



March 24, 2020

Latest approved Virginia state agency key messages/talking points for COVID-19 response

### **Governor of Virginia / Commonwealth of Virginia**

- The latest information and updates can be found at <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/>
- All gatherings of more than 10 people are banned statewide, beginning at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. This does not include gatherings that involve the provision of health care or medical services, access to essential services for low-income residents, such as food banks; operations of the media; law enforcement agencies; or operations of government.
- All schools will remain closed through the end of this academic year. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will issue guidance to help divisions execute plans to continue instruction, while ensuring students are served equitably, regardless of income level, access to technology, English learner status, or special needs. This includes options for additional instruction through summer programming, integrating instruction into coursework next year, and allowing students to make up content. VDOE will submit a waiver to the federal government to lift end-of-year testing requirements and is exploring options to waive state mandated tests.
- The following recreation and entertainment businesses are considered non-essential and must close to the public beginning at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 24, 2020:
  - Theaters, performing arts centers, concert venues, museums, and other indoor entertainment centers; Fitness centers, gymnasiums, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, indoor exercise facilities; Beauty salons, barber shops, spas, massage parlors, tanning salons, tattoo shops, and any other location where personal care or personal grooming services are performed that would not allow compliance with social distancing guidelines to remain six feet apart; Racetracks and historic horse racing facilities; Bowling alleys, skating rinks, arcades, amusement parks, trampoline parks, fairs, arts and craft facilities, aquariums, zoos, escape rooms, indoor shooting ranges, public and private social clubs, and all other places of indoor public amusement.
- All dining and congregation areas in the following establishments must close to the public beginning at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. These establishments may continue to offer delivery and/or takeout services. Establishments include: Restaurants; Dining establishments; Food courts; Farmers markets; Breweries; Microbreweries; Distilleries; Wineries; and Tasting rooms.
- The following retail businesses are considered essential and may remain open during normal business hours: Grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retailers that sell food and beverage products or pharmacy products, including dollar stores, and department stores with grocery or pharmacy operations; Medical,

laboratory, and vision supply retailers; Electronic retailers that sell or service cell phones, computers, tablets, and other communications technology;

- Automotive parts, accessories, and tire retailers as well as automotive repair facilities;
- Home improvement, hardware, building material, and building supply retailers; Lawn and garden equipment retailers; Beer, wine, and liquor stores; Retail functions of gas stations and convenience stores; Retail located within healthcare facilities; Banks and other financial institutions with retail functions; Pet stores and feed stores; Printing and office supply stores; and Laundromats and dry cleaners.
- All essential retail establishments must, to the extent possible, adhere to social distancing recommendations, enhanced sanitizing practices on common surfaces, and other appropriate workplace guidance from state and federal authorities.
- Any brick-and-mortar retail business not listed above must limit all in-person shopping to no more than 10 patrons per establishment, adhere to social distancing recommendations, sanitize common surfaces, and apply relevant workplace guidance from state and federal authorities. If any such business cannot adhere to the 10-patron limit with proper social distancing requirements, it must close.
- Professional businesses not listed above must utilize telework as much as possible. Where telework is not feasible, such businesses must adhere to social distancing recommendations, enhanced sanitizing procedures, and apply relevant workplace guidance from state and federal authorities, including [CDC](#), [OSHA](#), and the [Virginia Department of Labor and Industry](#).
- Businesses in violation of this order may be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- We are dedicating as much PPE as possible to our healthcare workers focused on COVID-19. We are actively reaching out to companies who make and distribute PPE.
- We have revised our testing criteria to give additional priority to first responders and medical professionals who have had contact with [COVID-19](#) patients and people in nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Those with chronic health conditions or aged 65 or older should self-quarantine. Public health experts advise that individuals with underlying medical conditions and those aged 65 or older are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Governor Northam encouraged neighbors and friends to stay in touch and regularly check in with high-risk individuals.
- Governor Northam has directed the Commissioner of the Virginia Employment Commission to waive the one-week waiting period to ensure workers can receive benefits as soon as possible.
- Workers may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits if an employer needs to temporarily slow or cease operations due to COVID-19. If a worker has been issued a notice to self-quarantine by a medical or public health official and is not receiving paid sick or medical leave from their employer, they may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits. In addition, a worker may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they must stay home to care for an ill family member and are not receiving paid family medical leave from their employer.
- Governor Northam is directing the Virginia Employment Commission to give affected workers special consideration on deadlines, mandatory re-employment appointments, and work search requirements.
- Following a request [submitted](#) by Governor Northam on March 18, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today approved an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration for Virginia. Small businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the Commonwealth affected by the COVID-19 public health crisis can now apply for low-interest federal disaster loans of up to \$2 million from the SBA to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses. To submit a loan application through the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, please visit [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/).

- Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can also request to defer the payment of state sales tax due March 20, 2020, for 30 days. When granted, businesses will be able to file no later than April 20, 2020 with a waiver of any penalties.
- Working with the Department of Medicaid Assistance Services, Governor Northam is increasing access to health care for Virginia's 1.5 million Medicaid members and thousands of low-income residents. These actions include: Eliminating all co-payments for services covered by Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS), including COVID-19-related treatment as well as other medical care; Ensuring current Medicaid members do not inadvertently lose coverage due to lapses in paperwork or a change in circumstances; Permitting Medicaid members to obtain a 90-day supply of many routine prescriptions, an increase from the 30-day supply under previous rules; Waiving pre-approval requirements for many critical medical services, and enacting automatic extensions for approvals that are already in place; and Expanding access to telehealth services, including allowing Medicaid reimbursement for providers who use telehealth with patients in the home.

### **Department of Emergency Management**

- VDEM is actively engaged in supporting COVID operations for a whole-of-government response to include: staffing the Virginia Emergency Support Team virtually and in person with essential personnel; opening and staffing Regional Coordination Centers to assist localities with resource and information requests; coordinating the Unified Command structure; developing digital media communication efforts for the state; and maintaining emergency response capacity for hazardous materials and search and rescue incidents.
- For the Private Sector: Register on our Private Sector Portal to be added to the distribution list to receive future correspondence on the Commonwealth's actions: <https://bit.ly/VaPrivateSector>
- Please email [private.sector@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:private.sector@vdem.virginia.gov) with emergency response questions. Clinical questions about Coronavirus can be directed to 877-ASK-VDH3.
- There is a survey that we have published to gather information from the private sector on issues they are experiencing and offers of assistance to Virginia (donation, in-kind contribution, discounted). That can be accessed at <https://arccg.is/1amrze>

### **Department of Health**

- As of March 23, there are 254 cases and 6 deaths related to COVID-19 in Virginia. Please note: This is preliminary data and subject to change. Do not share it publicly. Official case counts are updated online daily by noon.
- Do your part to slow STOP the spread by taking everyday precautions, including: Staying at home as much as possible, avoiding close contact with others, covering your coughs and sneezes, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are particularly vulnerable and should limit exposure by staying home as much as possible. \*Note: CDC today posted people over 65.
- Even if you're not at high risk for COVID-19, you can do your part to stop the spread by staying informed and taking action to protect others.
- Most people with COVID-19 develop fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- Due to the limited number of tests available, testing performed at DCLS, Virginia's state laboratory, is reserved for patients who meet VDH's priority investigation criteria.

### **Virginia State Police**

- On March 17, 2020, Governor Northam told Virginians to avoid non-essential gatherings of more than 10 people, per federal guidelines. This does not include normal operations at essential services such as manufacturers, distribution centers, airports, bus and train stations, medical facilities, grocery stores, or pharmacies. The Governor's announcement was issued at the advisement of the Virginia Commissioner of Health as an Emergency Declaration and not an Executive Order, which have unique legal distinctions. Under the Code of Virginia 32.1-27, Virginia law enforcement do have the authority to enforce and cite an individual(s) in clear defiance of the declaration. Such a violation would be a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- The Virginia State Police is committed to doing its part towards helping mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the Commonwealth. State troopers, for their personal protection and for the safety of the public, are minimizing their direct contact with the public. Recruitment events, public presentations, training, etc. have all been canceled or postponed. State police is required to uphold the laws of the Commonwealth and will continue to have a visible presence within our communities and on the roads for the safety of those living, working, and traveling through Virginia.
- In response to the increase in fraudulent scams, online websites, robocalls presented by COVID-19, Virginia State Police joined its federal partners on Friday to announce the formation of the Virginia Coronavirus Fraud Task Force. The joint task force is being led by the Assistant United States Attorneys from both the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia, in partnership with experienced fraud investigators from the FBI and the Virginia State Police. The mission of the task force is to identify, investigate, and prosecute fraud related to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic in Virginia.
- We are still awaiting a declaration by the Governor's Office to suspend/extend vehicle inspection expirations.

