



Loudoun County to Enter Phase 2 on Friday, June 12

Friends,

You may have heard by now that Governor Northam announced that Northern Virginia, including Loudoun County, will be joining the rest of the Commonwealth in Phase 2 of Forward Virginia tomorrow, June 12. This email is to help explain exactly what that means.

It has not been clear what the gating criteria for Phase 2 is. However, for the region, a downward trend has continued for both the number of hospitalized patients and the percentage of positive tests. We are expecting Phase 2 to last at least 2 weeks. At this point, the Governor has not asked for input from localities about our status, so I'm really just reporting what we're being told.

Executive Order #63, which requires face coverings in public places, remains in effect. I have been part of many reopening discussions, including in my capacity on the Metro Board (WMATA is requiring masks for all passengers) and based on what I've heard I think face coverings will become the norm for the foreseeable future.

Here are some of the relevant changes under Phase 2:

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[Finance, Government
Operations and Economic
Development Committee](#)

Principal Director
[Washington Metropolitan
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Commission](#)

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[Northern Virginia
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- Increases the number of people allowed to gather in groups from 10 to 50 people; the restrictions do not apply to people performing functions of their employment.
- Allows restaurants, breweries, wineries, etc., to offer indoor service in accordance with a number of guidelines, including seating patrons six feet apart, not exceeding 50% capacity of the establishment, and limiting total number of patrons to 50.
- Allows fitness centers, gymnasiums, etc., to reopen in accordance with a number of guidelines, including keeping patrons at least ten feet apart and limiting the total number of attendees to 30% of the facility's occupancy capacity.
- Allows brick and mortar retail stores and personal grooming businesses to continue to operate in accordance with a number of guidelines, including limiting the total number of patrons to 50% of the facility's occupancy capacity.
- Allows outdoor and indoor swimming pools to open for lap swimming, diving, exercise, and instruction only and must be limited to no more than three persons per lane with ten feet of physical distance per swimmer.
- Allows people to attend religious services in accordance with a number of guidelines, including limiting the total number of attendees to 50% of the facility's occupancy capacity, seating attendees six feet apart (except for family members), and disinfecting frequently-contacted surfaces before and after religious services.

Some recreational businesses and events must remain closed until Phase 3, such as indoor theaters,

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performing arts centers, concert venues, bowling alleys, amusement parks, fairs, and carnivals. You can read phase 2 information for all businesses [here](#), which includes guidelines on increased disinfecting measures and social distancing practices for customers and employees.

Older adults and those with underlying health conditions should continue to be careful. They should wash their hands frequently, stay home if possible, observe social distancing, and wear a face mask when in public. Although our numbers are improving, it is obviously still possible to be infected with COVID-19 and everyone should still take the virus seriously.

Status of COVID-19 in Loudoun, Healthcare & Testing

According to the official numbers released today by the Virginia Department Health, there are 3,229 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Loudoun County. 69 individuals have died from the virus in Loudoun. Virginia now has 52,647 confirmed cases with 1,520 deaths.

The number of hospitalized patients in NOVA has continued to decline. However, we have seen a small spike in Loudoun in the past week so we'll need to watch that. There were 11 hospitalizations reported in Loudoun on Wednesday, a new daily high. However, that number includes continued administrative documentation of previously hospitalized patients and does not mean that Loudoun had 11 new hospitalizations in one day.

You can see these numbers and more for yourself at the Loudoun County COVID-19 [GeoHub](#). This is a really well done portal and gives you great insight into our numbers. I do see frequent complaints about confusion on numbers, so make sure to share this with anyone looking for solid information.

County Parks and Recreation Opens Centers and Summer Programs: News Release

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[COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)

As Loudoun County enters [Phase Two of the Forward Virginia reopening plan](#), the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) is announcing plans for reopening aquatic, community, recreation and senior centers, pools and other amenities. Adult day centers and the Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center will remain closed under Phase Two.

Childcare services and outdoor-only fitness programs at select community and recreation centers begin Monday, June 15. Athletic field allocations for affiliated sports leagues is underway, with fields opening June 15. Outdoor pools open June 19. All aquatic, community, recreation and senior centers open June 22. Summer camps and classes at centers and parks begin June 22. Families registered in programs scheduled to start before June 22 will receive a refund. All PRCS programs will be modified in accordance with Phase Two guidelines, including enhanced cleaning and social distancing of 10 feet during recreational activities.

