



Guidance for Localities

Response to COVID-19 Pandemic and Executive Order Requirements

Disclaimer

This document is a guide to assist local governments, local health departments and other stakeholders in achieving Executive Order 72 compliance. VML thanks the Virginia Department of Health for offering to work on a guidance document for local government.

Overview

Virginians must continue to practice measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission: avoid gatherings and wear face coverings both indoors and outdoors in public settings. As leaders in our communities, it is important that we protect the public health of our communities by adhering to the face covering and social distancing requirements and encourage others to do the same.

Understanding the Executive Order Requirements

Listed below are the Executive Order 72 requirements that may have the greatest impact on local governing bodies and meetings.

III. A. Face Coverings Required

Indoors (1). All individuals in the Commonwealth aged five and older must cover their mouth and nose with a face covering, as described by the CDC, when in an indoor setting shared by others. **This requirement applies to state and local government settings, including all public meeting spaces like council chambers, board rooms and courthouses.**

III. B. Face Coverings Required

Outdoors. All individuals in the Commonwealth aged five and older must cover their mouth and nose with a face covering, as described by the CDC, when outdoors and unable to maintain at least six feet of physical distance from other individuals who are not household members. **This requirement applies to assemblies that occur outside of government buildings and public spaces.**

III. E. Face Covering Exceptions

There is an allowance for the removal of face coverings (item 6) in order to secure necessary government services. This is intended to be a temporary allowance for the removal of face coverings for identification purposes or to take a photo, for example.

Forward Virginia Guidelines

Businesses not listed in Section II, such as local governments, should adhere to following guidelines as best practices:

- Establish policies and practices for maintaining appropriate physical distance between persons not living in the same household.
- Maintain at least ten feet of distance for establishments where exercise activities, singing, or cheering is performed, and at least six feet of distance for all other settings.
- Provide clear communication and signage for physical distancing in areas where individuals may congregate, especially at entrances, in seating areas, and in meeting rooms.
- Limit the occupancy of physical spaces to ensure that adequate physical distancing may be maintained.
- Encourage telework or virtual meetings whenever possible. When telework or virtual meetings are not feasible, temporarily move or stagger workstations to ensure six feet of separation between co-workers and between members of the public. Limit in-person work-related gatherings, including conferences, and trainings.
- When in-person meetings need to occur, keep meetings as short as possible, limit the number of individuals in attendance, and use physical distancing practices.

Cooperative communication with local health departments

If local governments have questions about the requirements of the Executive Orders, area of enforcement, or need assistance in implementing best practices they may contact their local health department (see list below).



Local Health District Environmental Health Contacts

Local Health District Locator Tool: www.vdh.virginia.gov/local-health-districts

Alexandria

Stradling, Rachel
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703-746-4970

Alleghany/ Roanoke

Cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem and the counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, and Roanoke.

Thomas, Gary
Gary.Thomas@vdh.virginia.gov
540-204-9773

Arlington

Poppell, Evelyn
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703-228-5600

Central Shenandoah

Counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge and Rockingham along with the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton and Waynesboro.

Weakley, Jason
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540-332-7830 x348

Central Virginia

Counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell along with the City of Lynchburg

Bowles, Jim
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Chesapeake

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Chesterfield

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Chickahominy

Charles City and the counties of Goochland, Hanover, and New Kent

Lien, Carol
carol.lien@vdh.virginia.gov
804-365-4353

Crater

Cities of Emporia, Hopewell, and Petersburg and the counties of Dinwiddie, Greensville, Prince George, Surry and Sussex.

Waldon, Toinette
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Cumberland Plateau

Counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell

Stanley, Brian
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Eastern Shore

Counties of Accomack and Northampton
Richardson, Jonathan
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Fairfax

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Hampton

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Henrico

McElvey, Cindy
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Lenowisco

Counties of Lee, Wise, and Scott and the City of Norton.

Stallard, Brad
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Lord Fairfax

Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Paige, Shenandoah, and Warren and the City of Winchester
Allen, Mason
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Loudon

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Mount Rogers

Counties of Smyth, Carroll, Galax, Grayson, Washington, Wythe; City of Bristol
Holt, Travis
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276-676-5604

New River

Counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski; City of Radford
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Norfolk

Grefe, Norman
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Peninsula

Cities of Newport News and Williamsburg and the towns of Yorktown and Poquoson
Hagy, Gary
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Piedmont

Counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottaway, and Prince Edward
Waldrep, David
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Pittsylvania/ Danville/ Southside

Counties of Pittsylvania, Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg; City of Danville
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Portsmouth

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Prince William

County of Prince William; Cities of Manassas City and Manassas Park
Jones, Patrick
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Rappahannock

Counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford, Caroline, King George; City of Fredericksburg
McCord, Brent
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Rappahannock- Rapidan

Counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock
Wright, Whitney
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Richmond City

Smith, Kenneth
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Thomas Jefferson

Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson; City of Charlottesville
McClelland, Jack
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Three Rivers

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West Piedmont

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Western Tidewater

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