

Virtual Peer Support Network

Peer support for the medical community.

Many people in the medical community are feeling stressed, sad, and exhausted. Challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic persist, as workers deal with staffing shortages, sicker patients, and increasing workforce safety issues. Talking to someone who understands can help.

The Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety is building a free, virtual network to connect colleagues in the Massachusetts medical community with peers who are trained to help with the difficult feelings that can accompany working on the front line of health care.

While a growing number of hospitals offer peer support within their organizations, thousands more health care workers don't have access to an onsite program. This network will be a new resource for all involved in patient care who need help coping with difficult emotions.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

When you reach out to the Virtual Peer Support Network, you will be matched with a colleague in a similar role outside of your organization. These peer supporters are trained volunteers who provide encouragement, support, and resources to colleagues. All conversations are confidential.

HOW DO I REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT?

Individuals looking to request a peer supporter can do so by [completing this form](#) or calling 617-701-8101. Someone from the Betsy Lehman Center will get back to you in 1-2 business days.

HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION JOIN THE NETWORK?

Health care organizations in Massachusetts can refer employees to the Virtual Peer Support Network at no cost. The Betsy Lehman Center also offers co-branding assistance with brochures, flyers, and other materials to help you promote the program.

Employers interested in adding the network to existing employee support offerings can reach out to Jacqueline.Ewuoso@BetsyLehmanCenterMA.gov to get started.



WHO IS IT FOR?

The Virtual Peer Support Network is for anyone working in the medical community in Massachusetts. This can include:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Advance Practice Providers (APPs)
- Pharmacists
- Lab technicians
- Public safety officers
- Environmental services staff
- Etc.

[BetsyLehmanCenterMA.gov/
VirtualPeerSupport](https://BetsyLehmanCenterMA.gov/VirtualPeerSupport)

