I'm protected when I have the mask off while eating?	I have serious doubts that masking was helpful in any context except close, long-term congregate settings. So applying this to general business environments and gatherings was "theater" at best and financially and psychologically damaging at worst.
8/26/2024 12:37	8/26/2024 12:49	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The heathcare system utterly failed in its duty to 'first do no harm'. It instead chose to profit from the incentives that the government held out if it complied with its demands. In doing so, it demonstrated that the people within the system have no principles or the backbone to stand up for them.	Here are some scientific resources to understand Ivermectin, HCQ, Vitamin D and other inexpensive treatments for C19. Note the timing of the studies. Many treatments were available in 2020 before the vaxx was released. https://c19hcq.org/meta.html , https://c19ivm.org/meta.html
9/23/2024 11:05	9/23/2024 11:27	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Treatment for COVID was determined by the government and w/o the patient (PT) or MD input Many died alone visitors in hospitals The vaccine mandates were NOT based on any evidence of protection or spreading the disease. No liberty for making my choices for my body!	Many died due to the vaccine and an increase in diseases has occurred due to the vaccine. Many long term effects of the vaccine are yet to be seen in our children and young adults who were given the jab without informed consent. May those responsible for this be held accountable.
9/23/2024 11:10	9/23/2024 11:23	Central	Nelson								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	My wife nor I took any Covid shots and have had no health problems. My doctor & intern tried to convince me I should take the shots - I refused. The public information on Covid convinced me the journey was a farce and the health care "big Pharma" was out to make money.	No

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9/23/2024 11:08	9/23/2024 11:18	Central	Charlottesville								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I have zero confidence in our Pharma-driven, money-making health care system that used a fabricated "state of emergency" to overrule the right of individuals to make their own health care decisions and often at the expense of patients lives.	The health care system in this state (and country) needs a complete overhaul and separation from big Pharma in making health care policies and protecting the rights of its citizens over the financial incentives of care providers.
9/23/2024 11:00	9/23/2024 11:06	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Allow medical providers to personalize care based on their experience and expertise ie ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, other proven protocols vs last minute big pharma remedies.	Stop politicization of these agencies.
8/26/2024 13:05	8/26/2024 13:06	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		
9/23/2024 10:50	9/23/2024 10:55	Southwest						Grayson			Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	OTC drugs should not be banned from the consumer.	Medical personnel should be free to treat patients as they see fit because that is what they were trained to do. Per HIPPA, the doctor patient relationship IS and should remain confidential. The Government Should Never Intrude into authentic Health Care.
9/22/2024 14:23	9/22/2024 15:02	Northern							Prince William		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I believe the response to the Covid-19 virus was inhumane. College students were isolated when they tested positive. Family members told other members to sit six feet from them (very rude), and many relationships were destroyed (intentional).	I would like to conclude with how this affected those who were employed. The food pantries, if they were open, were inundated with extra clients who did not have income due to being laid off. Do we still have Covid? Yes, we do. What should we do the next time there is a pandemic? Nothing!!!
9/18/2024 21:21	9/18/2024 21:22	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	https://pierrekorymedicalmusings.com/p/policy-shifts-against-the-mrna-platform?r=iutjw&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web	
9/17/2024 22:20	9/17/2024 23:15	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Pandemic Response was shocking. Patients denied access to life saving drugs like Ivermectin treated instead to Remdesivir causing kidney failure. Flu practically disappeared being diagnosed as COVID instead w faulty false positive PCR tests as hospitals were rewarded financially for Covid deaths.	Killing people in nursing homes thru exposure. Creating fear thru contrived deaths to manipulate masses to taking an untested deadly vaccine that was neither safe or effective. I personally know people injured and/or killed by these shots. And sudden death syndrome was witnessed on media.
