



**March 25, 2020**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Aging Together's Response to Coronavirus Issues**

Aging Together, the regional nonprofit agency that connects people to resources, perseveres on the principle that partnerships are powerful and especially in this time of pandemic concern.

"We realize the immense unease about our aging population's safety right now, especially because the largest percentage of deaths from the COVID virus are age 70 and above" said Ellen Phipps, Executive Director. "We have developed a temporary coalition of regional professionals who meet via weekly webinars to determine priorities and action plans that help lower the risk to our seniors while keeping them from feeling anxiety and isolation." The outcome of having a coalition like this is to remove some of the confusion about how to help seniors while assuring they remain at home or within assisted living facilities. Isolation is one of the biggest concerns, as it leads to depression, confusion, anxiety and loneliness.

The group met for the first time this week, and the response was enormous. Phipps says Aging Together will regularly share resources and programs that are outcomes from this coalition, as well as contact information for existing agencies that are responding with emergency needs such as food delivery, transportation to doctors' appointments, and other necessities. "Aging Together does not provide direct services but is implemental in connecting people to services and resources that help, as well as forming partnerships to resolve issues. We encourage people to check our website, social media sites, or call our number and leave a message. One can also ask to be placed on our email news list which has a frequent distribution to keep up with changes and news."

The agency is continuing to work normal hours by teleworking. Phipps shares the letter below which has been sent out to constituents and partners and is posted on their website:

*Aging Together staff continues to work remotely, and remains available to answer questions and concerns, and to connect you to needed resources as is our intent and vision as an agency. Please call 540-829-6405 and leave a message. We are checking voicemail several times a day and will return calls as soon as possible.*

*If you are experiencing a medical emergency, please dial 911.*

*All Aging Together face-to-face Programs and Events through July 1, 2020 have been cancelled or postponed. Remote webinars already scheduled will still take place, and other webinar/video resources are planned. Please check the Aging Together website Events page regularly.*

If you are seeking information about COVID-19 please visit the health department at [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov) (Click on the "Health Departments" tab to find your local department); The World Health Organization at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int); or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (the "CDC") at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

If you are seeking information regarding Aging services (such as Senior Meals, Senior Centers, transportation, medication needs, social isolation) please call Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services (**RRCS**) at 540-825-3100:

- Culpeper ext. 3467
- Fauquier ext. 3427
- Madison ext. 3471
- Orange ext. 3450
- Rappahannock ext. 3416

Call your local **Department of Social Services** for Adult Protective Services, food & meals information, medication information, unemployment, benefits at:

- Culpeper 540-727-0372
- Fauquier 540-422-8400
- Madison 540-948-5521
- Orange 540-672-1155
- Rappahannock 540-675-3313

If you are in need of behavioral health services, such as crisis line or counseling, or help with anxiety, fear or worry during this time of crisis please contact **Peer2Peer Mental Health Hotline** at 833-626-1490.

For additional help with finding local curated social services information and resources call 211 (Statewide).

Report fraud/scams at 833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311).

County Team members and community partners are invited to join our weekly touch-base calls. Please email [ephipps@agingtogether.org](mailto:ephipps@agingtogether.org) if you would like to be added to the meeting list. Please note these meetings are for resolution to community needs, not for caregiver assistance. We will be providing caregiver resource help in the form of webinars and other distribution systems as soon as we are able.

Stay safe and healthy,

Ellen Phipps  
Executive Director, Aging Together

*The mission of Aging Together is, through partnerships, to connect people to communities and resources to improve quality of life as we age. Aging Together serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock*

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