



Supervisor Tony Buffington  
**Blue Ridge District**  
*NewsFlash*



## **Governor Northam Officially Delays Phase One for Northern VA**

Sent: May 12, 2020

As expected, Governor Northam has now officially delayed implementation of his Phase One plan to begin easing current restrictions on small businesses, beyond the May 15 date that he announced last week. This new Order (Executive Order 62) allows Northern Virginia localities to delay implementation of Phase One until midnight on Thursday, May 28.

The Governor's decision is based on a request letter he received over the weekend from the Chairmen and Chairwomen of the Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William county Boards of Supervisors. I opposed Loudoun's inclusion in this request letter, as did Catocin District Supervisor Caleb Kershner and Leesburg District Supervisor Kristen Umstaddt; however, a majority of the Board supported Loudoun's inclusion and the request was sent on Sunday.

Click [here](#) to view my Facebook post from yesterday, further explaining my position.



## UPDATE: Gov. Northam officially delays reopening of northern Virginia

### Governor Northam Delays Phase One for Northern Virginia Localities

**RICHMOND**—Governor Ralph Northam today issued Executive Order Sixty-Two, allowing specific localities in Northern Virginia to delay entering Phase One of the “Forward Virginia” plan to ease restrictions on certain business operations that were put in place in response to the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Governor Northam has said that Virginia as a whole may enter Phase One on Friday, May 15, as outlined in Executive Order Sixty-One, based on achieving certain health metrics. Executive Order Sixty-Two allows the Northern Virginia localities to delay implementation of Phase One until midnight on Thursday, May 28, to allow those localities more time to meet the health metrics.

In conjunction with this executive order, Governor Northam and State Health Commissioner M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA also issued Order of Public Health Emergency Number Four.

“As I have said, it’s important that the Commonwealth as a whole can meet key health metrics before moving into Phase One,” **said Governor Northam.** “The Phase One policies are a floor, not a ceiling. While the data show Virginia as a whole is are ready to slowly and deliberately ease some restrictions, it is too soon for Northern Virginia. I support the request from localities in this region to delay implementation of Phase One to protect public health.”

Governor Northam had directed jurisdictions to formally request approval to remain in Phase Zero. Executive Order Sixty-Two allows the counties of

Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park; and the towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, and Vienna (Northern Virginia Region) to remain in Phase Zero, as requested by officials in those localities.

Data show that Northern Virginia is substantially higher than the rest of the Commonwealth in percentage of positive tests for COVID-19, for example. The Northern Virginia Region has about a 25 percent positivity rate, while the rest of the Commonwealth is closer to 10 percent. Further, in the last 24 hours, the Northern Virginia Region reported over 700 cases, while the rest of the Commonwealth reported approximately 270. On any given day, 70 percent of the Commonwealth's positive cases are attributable to the Northern Virginia Region.

The full text of Executive Order Sixty-Two and Order of Public Health Emergency Number Four can be found [here](#).

[Full Release](#)

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***Coronavirus - We're in it together, we'll get through it together - Tony***

Be safe!



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