9/17/2024 15:56	9/17/2024 16:15	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Any state govt. that participated in this federal BS campaign that only benefited Big Pharma should be completely replaced. I knew COVID was a control and greed ploy, yet our state did not protect us. They make the virus, leak it, push dangerous new vaccines on everyone and lie the whole way.	I have lost complete faith in the integrity of our govt, both federal and state. Federal because Big Pharma now owns them, and our state for not protecting us. The main reason I want Trump in office is because they don't want him there, and that tells me everything I need to know.

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8/26/2024 14:16	8/26/2024 14:22	Valley								Augusta	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	*Vaccines* were pushed too hard, not tested, and not even true vaccines. Many treatments such as remdesevir did far more harm that good. Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine were brushed under the rug, though very effective.	The *J&J Vaccine* changed my 64 year old husband and 34 year old daughter's Alpha-1 Antitrypsin recessive gene from recessive dominant. Husband died after 2 miserable years and daughter is very sick. NOBODY IN GOVERNMENT CARES!!!!
9/17/2024 11:18	9/17/2024 11:38	Hampton Roads				Gloucester					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Forced, masking, social isolation and vaccination were the main tactics to combat the spread of COVID. While the use of know inexpensive pharmaceuticals and natural treatments were suppressed or vilified. Big Pharma had complete control of this entire pandemic and profited from it.	The state did nothing to protect its citizens. Our basic rights and freedoms were discarded. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnnibpcajpcglcl efindmkaj/https://standforhealthfreedom.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/COVID-19-Data-Collection-Comorbidity-Federal.pdf
9/17/2024 9:11	9/17/2024 9:15	Hampton Roads						Newport News			Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I was at Denbigh Family Medicine on September 17, 2024, at 0915. They made a patient put on a mask, saying the provider required it. I asked the secretary who the provider was, and she refused to give that information. What are they trying to hide?	
8/26/2024 14:35	8/26/2024 14:45	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The health care systems provided incorrect information repeatedly - they said the "vaccine" would prevent transmission (that was wrong); they said the spike protein from the shot would stay locally in the arm (that was wrong); they said masks would stop the spread of the virus (also wrong); etc.	The CDC is a captured agency. They have become nothing more that a promotional arm of Big Pharma. The number of deaths and injuries from the Covid shots were very high (just look at CDC's own VAERS database). My doctor used Ivermectin w/ patients very successfully but couldn't talk about it.
8/26/2024 14:33	8/26/2024 14:49	Southside			Franklin						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	You blackmailed people to take a vaccine and wear masks. You lied that's was Safe and Effective. As a result thousands of people have died. I, friends, husband will never listen to CDC, FDA AMA. If you impose another shutdown I will roam the streets giving out literature proving your lies .	You should pay for your rimes against Humanity. You whole department should be disbanded and you should all go to jail for killing people.
8/26/2024 14:01	8/26/2024 15:16	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I found the states response to Covid 19 to be poor at best. My advice would be to follow the FLCCC Allinaces advice, suggestions and protocol when dealing with Covid or any future viruses. covid19criticalcare.com	No
8/26/2024 16:23	8/26/2024 16:25	Hampton Roads					Virginia Beach				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Overly reliant on top down standards of care	
9/16/2024 20:13	9/16/2024 20:15	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	People should be able to choose their own healthcare and doctors without interference!	

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8/26/2024 17:01	8/26/2024 17:11	Central	Albemarle								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I disagree with the past pandemic response regarding COVID-19 since vaccines should not have been mandates and Governor Northam abused his emergency powers by placing 10 person limit for church attendance, with a pastor being arrested in Chincoteague Island for holding services with 15 people.	I hope that the Virginia State Government will impose policies that respect the medicinal freedom of all Virginians.
9/16/2024 19:31	9/16/2024 20:01	Valley							Winchester		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Let old people see their families	Would be great ti get truth instead if fear for the purposes if government control and requiring a vaccine that injured thousands and thousands of people And it was covered up. It injured me!
