

Resources for Faith and Community Leaders | Virginia COVID-19 Response

For the most recent information from the Virginia Department of Health regarding the impact of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, please visit:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

- **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Frequently Asked Questions**
http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/03/General-Questions-FAQ_03.19.20_FINAL.pdf
- **Prevention Tips** (What is social distancing and how can I do my part to slow the spread of COVID-19??) <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/prevention-tips/>

Public and Private Gatherings

- Beginning 11:59 PM on March 24, gatherings of more than ten people are banned statewide. See the full text of Executive Order 53, [here](#). For answers to commonly asked questions, please see [here](#).
- Governor Northam is urging Virginians to limit all non-essential travel outside the home, if and when possible. Those with chronic health conditions or aged 65 or older should self-quarantine.

Virginia Medicaid is Taking Action to Fight COVID-19

Working with the Department of Medicaid Assistance Services, Governor Northam is increasing access to healthcare 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.
- Expanding access to telehealth services, including allowing Medicaid reimbursement for providers who use telehealth with patients in the home.

Karen Kimsey (karen.kimsey@dmas.virginia.gov), Director, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) encourages you to:

- **Sign up for regular updates** and information about your health coverage and COVID-19 <http://bit.ly/VAMedicaidUpdates>
- **Follow DMAS on social media** to keep up with the latest Medicaid news on coronavirus.
- Have other questions about how Medicaid is improving access to care in response to COVID-19? **Contact DMAS here:** <https://bit.ly/ContactDMAS>
- **Virginians can apply for Medicaid coverage at any time at commonhelp.virginia.gov. Don't wait, apply today.**

Food Insecurity

- The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is loosening income eligibility requirements for the Emergency Food Assistance Program to increase access during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- VDACS is also reducing the threat of exposure for seniors in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) by changing delivery schedules—while maintaining the quantity of food—and removing delivery signing requirements.
- The Federation of Virginia Food Banks, representing seven regional food banks, is standardizing low- and no-touch distribution, pre-boxed items, and drive-through distribution mechanisms.

Feeding Virginia during COVID19

Heidi L. Hertz (heidi.hertz@governor.virginia.gov), MS, RD, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam, Commonwealth of Virginia encouraged us to text “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 877-877 for meal sites/nutrition availability relative to schools/school meal replacement.

Guidance for Using 211

2-1-1 is Virginia’s central source for information and referrals for essential health and human service needs.

- At the 2-1-1 website, 211virginia.org, people can search for resources, view important alerts, and find out how to contact 211 by email, chat or phone.
- People can dial 2-1-1. This is a free phone number that provides information about local resources such as food assistance, shelter, utility assistance, and health care. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When someone dials 2-1-1, a trained professional listens to the situation and suggests sources of help using one of the largest databases of health and human services in Virginia. All referrals are confidential.
- If an organization provides ongoing services to the general public, they are encouraged to add their organization to the 2-1-1 database through the link “Update/Add Your Agency” at the top of the 2-1-1 web site.
- New time-limited services that are open to the general public during this health emergency, can be sent to 211admin@councilofcommunityservices.org.

Financial Resources Update

Curtis Brown (curtis.brown@vdem.virginia.gov), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

- Disaster Funding Available through FEMA
- Volunteering: All individuals/organizations interested in volunteering to send their information to this email address: volunteers@vdem.virginia.gov
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD): conducting weekly calls with their member organizations. Information available here: vavoad.org

Tracey Jeter Wiley (tracey.jeter@sbsd.virginia.gov), Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (VDSBSD) provided the following information:

Governor Ralph Northam announced last week that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved an SBA disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The disaster declaration will allow SBA to provide assistance to Virginia businesses and nonprofits negatively impacted by COVID-19.

- Virginia businesses and nonprofits impacted by COVID-19 are now eligible to make online applications to the SBA for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (EIDL) at disasterloan.sba.gov.

Financial Resources Update CON'T

- SBA's EIDL program offers direct loans up to \$2 million to businesses and nonprofits without access to available credit elsewhere. The interest rate on EIDL loans to businesses is 3.75%. The interest rate for nonprofits is 2.75%.
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses by helping to overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing due to COVID-19. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other business expenses. SBA offers loans with loan terms of up to 30 years in order to keep payments affordable. Loan terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.

For a comprehensive list of actions, Governor Northam has announced to combat COVID-19 in Virginia, visit virginia.gov/coronavirus.

Support for Small Businesses

- Virginia received a statewide Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Small businesses and non-profit organizations located throughout the state can now apply for a loan of up to \$2 million from the SBA to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses.
- Regional workforce teams will be activated to support employers that slow or cease operations. Employers who do slow or cease operations will not be financially penalized for an increase in workers requesting unemployment benefits.
- The Governor authorized rapid response funding, through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, for employers eligible to remain open during this emergency. Funds may be used to clean facilities and support emergency needs.
- To support small restaurants, Virginia ABC is waiving regulations to allow restaurants to deliver beer and wine via take-out and delivery.
- Governor Northam directed all employers to follow the U.S. Department of Labor guidance on workplace safety.

