The following has special meaning:
green underline denotes added text
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2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

CHAPTER 472

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 32.1 a section numbered 32.1-48.001, relating to public health emergency; emergency medical services agencies; real-time access to information.

[H 1989]

Approved March 31, 2021

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 32.1 a section numbered 32.1-48.001 as follows:

Section 32.1-48.001. Real-time information sharing for emergency medical services agencies.

A. The Department shall develop and implement a system for sharing information regarding confirmed cases of communicable diseases of public health threat with emergency medical services agencies in real time during a declared public health emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat, in order to protect the health and safety of emergency medical services personnel and the public. Such system shall include information about the location of confirmed cases of the communicable disease of public health threat, including the address of such location; the number of confirmed and suspected cases of the communicable disease of public health threat at each such location; any measures implemented at such location to prevent exposing others to the communicable disease of public health threat; and any other information that the Department shall deem appropriate. Such system shall be updated in real time to reflect each confirmed case of the communicable disease of public health threat.

B. During a declared public health emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat, every local and district health department in the Commonwealth shall report information regarding confirmed and suspected cases of the communicable disease of public health threat to the Department, in a format specified by the Board, for inclusion in the system developed pursuant to subsection A.

C. Information contained in the system developed pursuant to subsection A shall be made available to every emergency medical services agency in the Commonwealth and shall be used by such emergency medical services agencies for the purpose of (i) developing protocols to ensure the safety of emergency medical services personnel and the public when responding to calls for assistance at locations at which a case of the communicable disease of public health threat has been confirmed, including protocols related to appropriate staffing of the emergency medical services agency and the availability and use of appropriate equipment, including personal protective equipment, by emergency medical services personnel when responding to such calls, and (ii) during a declared public health emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat, identifying specific locations at which a case of such communicable disease of public health threat has been confirmed for the purpose of implementing such protocols when responding to calls for assistance.

D. The Department shall make information submitted pursuant to subsection B and any other information contained in the system developed pursuant to subsection A available, upon request, to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board and each regional emergency medical services council, for the purpose of monitoring and improving the quality of emergency medical services in the Commonwealth.

E. The Department shall regularly consult with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board to identify the types of information that should be included in the system developed pursuant to subsection A and to revise reporting requirements for local and district health departments pursuant to subsection B.

F. Information contained in the system developed pursuant to subsection A shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except in accordance with this section.

2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) approves a grant to the Commonwealth from the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) program that is sufficient to fund the costs of the Department of Health (the Department) to establish and implement the information-sharing system created by this act. The Department shall apply to the CDC for such funding and shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the outcome of its application.

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