9/16/2024 12:28	9/16/2024 12:47	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I never again would like to see a government entity instill fear and tyrannical information about a virus like Sars-Cov2, which could not be challenged. We now learn that Dr. Fauci was wrong about the injections and the masking.	
8/26/2024 18:14	8/26/2024 18:16	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	No future mandates. No required vaccines.	No future mandates, no required vaccines
8/26/2024 18:03	8/26/2024 18:18	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Mine is best health of anyone I know. I was shunned withstanding enormous social pressure to vaccinate. level of hysteria unnecessary. Businesses lost; Our nation shut down.The distancing and ostracizing. It brought unnecessary fear. healthy children forced masks. Educate us to be healthy instead!	I don't know the extent to which big pharma profited and continues to reap billions from peoples inability to get and stay healthy and being coerced into "health care" they don't want or need.
8/26/2024 18:13	8/26/2024 18:20	Central	Orange								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	There should have been no restrictions. All you accomplished was cause people to die in misery and loose trust in the medical field. No shots, no masks, and no more putting medical facilities in a position to make money by encouraging it to be COVID related deaths.	It was handled poorly. Grade F-
9/16/2024 12:36	9/16/2024 12:40	Central	Richmond								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Masks do not work and cause unnecessary expense to citizen. Closing businesses is wrong, unAmerican and bad for the economy. Clearly isolation isn't necessary for the healthy and young. Never isolate!	
9/16/2024 12:01	9/16/2024 12:09	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Never again will the people of our community allow those in the local and state government take away our freedoms. We will not allow our schools , businesses and churches to be closed by bureaucrats. The government is the peoples business and we will not let officials impose tyranny on us.	

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8/26/2024 18:57	8/26/2024 19:02	Central	Orange								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	At the time I was the nursing supervisor for a 180 bed facility. We locked down. Families were deprived of their loved ones and pts suffered depression, behaviors, falls, died alone, transfered to EDs and died. Staff was 1 nurse per 40 patients and 1 cna per 60 patients worked 14-20 days in a row.	1 mask and 1set of goggles for 7 days, janitors often skipped work d/t fears, sourced hand sanitizer from a distillery, many staff quit because they couldn't work in the conditions or bear to see the pts so upset or sick. Families assaulted us. Broke windows.
9/16/2024 10:21	9/16/2024 10:30	Northern						Fredericksburg			Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Health care systems should not be hindered by the dark agenda we faced last time. We need access to things that work like Ivermectin and we need to expose the things that do not work like Remdesivere! We all must stand together to keep our health and out industry safe.	We need to expose those willing to do harm!!
8/26/2024 18:20	8/26/2024 19:06	Central	King William								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	My wife and I were denied Ivermectin, HCQ and budesonide by our family doctor. Instead, he prescribed us monoclonal IV that could only be administered at the Williamsburg Sentera. The hospital informed me that the Biden administration cut off supplies of this treatment to Virginia.	The government needs to stay out of healthcare choices of citizens. Your meddling almost cost us our lives. Your "expert medical advice" was wrong. It is now proven that the alternative treatments were more safe and effective than than Remdesivir, which killed a lot more people.
9/16/2024 7:55	9/16/2024 7:58	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The health care systems have sold their soul to Big Pharm...and just repeat the government nonsense	There needs to be an entity that can determine if these vaccines are truly safe and effective prior to the community being told they are!!
9/15/2024 23:12	9/15/2024 23:15	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The Governor should not allow the Virginia Department of Health or any unelected entity to decide to take away our individual liberty, our bodily autonomy, our movement, our right to work and protect our families.	I will not allow elected officials to relegate their responsibilities to unelected, unaccountable appointed bureaucrats.
9/15/2024 21:48	9/15/2024 22:07	Valley								Winchester	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	In general, medical care in Virginia has become routine and one-size-fits-all in its consciousness. I want a system which seeks a variety of cures and collaborates with patients rather than forcing factory medicine on them. .	When my Winchester Medical Center cardiologist was concerned that I was not taking medications, I left his practice! He did not test me. I am now treated by a professional who utilizes muscle testing to determine what medications or supplements would be beneficial BEFORE I ingest them!! Imagine!
