

## Coronavirus Update: Statewide Stay At Home Order Now In Effect

## **Dear Catoctin Residents,**

At 2:00 today, Governor Northam issued <u>Executive Order 55</u>, which is a statewide Stay at Home order for Virginia. Here is a summary of what that order says.

## **Summary of Executive Order 55**

Effective immediately, everyone must remain in their residence, except for the following purposes:

- Getting food and beverages, goods, or services as permitted in Executive Order 53.
- Seeking medical attention, essential social services, government services, help from law enforcement, or emergency services.
- Taking care of other individuals or animals, or visiting the home of a family member.
- Traveling as required by court order to facilitate child custody, visitation, or child care.
- Engaging in outdoor activity, including exercise, so long as you comply with social distancing requirements.
- Traveling to and from your residence, place of worship, or work.
- Traveling to and from an educational institution.
- Volunteering with organizations that provide charitable or social services.
- Leaving your residence due to a reasonable fear for health or safety, at the direction of law enforcement, or at the direction of another government agency.

All public and private in-person gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited. That 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.

(**NOTE:** This overlaps with Section 1 of Executive Order 53, which prohibits all public and private in-person gatherings of 10 or more individuals. That section will expire on April 23 at 11:59 PM. So for now, in-person gatherings can't have more than 9 people, but after April 23, they can't have more than 10.)

Institutions of higher education must end all in-person classes and instruction, and must cancel all gatherings of more than 10 people. These institutions may continue to operate for the purposes of facilitating remote learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions, so long as they maintain social distancing while doing so.

All privately-owned campgrounds must end all reservations for overnight stays of less than 14 days. This provision *does not* take effect immediately; instead, it will take effect on April 1 at 11:59 PM.

All public beaches are now closed for all activity except for exercising and fishing. Anyone exercising or fishing on the beach must still follow social distancing requirements.

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.

Finally, just like in Executive Order 53, nothing in this order shall limit the following services or activities:

- 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.



**Read the Full Order** 

Sincerely,

## **Supervisor Caleb Kershner**

Supervisor for the Catoctin District Loudoun County, Virginia

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