#### **Virginia Employment Commission**

- Claims can be filed online at [www.vec.virginia.gov](http://www.vec.virginia.gov) or over the phone at 866-832-2363. Make sure unemployment insurance claims are filed on the official site ending in .gov.
- If you are totally or partially unemployed, file a claim with the VEC either online at [www.vec.virginia.gov](http://www.vec.virginia.gov) or by phone at 866-832-2363. The VEC will notify you regarding your benefit and contact you directly to resolve any issues.

#### **Department of Medical Assistance Services**

- The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is working with Governor Northam, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and other state agencies to take immediate actions to help fight COVID-19. DMAS is committed to increasing access to health care for the over 1.5 million Virginia Medicaid members and the thousands of low-income residents expected to seek coverage due to concern about the spread of COVID-19. Our members are our highest priority, and we have adopted policies to make sure that no one loses coverage during this critical time
- Virginia Medicaid covers all COVID-19 testing and treatment. DMAS recently announced it is taking the following steps, effective immediately, to remove barriers to care for its members and other eligible Virginians:
- Ensuring members do not inadvertently lose coverage due to lapses in paperwork or a change in circumstances. For the length of the emergency, renewals and redeterminations are extended. Any member that files an appeal during the emergency will automatically have coverage extended while waiting for the appeal.
- Eliminating co-pays for all Medicaid and FAMIS covered services, including COVID-19 testing and treatment.
- Allowing Medicaid members to obtain a 90 day supply of many routine prescriptions.

- Waiving pre-approval requirements for many critical medical services, and enacting automatic extensions for approvals that are already in place.
- Enabling Medicaid providers and members to make greater use of telehealth.
- Medicaid officials are working closely with providers to review and respond to the needs of higher risk and older members who are most susceptible to COVID-19. The agency is developing additional policies and initiatives to address health challenges related to the coronavirus as conditions evolve.
- Virginians who need health coverage can visit [coverva.org](http://coverva.org) to find out if they may be eligible for Medicaid. They can apply for health coverage at any time by going online to [commonhelp.virginia.gov](http://commonhelp.virginia.gov)

#### **Department of Social Services**

- Governor Northam has directed the Department of Social Services to modify Virginia’s Child Care Subsidy program, which is currently caring for 25,000 children, to increase support and flexibility for enrolled families and providers. These modifications include: Expanding eligibility for school-aged children currently designated for part-day care to full-day care; Increasing the number of paid absences from 36 to 76 days for both level 1 and level 2 providers; and automatically extending eligibility for families due for eligibility redetermination in the near future by 2 months and temporarily suspending the requirement for face-to-face interviews.
- The Virginia Department of Social Services has directed all assisted living facilities to immediately restrict all visitors, volunteers and non-essential healthcare personnel to help protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents.
- Child care centers that remain open are strongly encouraged to adapt service settings as much as possible to align with public health recommendations, which include social distancing. Child care facilities should direct families to remain at home to care for their children, if at all possible, to help ensure spaces for essential personnel in need of child care as they directly support COVID-19 response efforts. Classroom child care settings should be limited to a capacity of 10 individuals per room to include staff.
- Information regarding meal access sites for children is available from our agency website at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov>
- Individuals looking to apply for benefits and services or report changes to their status can do so through **CommonHelp** at <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov>. The system will also allow Virginians to Screen for eligibility for social services benefits & services and check the status of their benefits. Telephone assistance is available by contacting 1-855-635-4370.

#### **Department of Education**

- Governor Ralph Northam extended his order that all public and private K-12 schools in Virginia close in response to the continued spread of COVID-19 for the remainder of the school year. This builds on the Governor’s previous school closure order and previously issued guidance asking child care providers to prioritize services for children of essential personnel, while asking all families to keep their children home if they can.
- The Virginia Department of Education is applying to the U.S. Department of Education for a waiver from federal standardized testing requirements for the 2019-2020 school year.
- VDOE is researching what actions must be taken at the state level to waive state SOL testing requirements for the year.
- VDOE will make recommendations to the state Board of Education to ensure that all seniors on a trajectory toward meeting their diploma requirements are able to graduate.
- VDOE continues to provide guidance to the commonwealth's 132 school divisions on issues related to COVID-19.

#### **Department of General Services**

- The Department of General Services' Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) is Virginia's public health laboratory.
- DCLS began testing samples for COVID-19 on February 29, 2020.
- DCLS tests samples from individuals approved by the Virginia Department of Health as a Person Under Investigation (PUI), meaning they meet both the clinical and epidemiologic criteria for COVID-19.
- DCLS does not report results. DCLS provides test results to VDH, which reports those on its website.
- DCLS also is working in close partnership with universities to provide resources and materials to help expedite their ability to bring up their own COVID-19 tests.
- DGS also owns numerous buildings in and around Capitol Square. DGS has increased cleaning of high-touch common areas and worked with agencies to share personal hygiene practices. It also has shared this information with agencies in leased space.

### **Department of Motor Vehicles**

- Virginia's 75 DMV offices, as well as mobile units, will close to the public.
- Online services will remain available, and anyone needing to renew a license or vehicle registration is encouraged to do so online.
- For those who cannot renew online, or whose license or registration expires before May 15, DMV will grant a 60-day extension.
- During the office closures, DMV will continue to process the transactions that come in through the mail and the website, dmvNOW.com.

### **Department of Transportation**

- Safety is one of the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) top priorities. VDOT leadership is closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and making preparations to minimize potential impacts to employees and customers.
- Efforts are focused on the customers we serve, our workforce and access to critical supplies to help keep Virginia moving.
- Agency leadership is committed to keeping employees updated on impacts and sharing communications on health and prevention based on guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Virginia Department of Health.
- The agency is evaluating potential reductions in workforce, identifying tasks that can be conducted remotely, assessing essential travel and updating all contingency and emergency response plans.

### **Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation**

- Many local public transportation agencies continue to operate on full or significantly reduced schedules and also requesting customers limit travel to essential trips at this time. Those that must travel are encouraged to practice safe social distancing while on board buses, and prioritize trips for the travel of essential response personnel only (e.g. medical staff and first responders). Several agencies have also implemented social distancing policies and techniques for bus operators elimination of fares, rear door boarding only, and limiting the number of patrons on a vehicle to ensure social distancing.
- Last week, the Commonwealth Transportation Board made \$11 million available to local public transit agencies suffering major operating revenue losses and increased expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds will be available by early April. Additionally, Congress is currently considering making \$20 billion available to public

transportation as part of its pending relief efforts. Several agencies like the Greater Richmond and Greater Lynchburg Transit Companies, are now offering fare-free trips systemwide.

- Amtrak is currently operating Northeast Regional trains, which include the 6 daily state funded round trips to and from Virginia, at only at 40% of normal service levels until at least March 29. All ticket change fees will be waived through April 30. Amtrak is also asking all customers to plan ahead by checking the latest schedule information online at: [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com).

#### **State Corporation Commission (SCC)**

- Issued an [order](#) directing utilities it regulates, such as electric, natural gas, and water companies in Virginia, to suspend service disconnections for 60 days to provide immediate relief for any customer, residential and business, who may be financially impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### **Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services**

- DARS has closed all of its offices to the public until further notice.
- The Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville suspended all vocational training classes and sent home on campus students starting March 13.
- Our offices are implementing telework options for those who have the capability and expanding VPN access as quickly as VITA can provide it.
- DARS is dedicated to providing statewide resources for our older and disabled populations, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is a listing of our key community partners who are valuable resources and actively providing services to help the aging and disabled communities.

