APPLETREE COVID-19 Supplemental Awards
Virginia Department of Health

Introduction
In early 2021, ASTHO, with support from CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), announced awards to five state health agencies to support their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. State health agencies in Kentucky, Virginia, Arkansas, Vermont, and Indiana were selected for this opportunity because of their recent application to ATSDR’s Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement program. Vermont requested that ASTHO work directly with their partner organization, Informed Green Solutions (IGS), for this project. ASTHO is providing funding and assistance to the recipient state health agencies and state health agency partners to support their environmental health-related COVID-19 response activities. This factsheet outlines activities supported under these awards for the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

Supported Activities – Virginia Department of Health
VDH’s Office of Environmental Health Services will conduct a variety of proposed activities as part of this funding award, including providing guidance on ventilation practices to mitigate COVID-19 transmission. Activities supported through this award include the following:

- Conducting a review of studies and resources from various sources, including other states and partners, on ventilation guidance and best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Developing guidance and educational materials on specific topics related to COVID-19 mitigation measures and best practices, including ventilation and fogging practices.
- Developing a resource page within VDH’s COVID-19 website that includes information on ventilation guidance and best practices.
- Partnering and collaborating with various agencies and organizations, including the Virginia Department of Education, the American Camp Association, and the Virginia Department of Social Services, to incorporate information on ventilation optimization best practices and protocols into public messaging and supporting guidance documents for partner use.