9/15/2024 21:17	9/15/2024 21:28	Valley								Augusta	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The government must allow citizens to be responsive to the known emergency situation. That includes, for example, that citizens must be able to freely obtain medicines such as Ivermectin which was reported by some medical groups as effective when used quickly against COVID.	

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8/26/2024 20:12	8/26/2024 20:16	Northern							Culpeper		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Hospitals and nursing homes became prisons. The doctor's were bribed to call everything covid and hospitals were paid for death.... need Nuremberg 2.0 for the way it was handled.	
9/15/2024 20:17	9/15/2024 20:29	West Central		Bedford							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Studies showed that masking, lockdowns & social distancing had no positive impact on transmission of C-19. The C-19 vaccines did not prevent transmission. Never again should any vaccines be mandatory; never again should doctors be prohibited from prescribing off-label medications.	No
9/15/2024 18:25	9/15/2024 18:48	West Central		Salem							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Roanoke Valley hospitals followed the nonsense that Fauci and the White House dished out because they made the most money by putting Covid patients on the ventilator, which killed them. The African countries used their traditional Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine with much fewer deaths than US.	Many of us had problems after taking the vaccines, and the feds covered that up. The feds pushed doctors to push the experimental vaccines and interfered with the doctor/patient relationship. Some of us wanted Ivermectin and the feds made it nearly impossible bc of THEIR disinformation.
8/26/2024 21:26	8/26/2024 21:32	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I was fired by my Sentara PCP in 2022 because I questioned her on prior statements she made about Covid vaccine safety and efficacy. After my annual physical where I politely explained why I never got the Covid vax, Sentara sent me a certified letter telling me I was no longer welcome at Sentara.	COVID has shown that our medical system is a real trouble. The way they treat patients is appalling. The doctor-patient relationship is now a one-way street. Disagree with the doctor and you're dead to them.
9/15/2024 18:42	9/15/2024 18:44	Central	Greene								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		
9/15/2024 15:49	9/15/2024 15:59	Northern							Alexandria		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Mask mandates and Any Vaccine mandates violate my Constitutional, civil and human rights.	People lost jobs if we refused vaccine mandate. We were forced to wear masks against our will at work for four years. I feel violated. Mask mandates and Any Vaccine mandates violate my Constitutional, civil and human rights. I have a right to breathe the air and to refuse all vaccines.
9/15/2024 15:44	9/15/2024 15:53	Hampton Roads				Williamsburg					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	As a retired RN who volunteers in healthcare I just recently got the FL regulations for the upcoming Covid 19 fall push.....they don't recommend it..... really sick of this "pandemic" talk	Eat real food and get sleep

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8/26/2024 21:43	8/26/2024 22:02	Northern							Culpeper		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The Health Care Systems showed how ill-prepared they were to handle the covid pandemic, but a lot of the issues were not entirely their fault but rather from the restrictions placed on them by the government. My hope is that some best practices have been implemented due to the covid experience.	I am not sure who would be responsible for this change, but until the covid pandemic, I was not aware that we relied so heavily on other countries for our medicines. Some of these countries are not really our friends and this puts us in a very vulnerable position. We need to change this ASAP.
8/26/2024 22:35	8/26/2024 22:41	Central	Orange								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Follow the medical evidence rather than government policies; Ivermectin useful vs vaccine. Masks that can't stop viruses! 6 foot distance that has NO scientific validity! Lock downs of healthy people!	
9/15/2024 14:32	9/15/2024 14:38	Valley								Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	No one should be denied healthcare. Healthcare should be provided regardless of whether or not the individual is wearing a mask or has been vaccinated. Your ability to have a family/friend with you as your advocate should never be taken away.	Healthcare should be separate from government intervention. We need healthcare providers who will learn and treat people to the best of their ability. They shouldn't just follow a government flow chart nor an insurance flow chart. Use your degree. Don't be puppets.
