

# **Broad Run Blast** Supervisor Sylvia R. Glass



Coronavirus Update | Friday, March 20, 2020

# **Office Contact Information**

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# View Past Broad Run Blast Coronavirus Updates

Dear Broad Run Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you and your families are weathering these trying times. My fellow Board members and I are committed to providing the most up-to-date information as the situations unfolds. I know the day to day uncertainty can be unsettling, but I encourage you to stay positive and take advantage of the extra time you may have at home to enjoy your loved ones. I have actually witnessed three of my sons working collaboratively stocking our garage without arguing - trust me, that's a small miracle!

If there is information we are not providing that you would like to see covered, please let me know.

Stay safe, Sylvia

# Update from LCPS on the Most Recent Case to Affect Loudoun

# Waxpool Elementary Staff COVID-19 Case

The Loudoun County Health Department (LCHD) has confirmed that a member of the Waxpool Elementary School staff tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is recovering at home and we wish them a quick and complete recovery.

The LCHD is conducting a contact mapping investigation and is in the process of calling each individual identified as having had contact with the staff member who tested positive for COVID-19. The LCHD plans to provide additional information on this topic to the school community as the investigation progresses. The LCHD advises that anyone who is ill should selfquarantine and contact their physician or the Health Department at 703-737-8300 from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The Health Department is not able to provide any additional information about the ill individual or their contacts.

The Superintendent has issued the following directives specific to Waxpool Elementary in order to promote the health and well-being of our students, staff and community:

- Effective immediately, the school building is closed to all students, employees, contractors, and the public until further notice.
- Food distribution at Waxpool Elementary School is suspended indefinitely. Starting Monday, March 23 and until further notice, LCPS will make arrangements to deliver free meals to all Waxpool Elementary School students who are eligible for free-and reduced-price meals.
- If any students from Waxpool are identified as eligible to receive hotspots (as described in the Superintendent's message to the community on March 18), we will communicate with the families of these students regarding hotspots.
- Waxpool Elementary School will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and will remain closed until further notice.

# **Community Transmission and Social Distancing**

Loudoun is up to <u>nine cases of Covid-19</u> and there is now evidence of community transmission in areas of Northern Virginia. Community transmission is where Coronavirus is transmitted in a setting such as a store or public transit and where the transmission occurs between two people who do not know each other. Infectious diseases, including Coronavirus, do not respect boundaries, and therefore if community transmission occurs in one area county, it can occur in Loudoun as well.

We ask everyone to promote and demonstrate appropriate social distancing strategies when engaging with others. Social distancing strategies increase the space between individuals and decrease the frequency of contact among individuals to reduce the risk of spreading a disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, keeping individuals at least 6 feet apart is ideal based on what is known about COVID-19. If this is not feasible, efforts should be made to keep individuals as far apart as is practical.

Please practice social-distancing and other preventive strategies such as avoiding physical contact when greeting or receiving documents and meals, covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing, and similar measures. The health and well-being of every member of our community is the highest priority, and these measures help to protect each and every one of us.

# Video from USA TODAY: "Why social distancing is critical to curbing the coronavirus pandemic | Just The FAQs"

#### Small Business Assistance and Impact Survey

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.

At the request of County Treasurer Roger Zurn, the Board of Supervisors has approved a one month delay in payment of personal property taxes. The tax deadline will now be June 5, 2020, instead of May 5. This is being done to allow residents more flexibility. In addition, Treasurer Zurn indicated that residents facing COVID-19-related economic hardships can contact his office and his collections divisions will attempt to work out arrangements with those in need. You can reach the Treasurer's Office by phone at 703-777-0280 or by <u>email</u>.

The <u>Small Business Administration</u> has just approved all of Virginia as qualified to participate in the disaster loan program. This website is the best resource for small businesses in Loudoun: <u>biz.loudoun.gov/sba-economic-injury-disaster-loan-process</u>

The Loudoun County Department of Economic Development (DED) has also created a webpage for businesses in the County

(biz.loudoun.gov/covid19). This website will be updated with the latest business information as it becomes available. The page contains multiple business resources, including financial resources, webinars and a list of Loudoun companies who are providing special opportunities for consumers during the crisis as a way to promote those businesses.