#### **Virginia Economic Development Partnership**

- Considering the heightened importance of economic development efforts during the COVID-19 situation, VEDP is open for business, with nearly all its employees working remotely from Caution-home.
- VEDP has business retention, workforce, and international trade staff positioned across the Commonwealth who are interacting daily with business partners as well as local and regional economic development leaders to support their important work.
- Many companies continue to actively consider Virginia for new business investment locations and/or expansions of their existing Virginia operations.
- VEDP is actively supporting the Secretariat of Commerce and Trade in its efforts to understand the economic and employment impacts of COVID-19, as well as how state and federal government can respond.

#### **Department of Housing and Community Development**

- DHCD is closely monitoring the COVID-19 progress and continuing to review the need to cancel or reschedule in-person meetings, events, trainings, etc., as necessary. DHCD has provided a page dedicated to rescheduled or canceled meetings. <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/dhcd-closely-monitoring-covid-19-progress-and-continuing-review-need-cancel-or-reschedule-person>
- DHCD is continuing to work with local partners to address homeless needs for our most vulnerable populations. DHCD staff are participating on task forces to address the needs of our homeless shelters and providers. This involves a multi-agency and multi-secretariat effort to address the needs and assist our homeless providers and partners with the supplies and funding they need to serve our most vulnerable populations. DHCD and VDH have partnered to create a quick reference guide for Virginia homeless shelters.

<https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/Docx/housing/covid-19-quick-reference-for-homeless-shelters.pdf>

- DHCD has created a dedicated page for FAQs for our local Building Departments in regards to keeping the building community involved in procedures and best practices to address building inspection and construction needs. <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/covid-19-faqs-updates-and-resources-local-building-departments>
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- DHCD is working with our communities and small businesses to address the needs of those affected by COVID-19. DHCD has created a resources page to assist with resources currently in place to assist our small businesses and downtown communities, and will be looking at ways to provide funding to assist with recovery. <https://virginiainmainstreet.com/covid-19-resources/>

### **Virginia Information Technologies Agency**

- The Commonwealth has significant remote work capabilities, and VITA is increasing capacity.
- Virtual private network (VPN) capacity already has been doubled and soon will be tripled.
- Internet circuit capacity has been increased.
- Many Commonwealth resources are available remotely, including Google G Suite, Microsoft SharePoint and other tools.
- VITA has significantly increased state government remote work capabilities, doubling VPN capacity and increasing Internet circuit capacity.
- VITA has ordered almost 4,000 laptops to increase the devices available for agencies to enable mobile and remote work.
- Maintained IT support via phone, email, and website and provided online status updates and frequent communications about individual tickets and IT infrastructure.
- VITA is working with suppliers to address increased help desk calls and other service requests, to increase asset inventories, and to use current and new technologies to improve mobile and remote work capabilities.
- VITA and suppliers want to hear about our client agencies' problems and needs, through the VCCC Help Desk, agency Customer Account Managers (CAMs), and other appropriate channels.

### **State Council of Higher Education for Virginia**

- SCHEV has provided guidance to institutions about teaching modalities, meaning if the institution has a program approved by SCHEV, they need to notify us at some point, but SCHEV does not regulate how they must deliver the program (e.g., in person vs. online).
- SCHEV is assessing impacts on institutions to get a state level understanding of how COVID-19 is affecting them financially.
- SCHEV is also working on institutional guidance related to financial aid.

### **Department of Veterans Services**

- All DVS Benefits Offices statewide will continue operations. However, all are closed to personal visits. Veterans and family members may contact their local office by telephone or email. Veteran Service Representatives will be available to provide assistance during normal business hours. For more information, visit [www.dvs.virginia.gov/benefits](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/benefits)

- The Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke and the Sitter & Barfoot Care Center in Richmond are closed to all visitors. All group events are cancelled. Resident trips – except to outside medical facilities – are cancelled. Residents can be contacted by email or telephone, and video chats can be arranged. The only exception to visitation is for family members who wish to visit a resident in an end-of-life stage and these exceptions must be approved by care center staff. Details at [www.dvs.virginia.gov/veterans-care-centers](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/veterans-care-centers)
- The Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans cemetery in Suffolk, and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin are open for burials and internments. The administrative offices at each cemetery are closed to visitors but staff members may be contacted by telephone to schedule burials. In accordance with CDC guidelines, we urge that committal services be limited to groups of 10 or fewer. Info and updates are available at [www.dvs.virginia.gov/cemeteries](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/cemeteries)
- The interior portions of the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond (the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center, C. Kenneth Wright Pavilion, and underground parking deck) – are closed until further notice. All school groups, tour groups and individual tours and all previously-scheduled programs and events are cancelled until further notice. The outside portions of the Memorial – the Shrine of Memory-20th Century, the Shrine of Memory-Global War on Terrorism and Beyond, and the Walkway of Honor, plus the surface parking lot, are open for visitation. For the latest information, visit [www.dvs.virginia.gov/virginia-war-memorial](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/virginia-war-memorial) or [www.vawarmemorial.org](http://www.vawarmemorial.org)
- Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program offices are closed to in-person assistance, but VVFS team members are continuing to assist Veterans and families via phone and email. Please contact 1-877-285-1299 and your call will be routed to the appropriate region for assistance. Please be sure to state your name, a return phone number, and your location clearly.
- All DVS team members in the education, transition, and employment programs are teleworking, but are connected via phone and e-mail, and can perform almost all direct-service activities for Veterans and their families. Visit <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment> to connect to a DVS team member in these program areas.
- All programs and activities scheduled to commemorate Virginia Women Veterans Week, March 15-21, 2020, have been cancelled or postponed to a later date. As of right now, the Virginia Women Veterans Summit scheduled for June 17-18 in Richmond will proceed as scheduled. For more information, go to [www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/virginia-women-veterans](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/virginia-women-veterans)

#### **Office of Children’s Services**

- Communications of relevant and expedient information to CSA stakeholders and staff
- Coordination with State agencies to ensure reimbursements to localities
- The Office of Children's Services is developing guidance to address key questions from local CSA programs and other constituents and will issue such guidance as it becomes available. Website: [csa.virginia.gov](http://csa.virginia.gov)

#### **Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity**

- Took the lead in securing Impact Data from small businesses around Virginia both through our own databases as well as our strong network of small business partners. This data was used by Governor Northam to make his request to the United States Small Business Administration (US SBA).
- We learned yesterday of US SBA's “Administrative Disaster Declaration for Virginia” which allows Virginia’s small businesses to seek federal Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the U.S. SBA. With 99.5% of Virginia’s businesses being small; this is a huge impact on Virginia’s economy.
- The Impact Survey remains open for businesses to respond until March 27, 2020.

### **Motor Vehicle Dealer Board**

- We open for business as usual, however, dealers are strongly encouraged to mail their renewal packages or other credential requests in lieu of coming into the Richmond office.
- Dealerships closing due to COVID-19 should send all closing information to [dboard@mvdv.virginia.gov](mailto:dboard@mvdv.virginia.gov). During this pandemic we are relaxing enforcement of dealerships maintaining minimum office hours.
- No new salesperson or dealer-operator testing available until DMV opens their Customer Service Centers.

### **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

- Consumers who are immunocompromised or at high risk of COVID-19 should consider purchasing pre-packaged fruits and vegetables as an added measure of caution or choose to eat cooked fruits and vegetables at this time. All produce items should be washed thoroughly before consumption.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, restrict contact with pets and other animals, just like you would around other people. Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick.
- In order to provide for student meals in the event of unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19, VDACS' Office of Food Distribution (OFD), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), applied and was approved for a statewide waiver that allows schools to serve as a Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Option sites. Unanticipated closures prevent children from receiving educational instruction and the nutritious meals that they would normally receive. This waiver allows schools the ability to feed children two meals and one snack per day during school closures.
- OFD staff is currently requesting expansion of the Emergency Food Assistance Program to allow for more people to qualify during the COVID- 19 outbreak. The request would relax income requirements, so families who have a temporary need can access food.
- OFD staff sent a request to USDA to amend the state plan for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program to ensure that participants can continue to obtain their monthly food and to minimize physical contact during the COVID-19 outbreak. The first request is to suspend the requirement for participants to sign for the food they receive. The second request is to allow Commodity Supplemental Food Program participants to receive two boxes every other month rather than monthly. This will minimize the number of distributions without limiting the amount of food.