9/15/2024 14:26	9/15/2024 14:32	Northern							Spotsylvania		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	It became obvious, ultimately, that no one else could handle dental problems other than we dentists. So, my group opened our office and worked for the duration .	yes. To call the decisionmakers in this Biden administration "Marxists" or "socialists" is to elevate them. They are Nazis and we must prepared to take them on in a formidable manner.
9/15/2024 13:01	9/15/2024 13:19	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	During the lockdown time frame I had many medical appointments and hospitalizations not related to Covid. I was subjected to mandatory masking in order to receive absolutely necessary treatments. Masks have been scientifically proven to be ineffective in preventing Covid yet even I useless cloth	masks were deemed acceptable. I have recently undergone lung cancer surgery and WILL NOT wear a mask at ANY medical appointment. I will never forgive my oncologist for demanding I take the vax DURING treatment for cancer, KNOWING that Ivermectin was a safe and effective treatment for Covid.
9/15/2024 12:29	9/15/2024 12:36	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		When we were told that we needed to get a vaccine that suddenly appeared and had not gone through the approval process that is applied to other drugs that should have raised concerns in everyone's mind.
9/13/2024 9:16	9/13/2024 12:29	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I had a siezure during the mandatory masking period, and a mask was put on my face (against my wishes) while unconscious (a chocking hazard and airway blockade) when O2 was critical. As my spouse wasn't allowed in hospital, I seized again and fell out of bed causing a concussion/need for a CT scan.	https://www.healthline.com/health-news/mask-mandates-in-hospitals-may-have-done-little-to-slow-covid-19-omicron-transmission

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8/27/2024 7:25	8/27/2024 7:33	Valley							Frederick		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The Children’s Health Defense legal team has written three legal notifications that anyone faced with a COVID vaccine, COVID test or mandates https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/resources-federal-law-prohibits-mandates-emergency-use-covid-vaccines-tests-masks/	Any entity or organization that require Submitting the notices prepared by Children’s Health Defense is the first step prior to seeking an exemption or taking legal action. https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/resources-federal-law-prohibits-mandates-emergency-use-covid-vaccines-tests-masks/
9/10/2024 4:17	9/10/2024 4:41	Northern							Fairfax		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Our daughter was born with TEF-Fistula in 2018. She was denied medical procedures to stretch her esophagus for the next two years, on a regular basis, to avoid asphyxiation caused by scar tissue. When she did return for surgeries only one parent was able to attend to her at the hospital!	It was a lonely and horrible experience. She was on deaths doorstep for the first year and a half of her life. She was abandoned by the heathcare system.
9/9/2024 18:11	9/9/2024 18:22	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Read We Are The Prey and The Real Anthony Fauci, see cases through Senator Ron Johnson & others We are currently undergoing mass genocide. Stop all above plans re plandemics. Your scientists/ agencies create the diseases & hide the natural treatments.	They make billions of dollars on the shots. Do your research. We will be taking endless supplements during our now shortened lives to keep our bodies from being overtaken by the Internet of Bodies.
8/27/2024 8:04	8/27/2024 8:28	Southside			Mecklenburg						Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Emergencies add to Gov't, power---excuses to tale power from citizens, when volunteers do better than, even Red Cross in meeting needs! Constitution grants Gov't no power to medicate or educate. Both are illegal, hence we owe nothing to fake providers, thieves, elder abusers have destroyed medicine!	Valley Health killed my brother so they could get Gov't reward \$16,000. He was improving from Covid, so they cut his oxygen at night. Brain dead the next day. Centra tried to kill me but doctor friend insisted NO deathly Remdesovir! They refused Ivermectin but I did get monoclonal antibodies.
