



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

**ERIC RAFF
DIRECTOR**

Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
**1602 ROLLING HILLS DRIVE, SUITE 203
HENRICO, VIRGINIA 23229-5012**

(804) 662-9502 (V)
(800) 552-7917 (V)
(804) 325-1290 (VP)
(804) 662-9718 (FAX)
www.VDDHH.org

April 10, 2020

To: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
VDEM Joint Information Command
VEST Operations Section Chief

From: Eric Raff, Director
Karen Brimm, Community Services Manager and Acting Access and Functional Needs
Officer to the VEST

Re: Posting of VDDHH's "COVID-19 Resources for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing" link

VDDHH's mission is the promotion of accessible communication so that persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing may full participate in programs, services and opportunities throughout the Commonwealth. During times of emergency, this mission becomes even more critical, since access to information is a vital aspect of prevention, mitigation, and recovery efforts to keep all Virginians safe, including those who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing.

The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) requests VDH and VDEM assistance in providing accessible information related to COVID-19 to our local government partners. Specifically, we ask that the local public health agencies and local emergency management agencies in the Commonwealth make VDDHH's "COVID-19 Resources for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing" webpage link <https://www.vddhh.org/COVID19DHHResources.htm> available on its COVID-19 related webpages.

We are continuously updating the webpage, which include national and state resources benefitting people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing. The webpage includes content, which is accessible to those who use sign language as their primary language or those who rely on captioning. We appreciate the opportunity to fulfil our mission.