What's open in phase 2:

- Childcare services are open at select community and recreation centers June 15. Outdoor-only fitness programs are open at recreation centers June 15. All aquatic, community, recreation, and senior centers are open June 22. Reservations will be required at recreation centers and indoor pools. Attendance is limited to 30% of occupancy or 50 people for each designated area/room, whichever is less. Senior centers are open June 22 only for drive-thru congregate meal service for current participants with reservations.
- Summer programs are open. Details and registration can be found at loudoun.gov/webtrac.

- Athletic fields at PRCS park sites and LCPS school sites are open for permitted use by affiliated leagues. Baseball, softball and cricket can include drills, practices and games. All other sports are limited to conditioning drills. Attendance, including participants and parents, guardians and caretakers of children, is limited to 50% of field occupancy or 50 people, whichever is less. Parents, guardians and caretakers of children are allowed in designated areas only.
- Basketball, tennis and pickleball courts, inline hockey rinks and Dulles Skate Park are open at 50% occupancy or 50 people, whichever is less.
- County parks are open for outdoor recreational and leisure use, with 50 or fewer people at each amenity/designated area. Summer park programs begin June 22.
- Pavilions are open at 50% occupancy or 50 people, whichever is less.
- Outdoor pools are open for lap swimming, fitness programs and exercise Friday, June 19, at 50% occupancy or 50 people, whichever is less. Reservations will be required.
- Visitors to all PRCS sites are expected to follow social distancing and other measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

What's closed:

- Adult Day Centers
- Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center
- Playgrounds

- Franklin Park Pool splash pad and play features (slide, dump buckets, etc.)
- Indoor leisure pool features (slide, vortex, hot tub, etc.)
- Climbing walls

Complete details on Phase Two reopening plans can be found on the [PRCS Closures and Operating Status page](#). For more information, email prcs@loudoun.gov.

Schools

As I mentioned last week, the School Board will make decisions on how Loudoun County implements the state's guidance on schools. However, I will share with you the information that Governor Northam provided this week. The Governor announced a phased reopening of in-person classes for summer school and the 2020-2021 academic year. The approach was developed by multiple entities including the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Education, in accordance with current CDC guidelines.

Phase 2 will allow for continued special education programs and childcare for working families, as well as allowing preschool through third grade students, English learners, and summer camps into school buildings. Schools that are hosting in-person classes this summer must submit their policies and procedures for social distancing and COVID-19 mitigation to the Virginia Department of Education.

According to the Governor's news release, all PreK-12 schools in Virginia will be required to give students new instruction for the 2020-2021 academic year, regardless of their school buildings' operational status (although universal in-person instruction will be allowed under phase 3). In every reopening phase, schools that are teaching in-person must adhere to CDC guidelines, which include (but are not limited to): daily health screenings of students and staff,

providing remote learning and teleworking for students and staff who are at a higher risk of health issues, the use of cloth face coverings by staff when a distance of six feet cannot be maintained, and the encouraged use of face coverings for students when social distancing cannot be properly maintained. Schools will likely be encouraged to mix in-person with virtual instruction to allow for as much social distancing as possible.

Governor Northam also announced that Virginia schools will receive \$66.8 million through the federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund to expand distance learning opportunities, fund services for students disproportionately impacted by loss of class time, and provide financial assistance to higher education students and institutions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the press release [here](#).

Obviously, the guidelines for in-person instruction are not consistent with "normal" school operations. There are specifics related to the number of students on school buses, in classrooms, etc., and guidance about students remaining as one group together in school. All this and more will have to be considered by LCPS. The School Board is having a work session on these issues on June 16 at 4:00 PM. Once the meeting agenda is available for viewing, it will be posted [here](#). You can use the same link to view the meeting when it is live.

I will renew my request that the community engage in respectful dialogue with the School Board on these issues. They are in a very difficult and completely unprecedented situation and are doing their best to understand different scenarios and options.

The Dulles District is represented on the School Board by Jeff Morse. You can contact him at jeff.morse@lcps.org and follow him on Facebook [here](#).

Upcoming Blood Drive

According to the Red Cross, the blood drive being held at John Champe High School on June 15 is now full. I encourage you to check the Red Cross [site](#) for other local drives that are happening in the near future, as blood donations are more necessary than ever. Due to COVID-19, appointments are required and drop-in donations will not be allowed.

Did someone forward this to you? Click below to sign up to receive future updates directly.



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