Unemployment Insurance

- Governor Northam 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 should apply 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.
- For individuals receiving unemployment insurance, Governor Northam directed the Virginia Employment Commission to give affected workers special consideration on deadlines, mandatory re-employment appointments, and work search requirements.
- The Office of the Governor provided a [Frequently Asked Questions guide](#) for workers that have been temporarily laid off or discharged during this public health crisis.

Corporate, Sales, and Individual Taxes

- Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can 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.
- The Virginia Department of Taxation is extending the due date of payment of Virginia individual and corporate income taxes. While filing deadlines remain the same, the due date for individual and corporate income tax will now be June 1, 2020.

Utilities

- The 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.

The United Way is...

- Leading the Coronavirus Response Hotline (757-858-7777) to provide non-medical assistance
- Connecting clients to available resources using the Unite Us care coordination platform
- Administering the Coronavirus Recovery Fund to raise funds to support recovery efforts
- Working with our frontline nonprofit partners to identify their needs and help fill gaps
- Partnering with VOLUNTEER Hampton Roads to cross promote efforts and help recruit volunteers
- Publishing up-to-date data, verified services and resources on GHRconnects
- People can find their local United Way by visiting: <https://www.unitedway.org/local/united-states/#> and entering their Zip Code.

Urban League's COVID-19 Role

- ULHR facilitates clergy and community leaders on a bi-weekly call with Sentara Healthcare to get accurate and timely information regarding COVID-19
- ULHR in partnership with UW via the Unite Us system is providing economic relief in a coordinated way to handle the needs regionally.
- ULHR is posting of test sites and food centers.
- ULHR is collaborating with other nonprofits and service providers
- ULHR is delivering food, meds and other relief supplies to at risk clients (immune deficiencies, without transportation or ability to access online assistance)
- ULHR is providing credit counseling and loan modifications assistance using DocuSign and conference calls (required forms located on our website)

ULHR Operations Contact Information

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Comcast Opens Xfinity WiFi Network Nationally for Free, Offers Unlimited Data for Free, Confirms Its Commitment to Connecting Low-Income Families

<https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>

Dominion Energy Commits \$1 Million to Coronavirus Relief Efforts

- \$250,000 committed to American Red Cross to help its response
- \$750,000 committed to nonprofits as response plans develop and local needs are defined

RICHMOND, Va., March 16, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- The Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation is committing \$1 million to aid COVID-19 relief efforts across the United States. The funds will support national organizations, such as the American Red Cross, as well as address local needs.

For more information, visit <https://www.dominionenergy.com/coronavirus>.

JP Morgan Chase Commits \$50 Million to Address Coronavirus Impact

www.blackenterprise.com

- With economies on the verge of crashing, the banking institution has made a \$50 million philanthropic investment to help address immediate and long-term impacts of the viral outbreak.
- In its plan, [Chase](#) will pledge \$15 million in initial support for the communities and small businesses that have been severely impacted by the virus, \$5 million to immediate healthcare, food, and global humanitarian relief, \$2 million to worldwide nonprofit partners, \$8 million to assist small businesses across the U.S, Europe, and China, and \$35 million to leverage core areas of expertise to help vulnerable groups facing hardships due to the virus.

Charlottesville-Area Community Foundation Resources

Thanks to the generous support of donors across the region, the Foundation has raised over \$2M for the Community Emergency Response Fund. In partnership with **Cville Community Cares, United Way of Greater Charlottesville, City of Charlottesville** and **County of Albemarle** we will disburse funds to households experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 virus. Financial assistance is available to households in Charlottesville and the Counties of Albemarle, Nelson, Louisa, Fluvanna, Greene, Orange, and Buckingham. To access funds, individuals should call the **Community Resource Hotline** at **434-234-4490**.

In addition to supporting this partnership, the Foundation will make targeted **grants to community-based organizations** providing basic assistance, including food, housing and medical supplies. If your organization meets these criteria, please contact **Eboni Bugg** at ebugg@cacfonline.org to discuss your needs. Organizations in Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Nelson, Louisa, Fluvanna, Greene, Orange, and Buckingham are eligible.

Child Care

The Northam Administration has issued [guidance](#) for child care providers to combat the spread of COVID-19, while ensuring ongoing support for essential personnel. These guidelines include:

- Child care providers should limit capacity to 10 total individuals per room and prioritize care for children of essential personnel.
- Children should eat meals in their own classrooms and increase distance as much as possible, such as allowing only one classroom at a time to go outside and staggering exits and entrances to reduce contact.
- Staff and children should focus on basic health precautions, including regular hand washing and cleaning frequently touched objects.

Please see the follow link on Joint Guidance for Emergency Child Care during Statewide School Closure document (https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19-docs/Joint%20Guidance%20Document_Emergency%20Child%20Care%20during%20Extended%20School%20Closures.pdf) issued by the VDOE and the Department of Social Services. This guidance can also be found on the VDOE website: http://doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19.shtml

The contact at DSS for early-childhood centers is Barbara Newlin (Barb.Newlin@dss.virginia.gov), Director, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Development.

