

March 17, 2020

by Fairfax County
Emergency
Information

in Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

53 Comments

Fairfax County Declares Local State of Emergency for Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Posted at 12:52 p.m.

At its meeting today, Tuesday, March 17, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors declared a local state of emergency in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. Today's action follows Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's **declaration of a state of emergency** on March 12, and a **national emergency declaration** by President Donald Trump on March 13.

The local emergency declaration is primarily a financial mechanism that provides greater flexibility and authority for the county in purchasing hard to find resources and supplies. It also increases the authorities granted to the county to protect the health and safety of the community and provide emergency assistance in such a rapidly evolving incident.

“ This declaration streamlines and expedites Fairfax County Government's access to emergency disaster funding and it allows the county to use its authority to procure goods to address the emergency. — Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay

Board of Supervisors Declaration of Local Em
Fairfax County Government



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- Call our Health Department Call Center at 703-267-3511 with Coronavirus questions; open 9:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.
- Text FFXCOVID to 888777 to receive updates from Fairfax County about COVID-19.
- Email questions or concerns to ffxcovid@fairfaxcounty.gov. This email account will be staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. through 8 p.m.
- Visit a [web portal for coronavirus](#) that serves as a one-stop online resource for information.
- Learn more about COVID-19 on the [Health Department Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Webpage](#) or [FAQ page](#).
- Follow the [Fairfax County Government Facebook Page](#) and [Health Department Facebook Page](#).
- Follow [@fairfaxcounty](#) and [@fairfaxhealth](#) on Twitter.

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53 responses to “Fairfax County Declares Local State of Emergency for Coronavirus (COVID-19)”

Annon says : [March 17, 2020 at 1:29 pm](#)

Why are non-essential employees still required to go to work? Most of us have nothing to do but yet are expected to sit at our desks and “plan”.

Anonymous says : [March 17, 2020 at 1:43 pm](#)

Agreed. On sick person at the GC will leave germs in elevators, door handles, and that's how this will turn serious. We are endangering our live (and others') by coming to work. So why are we here?

Anonymous says : [March 17, 2020 at 1:46 pm](#)

We agree. As you know the county operates on a “knee jerk” reaction status

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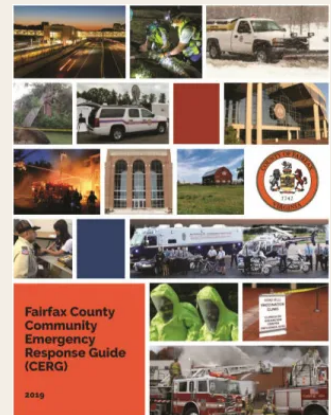


Fairfax County Government Radio

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Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 2:10 pm**

What happens to a staff person who was exposed to someone who is suspected to of being infected by COVID-19? Since the health department won't approve the test, they're not positive. However, the staff person still shows up to work because they can't afford to stay home and take leave.

Georgia says : **March 17, 2020 at 5:41 pm**

For current information including efforts to provide pay to those staying home.

President Trump & Coronavirus Task Force Hold a Press Briefing

Mar 17

<https://youtu.be/vvdjqrxSOFk>

Anonymous says : **March 18, 2020 at 5:55 am**

I just want to add on to this I don't agree with why non essential personnel are showing up. I think it would help if non essential personnel could stay home for some time so we could practice social distancing because the cases keep popping up everyday and it's concerning.

cajun says : **March 18, 2020 at 8:21 am**

agree with you< Fairfax county police department has been working on a skeleton crew for decades, every time and any where I go I'm hard pressed to see a police cruiser so why can't non essentials work from home also?

John says : **March 17, 2020 at 1:42 pm**

RE: anon above. What percentage of county staff are considered non-essential, would you estimate? I recognize what social distancing is meant to do, slow the infection rates and so preclude medical facilities from being overwhelmed, but what happens in two weeks when furloughs supposedly ends?

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 2:42 pm**

the constituents coming in here aren't being safe, let alone the employees.

will there be any sort of support for employees who will (hopefully) inevitably have to go home but cannot telework?

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 3:13 pm**

The county should determine what is truly essential (i.e. public safety and making sure food and medical assistance continue). The schools always close, and the county is always open, and this is not at all fair to county employees.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 3:24 pm**

How about closing county buildings to visitors? Business can be done over the phone, email or online. Anyone having to visit the building can do so by appointment. What is the purpose of endangering employees health by keeping the buildings open to the public?

CM Hoover says : **March 17, 2020 at 3:28 pm**

Please protect non essential employees. Please close the government center and let library staff stay home or work from home. This is endangering these workers unnecessarily. Take care of your employees!