### **Department of Accounts**

- All business functions are operating under normal schedules through expansive telework. Established agency processing deadlines remain unchanged. Note that key payroll processing deadlines occur next week.

### **Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth**

- VFHY announced last week that we are cancelling our Reduce Tobacco Use Conference and Substance Use Prevention Summit --both were scheduled to take place in April in Alexandria, Virginia. We are following the directives from Governor Northam around social distancing and cancelling gatherings.
- In terms of the ongoing situation, we have transitioned all staff to full-time teleworking and are completing all grantee meetings and site visits via electronic means. We have asked all of our vendors to submit invoices electronically, set up a new process to distribute invoices for approval via email and set up new processes to submit small purchase card documentation and leave slips.

- Notified 100+ grant-funded organizations of new process to apply for contract modifications if their ability to complete work is affected by the ongoing COVID-19/Coronavirus situation.

### Department of Environmental Quality

- DEQ stood up an executive COVID response team three weeks ago that continues to meet daily (if not more).
- DEQ offices remain open, but last week DEQ began implementing social distancing, including widespread use of telework by eligible employees across the state. More than 85 percent of the agency is eligible to telework.
- All DEQ employees age 65 and older or with a chronic health condition are being required to work from Caution-home. Those who cannot telework are being granted up to 80 hours of Public Health Emergency Leave (PHEL). In order for DEQ to protect and enhance Virginia's environment, and promote the health and well-being of Virginia's citizens, we first need to ensure we take care of our employees.
- DEQ has also begun reprioritizing work in order to suspend all routine field activities, including inspections and monitoring, for a two-week period (ending March 27, but this will be reevaluated on a daily basis). DEQ will provide updates as new information becomes available.
- DEQ will continue to investigate significant pipeline concerns <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/ProtectionRequirementsforPipelines/Multi-facetedInspectionforOversightofPipelineProjects.aspx>. Daily monitoring, inspections and field activities will continue through the agency's contract staff during this time.
- We do not anticipate that DEQ's temporary suspension of field inspections will affect compliance at wastewater treatment facilities. DEQ recognizes the situation is fluid and the agency will continue to coordinate with wastewater treatment facilities about any potential impacts related to COVID-19.
- Based on the Governor's latest statements and FOIA, DEQ will be postponing some upcoming public meetings/hearings. The agency will share this information via the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall and DEQ's public calendar on <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/>
- DEQ's Pollution Response Program <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionResponsePreparedness/MakingaReport.aspx> continues to respond to statewide environmental emergencies and significant complaints.

### Department of Fire Programs

- Training: In alignment with efforts in the Commonwealth to slow down the spread of COVID-19, VDFP has cancelled or postponed all VDFP Funded and Reimbursable Courses that are currently in progress or beginning, up to and including April 3, 2020.
- Operations: VDFP remains fully operational during this time and wants to maintain an optimal environment for its staff. The agency is encouraging social distancing and discouraging in-person contact. Conduct VDFP business by contacting staff by email or phone.
- Response: Over the next two weeks, VDFP staff will be working on a recovery plan to make sure that students who are currently in a VDFP firefighter training program, have the ability to complete that program. VDFP will also work with local host jurisdictions to reschedule any VDFP activities that were previously scheduled and have been impacted by this action. Further guidance will be provided by April 1, 2020.
- Resources Available: The Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office is conducting normal operations by performing enforcement actions; staff is available to perform building inspections of state-owned facilities in conjunction with the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and Virginia State Police.

## Department of Corrections

- There are still no known cases of COVID-19 among offenders and staff in Virginia's prisons.
- VADOC facilities have moved to modified lockdown in order to minimize contact between groups of offenders from different buildings. Offenders will eat in their pods and go to recreation with their own pod of offenders and will not eat and recreate with offenders from other pods until further notice.
- We started production of sneeze/cough shield masks late Friday at all four Virginia Correctional Enterprise apparel plants (Augusta, Haynesville, Fluvanna, and Halifax). We delivered yesterday (Sunday) 5200 sneeze/cough shields to Coffeewood Correctional Center and 4900 to Dillwyn Correctional Center. We have 80 to be delivered to Probation and Parole officers this morning. Deerfield Correctional Center will receive the next round of sneeze/cough shields. We're hoping to be able to produce up to 15,000 sneeze/cough shields a day. These are not medical grade masks.
- From March 15 to March 21, VADOC offenders sent and received 193,487 email messages. From March 15 to March 21, offenders made 447,809 telephone calls and completed 1,503 video visits.
- 10 offenders at St. Brides Correctional Center are today being isolated with flu-like symptoms.

## Department of Juvenile Justice

- Our number one priority is the safety of the youth in our care or supervision – be they in a facility or in the community. We are taking proactive steps to keep our kids safe.
- In order to keep our kids safe, we must be sure our staff are safe. We are enacting processes to ensure social distancing where possible, reminding staff the importance of personal hygiene, and working to keep our facility and offices clean.
- Regardless of the challenges we face we are committed to providing kids, families, and communities the services they deserve.

## Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission

- In-Person Mediations and Hearings Cancelled through March 31st. The Commission is closely monitoring the quickly evolving changes surrounding COVID-19. In response to the latest information, all in-person Commission hearings and mediations have been cancelled beginning March 17th through March 31st. The Commission remains open for all other business and therefore there is no change at this time in policy or procedure with regard to timely filing, statutes of limitation, or other statutory or rule based time limitations.
- All parties affected will be contacted by the Commission as soon as possible to reschedule. If you have additional questions about an upcoming hearing, please contact the Deputy Commissioner's Office located on your Notice of Hearing, or contact VWC's Customer Contact Center at 1-877-664-2566. Visitors with respiratory or flu-like symptoms, or those considered vulnerable to COVID-19, should please refrain from coming to Commission offices.
- As for all other Commission business operations, we will continue to work in accordance with the State of Virginia and Commission guidelines and recommendations. Additional updates will be announced as needed. The Commission is working diligently to assist our customers as needed. If you have any other questions, please contact VWC at 1-877-664-2566 or email: [questions@workcomp.virginia](mailto:questions@workcomp.virginia).

## Department of Aviation

- DOAV continues to provide safe and efficient travel to COV leadership
- DOAV is supporting Virginia's 66 public-use airports to ensure they continue to provide the best travel experience possible.

- Renew your aircraft registration through the mail; don't come to the office.
- Airlines are cutting hundreds of flights each day so check flight status online before going to the airport. If you are sick or have any symptoms that indicate that you could be sick, cancel your travel plans and isolate yourself.

#### **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

- DGIF encourages everyone in the Commonwealth to utilize the online option, [www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com) for all their licensing and registration need
- Hunters, anglers, boaters and wildlife enthusiasts can do most transactions online. As of close of business on March 17, all DGIF offices will be closed for walk in traffic until further notice.

#### **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- Virginia State Parks are open, and visitors are encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines during all visits by keeping a distance of 6 feet or more between themselves and other guests.
- Virginia State Parks: While we encourage park visits, we do ask that if you are sick and/or experiencing symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 infection that you please refrain from visiting.
- Virginia State Parks: In adherence with federal guidance, all Virginia State Parks visitor centers are closed to the public. Overnight facilities and outdoor spaces remain open and a great alternative for social distancing in a natural environment. Groups or gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited. Self check-in guidance will be emailed to overnight guests.
- Virginia State Parks: All in person programs and events are canceled through March 31 as well as any event of 10 or more people that is scheduled through April 15.
- DCR: Agency has implemented flexible teleworking and scheduling to maximize social distancing for appropriate positions. An intranet site is now active for employees. The site includes COVID-19 reference materials and new process information. Weekly agency wide teleconference meetings are open for all employees to answer questions and provide updates.

