



Supervisor

Caleb A. Kershner

Catoctin District



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA

Coronavirus Update for Catoctin

Dear Catoctin Residents,

As you may know, the coronavirus has come to Loudoun County. We had our second presumptive positive case yesterday. Those results are being sent to the CDC to be retested and confirmed, but for now, we're working on the assumption that the virus has reached us.

The County is already moving to respond. We've activated our [standing pandemic response plan](#), and are deciding how to change our operations so that we can reduce the spread of the coronavirus. This includes switching our County employees to telework where that's appropriate, modifying our operations at our senior centers and at our community and recreation centers, and pausing the regular meetings for most of our advisory boards, commissions. Our goal is to reduce the spread of the virus while still keeping our essential services running.

Things may change quickly. When the Virginia Department of Health published its numbers yesterday, we had 17 presumptive positive cases of coronavirus in Virginia, and shortly after that Governor Northam [declared a state of emergency](#). We will be following this situation closely and keeping you informed. We'll reserve further emails for any urgent, major updates that you all need to know about. Smaller regular updates will be pushed to my [Facebook page](#), so you can follow us there to keep track of developments for the Catoctin District as they unfold.

We're taking this seriously, and I know you are, too. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. We'll keep you posted as the situation develops.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Caleb Kershner

*Supervisor for the Catoctin District
Loudoun County, Virginia*

County Government Takes Action

Yesterday evening, Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced that the County is changing its operations to respond to the coronavirus. He confirmed that Loudoun County has two presumptive positive cases, but that both were connected to known contacts who tested positive for coronavirus - at this time, there has been no confirmed transmission of the virus within the community. Nevertheless, the County will be taking steps to protect residents who are at higher risk from the virus.

Here are the major updates, broken down by County service.

County Employees in General

Employees who are required to be in close contact with residents and visitors will be given guidance on social distancing measures.

In light of the Loudoun County Public Schools closing from March 12 - 20, **three options are available to employees who are now facing unexpected child care issues:**

- Unscheduled leave
- Telework (at the option of the Department Director, where telework is appropriate)
- Drop-in child care at Douglass Community Center

Senior Centers

All activities and programs at Loudoun County senior centers are cancelled effective Monday, March 16. The one exception is congregant meals, which is a crucial service that the County will maintain for our older adult community.

For older adults who come to the centers for these meals, the County will implement social distancing measures, including regular hand washing, maintaining a safe distance from each other, regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. For older adults who still want the meals but aren't comfortable coming to the centers, the County will make meal deliveries available.

Similar social distancing procedures will be put in place on the County's transportation services that carry older adults to and from the Centers.

Adult Day Care Centers

No changes are being made to these programs or services right now. These centers have regular measures in place to assess visitors before they enter the facility, and will not admit visitors who are exhibiting symptoms of illness, including coronavirus.

Recreation Centers and Community Centers

Programs will be limited to those that enable proper social distancing measures effective Monday, March 16. Any programs specifically for older adults are cancelled.

Preschool and Daycare

No changes are being made to these programs or services right now. The regular operation and maintenance routines for preschools and daycares includes frequent sanitizing and disinfecting of all spaces, and all children are assessed for illness before entry.

County After School Activities (CASA)

All after-school programs, including CASA programs, are hereby cancelled. This goes along with the closure of the Loudoun County Public Schools.

Public Libraries

Programs held at public libraries will be limited to those that enable proper social distancing measures effective Monday, March 16. Patrons who are 60 or older are encouraged to follow proper social distancing procedures - wash hands regularly, maintain distance from other people (especially anyone who is sick), and don't go to the library if you're sick yourself.

Paratransit Bus Service

Staff and contractors who operate the transportation service will follow social distancing measures similar to those prescribed for the County's first responders.

Human Services Agencies

Staff and contractors who provide mental health and social services will follow social distancing measures similar to those prescribed for the County's first responders.

Special Events

Event organizers will follow CDC's and VDH's additional guidance. These are private events, not County-sponsored events, but our special events coordinator will provide additional information to the event organizers.

Advisory Bodies and Commissions

All regularly scheduled meetings of the Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Committees are cancelled at this time. This aligns with the closing of the Loudoun County Public Schools. Board policy specifically cancels these meetings whenever the schools are unexpectedly closed due to inclement weather, so we have opted to do the same thing now that the schools have been unexpectedly closed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

There are a few exceptions.

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, the following bodies will continue to meet:

- The Board of Supervisors
- The Board of Equalization
- The Board of Zoning Appeals
- The Planning Commission

The following BOS Standing Committees *may* continue to meet if their Chairs decide to:

- The Finance / Government Operations & Economic Development Committee
- The Joint Board / School Board Committee
- The Transportation & Land Use Committee

Other Recent Developments

Second Presumptive Positive Case in Loudoun

The Loudoun County Health Department announced that a second resident has tested "presumptive positive" for coronavirus. They have forwarded samples to the CDC for confirmation testing.

The patient is a male in his 40s who lives in Loudoun County, and is a known close contact to the first Loudoun resident to be diagnosed with coronavirus. He said that he has had no contact with the Loudoun County Public Schools system. The patient is currently doing well and is isolating himself at home.

The Health Department also said they are waiting on results for two tests from the state lab, and an unknown number of tests from private labs.