You may find these websites helpful:

<https://www.childcareaware.org/state/virginia/>
<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/corona.cg>

Parents who may need child care may call 866-KIDS-TLC or email KasharaL@va.childcareaware.org for assistance with locating childcare programs that remain open.

Governor Northam directed the Department of Social Services to modify Virginia's Child Care Subsidy program, 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.
- 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.

K-12 Education

- All public and private K-12 schools in Virginia will remain closed for the remainder of the academic year. See the full text of Executive Order 53, [here](#).
- On March 17, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) requested that the U.S. Department of Education consider statewide SOL testing waivers. On March 20, as soon as allowed by the federal government, VDOE began preparing the state's application for a federal waiver.
- Virginia is also considering actions necessary to provide relief to students on state-mandated SOL tests, which go beyond those mandated by the federal government.
- VDOE was approved for a statewide waiver to allow schools to serve as a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) site, to provide food for children who rely on school nutrition programs—all 132 school divisions received waivers to provide food through SFSP and/or SSO.

Higher Education

- All of Virginia's public institutions of higher education—15 public four-year institutions, 23 community colleges and Richard Bland College—have moved to temporary online learning.
- All of Virginia's private not-for-profit institutions of higher education that make up the Council of Independent Colleges (CICV) have transitioned to temporary online learning.
- The Virginia Community College System announced that commencement ceremonies for all 23 community colleges have been cancelled for this academic year. A number of public and private colleges have also cancelled in-person spring commencement ceremonies.

Recreation and Entertainment Businesses

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

Businesses in violation of this order may be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor. For answers to commonly asked questions, please see [here](#). For the full text of Executive Order 53, see [here](#).

Dining and On-Site Alcohol Establishments

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
- Tasting rooms

Businesses in violation of this order may be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor. For answers to commonly asked questions, please see [here](#). For the full text of Executive Order 53, see [here](#).

Retail Businesses

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
- 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.

Businesses in violation of this order may be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor. For answers to commonly asked questions, please see [here](#). For the full text of Executive Order 53, see [here](#).

State Employees

- The Governor has directed agencies to implement liberal teleworking policies for state employees.
- Virginia has activated paid Public Health Emergency Leave for state employees, when needed.
- All official travel outside of Virginia by state employees has been halted, with increased flexibility for inter-state commuters and essential personnel.

Certificate of Public Need Waiver

- Governor Northam signed an [executive order](#) giving hospitals and nursing homes the ability to increase their bed capacity without needing prior governmental approval, being issued a new waiver, or going through red tape.

State Correctional Facilities

- The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) has canceled offender visitation at all facilities until further notice. Off-site video visitation is still available.
- The Department of Corrections has suspended the transfer of individuals from local and regional jails for a minimum of 30 days.
- A dedicated COVID-19 public information line with an updated, recorded message is operational. The phone number is (804) 887-8484.
- DOC has implemented a screening protocol for offenders coming into state facilities from local jails.
- Virginia provided detailed guidance to correctional facilities and other work locations regarding approved hand washing, sanitizing, and disinfectant products, and instructions for the proper use of those products to provide protection from COVID-19.
- Additional information about the steps being taken at Virginia's correctional facilities is available [here](#).

Regional and Local Jails

Governor Northam is encouraging local criminal justice officials, including Commonwealth's attorneys, defense attorneys, sheriffs, and other jail officials, to explore proactive measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring public safety. These recommendations include:

- Allowing sentence modifications that can reduce populations within the jails, as outlined in Va. Code § 19.2-303.
- Diverting offenders from being admitted into jail prior to trial, including the use of summonses by law enforcement in lieu of arrest pursuant to Va. Code § 19.2-74, and use of local pretrial programs as available and with consideration to local capacity.
- Considering ways to reduce low risk offenders that are being held without bail in jails.
- Utilizing alternative solutions to incarceration such as home electronic monitoring, pursuant to Va. Code § 53.1-131.2.

Courts

- Governor Northam requested and the Supreme Court of Virginia granted a [judicial emergency](#) in response to COVID-19.
- From Monday, March 16 through Monday, April 6, non-essential, non-emergency court proceedings in all district and circuit courts are suspended absent a specific exemption.
- This includes a suspension on new eviction cases for tenants who are unable to pay rent as a result of COVID-19. All non-exempted court deadlines are tolled and extended for a period of 21 days.

Department of Motor Vehicles

- Governor Northam [directed](#) the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to close Virginia's 75 DMV offices, as well as mobile units, to the public.
- Online services will remain available, and anyone needing to renew a license or vehicle registration is encouraged to do so online. DMV will grant a 60-day extension to those who cannot renew online, or whose license or registration expires before May 15.
- Governor Northam [directed](#) the Virginia Department of State Police to suspend enforcement of Motor Vehicle Safety Inspections for 60 days.