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Virginia Department of Health VICC Updates

March 2024

* The [Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/early-hearing-detection-and-intervention/virginia-2024-ehdi-conference/) plans to host their 2nd conference in Richmond on May 15th-18th, 2024. There are several opportunities for people to get involved.
  + Conference planners are collecting phots and artwork that will be displayed at the 2024 VA EHDI Conference. Some will be selected to be used on conference materials. The goal of this fun project is to elevate the visibility of families with deaf, hard of hearing, and cCMV affected children.

Artwork and photo submissions should be mailed to the address below by March 30.

**Virginia Department of Health**

**James Madison Building**

**109 Governor Street**

**9th floor, Cube No. 920B Attn: Daphne Miller**

**Richmond, VA 23219**

* + If you know of anyone that would be a great presenter for this event, please share the [Presenter Interest Form](https://redcap.vdh.virginia.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=93P4JJJ9R8).
  + If you know of anyone would like to be an exhibitor for this even, please the [Exhibitor Interest Form](https://redcap.vdh.virginia.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=JP43KFTRP39XR9CT).

[**Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**](https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/high-risk/infants-young-children.html)

RSV is a common respiratory virus that causes cold-like symptoms. RSV can be serious for infants and older adults. Vaccines are available to protect older adults and monoclonal antibody products are available to protect infants and younger children from severe RSV. RSV season typically starts in the fall and peaks in the winter in most regions of the United States. Like other respiratory viruses, you can help limit the spread of RSV by using the following preventive measures:

* Wash your hands often.
* Keep your hands off your face.
* Avoid close contact with sick people.
* Cover your coughs and sneezes.
* Clean and disinfect surfaces.
* Stay home when you are sick.

### [Allergy Season](https://acaai.org/allergies/allergic-conditions/seasonal-allergies/)

### Allergy season usually starts when the trees start budding-which can be anywhere between February and May or June. Allergy seasons include:

### Tree pollen allergy season- can start as early as February and last until early summer.

### Grass allergy season- can start in April and last through June.

### Ragweed allergy season- can start in August to November, with a peak in September.

### To prevent allergic reactions before they happen:

### Be aware of pollen counts.

### You can find this information in the newspaper, on television, on the radio, or by looking online [here](https://weather.com/forecast/allergy/l/c30bd2890998fb428b34e23e1184ea3cf210d6a0fe1e2abc1c7c319afbb838e8).

### Improve air quality while indoors.

### Minimize allergen exposure.

### Stick to your medication schedule.