



Supervisor Tony Buffington
Blue Ridge District
NewsFlash



Governor's 3/15 Press Conference

Text [LCCOVID19](text:888777) to [888777](text:888777) for text message updates

Coronavirus Update #4

Loudoun Declares "Local Emergency"

Libraries, Recreation Centers, and Community Centers Close

Sent: March 16, 2020

Many thanks to you and your families for being flexible as we navigate this rapidly evolving situation. I know I'm inundating you with updates; however, the situation is rapidly evolving and I'm doing my best to keep you updated with what I know, when I know it.

In addition to the below listed proactive measures that the County is taking, I strongly recommend that you and your families actively engage in your own social distancing. Here are a few examples of

how my family and I are doing so: I routinely attend church on Sundays; however, I won't be physically doing so until this situation is over. Instead, I'll watch services online. My kids want to play with friends or have them come over since schools are closed - That's not happening. I normally don't wear disposable rubber gloves when grocery shopping or pumping gas - That is happening. My parents want to visit - I said no to protect them from me and me from them (and yes, I love my parents!) Again, these are just a few examples of the choices my family is making.

Please take this situation seriously, take care of yourselves, remain informed and be smart. We will get through this together!

Additionally, please know that the County cannot order the shut down of private businesses. The authority to do that rests with the state and/or federal government.

Loudoun County Declares Local Emergency

Loudoun County has just declared a Local Emergency in response to the continued spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet issued a declaration of local emergency Monday, March 16, 2020, with the concurrence of Chair Randall. The full Board of Supervisors is expected to formally ratify the declaration at its next business meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 5:00 p.m

The declaration of a local emergency in Loudoun follows the declaration of a statewide emergency from Virginia Governor Ralph Northam.

The Local Emergency declaration will benefit Loudoun by relaxing formal procurement requirements to allow Loudoun County to more easily acquire any goods or services needed to assist in the response to the threat posed by COVID-19. The declaration modifies normal employment rules so that employees can be reassigned to county operations involved in response activities should that be necessary.

This specific declaration is also sometimes a requirement for residents and local businesses to obtain financial aid and emergency loans offered by the federal and/or state governments.

County Employees in General: County Department Directors are developing and implementing an emergency staffing plan to limit the number of employees required to report to their physical work location. Furthermore, county staff has worked to identify the most frequently asked questions and develop written guidance to the workforce that will be released via email to all County employees.

Governor Northam has ordered all K-12 schools in Virginia to close for a minimum of two weeks in response to the continued spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The closure period will be from Monday, March 16, through Friday, March 27, at a minimum.

In light of this announcement, three options are available to employees experiencing child care issues as a result of the closing of Loudoun County Public Schools or their private daycare provider. These options include:

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

Employees should consult with their department leadership to determine the mutually agreeable solution. Please note that telework does require approval of the department director.

Senior Centers: Closed until further notice. However, county staff will continue to provide home delivery meal services to those who are signed up as well as emergency meals delivery services to the congregate meals members.

Adult Day Care Centers: Closed until further notice.

Public Recreation Centers and Community Centers: All programs canceled and facilities closed until at least April 1, 2020. County parks will remain open for self-directed trail and leisure use during normal operating hours; however, all park offices and athletic complexes will be closed. Routine cleaning of playground equipment will be maintained. PRCS administration in Leesburg will be open during normal operating hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Public Libraries: Closed until further notice.

Preschool and Daycare: The county's Preschool and daycare programs that are operated by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services will be closed while Loudoun County Public Schools are closed.

County After School Activities (CASA): With the closure of Loudoun County Public Schools, all after-school programs, including CASA programs, are canceled while the Loudoun County Public Schools are closed.

Paratransit Bus Service: Guidance on social distancing measures similar to those provided to first responders will be provided to staff and contractors operating this transportation service.

Human Services Agencies: Guidance on social distancing measures similar to those provided to first responders will be provided to staff and contractors providing both mental health and social services to clients in the field.

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

The following Board of Supervisors (BOS) Standing Committees may continue to meet if their Chairs decide to do so:

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

Resources

Loudoun County



V I R G I N I A



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

[Loudoun County's Coronavirus Web page](#)

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 Web page](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the leading national public health institute of the United States. They have a web page 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 web page 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
UNIVERSITY

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 web page 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](#)

Additional Resources

Loudoun Department of Health Coronavirus Hotline: 703-737-8300

Virginia Department of Health Coronavirus Hotline: 877-275-8343

Email Loudoun County Health Department at health@loudoun.gov

Call Loudoun Health Department M-F 9-9, S-S 9-5: 703-737-8300

All my best,



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