DED has created a webpage listing local businesses in Loudoun that are offering specials at the current time (<u>biz.loudoun.gov/support-our-businesses</u>). If you wish to have your small businesses added to the list, email <u>katie.fleger@loudoun.gov</u>. The economic development staff is here to help any business in Loudoun. Check out the <u>staff directory</u> to contact the staff member that best fits your business.

DED is currently working with the SBA and the USDA on grant programs and will be assisting businesses with the application process. DED will continue to monitor these and other grant programs and will be updating the community as appropriate.

The Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity is asking smallbusiness owners to participate in a short survey as Gov. Ralph Northam seeks to make Virginia eligible for federal disaster relief because of the covid-19 virus. Input and response from small businesses throughout the Commonwealth on the impact to business operations and revenue is critical to have enough data to meet requirements to allow access to federal disaster-loan funds. This survey is available at <u>surveymonkey.com/r/7RMY8SH</u>

The survey will be open until 5pm Friday (March 20) but we are encouraging people to fill out the survey as soon as possible.

# Survey on the Impact Of COVID-19 on Small Businesses in Virginia

# **Support Local Businesses**

# How to Support Local Businesses

C	Order Takeout or Delivery	Buy Gift Cards	Hike, Walk, Ride: Enjoy Loudoun's Great Outdoors
fav or tak	Pick-up your orite craft beer wine curbside, eout or have it ipped to your door.	Visit LOUDOUN #LoveLoudoun	Book a future meeting, conference, wedding, or retreat
т	ip Generously	Visit a Farm Stand and Buy Local	Make Future Reservations

Remember that these businesses make Loudoun a great place to live, work and visit. Now more than ever, we need your support. With many of us staying home, local businesses in Loudoun will struggle to stay afloat. Here are some ideas to buy local while practicing social distancing.

There have been widescale layoffs as restaurants, wineries, breweries, shops & hotels adjust their operating models or have been forced to close their doors.

There are many ways to help the industry recover: We are asking Loudoun business leaders to consider Loudoun when their company beains to start rebooking conferences, meetings and retreats. To our residents, make future reservations at your favorite restaurant and don't cancel. Buy gift cards and shop local. If you get carryout, and I ask that you do this frequently, tip generously. Remember that these are your neighbors and our businesses make Loudoun a great place to live, work or visit. Now more than ever, the industry needs your support.

# **Community Updates**

#### **Senior Shopping Hours**

Several stores in the area are setting aside certain times as "senior shopping hours" where only shoppers above a certain age and those with compromised immune systems are allowed in the store. The idea is that at those times, stores will be fully stocked and allow seniors the ability to get items before they run out, while still practicing social distancing. Harris Teeter and Wegmans are still waiting on guidance from their corporate offices on the implementation of possible senior shopping hours.

<u>Giant</u>: Daily from 6am to 7am for seniors & people with compromised immune systems.

- 44110 Ashburn Shopping Plaza, Ashburn, Virginia 20147; 703-729-3877
- 43670 Greenway Corporate Drive, Ashburn, Virginia 20147; 571-223-3848

Target: Wednesdays from 8am to 9am for seniors & people with health underlying health conditions.

• 45130 Columbia Place, Sterling, Virginia 20166; 703-463-2008

<u>Walmart</u>: Tuesdays, until April 28, from 6am to 7am for people age 60 and older.

• 45415 Dulles Crossing Plaza, Sterling, Virginia 20166; 571-434-9434

Whole Foods: Daily from 7am to 8am for ages 60 and older.

• 19800 Belmont Chase Drive, Ashburn, Virginia 20147; 571-223-4440

#### Community Relief Fund

The Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties has established a Community Emergency Relief Fund to accept and strategically disburse funding to address COVID-19 emergency response and relief efforts in Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties. The Community Foundation will work closely with local nonprofit organizations to provide grants to agencies to meet both immediate and long-term needs related to the impact of COVID-19.

Members of the community who wish to support aid to those affected by COVID-19 may donate to the Community Emergency Relief Fund.