9/9/2024 13:07	9/9/2024 13:15	Central	Albemarle								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	It was inhumane that my boyfriend who was hospitalized for something non-covid related was limited to 2 visitors during the time of his stay. Ivermectin & hydroxychloriquine were restricted. Many died who could have been treated with these safe drugs.	When I was sick with covid symptoms, I had to find a doctor that would prescribe ivermectin, and wait 3 days for the medicine to arrive and paid nearly \$400 for the medicine. However, I believe it may have saved my life. My boyfriend also was saved with ivermectin.
9/7/2024 15:53	9/7/2024 16:17	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Hospitalized patients were DENIED life saving treatment for COVID. Doctors were using HCQ, Ivermectin, elevated vitamin C and D to cure patients in the early stages of COVID. Their treatment was curative. People died because this treatment was denied by hospital protocol. A crime against humanity.	The whole notion that COVID was a life threatening virus to all people was an out and out lie. The elderly and those with complicated health issues were vulnerable. Ventilators killed people.

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8/27/2024 10:17	8/27/2024 11:11	Central	Chesterfield								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Every business is essential, no matter what overblown emergency is declared, like Covid. I had a constitutional right to worship IN PERSON, not wear a face mask, take medication I want (like ivermectin), and NOT take shots that are neither safe, nor effective.	Make sure VAHD and licensing organizations do NOT attack doctors for treating Covid patients early and caring about their wellness/survival. Dr. Marik and Dr. Kory were two of thousands who were right. All the "sheep" medical professionals/hospitals who followed Fauci and "big Pharma" were wrong.
9/7/2024 0:16	9/7/2024 0:23	Hampton Roads				Hampton					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Regarding masking requirements especially in medical facilities, it is inhumane to ask a pregnant woman to wear a mask for any period of time as it is well known that pregnancy causes decreased lung function at certain stages of pregnancy, and the breathing restriction of a mask is not tolerable.	I had to enter a medical facility in 2023 for a 20 week ultrasound, and was told it was the facilities policy that I must wear a mask the entire time I was in their facility. This is not healthy for a 20 week pregnant mother and child. Why did these pointless restrictions remain for so long?
9/6/2024 16:07	9/6/2024 16:14	Valley								Frederick	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Look at evidence based outcomes in deciding what medical recommendations should be made. Allow much discussion to occur and avoid groupthink. Be suspicious of recommendations being made by anyone with financial interests in the therapy being suggested or mandated.	Masks and social distancing do not work to help prevent disease. Clean air, sunshine, clean conditions and handwashing work better than anything else. Do not move sick elderly persons to nursing homes. Currently should remove Remdisivir from hospital protocols.
9/4/2024 20:23	9/4/2024 20:58	Central	Goochland								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I had the responsibility of getting my sister with Stage3 Lung Cancer to her oncologist and appointments in reference to her survival.She was forced to get the COVID JAB in order to receive her chemo treatments and was also made to get a booster which made her so sick she was rushed to the hospital.!	Each appointment for her the staff all wore masks!Another lie we now know was unhealthy for the staff. And she was forced to wear a mask much of her time getting treatments.WRONG!
8/27/2024 17:54	8/31/2024 17:38	Northern							Loudoun		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The declaration of a state of emergency and the shutting down of small businesses and churches was horrible. We have lost many of our small businesses, especially small restaurants in this area. As a small business owner, I had to rebuild my business after being shutdown for 14 weeks!	People were afraid to leave their homes and to receive the medical and holistic services that they needed. It is very sad what I have seen happen to my clientele with regard to their health and well-being.
8/31/2024 15:21	8/31/2024 15:26	Eastern						Northumberland			Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The government put themselves ahead of both the people and the true science; politicizing the response to a pandemic. The Health Care Systems and Emergency Management systems exist because of the people, and yet the people were reduced to talking point but not well considered in the response.	Govern through clean thought rather than hyperbole.

