



## Governor Northam Announces Additional Actions to Address COVID-19



### RICHMOND

Governor Ralph Northam today announced further actions to protect public health and support Virginians impacted by the spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Video of today's media briefing is available [here](#).

### Increased Access to Health Care

Working with the Department of Medicaid Assistance Services, Governor Northam is increasing access to health care for Virginia's 1.5 million Medicaid members and thousands of low-income residents including:

- Eliminating all co-payments for services covered by Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS), including COVID-19-related treatment as well as other medical care
- Ensuring current Medicaid members do not inadvertently lose coverage due to lapses in paperwork or a change in circumstances.
- Permitting Medicaid members to obtain a 90-day supply of many routine prescriptions
- Waiving pre-approval requirements for many critical medical services, and enacting automatic extensions for approvals that are already in place.

- Expanding access to telehealth services, including allowing Medicaid reimbursement for providers who use telehealth with patients in the home.

### **Guidance for Child Care Providers**

Governor Northam has directed the Department of Social Services to modify Virginia's Child Care Subsidy program, which is currently caring for 25,000 children, to increase support and flexibility for enrolled families and providers.

As announced yesterday, the Northam administration has released [guidance](#) for child care providers to slow the spread of COVID-19, while ensuring continued support for essential personnel.

### **Support for Impacted Businesses**

Following a request submitted by Governor Northam on March 18, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration for Virginia. Small businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the Commonwealth affected by the COVID-19 public health crisis can now apply for low-interest federal disaster loans of up to \$2 million from the SBA to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses.

**To submit a loan application through the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, please visit [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/).**

**Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can also request to defer the payment of state sales tax today, March 20, 2020, for 30 days.** When granted, businesses will be able to file no later than April 20, 2020 with a waiver of any penalties.

The Governor has requested that the Department of Taxation to extend the due date of payment of Virginia individual and corporate income taxes. While filing deadlines remain the same, **the due date for individual and corporate income tax will now be June 1, 2020.** Please note that interest will still accrue, so taxpayers who are able to pay by the original deadlines should do so.

### **Justice-Involved Population**

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) has [suspended](#) all in-person visitation to state correctional facilities and is complying with guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control related to COVID-19. VADOC has also

suspended all transfers from local and regional jails for the next 30 days to limit potential exposure to the virus.

Governor Northam is encouraging local criminal justice officials, including Commonwealth's attorneys, defense attorneys, sheriffs, and other jail officials, to explore proactive measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring public safety.

### **Motor Vehicle Inspections**

Governor Northam has directed the Virginia Department of State Police to suspend the enforcement of Motor Vehicle Safety Inspections for 60 days.

For a comprehensive list of actions Governor Northam has announced to combat COVID-19 in Virginia, visit [virginia.gov/coronavirus](http://virginia.gov/coronavirus).

**\*\*\*Read the Governor's [Full Release](#) here\*\*\***

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