Grants will be prioritized to organizations:

- Providing direct financial assistance to individuals who need monetary assistance to meet basic needs such as housing, utilities, and medical expenses due to the impact of COVID-19;
- Providing services directly addressing impact of COVID-19 such as food distribution, shelter, housing, and health care.

The Community Foundation will form a Community Emergency Relief Fund Advisory Committee to advise on the distribution of any funds raised. The Advisory Committee will include local experts on emergency response and local services, and will include diverse representation to ensure equitable distribution of the funds to those in need.

In the event that funds raised through the Community Emergency Relief Fund are no longer needed for COVID-19 relief, remaining funds will be reserved for future local disaster relief efforts.

For more information, contact Amy Owen, President, at (703) 779-3505, x1 or amy@communityfoundationlf.org.

#### **Dulles South Food Pantry**

Dulles South Food Pantry is doing well and receiving great support from the community with food and monetary donations. They have seen a decline in food donated from the stores and anticipate having to purchase produce and meat products in the near future. At this time, they are operating as usual serving individuals within the Dulles district but will adjust to lift the geographic restriction if necessary. Dulles South Food Pantry is working to limit the amount of traffic in their building and will implement a pick-up service in which families would have to adhere to strict appointment times.

**Message from Dulles South Food Pantry:** "We feel blessed with the amount of support and donations we have been receiving since the start of Covid-19. We also appreciate the collaborations of the local non-profits working together to help our citizens."

For questions regarding receiving services, or making a donation please call Dulles South Food Pantry at 703-507-2795 or visit their website at <u>dsfp.org</u>

#### Loudoun Hunger Relief

Despite the progressing situation with Covid-19, Loudoun Hunger Relief is doing well and has served 300 families within the last three days. Loudoun Hunger Relief usually serves 300 families within a week so their numbers have increased quite a bit. In an effort to keep the volume of traffic in the building to a minimum, Loudoun Hunger Relief has implemented pick-up service for meals. Staff and volunteers are packing up meals for families, and they are able to pick them up outside of the facility. Loudoun Hunger Relief has been able to share resources with the Lucketts community, as well as PCRS to assist the Senior Center's efforts in continuing to feed their participants.

**Message from Loudoun Hunger Relief:** "Citizens, please continue to follow CDC guidelines regarding social distancing, follow universal precautions and wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds. Lastly, look out for your neighbors especially senior citizens and help where you can."

For questions regarding receiving services, or making a donation please call Loudoun Hunger Relief at 703-777-5911 or visit their website at <u>loudounhunger.org</u>

#### **Dominion Energy**

Customers should not have to worry about losing service during this critical time. The company has suspended all service disconnections for nonpayment. Residential customers previously disconnected due to non-payment may contact the company for assistance reconnecting service. In addition, the

company is planning to waive late fees and reconnection fees and is seeking approval from utility commissions where required to do so. For updates, please view Dominion Energy's website at <u>dominionenergy.com</u> or call 866-366-4357

# **INOVA**

Inova Alexandria Hospital has extended the Emergency Department by adding a temporary auxiliary screening unit (ASU) near the entrance to provide an additional layer of safety for our team members and community. All people coming to the Inova Alexandria Hospital Emergency Department will first go to an outside checkpoint for a brief preliminary symptom screen. Based on the results of the brief screening, our team will be able to quickly guide patients with respiratory symptoms from the rest of the patients. Those with respiratory symptoms will be directed to the ASU unit for further evaluation by our clinical team. INOVA provided the following update regarding testing and screening:

#### **Auxiliary Testing**

- At this time, Inova does not offer drive-thru screening and testing. We explored drive-thru testing; however, due to limited testing kits available nationwide, it is not presently an option.
- Inova evaluates all patients and ensures necessary testing is conducted while preserving the capability to continue sustained testing.

#### Patient Screening (Triage)

• We are using tents at select locations to assist in screening patients before entry to determine if they require care for respiratory illness or other emergency needs.