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8/30/2024 13:33	8/30/2024 13:41	West Central		Roanoke							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Mandatory masking and distancing were hated by many, but it was a medical necessity. I fear that, because so many uneducated, gullible Americans were against it because it fed into their conspiracy theories, we're going to have an even worse compliance rate the next time around.	Maybe more PSAs next time teaching how viruses are transferred. Let's do better at educating those who think they know everything just because their leader tells them what to think.
8/27/2024 13:04	8/27/2024 13:15	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	January2022. Care for Covid, denied. All were tested that came to ER but sent home. Results not available for 2 weeks by then you were either dead or had recovered. Only offered a ventilator and Remdesiver which by then everyone knew was a killer. Not allowed to even mention Ivermectin.	After recovery but left with long Covid, all Sentara facilities and partners would run all kinds of test but wouldn't diagnose anything and Drs. seemed to be afraid to answer any questions (like the room was bugged).
8/27/2024 13:02	8/27/2024 13:30	Hampton Roads				Chesapeake					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Information that could be easily found, contradicted the advice from the medical industry. Adverse effects from the shot were reported everywhere, but the government and medical systems continued to recommend or mandate the vaccine. Nothing made sense, but pharmaceutical companies made billions.	I lost an uncle due to hospital protocols that are now known to be dangerous. I have many vaccine injured friends. College students and many in the workplace and military were FORCED to take the dangerous shot. I have lost all confidence in the health care system, CDC, FDA.
8/30/2024 12:20	8/30/2024 12:24	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	People with covid sometimes would not follow the safety rules for the safety of customers and ourselves and themselves. We have even gone as far as if it was close to the pharmacy asking if they could go through the drive through to pick it up if they also had medication.	If they came inside we would have to disinfect everything and ourselves
8/30/2024 7:31	8/30/2024 7:49	West Central		Botetourt							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The Virginia response was authorian and rejection of medical science. Effective repurposed drugs were banned, and replaced with more expensive ineffective drugs. Virginia's pandemic response was a total sellout to Big Pharma and big government. I have zero trust in the medical profession.	The response should be thoroughly reviewed. Those responsible for the denial of good medical care should be punished. This (mandates for vaccines, masks, church, school business closures) should never be allowed to happen again. NEVER!
8/27/2024 15:24	8/27/2024 15:40	Southwest						Galax			Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The confidence of people in the healthcare system has been destroyed by the misinformation, disinformation and pure propoganda perpetrated at all levels from the federal government down to local healthcare agencies. The pandemic was about money and power, not about providing a medical solution.	Prosecute Pfizer, Fauci and all those who profited from the misery and death associated with this virus for starts.

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8/29/2024 21:15	8/29/2024 21:20	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I'm not against vaccines however in this response to Covid-19 it became apparent quickly that the media, government, major medical were all in lockstep to ensure that there was one and only one viable solution to covid. That was that everyone be shot with their "vaccine". They denied or silenced	anyone who had a differing opinion or suggested any other therapy that could work. They only listened to "experts" who supported their conclusions. They dreamt up the 6 foot rule and swore up and down that wearing silly masks would protect us! The amount of coercion was infuriating.
8/29/2024 15:00	8/29/2024 15:12	Eastern					Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Our public health agencies responses to the non-pandemic were a power grab and a test to see how far WE THE PEOPLE would go along and comply. Lives and fortunes have been lost. Adverse events from the unsafe (and ineffective) experimental therapies abound. Look at VAERS for Christ's sake! Shame!	On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (4) all other social media posts on FDA accounts that link to Why You Should Not Use Ivermectin to Treat or Prevent COVID-19. WHY DID FDA AGREE TO THIS?
8/27/2024 21:31	8/27/2024 21:46	Northern							Clarke		Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Last spring I attended the Zoom session regarding healthcare rights of the Virginia citizens. I was appalled that the committee which was charged with making recommendations about healthcare rights were simply not appropriately educated to be sitting on the committee. The chair was uninterested.	Most people in the Commonwealth have no clue about 5G, EMFs and their harm to our populations. They don't even see that we now have fewer insects since the advent of 5G. Most citizens simply accept the fact that they are being poisoned by this technology or simply do not know about it!
