



# All About Algonkian

Juli E. Briskman | Algonkian District Supervisor



## COVID-19 Update

COVID 19 NUMBERS	
VIRGINIA	LOUDOUN
39,342	2,186
4,325	153
1,236	52

### Region Set to Move into Phase One

After receiving a letter from the region's chief elected officials this weekend, Governor Ralph Northam announced today that he plans to authorize Northern Virginia's move into Phase 1 of reopening

on Friday. The letter relied on an updated COVID-19 assessment by the top health directors who evaluated the COVID-19 gating criteria. The directors said the region has met four of the six gating criteria.

Northern Virginia has successfully met four criteria:

- Moving downward: Percentage of positive tests over 14 days
- Moving downward: Hospitalizations over 14 days
- Increased testing
- Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity

But the region has failed to meet two of the criteria:

- Increased contact tracing capacity
- Increasing and sustainable supply of PPE

Virginia is working to hire contact tracers and capacity is expected to significantly increase within the next few weeks. While PPE for hospitals appears to be adequate

at this time, it has been challenging to procure PPE for outpatient facilities since there's not a sustainable supply of PPE through non-government sources.

The letter also requested that Virginia develop additional metrics going forward. For example, the Health Directors expressed the desire to have metrics related to contact tracing and availability of facilities for non-hospitalized persons needing isolation.

Phase 1 requirements include:

- A limit on gatherings to 10 or fewer
- Continued teleworking
- Face masks in public
- Nonessential retail businesses and places of worship can open under certain restrictions
- Restaurants and bars can serve customers in outdoor spaces
- Beauty parlors and barbers can open by appointment only

Virginia is in the process of analyzing public health data to determine if the rest of the state can move to Phase 2 relatively soon.

Governor Northam also stated that the General Assembly plans to reconvene later this summer in order to address enforcement of guidelines for wearing masks in public. While not wearing a mask constitutes a Class 1 misdemeanor, Northam indicated he preferred that be downgraded to a civil fine. The Virginia Department of Health will be responsible for enforcing this guideline with a particular focus on grossly negligent businesses. The Department of Labor and Industry is also working to develop emergency regulations.

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Differences between Phase 1 and Phase 0

# Forward Virginia: Phase One

	PHASE ZERO	PHASE ONE
NON-ESSENTIAL RETAIL	Open with 10 person limit	Open with 50% capacity
RESTAURANTS AND BEVERAGE SERVICES	Takeout and delivery	Takeout and delivery; outdoor seating at 50% capacity
ENTERTAINMENT AND PUBLIC AMUSEMENT	Closed	Closed
FITNESS AND EXERCISE	Closed	Closed (limited to outdoor fitness classes)
BEACHES	Exercise and fishing only	Exercise and fishing only
GATHERINGS	10 person limit	10 person limit
TELEWORKING	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged
FACE COVERINGS	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged
CHILDCARE	Open for working families	Open for working families
PLACES OF WORSHIP	Drive-in services; 10 person limit	Drive-in services; 50% capacity
PERSONAL GROOMING	Closed	Appointment only
PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS	Closed	Open
OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMPS	Closed	Closed
STATE PARKS	Day use only	Day use; Overnight in phases
SCHOOLS	Closed	Closed



<b>FECHA</b>	JUEVES, 28 DE MAYO 2020
<b>DONDE</b>	FB.ME/SUPERVISORBRISKMAN
<b>HORA</b>	7:00 - 8:00 PM
<p>Acompaña a Supervisora del Distrito de Algonkian, Juli E Briskman y la Nueva Mayoría de Virginia para una reunión virtual en Facebook en español, sobre el COVID-19. Se presente el Director del Departamento de la Salud del Condado de Loudoun, Doctor Goodfriend. Él contestará preguntas en vivo sobre el COVID-19, recursos de salud y del condado. Para entregar preguntas de antemano, mandelas a: Hannah Recht <a href="mailto:hrecht@newvirginiamajority.org">hrecht@newvirginiamajority.org</a>.</p>	

## Supervisor Briskman to Host Spanish Language Virtual Town Hall

Join Supervisor Juli E. Briskman and New Virginia Majority for a Face Book Live Spanish language virtual town hall, on COVID-19. This Face Book Live event features Loudoun

County Health Department Director Dr. David Goodfriend who will answer questions live about COVID-19 and medical and county resources. Questions can be submitted in advance to Hannah Recht at [hrecht@newvirginiamajority.org](mailto:hrecht@newvirginiamajority.org).

Acompaña a Supervisora del Distrito de Algonkian, Juli E Briskman y la Nueva Mayoría de Virginia para una reunión virtual en Facebook en español, sobre el COVID-19. Se presente el Director del Departamento de la Salud del Condado de Loudoun, Doctor Goodfriend. Él contestará preguntas en vivo sobre el COVID-19, recursos de salud y del condado. Para entregar preguntas de antemano, mandelas a: Hannah Recht [hrecht@newvirginiamajority.org](mailto:hrecht@newvirginiamajority.org).

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2020

Where: [fb.me/SupervisorBriskman](https://fb.me/SupervisorBriskman)

When: 7:00 - 8:00 PM



## Your Questions on COVID-19 Answered

**What is considered an appropriate amount of PPE?** The Governor's reopening plan calls for "sustainable PPE" supplies and Northern Virginia's Health Department Directors have

asked for additional guidance on the matter. Loudoun County measures PPE based on usage rate and keeps several weeks worth in stock. The County aims to procure at least several months worth of PPE.