#### **Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

- Helping individuals who are blind become successfully employed or maintain employment; helping individuals who are blind gain proficiency in the skills that will let them live independently and contribute to their communities.
- Educating the public about the capabilities of individuals who are blind and how to interact positively with these individuals.
- VIB's continued efforts to meet the needs of state agencies by providing supplies to the Virginia Distribution Center.
- DBVI and VRCBVI are available as a resource by phone, even if we cannot perform all of our functions in the field at this time.

#### **Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

- The main office is closed however all employees are telecommuting and we will respond to all contacts with the public.
- The Virginia Relay continue to provide telecommunication relay services however the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has suspended certain performance standards such as calls being answered within 10 seconds. Some calls may take a bit longer to process.

- Technology Assistance Program has suspended office and home appointments with customers. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists who contract with VDDHH have closed their local offices and are telecommuting.
- Virginia Quality Assurance Services have suspended all registration and testing for sign language interpreters as long as the state of emergency is in effect.
- Interpreter Services including real-time captioning remain available for state government appointments/events including the courts. However many appointments/events are being cancelled. VDDHH has been providing interpreters for the Governor's daily press conferences.
- Community Services - We continue to respond to requests for information and referral however training workshops have been suspended. Prioritized efforts are focused on the COVID19 initiatives.

### **Department of Forensic Science**

- The Department of Forensic Science is taking appropriate steps to ensure its continuing capability to provide forensic laboratory services to the Virginia criminal justice community while protecting the health and safety of its staff and customers to the greatest extent possible.
- Although the Department's laboratories will generally maintain normal business hours, Evidence Receiving will be closed for cleaning from 12:00 - 1:00 PM each day. If feasible, to promote social distancing, DFS requests that agencies limit the number of officers they send to submit evidence and/or the frequency they submit evidence.
- DFS customers are reminded that the Department maintains video testimony capabilities for the testimony of the forensic scientists if the parties and the court are agreeable.

### **Department of Human Resource Management**

- The Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) has directed all state agencies to update their emergency operations and paid leave policies, and Virginia will begin implementing a phased transition to teleworking for state employees.
- Virginia is setting an example by activating paid Public Health Emergency Leave for state employees who have recently traveled to high-risk areas.
- All official travel outside of Virginia by state employees has been halted, with increased flexibility for inter-state commuters and essential personnel. State employees have been advised to limit in-person meetings and non-essential work-related gatherings. Specific guidance will be released to agency heads and state employees, and Virginia will revisit these guidelines after 30 days.

### **Department of Health Professions**

- DHP is in place to keep people safe through the licensure and regulation of 400,000 healthcare practitioners across 62 disciplines through the work of 13 health regulatory boards and three agency programs.
- DHP continues to meet the licensure needs of healthcare practitioners and is responsive to potential violations of laws or regulations that put public health at risk.
- DHP encourages use of electronic communication including email, fax and telephone.
- Health regulatory board meetings and hearings are temporarily postponed.
- DHP is open to meet the needs of licensees, the public and other stakeholders as appropriate. People are encouraged to visit DHP's website [dhp.virginia.gov](http://dhp.virginia.gov) for guidance.

### **Department of Labor & Industry**

- The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry is closely monitoring the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). To reduce the impact of COVID-19 outbreak conditions on businesses, workers, customers and the public, it is important for employers to plan now for COVID-19.
- The agency encourages all employers to implement infection prevention and industrial hygiene practices. Additional resources and guidance has been posted to our web page <https://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh-programs/coronavirus-covid-19-resources>

### **Virginia Tax**

- Virginia Tax employees continue to implement recommended safety procedures while working: working remotely when possible, communicating via technology options that are available and using social distancing methods if they do need to work in the office.
- Virginia Tax has created a COVID-19 information page on the agency's website to share critical messages with taxpayers. Here's the link: <https://www.tax.virginia.gov/coronavirus>
- At this time, the filing deadline for Virginia individual income taxes is Friday, May 1, 2020. Other filing deadlines stay the same as well.
- Any income tax payments due during the time period of April 1, 2020, to June 1, 2020, will now be due on June 1, 2020. This includes individual and corporate income taxes paid to Virginia Tax. Late payment penalties will not be charged if payments are made by June 1, 2020, however, interest will still accrue.
- There is an automatic 6-month extension for taxpayers who miss the May 1 filing deadline. If you do owe any taxes, you should pay by June 1 in order to avoid any penalties or additional interest.
- For business owners, Virginia Tax will consider requests from sales tax dealers for an extension of the due date for filing and payment of the February 2020 sales tax return due on March 20, 2020. If the request is granted, filing and payment of the return will be due on April 20, 2020, with a waiver of any penalties that would have applied. However, interest will accrue even if an extension is granted.

### **Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council**

- The Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council (CASC) office is closed.
- All employees are teleworking.
- All agency training events for April will be provided in a live webcast format or in a recorded on-line format.
- Training events scheduled for May and beyond will be prepared to switch to an on-line format, if possible.
- In the event that an on-line format will not be effective or practical for a particular training program, that event will be rescheduled as a live event when it is safe to do so.
- All Commonwealth's Attorneys have been advised of the foregoing.

### **Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR)**

- To minimize inconvenience during this public health emergency, DPOR is extending the validity of licenses that would expire during the State of Emergency, if extra time is needed to meet renewal requirements.
- To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and promote social distancing, DPOR is temporarily waiving regulations that prohibit or limit online instruction.
- Updates and resources are posted at <http://dpor.virginia.gov/COVID-19>.
- Maintaining normal operations as much as possible with increased telework and flexible scheduling options for employees. DPOR offices at the Perimeter Center in Henrico County closed to the public as of March 18, 2020.

### **Southern Virginia Higher Education Center**

- In the interests of public health, all SVHEC buildings are closed to the public.
- Telework arrangements have been put in place for eligible staff members.
- Updates on the SVHEC's response to COVID-19 are available at <https://svhec.org/svhec-coronavirus-response>

### **Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center**

- Effective March 23, the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center is closed to the public through April 22, 2020.
- All events scheduled in our facility through April 22 have been cancelled.
- Telework has been implemented for all eligible employees.
- Encouraging the community to review related covid-19 links from the CDC and the Virginia Department of Health to help slow the spread of the virus.
- Notifying the public of these changes via Facebook, Twitter and our website at <http://www.swcenter.edu/covid-19>

### **Library of Virginia**

- We are closed to the public in the interest of public health and safety.
- We are following—and encouraging the public to follow—the guidelines of the Virginia Dept of Health, the Office of the Governor, and the Centers for Disease Control.
- We are available to serve the public through our website, by phone, or by email and are sharing information about online library resources through social media, our newsletter, and email.
- In addition to sharing news about our own agency closure, we are sharing information about online library resources for the public and educators through social media, our newsletter, and email. We are also keeping in touch with local libraries across Virginia and state libraries and state archives across the country to share information, benefit from their experiences, and keep us all connected to better serve all Virginians.

### **Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**

- Providing plain language information about the coronavirus and related situation to people with disabilities, their families, and service providers
- Ensuring the needs and concerns of people with disabilities are heard and acknowledged during the multiple Coronavirus planning meetings and during task force meetings.
- Providing solid recommendations to Virginia Medicaid on actions they can take to mitigate negative impacts and disruption of the services individuals with disabilities and their families depend on.

### **Department of Forestry**

- VDOF leadership and staff have efficiently worked together to shift statewide agency operations in ways that support on-going service provision while minimizing risks of spreading COVID-19. Effective, timely internal communication has been critical in VDOF's response to this rapidly evolving situation.
- There are currently seven VDOF staff members serving the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Virginia's response to COVID-19, acting in the capacity of Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT is helping to establish structure within the EOC, as well as improve information flow and facilitate consistent resource sharing for health districts across the Commonwealth during this critical time.
- Agency employees worked with supervising staff to identify critical operations and responsibilities as well as opportunities for work to be remotely conducted; staff are utilizing flexible scheduling and increased teleworking to reduce risks of exposure to COVID-19 among staff and the public.

