



Supervisor Tony Buffington
Blue Ridge District
NewsFlash



Governor Northam Issues Statewide Stay at Home Order (until June 10)

We're in this together, we'll get through it together. Stay Home! - Tony

Sent: March 31, 2020

At 2:00 p.m. yesterday, Governor Northam issued [Executive Order 55](#), ordering Virginians to remain home unless leaving for one of the below purposes:

- Obtaining food, beverages, goods, or services as permitted in Executive Order 53.
- Seeking medical attention, essential social services, governmental services, assistance from law enforcement, or emergency services.
- Taking care of other individuals, animals, or visiting the home of a family member.
- Traveling required by court order or to facilitate child custody, visitation, or child care.
- Engaging in outdoor activity, including exercise, provided individuals comply with social distancing requirements.
- Traveling to and from one's residence, place of worship, or work.

- Traveling to and from an educational institution.
- Volunteering with organizations that provide charitable or social services.
- Leaving one's residence due to a reasonable fear for health or safety, at the direction of law enforcement, or at the direction of another government agency.

To the extent individuals use shared or outdoor spaces, whether on land or on water, they must at all times maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person, with the exception of family or household members or caretakers.

All public and private in-person gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited. This includes parties, celebrations, religious events, or other social events, whether indoor or outdoor. This new restriction does not apply to the operation of businesses that were not required to close to the public under [Executive Order 53](#), nor to the gathering of family members who all live in the same residence.

Institutions of higher education must end all in-person classes and instruction, and must cancel all gatherings of more than 10 individuals. For purposes of facilitating remote learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions, institutions of higher education may continue to operate, provided that social distancing requirements are maintained.

Effective April 1, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., **all privately-owned campgrounds must end all reservations for overnight stays of less than 14 days.**

All public beaches are now closed for all activities except for exercising and fishing. Social distancing requirements must be followed when exercising and/or fishing.

All relevant state agencies will keep working with their housing partners to protect the health, safety, and well-being

of Virginians who are experiencing homelessness during this pandemic, and to help Virginians avoid evictions or foreclosures.

As provided in previous [Executive Order 53](#), **nothing in this order shall limit:**

- The provision of health care or medical services.
- Access to essential services for low-income residents, such as food banks.
- The operation of the media.
- Law enforcement agencies.
- The operation of government.

Violations of paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Executive Order 55 shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor pursuant to the Code of Virginia.

[Link to Relevant Loudoun Now Article](#)



*Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor*

Executive Order

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE · March 30, 2020

Office of the Governor
Alena.Yamosky@governor.virginia.gov

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam today issued a statewide Stay at Home order to protect the health and safety of Virginians and mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The executive order takes effect immediately and will remain in place until June 10, 2020, unless amended or rescinded by a further executive order.

The order directs all Virginians to stay home except in extremely limited circumstances. Individuals may leave their residence for allowable travel, including to seek medical attention, work, care for family or household members, obtain goods and services like groceries, prescriptions, and others as outlined in [Executive Order Fifty-Three](#), and engage in outdoor activity with strict social distancing requirements.

The executive order also directs all Virginia institutions of higher education to stop in-person classes and instruction. Private campgrounds must close for short-term stays, and beaches will be closed statewide except for fishing and exercise.

“We are in a public health crisis, and we need everyone to take this seriously and act responsibly,” **said Governor Northam**. “Our message to Virginians is clear: stay home. We know this virus spreads primarily through human-to-human contact, and that’s why it’s so important that people follow this order and practice social distancing. I’m deeply grateful to everyone for their cooperation during this unprecedented and difficult time.”

The full text of Executive Order Fifty-Five can be found [here](#).

Last week, Governor Northam [issued](#) Executive Order Fifty-Three closing certain non-essential businesses, prohibiting public gatherings of more than 10 people, and directing all K-12 schools to remain closed for the rest of the academic year. A Frequently Asked Questions guide about Executive Order Fifty-Three can be found [here](#).

For the latest information about the COVID-19 outbreak, visit virginia.gov/coronavirus or CDC.gov/coronavirus.

[Full Release](#)

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Be safe!



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