



### **COVID-19 Update**



### Local and State COVID-19 **Trends**

The rate of new COVID-19 patients in Loudoun County has remained steady over the past few weeks. According to a model used by the Loudoun County Health Department, cases are expected to

increase by 28 cases per day over the next week. Overall, the state of Virginia is experiencing an increase in cases as a result of outbreaks in the eastern region. Nursing homes accounted for about a third of all cases in the Commonwealth just a few weeks ago. They currently represent only 1 percent of all cases in Virginia since young residents increasingly make up a larger portion of positive tests.



#### Governor's Updates

At today's press conference, Governor Ralph Northam announced that he will be issuing a new executive order to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The new restrictions only apply to Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Williamsburg, Newport News, Poguoson, James City County, and York County. Alcohol sales will no longer be permitted past 10:00 p.m. and all restaurants must close by midnight. Governor Northam stated that such measures would effectively close all bars where young people gather. In addition, indoor dining will be limited to 50 percent capacity and gatherings cannot exceed 50 people. The new executive order will go into effect midnight this Friday.

Governor Northam also announced \$70 million for small businesses and nonprofit organizations whose normal operations were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will be made available through Rebuild VA, a new economic recovery fund, and grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to approximately 7,000 applicants to cover eligible expenses.

Rebuild VA will be administered by the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD). Businesses and nonprofits must be in good standing, have annual gross revenues of no more than \$1.5 million, and have no more than 25 employees. Eligible businesses and nonprofits include food and beverage establishments, non-essential retail, exercise and fitness, entertainment and public amusement, personal care and personal grooming services, and private campground and overnight summer camps. Businesses must also certify that they have not received federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funds or other funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

SBSD worked together with the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to develop Rebuild VA. The parameters for the initiative were established in <u>House Bill 1505</u>, which was amended during the reconvened session to implement a grant program for certain small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an effort to accomplish the Northam administration's objectives for diversity, equity, and inclusion, half of the program funds will be distributed to eligible small businesses and nonprofits operating in low-income and economically disadvantaged communities. This will help to meet the needs of underserved businesses and nonprofits with broad geographic diversity, while ensuring there is adequate representation of minority- and women-owned businesses.

Rebuild VA funding may be utilized for the following eligible expenses:

- Payroll support, including paid sick, medical, or family leave, and costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during those periods of leave;
- Employee salaries;
- Mortgage payments, rent, and utilities;
- Principal and interest payments for any business loans from national or statechartered banking, savings and loan institutions, or credit unions, that were incurred before or during the emergency;

• Eligible personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfecting materials, or other working capital needed to address COVID-19 response.

SBSD will hold several webinars to review eligibility requirements and documentation needed to apply when the application opens on August 10, 2020. A one-pager on Rebuild VA is available <u>here</u>.

For more information about Rebuild VA, eligibility criteria, covered expenses, and how to submit an application, please visit governor.virginia.gov/RebuildVA.



## Red Cross and Inova Continue to Host Blood Drives

The American Red Cross continues to have an urgent need for blood and platelet donations. Donation sites follow the required social distancing during the collection events at this extremely critical time. No drop-in donations are

allowed. To schedule an appointment, please visit <u>redcross.org/give-blood</u>. Inova Blood Services has blood drives scheduled and take donors by appointment. Visit <a href="https://www.inovablood.org/">https://www.inovablood.org/</a> to schedule and appointments. Residents who have had a positive COVID-19 test and are symptom-free for 14 days may be able to donate plasma. The plasma should be rich in immunoglobulins that may be helpful to patients who are actively fighting a COVID-19 infection. Visit <a href="https://www.inovablood.org/covid19plasma/">https://www.inovablood.org/covid19plasma/</a> for more information.

Have any questions about COVID-19's impact on Parks & Rec facilities? Watch my latest virtual town hall with Loudoun Parks & Rec Director Steve Torpy, NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert, and Open Space Board Member Jimmy O'Connor by clicking the picture below.





# When You Can Be Around Others

If you think or know you had COVID-19, and you had symptoms, you can be with others after 1)at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared, 2) at least 24 hours with no fever

without fever-reducing medication and, 3) symptoms have improved. <u>Learn more</u> about home isolation.

Please share any messages of hope you see. Submissions may be sent to Zachary Harris at \_\_\_\_\_\_ and we'll share them in our updates and newsletter.

If you are having trouble paying your utilities because of COVID-19, visit the County's webpage on <u>COVID-19 Utilities</u>. You will find program information on:

Columbia Gas
Dominion Power
Loudoun Water
NOVEC
Washington Gas
Wi-fi Connectivity

#### For More Current COVID-19 Information

Visit: <a href="www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus">www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus</a>
Call: (703) 737-8300
Email: <a href="mailto:Health@Loudoun.gov">Health@Loudoun.gov</a>

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Juli E. Briskman, Algonkian District Supervisor <u>Zachary Harris</u>, Legislative Aide <u>Rey Cheatham-Banks</u>, Chief of Staff

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Supervisor Juli E. Briskman | 1 Harrison Street, S.E.,, 5th Floor, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

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Sent by juli.briskman@loudoun.gov powered by