Virginia Now Has 17 Presumptive Positive Cases

As of noon yesterday, the Virginia Department of Health [reported 17 presumptive positive cases of coronavirus](#) within the state. These are patients who have tested positive for the virus, and whose tests are now being forwarded to the CDC for further testing and confirmation.

Here's where each of those cases are located:

- **Fairfax County—4**
- **Arlington County—2**
- **James City County—2**
- **Loudoun County—2**

- **Virginia Beach City**—2
- **Alexandria City**—1
- **Frederick City**—1
- **Hanover County**—1
- **Prince Edward County**—1
- **Prince William County**—1

Governor Declares State of Emergency

Governor Ralph Northam [declared a state of emergency in Virginia yesterday](#) over the continued spread of coronavirus. “It has become clear to everyone that states all over the country need to take a greater leadership role in response to the COVID-19 outbreak,” he said in his press release.

In his press release, Governor Northam said he had halted any official travel outside of Virginia by state employees, and ordered them to begin switching over to teleworking. The governor cancelled the state’s specially-scheduled conferences and large events for at least the next of 30 days. He urged state agencies to limit their in-person meetings, and localities and nonprofits to limit their large public events. In addition, he announced that his administration will work with state and local partners to prepare Virginia for any continued economic disruption.

He also said that the state would execute “a multi-agency response across all levels,” which would include the following:

- **Schools**—Stay in regular communication with school district leadership, and advise all school districts to update their pandemic guidelines.
- **Nursing Homes**—Update nursing home policies to provide extra visitor screening and patient monitoring, and have the Virginia Department of Health expand its testing criteria so that anyone in a nursing home who develop symptoms gets immediately tested.
- **Vulnerable Virginians**—Have Virginia’s social services agencies prepare options to keep critical services open for our most vulnerable populations, and if schools remain closed for an extended time, work with local partners and food pantries to ensure no one goes hungry.
- **Addressing Barriers to Care**—Work with insurers to waive copays and diagnostic testing fees related to COVID-10, and encourage private businesses to explore telework and paid time off options (especially for hourly workers).
- **Transportation**—Adjust cleaning schedules across the state’s transportation network (including airports, Metro, buses, and rail) according to CDD protocol, and work with transportation partners to help reduce the potential spread of disease.

Our 5 Top Coronavirus Resources



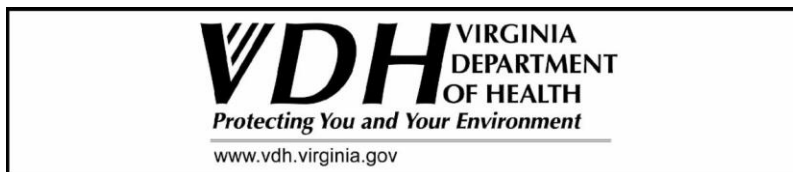
[Loudoun County's Coronavirus Webpage](#)

This is Loudoun County's central clearinghouse for coronavirus information. They update it regularly with new reports and press releases, the latest guidance from County government, and up-to-date documents and guides from health experts like the CDC. [Visit Loudoun's Website >>](#)



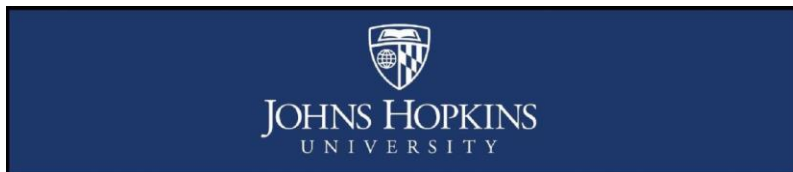
[**CDC's Coronavirus Webpage**](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the leading national public health institute of the United States. They have a webpage about the coronavirus, where they provide guides on how to protect yourself and others, what to do if you get sick, and other related issues, as well as more detailed guidance for schools, businesses, and other specific groups. They also keep track of the latest worldwide updates—though they don't have as much Loudoun-specific news. [Visit the CDC Website >>](#)



[**Virginia Department of Health's Coronavirus Webpage**](#)

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) oversees public health throughout the Commonwealth's 35 local health districts. They have a coronavirus webpage much like the CDC's, with regular news updates, guides for responding to the virus, and a total count of coronavirus cases in Virginia, updated Mon - Fri at noon and broken down by city or county. The VDH's news and guidance is more specifically focused on Virginia. [Visit the VDH Website >>](#)



[**Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center**](#)

Johns Hopkins University's medical teaching and research arm has nationally-recognized expertise in infectious disease and emergency response. They maintain a coronavirus webpage with daily situation reports (usually a worldwide snapshot, which doesn't include specific information about Virginia or Loudoun County), as well as guides and information to help you deal with the virus. And unlike the CDC or the VDH, they have an interactive map of all confirmed COVID-19 cases around the world. [Visit the John Hopkins Website >>](#)



[**Catoctin District's Facebook Page**](#)

Supervisor Kershner maintains a Facebook page for updates and information that affect the Catoctin District. He will post regular updates on the coronavirus, especially as it affects Loudoun County and Catoctin residents in particular. [Visit our Facebook Page >>](#)



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About Constant Contact

Sent by caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov in collaboration with



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