

**Through a partnership between the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association (MNCHA) and the Maryland Department of Health Office of Preparedness and Response (MDH OPR), the Maryland Emergency Preparedness Network (EPN) was created to disseminate free, important, and timely information before, during, and after an emergency. The EPN's goal is to build health resilience among one of Maryland's most vulnerable populations, the homebound.**



*Home Health Aid delivering care in the home during the COVID pandemic.*

## **WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE MARYLAND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NETWORK FOR HOME HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS' QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!**

We are establishing the newsletter to provide another source of helpful and timely information to help Maryland's home healthcare network prepare their patients, members of their communities, and their own agency for emergencies, natural and human-made. We welcome ideas for future articles from all EPN members.

A message from Nicole Brown, Healthcare Preparedness Program Manager, MDH OPR: "Congratulations to the Maryland National Capital Homecare Association on their inaugural EPN newsletter! MNCHA has been a wonderful resource to the homecare provider community and an excellent partner to spread emergency preparedness training opportunities, resources, and information. The Office of Preparedness and Response looks forward to continuing our partnership with the goal of helping the residents of Maryland be prepared to face any emergency!"

A message from Dawn Seek, Executive Director, MNCHA: "This past year has been challenging for all. MNCHA worked with the MDH Office of Preparedness and Response to bring you all educational events and materials to support your efforts during the pandemic. We are grateful to MDH for their continued support of the healthcare industry. EPN will continue to monitor the current events and work to bring you the most up to date and relevant information to assist you in caring for your patients and clients. We appreciate our members and are always happy to hear from them. If you would like to ask a question or share a thought, please contact us at [info@mdemergencyprepnetwork.org](mailto:info@mdemergencyprepnetwork.org)."

## **HOME CARE HEROES**

We are announcing a regular feature in the newsletter to recognize a home health aide, private duty nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist and DME employee who goes above and beyond in delivering care to their patients and in their communities. Each quarter, this section will feature a staff person in each of these categories from agencies across the state.

Please submit the following information on members of your team that we can feature here to [info@mdemergencyprepnetwork.org](mailto:info@mdemergencyprepnetwork.org):

Name, Title/Role/Agency/Paragraph highlighting the person's accomplishments

### NEW EPN RESOURCES

A new patient flyer titled, "My Emergency Preparedness Guide for Families with a Disabled Child" is now available on the EPN Web site under [Patient Resources](#).



### MDH OP&R RESOURCES

The MDH OP&R office has many resources available on their Web site under [Resources](#).



### COVID CORNER

- COVID-19 Vaccinations in Maryland: [Information Page](#).
- Maryland COVID-19 [Testing Sites](#).
- CDC Guide to Masks: [Link Here](#).
- Governor Hogan Announces Lifting of Capacity Limits, Masking and Distancing Protocols Maintained, effective March 12, 2021: [Details here](#).
- New CMS OMH COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Vulnerable Populations: [Webpage here](#).



### Contact Us

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