#### Loudoun Water

Loudoun Water's offices remain open during regular business hours with essential staff only. Visits to customer's homes by our field staff has been limited. Loudoun Water is suspending all disconnections and waiving late fees at this time. Loudoun Water is prepared to continue critical operations without disruption and do not foresee any challenges doing so at this time. For updates, please view Loudoun Water's website at loudounwater.org or call (571) 291-7880

# **NOVEC**

NOVEC recognizes the hardships that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis imposes on its customers. Effective immediately, NOVEC is suspending all electric service disconnections and associated penalty fees for 60 days. Please note that this suspension of electric service disconnections delays, but does not cancel, payment of outstanding balances. For updates, please view Novec's website at <u>novec.com</u> or call 703-335-0500

#### Washington Gas

We have suspended all disconnections and late fees during this public health crisis. We have a letter from our president posted on our website with this information and it is also posted to our social media channels and E-service customer portal. We recognize the difficulty this situation poses to our customers and we will continue to work with them during and after this completion of this emergency. For updates, please view Washington Gas' website at washingtongas.com or call 844-927-4427.

# Loudoun County Services Update

#### **Treasurer** and Tax Payment Deadline

At the request of County Treasurer Roger Zurn, the Board of Supervisors has approved a one month delay in payment of personal property taxes. The tax deadline will now be June 5, 2020, instead of May 5. This is being done to allow residents more flexibility. In addition, Treasurer Zurn indicated that residents facing COVID-19-related economic hardships can contact his office and his collections divisions will attempt to work out arrangements with those in need. You can reach the Treasurer's Office by phone at 703-777-0280 or by **email**.

#### Commissioner of the Revenue and Tax Relief Deadline

Loudoun County Commissioner of the Revenue Robert S. Wertz Jr. has extended the deadline for filing 2020 Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled renewal forms to June 1, 2020. Local ordinance provides authorization for the Commissioner of the Revenue to allow applicants to file after the regular filing date. This extension is in response to the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Applicants are encouraged to mail in their forms in the preaddressed envelope that was included with the renewal forms. First-time applicants for Vehicle Personal Property Tax Relief have until September 1, 2020, and first-time applicants for Real Property Tax Relief have until December 31, 2020, to file their applications.

Applications for first-time applicants, and more information about the program, may be found at <u>loudoun.gov/taxrelief</u>. Residents may also call 703-737-8557 to have a form mailed to them.

#### Public Libraries

The Loudoun County Public Library (LCPL) Board of Trustees voted Thursday, March 19 to keep **all branches closed until at least April 1**, and **suspend the implementation of curbside pickup service**. Customers are asked to hold on to any materials they've checked out until the book return drops reopen. All book return drops have been closed. The due dates for all physical materials have been extended to Saturday, June 20. Customers will not be subject to any penalties or fees during the closure.

In addition:

- Items will remain on hold while the library is closed to the public.
- All programs, events and meeting room reservations are suspended through at least May 10.
- The limit on <u>Hoopla</u> borrows has been increased to **10 items** per month (up from six items per month).
- Outreach deliveries to senior living facilities and nursing homes are suspended.
- LCPL staff are recording programs and storytimes to keep our community engaged online. They will be posted on social media as they become available.

#### **Clerk of Circuit Court**

In an effort to reduce the number of citizen visits to the Loudoun County courts complex in Leesburg and promote social distancing as recommended by health officials, the Clerk of the Circuit Court is expanding remote access services to Loudoun residents for the next 30 days and encouraging citizens to delay any appointments for some other services.

Starting March 18, 2020, Loudoun County residents will be able to obtain remote access to the Clerk of Circuit Court's deeds and land records for 30 days at no charge. Loudoun residents can <u>email the Clerk's land records team</u> to inquire and request the necessary digital paperwork to establish a temporary subscription account. Clerk Gary Clemens is waiving the subscription fee. This remote access account will permit residents to access deed, land records and judgment information from home or a remote location, eliminating the need to visit the Clerk's Office in person. Copies of deeds and land records can also be obtained by <u>emailing the Historic</u> **Records & Deed Research Division** or calling 703-737-8775.

The Clerk is also encouraging residents to delay any probate appointment until April 13, 2020, to promote social distancing. Residents who require an appointment with the Clerk for purposes of the probate of an estate or being appointed as an executor of an estate should <u>email the Probate Office</u> to discuss setting an appointment for a future date. The Probate Office is exploring other approaches to offer remote/web-based probate meetings.