8/29/2024 14:51	8/29/2024 15:00	Eastern					Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	Gov't agencies colluded with Mass Media to promote a massive disinformation campaign intended to stoke fear and despair in the American People (and the World for that matter) for a "disease" that only a small % of the population needed to worry about. Shame! On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a...	lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (3) FDA's Twitter post from April 26, 2022 (ECF No. 12, Ex. 7), that reads, "Hold your horses, y'all. Ivermectin may be trending, but it still isn't authorized or approved to treat COVID-19."
8/29/2024 14:42	8/29/2024 14:49	Eastern					Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The govt's top-down treatment protocol directives destroyed the Provider-Patient relationship and threw Informed Consent out the window. Careers were ruined as people had to choose between taking an untested and unsafe "injection therapy" or quitting. All based upon dis-information & lies. Shame!	On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (2) FDA's Instagram post from August 21, 2021 that reads, "You are not a horse. Stop it with the #ivermectin. It's not authorized for treating #COVID."
8/29/2024 14:14	8/29/2024 14:40	Eastern					Northumberland				Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The public health agencies' response to the so-called pandemic was based upon lies and disinformation. By picking "essential" businesses and closing down others, closing churches and schools, mandating masks, and restricting social activity, government did irreparable harm to its citizens. Shame!	On 3/22/24 the FDA agreed to settle a lawsuit by removing its published info re: the use of Ivermectin, specifically to: Delete and not republish (1) FDA's Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook posts from August 21, 2021, that read, "You are not a horse. You are not a cow. Seriously, y'all. Stop it."

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8/29/2024 14:02	8/29/2024 14:20	Central	Henrico								Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	I have chronic thromboembolic pulmanary hypertension and therefore am especally at risk for respiratory infections. I contacted Covid-19 for which I took hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. I was bedridden for only one day. Ivermectin should be available over the counter in Virginia.	
8/29/2024 13:50	8/29/2024 13:56	Northern						Spotsylvania			Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	It disgusts me that, the vaccine was mandatory and we lost a grave amount of health-care professionals.	Makes me ill that people had to die alone, for one of the biggest government hoax in my lifetime.
8/28/2024 8:55	8/28/2024 9:04	Valley								Rockingham	Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	This was a total and complete failure and misuse of resources across the board. You overreacted to what was, for most people, a bad cold. The patients you did get, you mistreated, and listened to those above who did NOT know what they were talking about. You mandated an experimental poison shot, and	...you suppressed effective treatments that already existed because using those would have meant the shots could not have received their EUA from the FDA. Bill Gates and big pharma made billions because you didn't question anything your betters told you. Next time, give everyone some HCQ or Ivermectin
8/28/2024 19:35	8/28/2024 19:36	West Central		Franklin							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management		
8/28/2024 13:18	8/28/2024 13:22	Hampton Roads				Virginia Beach					Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	VDH did a poor job with registration for vaccinations. VDH took a long time to update their website with covid-19 data.	
8/28/2024 16:01	8/28/2024 16:11	West Central		Campbell							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	The disruption of the public school system during the pandemic was unnecessary and detrimental to the success of so many students. While a few are able to learn through online instruction, most need in-person instruction to effectual succeed.	The virus was not lethal to school aged children and care should be taken before ever putting those measures into place EVER AGAIN
8/28/2024 16:11	8/28/2024 16:26	West Central		Campbell							Health Care Systems and Emergency Management	We should have ivermectin available OTC in our great state, just as public servants have implemented in Tennessee for instance. Unless you are being paid by big pharma there is absolutely no reason to put patients on a ventilator and treat with remesdevir, a death sentence.	Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine should be readily available in the early stages of an infection. The covid "vaccination" should be pulled from the market as there are zero, 0, long term studies and all previous animal testing proved fatal.