- On March 13, State Forester Rob Farrell called for staff to cancel VDOF attendance at scheduled events with more than 20 participants for at least the next two weeks.
- VDOF is maintaining normal agency operations as much as possible through increased telework options for staff and staggered scheduling to minimize contact in office buildings. The nature of much of our field work, such as harvest inspections and advising landowners allows us to continue these activities in most situations by using proper social distancing techniques and the recommended CDC guidelines.
- Adjusted schedules for employees and telework protocols may mean that our offices are not fully staffed. If you require assistance from a VDOF employee, please first try to email or call rather than visiting our headquarters or branch offices.
- It is spring fire season in Virginia, and VDOF is as prepared as always to respond to wildfire emergencies. VDOF urges residents to be particularly cautious to avoid causing wildfires that would put increased pressure on Virginia's emergency response personnel and expose them to additional risks during this critical time.

### **Virginia Tourism**

- Coronavirus has Virginia Tourism's full attention.
- With the situation evolving rapidly, we encourage the traveling public to seek and heed the latest expert guidance, and to make fact-based travel decisions.
- Virginia is currently following federal guidelines prohibiting the gathering of 10 or more people.
- For most of the population, most travel is considered to be safe by national, state, and local guidelines.
- However, certain groups should take extra caution. Those who are sick should not travel, and those considered to be high risk (65 years and older, those with compromised immune systems, or those with underlying health conditions) should avoid large crowds and air travel.

### **Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation**

- Until further notice, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation — Jamestown Settlement, the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown and its Central Support Complex — is closed to support public health mandates to minimize the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). During this time, our team is teleworking. Once this health crisis is contained, we look forward to hosting you at our museums. Updates are available at [historyisfun.org/update](https://historyisfun.org/update)
- COVID-19 impacts in our region have forced cancellation of major events and programs, school group visits and education programs, as well as prevented spring break visitation to the museums.
- While visitors and students cannot visit the museums in person, a variety of educational resources, from curriculum-based lesson plans to interactives and videos, are available on [historyisfun.org/at-home](https://historyisfun.org/at-home). For educators who continue to work with their students and homeschoolers, additional resources have been developed and are available at [historyisfun.org/learn/learning-center/educators-at-home/](https://historyisfun.org/learn/learning-center/educators-at-home/)
- Jamestown Settlement and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, world-class living-history museums of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia, are closed following mandates to minimize spread of COVID-19. Once the health crisis is contained, we look forward to having visitors return to experience the museums that tell the story of America's beginnings.

### **Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia**

- Due to the current state of emergency related to the covid-19 virus, the Frontier Culture Museum will be closed until further notice. As an agency of the Commonwealth, the museum supports the state's emergency operating plan, which currently includes keeping the public informed about the containment strategies deployed to slow

the spread of covid-19, and about resources to assist those struggling during these difficult times. Future updates can be found on the museum's Facebook page and the [frontiermuseum.org](http://frontiermuseum.org) website

- All Museum field trips, outreach events, educational programs, festivals, and venue rentals (e.g. weddings/business meetings) have been canceled or postponed for the foreseeable future.
- Large group programs and mass gathering events can quickly spread the virus. so these Museum activities have also been canceled or postponed

### **Science Museum of Virginia**

- To help limit the spread of COVID-19, the Science Museum of Virginia is closed through at least Sunday, March 29. This includes all programs and activities, the Dome theater, and public community events at the Museum.
- Museum leadership were preparing for a possible closure weeks before it took place. Proactive efforts—from external talking points to telework technology needs—were completed so that when the closure was announced, the Museum acted swiftly and without confusion or panic to execute the plan.
- The policy regarding re-opening to the public will be revisited as the situation continues to evolve. The Museum will communicate with the community through our website and social media platforms as more information becomes available.
- Museum leadership are doing everything within their power to make this period of operational change as smooth as possible with minimal disruption to staff work schedules. As many employees as are able are teleworking. A smaller group of staff physically at the Museum are using the public closure time to organize materials, clean classroom spaces, develop curriculum, make exhibit enhancements, conduct training, complete building maintenance projects and inventory supplies.
- As this is a rapidly changing public health situation and we are unsure how long the Museum could be closed to the public, we are mobilizing efforts to shift fulfillment of our mission to digital formats for the foreseeable future. Sharing STEM content on social platforms has been part of our communications strategy for years, but staff are ramping up the level of engaging and inspiring content we are making available to curious Virginians during this time.

### **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA)**

- To help limit the spread of COVID-19, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) is currently expected to remain closed to the public through Friday, March 27, 2020. During this time, all galleries, special exhibitions, and venues will be closed. In addition, all classes, programs, events, and tours will be either postponed or canceled.
- Over the last two weeks, VMFA distributed weekly e-newsletters to our members and friends about the status of our operations, and emails to staff about work procedures. VMFA is continuing to communicate weekly to our members and friends through e-newsletters featuring updates to our operating status and digital content highlighting the museum's collections, online archives, videos, and art education resources for instructing students at home. The museum is also extending memberships by at least one month, depending on the duration of our closure.
- We are providing museum employees with teleworking opportunities and continuing to pay all employees (wage and salaried) commensurate with their normal and regular working hours.
- We tentatively plan to reopen our doors to the public on Saturday, March 28, 2020. We will continue to reassess our plans, though, based on evolving recommendations provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Updates to our operating status and scheduling details will also continue to be communicated on our website at [www.VMFA.museum](http://www.VMFA.museum) and on our social media pages.

### **Virginia Museum of Natural History**

- The Virginia Museum of Natural History is currently closed to the public as a precautionary measure to help limit the spread of COVID-19. All museum programs and events scheduled to take place at the museum through March 31, 2020 have been canceled or postponed. The museum will continue to monitor the situation to determine a date to re-open to the public. The museum will communicate a reopening date and any additional cancellations or postponements on its website and social media platforms.
- While the majority of museum employees are teleworking, some staff will proceed with work at the museum in order to continue ongoing scientific research, complete building maintenance projects, care for the museum's live animals, and complete other responsibilities that require a physical presence at the museum.
- While closed to the public, the museum will leverage its website and social media platforms to keep audiences engaged with original, educational, and thought-provoking content produced by the museum's scientists, researchers and educators.

### **Virginia Commission for the Arts**

- The Virginia Commission for the Arts continues to work remotely to carry out the day-to-day business of the state's arts agency at least through March 27. The VCA is working in earnest to assess the short- and long-term impacts to arts organizations across the Commonwealth.
- Some non-profit arts organizations may qualify for SBA Disaster Loans. Visit <http://disasterloan.sba.gov/> < Caution-<http://disasterloan.sba.gov/> > to learn more, and complete an application.
- There are important actions you can take now to help inform the impacts to you, your organization and community. Take part in Americans for the Arts Impact Survey <https://surveys.americansforthearts.org/s3/CoronavirusImpactSurvey> In particular, they need more responses from Virginia! Visit Americans for the Arts at <https://www.artsactionfund.org/COVID19Impact> to learn what you can do to advocate for \$4B to be included for dedicated funding of losses to the creative sector.

### **Gunston Hall**

- In response to ongoing developments regarding the spread of COVID-19, Gunston Hall has temporarily closed through March 29, 2020. We believe that this precaution is the most effective way to help protect our community, employees, and their families. We are closely monitoring the ongoing situation and will provide updates as they become available
- At Gunston Hall, public safety is our highest priority. As a result, we have decided to cancel our upcoming events through April 30, 2020. This includes our Writers' Workshop (March 28) and Kite Festival (April 18). Future cancellations of events are possible--any additional cancellations will be shared as they are determined. We believe the decision to cancel these events is in the best interest of our visitors, our community, and our Gunston Hall family
- Our staff is diligently working to bring new digital experiences to the public including virtual tours, lesson plans for teachers and parents, and engaging learning materials for students.
- We urge all of our visitors, volunteers, and supporters to do their civic duty as members of our community and take the proper precautions to keep themselves, family, friends, and neighbors safe and healthy during this time.

## COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

### Virginia Military Institute

- Stay away from post unless you are authorized to be here. (Audience: Cadets, Employees, Community)
- We have transitioned an institution of higher education that intentionally does not offer any online courses to an all-online institution
- Check [vmi.edu/coronavirus](http://vmi.edu/coronavirus) frequently for updates (Cadets, Employees)

### Virginia Tech

- Virginia Tech, in collaboration with public health experts and other community leaders, has been continuously engaged in monitoring the COVID-19 situation. We have adopted a range of principle-based actions to keep our communities safe and limit the spread of the virus.
- Virginia Tech is transitioning to online instruction for all undergraduate and graduate students at all Virginia Tech locations for the remainder of the spring semester, beginning on March 23. More than 6,000 courses have moved online (with an additional 353 already being offered online).
- On March 19, Virginia Tech communicated with graduating seniors that the May commencement ceremonies would move online, with an additional graduation celebration on Sept. 26 during a home football weekend.
- Virginia Tech does not have a positive COVID diagnosis.
- The campus remains open and operational, with activities and staffing scaled to meet the current needs of students, faculty, and staff. For more information and continuous updates, see: <https://vt.edu/flu/2019Coronavirus.html>

### Virginia Commonwealth Univ. / VCU Health

- The safety of community members is the top priority; COVID-19 is a rapidly changing situation. Together with VCU Health, we are working around the clock to take proactive steps to ensure the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff and to provide continuity for students' studies.
- Classes for 31,000 students have been moved to online platforms for the foreseeable future.
- Teleworking has been implemented for more than 20,000 VCU and VCU Health employees.
- VCU has launched a comprehensive multi-channel communications system featuring a dedicated COVID-19 web page, a COVID-19 email address for answering questions and the redeployment of all owned and social media channels.
- Patient safety is VCU Health's top concern. We're skilled, trained and equipped to respond to this pandemic.
- In January, VCU Health established a COVID-19 task force and an incident coordination team (ICT) to work across the university and the health system to manage and prepare for what is now a pandemic.
- Leaders have implemented communications platforms internally for employees and externally for patients and visitors, including a public-facing website and intranet resources for employees.

### Christopher Newport University

- Classes for 5,200 students have been moved online.
- Most University employees are working remotely.
- Commencement has been postponed and will be held June 21.

### University of Mary Washington

- All classes online and activities cancelled through May 15.
- University president sent out this campus-wide message: *I want you to know that the commencement ceremony for the class of 2020 isn't cancelled; it is postponed until the fall. Grades are still due May 5 in order to confer your degrees by May 15. You will be able to get an official transcript that indicates that you are a UMW graduate as you start jobs or the next stage in your education.*
- Developed a form for self-reporting of quarantine or isolation on the part of any students, faculty or staff.
- Teleworking encouraged for all staff members who are able to do so.

#### **UVA College at Wise**

- UVA Wise acted fast to begin offering online classes, steps have been taken to ensure employees will telecommute if possible. Only employees determined to be essential will work on campus. Measures outlined by VDH and CDC are in place to keep safety in mind.
- UVA Wise has closed the fitness center, gym, and other facilities. Planned events have been cancelled.
- Commencement will be postponed until a new date can be set. Faculty may go to their offices when needed to continue online teaching. The UVA Student and Employee Health Clinic remains open.
- UVA Wise is working closely with the University of Virginia on all matters. Courses will be offered online for students for the rest of the spring semester. A handful of students remain on campus since they are unable to go home at this time. Their needs will be met.

#### **Richard Bland College of William & Mary**

- Richard Bland College has moved its spring semester to remote instruction.
- Students will be able to complete their spring semester coursework on schedule.
- Online instruction and academic support will continue for the remaining weeks of spring semester. RBC students will be able to graduate on time.
- The College has re-opened residence halls and will provide dining and other services for students who remain on campus.
- The College remains open and operations will continue with appropriate measures taken to protect the health of its community.
- The College has a web page dedicated to COVID-19, remote instruction, tips for on-line learning, important links and more. It can be accessed at: <https://www.rbc.edu/campus-life/coronavirus-info-center>
- Daily and updated communication to students, family, faculty and staff can be found at <http://www.rbc.edu> and on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter).
- The College has been communicating to families and students via Mailchimp and text messages.
- The College is adhering to guidelines and advice of the CDC and VDH.

#### **Norfolk State University**

- The safety and well-being of all Norfolk State University students, faculty and staff is paramount at the institution. All students should return home immediately. The university will make accommodations for international students and for individuals with extenuating circumstances.
- If you are experiencing any symptoms of the coronavirus (fever, coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath) or feel ill, please stay at home and consult your medical provider. If you have been in contact with someone who is ill, please follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommended guidelines on social distancing.

- For regular updates, please check the university webpage, [www.nsu.edu](http://www.nsu.edu), and your university email accounts for Campus Announcements and safety notifications via Everbridge and LiveSafe. You can also find updated information on NSU verified social media channels.
- The NSU Office of Communications and Marketing has created a webpage where students, faculty and staff can access information regarding the COVID-19 and its impact on the university and region. Link: <http://www.nsu.edu/Coronavirus>
- The NSU Office of Communications and Marketing created several videos prior to the Spring Break holiday to help show students ways they can maintain proper hygiene to prevent the spread of germs.

### **George Mason University**

- In the interest of the health and safety of our community, George Mason University has moved to alternative virtual instruction for the duration of the semester.
- All events are cancelled through May 18. Commencement and degree celebrations are postponed indefinitely.
- Residence halls will be closed to the majority of students by March 25, with exceptions for those who petition to stay because of extraordinary circumstances.
- The university remains operational, with telework for many staff and reduced services for the remaining students who are unable to return Caution-home.

### **The New College Institute**

- New College Institute is currently closed to the public as a precautionary measure to limit the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). NCI will continue to monitor the situation to determine a date to re-open to the public.
- All public and educational events have been suspended through March 28th, and at that time we will revisit as to how to move forward with events according to guidelines provided by the Governor.
- Staff have been allowed to telework as necessary.
- Increase usage of Zoom technology to hold meetings.
- Provided links to online resources for employees.
- NCI continues to adhere to all given safety issues according to Virginia Dept of Health.

### **Danville Community College**

- Early development and deployment of a dedicated on-site task force to monitor and make recommendations regarding the response to COVID-19.
- Comprehensive delivery of integrated critical messaging via DCC Alert, text messages, emails, social media, the College's dedicated COVID-19 web page, and digital signage on campus, visible from a major thoroughfare resulted in effectively informing students that spring break would be extended for one week and they should not return to campus.
- Effective utilization of technology to continue operations, including Zoom conference calls, to limit face-to-face interactions in accordance with state and federal recommendations.
- Student safety is DCC's top priority. We have a dedicated committee actively monitoring the outbreak, which was formed to guide campus efforts to respond to this crisis and assist in the rollout of online educational resources to mitigate interruption to academic progress.
- Official College updates are posted at our dedicated web page: <https://danville.edu/coronavirus>.

- DCC is actively preparing to deploy its alternative delivery model for in-person classes. The College's online library and tutoring services continue to be available to students. Students with general concerns about the College's response to COVID-19 should contact [healthinfo@danville.edu](mailto:healthinfo@danville.edu).

#### **Blue Ridge Community College**

- Coronavirus resource page: <https://www.brcc.edu/brcc/news/coronavirus.html>
- Teleworking encouraged for all staff members who are able to do so.
- Social media announcements and emails, alerts, etc. as necessary to students, employees.
- Social distancing for anyone on campus.
- Remote learning through at least May 15.

#### **Dabney S. Lancaster Community College**

- DSLCC will continue to offer student services, encouraging such services to occur virtually. Campus and services limited to faculty, staff, and students only.
- DSLCC will move classes online beginning Wednesday, March 18 – Friday, April 3
- Further updates expected March 30.3. ALL DSLCC events and student activities have been cancelled through April 30; additionally, May 15 commencement has been cancelled.
- DSLCC acted quickly to reduce the foot traffic on campus by moving classes and student support services to a virtual setting, cancelling events for the remainder of the semester, and encouraging social distancing for faculty and staff, in accordance with recommendations from the CDC and VDH.
- DSLCC's Library is open to faculty, staff, and students, and wi-fi is available in the parking lot, for those wishing to practice self-isolation.
- DSLCC is committed to ensuring that our students have the resources they need to be successful.

