



Chair Phyllis J. Randall

Newsletter



Hello, Loudoun

This is going to be a long update because I'm going to answer the many questions I've received over the weekend. Hopefully, your question will be addressed.

By now you have heard that the Northern Virginia Region has asked Governor Northam to allow us to extend our Phase I opening. This request was made after all five State Health Directors from NoVA met on Saturday morning and reviewed the Phase I criteria for opening set forth by the Federal Government and the Governor. Our Health Directors determined that in NoVA we had not met three of the criteria and they were "unable to assess" the remaining two. After the meeting of the State Health Directors, the five County/City Administrators met. They too assessed the criteria from the Federal Government and the Governor, and they also determined that we have not met any of the criteria. Hearing from our State Health Directors and our County Administrators, the five Chief Elected Officials from Loudoun, Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington and Alexandria met and made the very hard decision to ask Governor Northam to allow our region to delay Phase I opening. You can find the joint letter from the Northern Virginia Health Directors [here](#) and the joint letter from the Northern Virginia Chief Elected Officials [here](#). Below, I review the five criteria and try to respond to questions.

1. Downward trend of positive tests over a period of 14 days.

QUESTION: Are there more positives because there are more tests being administered?

ANSWER: I asked that exact question to our State Health Director. Although more testing will (obviously) increase the number of positive cases, the number of tests does not account for the percentage increase of positive cases. Our positive cases, as a ratio of positive tests to total tests given, are actually still going up.

2. Downward trend of hospitalizations.

QUESTION: Do we have more people actually being hospitalized in Loudoun?

ANSWER: We have gone up 11 in one week. In other words, 11 people in Loudoun have needed to be hospitalized in one week.

QUESTION: How many COVID-19 positive cases have been discharged in a week?

ANSWER: The hospitals are compiling that data for me now.

3. Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity.

QUESTION: Haven't we "flattened the curve" and don't our hospitals have capacity?
ANSWER: Thankfully, as of now we are flattening the curve, but we are in our peak period and we need to get through peak.

The next two criteria are more subjective. If we were meeting the top three criteria, and not the two subjective criteria, I would have supported moving to Phase I.

4. Increasing and sustainable supply of PPE (first subjective criteria).

QUESTION: What does enough mean?

ANSWER: When the County says we have "enough PPE" we are saying we have enough for County employees who need it as they are going into homes, the jail, etc. However, I would also like to have ample PPE for our senior centers.

5. Increased testing and tracing (second subjective criteria).

QUESTION: When is it enough and when will we reach that number?

ANSWER: Enough means we can test people even when they are not symptomatic and can trace test. Getting to this number could be many months.

[County's coronavirus website](#)

Other Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Do I realize how much this is hurting small businesses and our Loudoun economy?

ANSWER: I ABSOLUTELY DO. I have family, friends and people in the County whom I love and deeply care about who are being financially harmed. This was the single hardest decision I've made since becoming your Chair. But when the Federal Health Experts, the Governor, five State Health Directors and Five County/City Administrators offer criteria, and we're not meeting them, I simply cannot open. To open would be to substitute my opinion or my feeling for their vast expertise, and that would be the height of hubris on my part. I simply won't do that.

QUESTION: Was this a decision of the full Board of Supervisors or just mine?

ANSWER: I asked my colleagues on the Board for a "straw poll vote." It was a 6/3 vote that did not fall along party lines.

QUESTION: When will we reopen/enter Phase I?

ANSWER: Please remember this is a request to the Governor. He must give permission to the NoVA jurisdictions to allow them to make this decision. If he does, I will continue to follow the numbers, the timeline and the advice of my State Health Director as it relates to the first three criteria.

QUESTION: Don't I trust people to use their common sense, after all they are adults?

ANSWER: Well, common sense is not common. Meaning, to some people common sense is not wearing a mask and trying to achieve herd immunity. For others, common sense is always wearing a mask, gloves, etc. The reason I relied on our Health Directors is because they have the expertise and there are so many opinions and people who feel

their “common-sense approach” should rule the day. I don’t feel my opinion or even my deep desire to move to Phase I should carry the day. I have to rely on the experts.

QUESTION: Why can’t we open parts of the County that have lower numbers, especially in western Loudoun?

ANSWER: The County and the region are very interdependent. If we move to Phase I for some of the County, people from all over the area will come to visit our incredible restaurants, breweries, etc.

QUESTION: Don’t I realize people die, especially old people, and don’t I think we should let natural selection take place? (Yes, I’ve received multiple questions and statements similar to this).

ANSWER: Are you honest-to-God serious?

I eagerly wish to rebuild our economy and help our residents recover. Please stay safe and well as we get through this together. Thank you.

Phyllis Randall
Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
phyllis.randall@loudoun.gov

Jeanine H. Arnett
Chief of Staff
jeanine.arnett@loudoun.gov

Laura TeKrony
Legislative Aide
laura.tekrony@loudoun.gov

Sarah Tuggle
Legislative Aide for Behavior and Community Health
sarah.tuggle@loudoun.gov

Elizabeth Bennis
Executive Assistant
elizabeth.bennis@loudoun.gov

Chair Phyllis Randall | 1 Harrison St., S.E., 5th Floor, Leesburg, VA 20175

[About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by phyllis.randall@loudoun.gov in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try email marketing for free today!