



# Leesburg District News



**Kristen C. Umstatt**  
Leesburg District Supervisor



Dear Leesburg Resident,

I would like to provide you an update on the County's response to the coronavirus. As you know, this is a rapidly evolving situation—things are changing on a daily basis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) are providing guidance that the County is following. The guidance is changing to best address the current situation. We should expect that we will continue to see cases of COVID-19 in Loudoun, and that the county's operations will be impacted. This fluidity will require patience and understanding from all of us.

I want to thank every one of you for your strength, patience and kindness during a challenging time - especially your kindness towards each other. Please reach out to a family member or friend and let them know you're thinking of them. Even a text or email can make a difference in your friend's or loved one's life. Also, please think good thoughts about our first responders, like our fire and rescue volunteers or career EMTs, and our health workers. I was talking to one of our volunteer EMTs this morning. All of them have been following what has been going on across the world and in areas of our country and they are preparing themselves to help the rest of us through this situation.

Please know that Loudoun County government is actively responding to the COVID-19 situation around the clock. The Loudoun County Health Department is engaged with our federal, state and regional partners to implement public health measures that protect our community in accordance with CDC and VDH guidance. The Board of Supervisors is working closely with County staff to publish the most accurate information possible in a timely fashion.

## **Declaration of a Local Emergency**

On Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> Loudoun County declared a Local Emergency in response to the continued spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). County Administrator Tim Hemstreet issued a declaration of local emergency with the concurrence of Chair Randall. The full Board of Supervisors is expected to formally ratify the declaration at its business meeting today, Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The declaration of a local emergency in Loudoun follows the declaration of a statewide emergency from Virginia Governor Ralph Northam.

The Local Emergency declaration will benefit Loudoun by relaxing formal procurement requirements to allow Loudoun County to more easily acquire any goods or services needed to assist in the response to the threat posed by COVID-19. The declaration modifies normal employment rules so that employees can be reassigned to county operations involved in response activities should that be necessary. This specific declaration is also sometimes a requirement for residents and local businesses to obtain financial aid and [emergency loans](#) offered by the federal and/or state governments.

### **County Services:**

**Loudoun County Public Schools:** Closed until at least April 10th. Free meals are still available to students. For more information visit the [LCPS website](#).

**Senior Centers:** Closed until further notice. However, county staff will continue to provide home delivery meal services to those who are signed up as well as emergency meal delivery services.

**Adult Day Care Centers:** Closed until further notice.

**Public Recreation Centers and Community Centers:** All programs are canceled and facilities are closed until at least April 1st. County parks will remain open for self-directed trail and leisure use during normal operating hours; however, all park offices and athletic complexes will be closed. Routine cleaning of playground equipment will be maintained. PRCS administration in Leesburg will be open during normal operating hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

**Leesburg Parks and Recreation:** Ida Lee Park Recreation Center and Ida Lee Tennis Center are closed until further notice. All classes, programs, and private lessons, including flag football practices and games, are canceled, through April 30th. A Room to Grow preschool classes are canceled and will remain canceled as long as Loudoun County Public Schools are closed. All park and facility rentals are canceled, through April 30th. The Easter Egg Hunt and Flower & Garden Festival are canceled.

**Public Libraries:** Closed until further notice, including Thomas Balch Library.

**Preschool and Daycare:** The County's Preschool and daycare programs that are operated by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services will be closed while Loudoun County Public Schools are closed.

**County After School Activities (CASA):** With the closure of Loudoun County Public Schools, all after-school programs, including CASA programs, are canceled while the Loudoun County Public Schools are closed.

**Paratransit Bus Service:** Guidance on social distancing measures similar to those provided to first responders will be provided to staff and contractors operating this transportation service.

**Human Services Agencies:** Guidance on social distancing measures similar to those provided to first responders will be provided to staff and contractors providing both mental health and social services to clients in the field.

For Family Services assistance: please call 703-777-0353 to reach a customer service representative or call Information and Referral at 703-777-0420. Both numbers will remain accessible during regular business hours of 8:30 am until 5:00 pm.

If you are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, emergency services are available 24 hours daily, seven days per week at 703-777-0320.

**Advisory Bodies and Commissions:** All regularly scheduled meetings of the Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Committees are canceled at this time. This aligns with the closing of the Loudoun County Public Schools. Board policy specifically cancels these meetings whenever the schools are unexpectedly closed due to inclement weather, so we have opted to do the same thing now that the schools have been unexpectedly closed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

### What Can We Do?

Social distancing is still one of the most critical things we can do to slow the spread of COVID-19. This means stay home when you can. The reason why you are hearing so much about “social distancing” is because this has proven to be the most effective way to slow down the spread of this virus. The reason it’s important to slow down the spread of the virus, even if the same number of people end up getting sick, is so that we limit the number of sick people at any one time. Limiting the number of sick people at one time means we don’t overwhelm our hospitals. Our hospitals can handle a few cases at a time. A hospital with 100 beds can handle 100 patients at a time. It cannot handle 200 patients at a time.

Read the article about how to "flatten the curve"

### Special advice for our high-risk residents

As a general rule, if a person at high risk for complications from coronavirus were to test positive, they would go back home under isolation from their spouse unless their provider believed they needed hospitalization at that time. Guidance for safe home isolation is available [here](#).

The CDC has general guidance for people who are ill. This is the same for those at high risk, though it would be particularly critical for them to have a very low threshold for calling 911 if their symptoms worsen.

What to do if you are sick

### Additional Resources:

Visit the County's coronavirus website

[Visit the Town's website for program and facility closures](#)

[Visit the CDC website](#)

[Visit the VDH website](#)

[List of Food Banks from NVRC](#)

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Warm Regards,

Kristen C. Umstatt  
Leesburg District  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
[kristen.umstatt@loudoun.gov](mailto:kristen.umstatt@loudoun.gov)  
703-777-0203

Valerie Suzdak  
Chief Legislative Aide  
Supervisor Kristen Umstatt, Leesburg District  
[valerie.suzdak@loudoun.gov](mailto:valerie.suzdak@loudoun.gov)

Laura Tekrony  
Legislative Aide  
Chair Phyllis Randall and Supervisor Kristen Umstatt  
[laura.tekrony@loudoun.gov](mailto:laura.tekrony@loudoun.gov)

Leesburg District | 1 Harrison St, S.E., 5th Floor, Leesburg, VA 20175

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