The Clerk is also encouraging all clients to pay with credit card online or by phone instead of cash to offer more convenience so individuals do not have to visit the office to pay for services such as filing fees, criminal fines and costs,

copies of public records and other services. For specific information regarding online or phone payments, visit **loudoun.gov/clerk** for details.

As more opportunities to offer expanded remote services becomes available, updated information will be posted at **loudoun.gov/clerk**.

#### Loudoun County Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteers working to protect you, your family, and your community.

Anyone who wants to help the Health Department keep Loudoun County residents safe and protect the public's health should join the Medical Reserve Corps. No medical experience necessary!

In a bioterrorism event or mass epidemic, the Loudoun County Health Department is prepared for the possibility of opening emergency mass vaccination and medication dispensing clinics. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers, both nonmedical and medical, would be key to staffing these sites. Nonmedical Volunteers would perform key clinic roles such as registration, data entry, language translation, medical personnel assistance, and directing foot traffic. MRC members can also assist with other public health responses in our community.

#### When you join

- Receive free training on such topics as CPR, first aid, incident command, and emergency preparedness
- Play a significant role in keeping your family and community safe.

#### Requirements

- A Loudoun County resident at least 16 years old
- Have no personal or professional commitment that would prevent serving in an emergency
- Undergo a free reference or background check
- Complete an orientation session
- Optional: Complete incident command class

#### Interested in becoming an MRC volunteer?

Learn more and contact us by emailing <u>mrc@loudoun.gov</u> or visiting Loudoun.gov/mrc.

# Loudoun County Public Schools Update

#### Mobile Internet Hotspots

LCPS has made an initial purchase of mobile internet hotspots to help ensure continuity of access to internet-based instructional resources for students and

staff during an extended closure. LCPS is prioritizing the distribution of hotspots to students in grades 3-12 to households with the greatest needs, with a limit of one hotspot per household. Hotspot devices could be available for distribution as early as the week of March 23.

Families and staff will need to formally request a device via the described process. To request a device, families/staff must:

•Complete the online form or

•Call the LCPS Technology Support Center at 571-252-2112 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Each hotspot supports up to 15 device connections. The hotspots come with pre-configured internet content filtering, meeting the requirements set forth by the Children's Internet Protection Act. Submitting a request does not guarantee access to a hotspot.

The LCPS hotspots are configured to operate on the T-Mobile cellular network. For a hotspot to work T-Mobile cellular coverage must exist in your area. T -Mobile cellular coverage is not available in all areas of Loudoun County though most of our high need areas in Loudoun do have T-Mobile cellular coverage. LCPS continues to explore options for connectivity in areas of Loudoun without T-Mobile cellular coverage; identifying a solution for these other areas may take several weeks.

LCPS is planning for the pickup of the hotspots by parents and guardians at locations throughout the community. The distribution will be subject to ongoing consultation with the Loudoun County Department of Health and other experts, to ensure appropriate measures are in place to meet public-health recommendations. Each household receiving a hotspot will be required to sign a hotspot usage agreement before a hotspot can be taken home.

Please note that many commercial vendors have made available increased services to support schools and the community. We recognize that people without connectivity may not be able to access the following links and are including the information for broader community awareness.

- Comcast is offering the Essentials internet package for free for 60 days
  https://www.internetessentials.com/
- •AT&T, T-Mobile, and Sprint have removed data limits for cellular data customers
  - https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html
  - https://www.t-mobile.com/news/t-mobile-update-on -covid-19 response
  - https://newsroom.sprint.com/covid-19 -updates-sprintresponds.htm
- •Verizon offers unlimited data on hotspots and cell phones

Chromebooks for Students

LCPS, with extensive support from the Loudoun County School Board, has ordered 15,000 additional Chromebook laptop computers to accelerate the deployment of one computer to each student in grades 3 through 12. Twothirds of grades 3-12 students have those devices now, and we are accelerating the deployment that was already planned for this summer. LCPS' Department of Digital Innovation (DDI) is developing a plan that, if implemented, would provide a device to each student in grades 3-12 who does not yet have a device. The family of each student in grades 3-12 who does not yet have a device would have the opportunity to pick up a Chromebook at the student's assigned school as early as the week of March 23. Social distancing measures would be implemented for the pickup of devices and we would only proceed with the plan after further consultation with the Loudoun County Department of Health. More information will be provided as plan details are finalized.