**Have the hospitals and ICUs been overwhelmed?** Hospitals have not been overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients because we have kept the virus in check through proactive social distancing measures. Our local hospitals increased surge capacity at the beginning of the pandemic and cancelled elective surgeries to open up hospital beds. For example, INOVA Loudoun opened their new tower several weeks early and moved the maternity ward to a new space. This allowed the former Birthing Inn to become a designated COVID-19 space.

**It looks like the percent positivity rate of tests is going down.** Virginia is using percentage positive cases as one of the key metrics in its gating criteria. This number has seen a downward trend. However, the County sees about 40 new cases per day, according to the Loudoun Health Director.

**Why doesn't the County report hot spots or identify residential areas where deaths occur?** According to the Loudoun Health Department, the Commonwealth does not release death information below the County level. This is because releasing data below the County level could result in deaths being identifiable. Additionally, County Health Officials do not believe reporting 'hot spots' make us any safer. Without adequate testing and contact tracing, we must assume the virus is everywhere.

**Isn't it true that only people over 60 are impacted by COVID-19?** While elderly adults and those with preexisting conditions are more likely to experience severe symptoms, there is still ample reason to remain cautious. According to Loudoun County's [data dashboard](#), 21.5 percent of all cases fall between the 40-49 age bracket. Out of 2,186 cases in Loudoun, 353 are represented by individuals in their twenties. Individuals aged 60 and older account for only 18.4 percent of cases.

**When will schools open?** For the 2020-2021 school year, Loudoun County Public Schools is planning for three possible scenarios: 1) Reopen schools with 100% in-person learning, 2) Reopen schools with a combination of in-person and distance learning, and 3) extend distance learning without in-person learning. More information is available [here](#).

**When will pools open?** Outdoor swimming pools may be open during Phase 1 for lap swimming only, with one person per lane. Hot tubs, splash pads, spray pools and all seating in pool areas must be closed. Indoor swimming pools and related areas must remain closed. More details are available [here](#).

**As we head into Phase 1, can I stop social distancing and wearing a mask?** Absolutely not. By maintaining social distancing, we can protect ourselves from experiencing a sudden surge of COVID-19 cases. General features of phase 1 include: 1) safer at home, 2) no gatherings of more than 10 people, 3) continued social distancing, 4) continued teleworking, 5) face coverings recommended in public, and 6) easing limits on businesses and faith communities. For more information on the importance of wearing a mask, please refer to the article below.



## Importance of Face Coverings

The most important way to protect others and yourself from getting COVID-19 is by staying home as much as possible, especially if you are at higher risk of serious illness. Keep at least 6 feet apart between

yourself and others. VDH recommends that people wear cloth face coverings when they are in public places, such as the grocery store, where they will be around other people and it may be difficult to keep at least 6 feet apart. Face coverings are not needed for going outside by yourself to take a walk or work in your garden, etc.

**Cloth face coverings can help protect the people around you.** Some people with COVID-19 have no signs or symptoms and do not feel sick, but can still pass the virus on to others. A cloth face covering can help prevent this.

**It is important that you do not get a false sense of security from wearing a cloth face covering.** Face coverings are only helpful when they are worn correctly and used in combination with other recommendations. You should still follow social distancing rules (limiting contact and staying six feet away from other people), wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, and cover your coughs and sneezes.

**Wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) before putting on a cloth face covering.** Cover your mouth and nose with the face covering. Make sure there are no gaps between your face and the cloth face covering. Be aware that if you touch your face or adjust your face covering after you have touched other objects, you can easily spread germs to your face. If you

do touch your face or cloth face covering, you should wash your hands or use hand sanitizer right away.

**Be careful when taking off your cloth face covering.** Remove it from behind the ears and try not to touch the front of the cloth face covering or your face. Once you remove the cloth face covering, you should discard it immediately or put it in the laundry and wash your hands right away.

**Do not make the cloth face covering so thick that you have trouble breathing.** Face coverings should not be put on children under the age of two or used by people who have trouble breathing or who are otherwise unable to remove the face covering without help. .

**Please do not buy N95 respirator masks or other medical facemasks, unless required for your job.** They are in short supply and are needed by the medical staff and first responders who are caring for sick people.

**It is a good time to be kind!** Please do not shame or yell at people who are not wearing face coverings. Others may have breathing problems or issues you do not know about.

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Please share any messages of hope you see. Submissions may be sent to Zachary Harris at [zachary.harris@loudoun.gov](mailto:zachary.harris@loudoun.gov) and we'll share them in our updates and newsletter.

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If you are having trouble paying your utilities because of COVID-19, visit the County's webpage on [COVID-19 Utilities](#). You will find program information on:

Columbia Gas  
Dominion Power  
Loudoun Water  
NOVEC  
Washington Gas  
Wi-fi Connectivity

### **For More Current COVID-19 Information**

Visit: [www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus](http://www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus)

Call: (703) 737-8300

Email: [Health@Loudoun.gov](mailto:Health@Loudoun.gov)

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Juli E. Briskman, Algonkian District Supervisor  
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[Rey Cheatham-Banks](#), Chief of Staff

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Have an interesting comment you'd like to share? Want to see someone you know from Algonkian featured? [Email Rey Cheatham-Banks](#)

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