#### **Lord Fairfax Community College**

- We established a webpage readily accessible from our homepage and frequently updated to provide students the most up-to-date information regarding our response to COVID-19. [www.lfcc.edu/coronavirus](http://www.lfcc.edu/coronavirus)
- We sent out alerts and campus-wide emails to all students, faculty and staff to alert them to the website and the precautionary measures the college was taking. The information is also shared via social media.
- The college has been monitoring the virus and recommendations from the CDC and Virginia Department of Health for quite some time, and early on adopted enhanced cleaning and added hand sanitation stations.
- Social distancing has been strongly encouraged.
- Classes have been moved online or to another alternate delivery method for the remainder of the semester. Starting Monday, March 23, nearly all campus operations will be entirely online, with the exception of campus police, facilities and some student services, through at least May 16.
- The library will be closed, but online resources will be available, and materials can be checked out remotely for pickup at the security desk. The testing center will be closed, with a limited number of tests being done by appointment only.
- The campus bookstore, Subway and fitness center will be closed. The bookstore will have online access.
- In-person events have been canceled. Most employees will be working from home. Student services are being offered via phone, email, zoom, online chat, etc.

### **Rappahannock Community College**

- We will safeguard the health of students, faculty, staff, and the community; 2) ensure instruction College operations continue; and 3) join in the national effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- RCC is providing instruction continuity to students for the remainder of the spring semester and has a variety of on-line courses scheduled for the summer should in-class instruction be prohibited. Information can be found at: [www.rappahannock.edu/health](http://www.rappahannock.edu/health)
- RCC quickly assembled resources to move to remote learning on March 18 and only cancelled two day of classes for preparation.
- RCC faculty and staff communicated quickly and personally to each student about the move to remote learning.
- RCC leadership devised a telework policy for faculty and staff that went into effect March 16.

### **Wytheville Community College**

- Based on increasing concern related to COVID-19 and additional information from the Governor's Office, WCC will begin operating with only designated staff on the Wytheville campus beginning on March 23 through April 3 designated staff will be on campus; other full-time and a limited number of part-time employees will be working remotely; most part-time employees will be temporarily laid off to be able to access unemployment benefits. Buildings will be closed to students, public and non-essential staff.
- WCC off-site locations at the Crossroads Institute in Galax and at The Summit Center in Marion will be closed during this time.
- Classes are still ongoing. There should be no impact on current online students.
- Students who are in face-to-face classes are being moved online. Faculty with work with new online students who need assistance.
- Faculty will notify students enrolled in clinicals or internships of program expectations.
- Non-credit Workforce classes will be cancelled through April 3. Workforce staff will be contacting these students with more information.
- WCC's commencement and pinning ceremonies have been cancelled in May. Students will still receive their designated academic awards. Pending the duration of the current coronavirus, the possibility of rescheduling graduation and pinning ceremonies will be considered at a later date.

### **Mountain Empire Community College**

- Deployment of COOP/Pandemic Plan response
- Rapid transition of coursework to alternative delivery methods
- Creation of a Coronavirus resource page with president's address at <http://www.mecc.edu/coronavirus> and subsequent text alerts, emails, and social media posts to multiple audiences
- Deployment of all technology resources to continue operations, including but not limited to teleconferencing, VPN installation, and virtual advising
- Cancellation of all large gatherings including graduation, award ceremonies, student activities, community events, and international travel

### **Central Virginia Community College**

- Spring classes have been transitioned to remote learning
- Academic and Student Services will provide support remotely (e.g. phone, email, video conferencing)
- Graduation commencement exercises have been postponed

- All summer courses will be taught remotely / online
- Retooled Website to better serve student / staff immediate needs and more COVID-19 focused

### **Patrick Henry Community College**

- In compliance with social distancing and containment recommendations, all PHCC classes are now being offered remotely or on an altered schedule. All staff and faculty are working altered schedules with most work occurring remotely.
- Students are urged to stay informed by checking student email regularly. Everyone is encouraged to visit our webpage for more information as well: <https://www.patrickhenry.edu/covid-19>
- PHCC is keeping in step with all recommendations and mandates from officials in order to do everything that we can to limit the spread of the virus and protect our students, employees, and community.
- We are doing everything we can to ensure that we continue providing quality instruction so that our students are afforded every opportunity to complete their educational goals. As far as it is within our power, we will not let this situation stymie any student's efforts to complete and to graduate.

### **John Tyler Community College**

- The health and safety of our students are top priorities for our institution.
- The health and safety of our faculty and staff are top priorities of our institution.
- Continuity of operations: We are actively working to maintain our classes and services for our students, while taking steps to ensure the safety of our students, employees and community.
- Our faculty and staff quickly developed and deployed ways for students to learn and access services at a distance. We deployed a detailed telework toolkit for our employees. We've reaffirmed the effectiveness of our college's continuity of operations plan.

### **Camp Community College**

- Although Camp Community College is presently closed to students and visitors physically, we do remain open for business. Employees outside of essential personnel, began teleworking Wednesday, March 18. Classes are being taught remotely.
- We have built a webpage with pertinent information/resources posted as they are received for faculty and staff, students, and the general public, and continue to communicate important messages to our students through mass emails. Updates are also being published and posted by our local media and chambers of commerce.
- Our goal is to continue being available in order to help our students continue their success while still adhering to CDC recommendations. We ask students/potential students to contact us through email or phone, and check <http://www.pdc.edu> often for updates.

### **Virginia Highlands Community College**

- The health and safety of our college community is our highest priority. We are continuously urging students, employees, and partners to help prevent the spread of infectious disease through adherence to CDC infection control protocols such as handwashing, hygiene, household sanitation, and social distancing.
- The campus is open, but facilities are restricted. We are discouraging campus visits. Most classes are being delivered by alternative delivery methods (beginning March 23), and employees are teleworking.
- College sponsored events – and events hosted on the VHCC campus – have been cancelled until further notice. The VHCC May 15th commencement ceremonies have been cancelled.

- Robust online resource portals and communication mechanisms have been established for students, employees and the public. Rapid social media announcements are being coupled with other communication channels to keep the college community abreast of the most current information.

#### **Tidewater Community College**

- The college is open and staffed. Use virtual resources, but if you need in-person assistance, you will be served on a campus
- Classes are suspended until Monday, March 23, when classes will resume using remote instructional methods
- The college has updated its telework policy; information was distributed on Wednesday, March 18
- We are taking questions via an online form from our community and providing answers as quickly as we can. Questions of general interest to faculty, staff and students are being posted to <http://www.tcc.edu/covid-19>, which is updated daily.
- Our Computers for Student Success Program is making computers available to students who don't have them as we migrate to remote instruction. This program takes in used PCs and laptops and refurbishes them and provides them to students who demonstrate need.
- Our Distance Learning division has created resources for faculty and staff in our LMS (learning management system) Canvas to help them prepare and adapt to remote instruction.

#### **Northern Virginia Community College**

- NOVA fully implemented coursework by esteemed faculty through remote learning
- To minimize risk, commencement will be cancelled
- Summer courses will also be moved to remote learning
- NOVA's Office of Emergency Management began monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation on 1.19.2020, and implemented on 3.9.2020 an Emergency Operation Center that can operate virtually to connect all leads in divisions of the institution to streamline requests from the call centers to leadership.
- Most NOVA employees have signed telework agreement to move to virtual processes
- Increased usage of Zoom technology to hold meetings
- Provided (and continuing to provide) open dialogue with the VCCS Community where we share information as the situation progresses, provide links to resources, and provides daily updates and virtual town halls for presidential addresses.
- Comprehensive delivery of integrated critical messaging via NOVA Alert, text messages, emails, social media, the College's dedicated COVID-19 web page