

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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

5 [H 1989]

6 Approved

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

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

10 **§ 32.1-48.001. Real-time information sharing for emergency medical services agencies.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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