#### **Continuity of Education**

LCPS is providing continuity of education through the development of optional learning experiences that are consistent with the curriculum. Through March 27, the emphasis in these learning experiences is on reinforcing skills and knowledge that have been previously taught. The learning experiences developed and provided will also give students and teachers opportunities to go deeper into concepts, ideas, and skills with which they are already familiar. These optional learning experiences will not be graded. Learning experiences may begin including new skills and knowledge that have not been previously taught after this date. Further information will be provided. These optional resources are available for parents at Icps.org/continuityofeducation.

Beginning March 23, packets of offline resources posted on the website will also be available for pick-up at the "meal stops" referenced below under Expanded Meal Service Continues.

# **Stay Informed**

This is a rapidly changing situation, sometimes by the hour, and information is being shared as it becomes available. Below are regional to worldwide resources.

- Loudoun County Government
- Loudoun County Public Schools
- INOVA Health
- <u>Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)</u>
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</u>
- World Health Organization (WHO)

The Loudoun County Health Department has a public information line for questions from Loudoun County residents.

- Email the Health Department at <u>health@loudoun.gov</u>
- Call the information line at 703-737-8300
  - Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
  - Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

# RECEIVE TEXT UPDATES ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19):

# Text LCCOVID19 to 888777

# Loudoun County

VIRGINIA

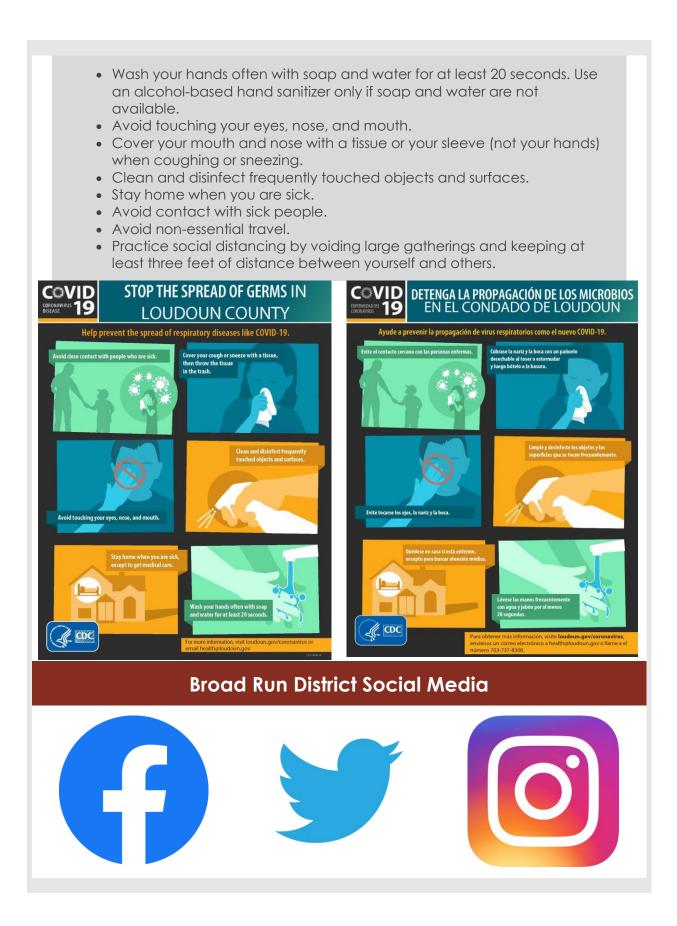
# **Coronavirus Information**

# **Symptoms**

The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 can cause mild to more severe respiratory illness. In a small proportion of patients, COVID-19 can cause death, particularly among those who are older or who have chronic medical conditions. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Symptoms appear within 14 days of being exposed to an infectious person. COVID-19 spreads primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

# **Prevention Tips**

To lower the risk of respiratory germ spread, including COVID-19, the Virginia Department of Health encourages the following effective behaviors:





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About Constant Contact

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