Absolutely Appalled says : **March 17, 2020 at 6:15 pm**

I just moved to Fairfax County, and watched the Board of Supervisors and the County Exec. I was appalled by the jibber jabber of the Board (except for one). They dithered over the emergency proclamation, rather than spending the precious time to decisively move forward with an Emergency Plan. Further, the County Exec provided no confidence whatsoever. He continually stated that things were changing, our plans are no good and we don't know what to do. They should have announced a curtailment of non essential services, telework policy, enhanced services via telephone and the web , and clearly outlined the essential services that would be maintained. Do they watch TV ? Do they have internet access ? There are plenty of examples of local government in North America acting decisively, while maintaining essential service, not putting employees and the public at risk. Focus on what can be done. They actually continually said, we will have to wait for the Governor. A pathetic display and total lack of leadership. The County Exec was the worst.

Anonymous says : **March 18, 2020 at 6:43 pm**

They provided county staff with everything you said above. They actually elaborated saying staff can have very very flexible schedules when possible.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 3:29 pm**

A lot of people are starting to telework, seems as though some departments prefer people to still come into work and risk their health. Certain people get to telework, i don't think the departments will approve all the administrative staff to do so. Why are we opening? This is so frustrating.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 10:40 pm**

Our own Health Director (Gloria Addo-Ayensu) literally instructed us to telework if at all possible, it makes no sense.

Anonymous says : **March 18, 2020 at 1:38 pm**

It is very obvious the number one concern of the elected officials is not taking any action they feel could jeopardize their political careers. That's why they have taken half measures that leave them plenty of wiggle room. All the work our department does can be done remotely yet several of our staff are still required to come to the Government Center on a rotating basis to "man the office" even though we have no direct interface with the public. Although it's easy for them to say the safety and well being of the employees is their number one concern, their action show otherwise.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 3:35 pm**

My father lives at Gum Springs Glen senior housing. Why are county daycare workers still coming in and out of a facility who's home to the most vulnerable. Send those people home. They could be potential carriers of the virus with no symptoms. Think about our parents please.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 4:29 pm**

Front line library staff are required to report for work even while the branches are closed to the public. Library admin has the option of teleworking while everyone else does not. If front line staff choose to stay home to self quarantine, or care for a family member, they have to use their own leave to do so. The branches are closed to the public at no fault to the staff, so why do they still have to risk their health to go in or use their own leave in order to protect themselves when they have no option to telework like Admin does? Please let library staff stay home and give them emergency administrative leave. Please protect you staff.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 5:19 pm**

By keeping the CSB sites open and requiring the staff to continue to run groups (groups that may have more than 10 people), you are putting the staff and the clients in danger. The "essential personnel" only plan should be implemented now, not when there has been a positive report in one of the buildings or an outbreak of the virus. Many of the individuals being served are not even aware of the severity of this virus and may not be able to understand the symptoms they are suppose to look out for. They are also the ones with underlining health issues and are more at-risk for getting this virus. The county needs to close the CSB and not put their employees or the individuals being served at-risk. There are some employees with underlining health issues and that are more at-risk but their job does not allow them to telework or they are being required to use their leave, leave they may not have much of. What about those employees? The CSB needs to work with their employees and allow everyone that is non-essential staff to telework, not just pick and choose what programs can telework and which ones cannot. You are putting more of the community members and the employees, dedicated employees of Fairfax County, at-risk. Take swift action and preventative measures...

Diamond says : **March 17, 2020 at 5:33 pm**

Will you guys consider an Emergency Rent Freeze due to the virus like other states also will they consider releasing snap benefits early so people can stock up since stores are getting empty. Some of us cant work and should be able to freeze our rent please consider.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 6:28 pm**

If this is a state of emergency why are the library employees expected to deliver our holds? Give them civil leave.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 6:47 pm**

Protect your staff Fairfax county!!! You are the largest employer in Fairfax county and you are still forcing your non-essential staff go to work everyday. You are putting them and their families at risk!! You will not be satisfied until your employees have been infected by the virus! Shame on you!

Clem Kadiddlehopper says : **March 17, 2020 at 7:23 pm**

I'm sorry. I thought this was a site for information, not a venting location for disgruntled employees.

Kim says : **March 17, 2020 at 7:30 pm**

The other day when I was at one of the pharmacy stores trying to purchase some household essentials, one of the customers keep talking to me (for about 10 minutes). However, after 10 mins in the conversation, she revealed to me that there has been two cases at husband's work, I then asked her if she and her husband has been under self quarantined? Her reply to me was "oh, it happened in DC". Obviously, she has no clues how contagious this covid-19 is. I quickly told her to check on the CDC website as I walked away fastly.

Although I was about 6 feet away from her, but if this is a community transmissions, I'm due for a test. However, It has been a week, I have no fever other than coughing as I often do whenever Spring arrives. I've been very careful as I also wear gloves and mask when I go out for errands like grocery shopping and taking my son to work.

I'm scare because I do have the underlined medical condtions which required physical therapy weekly, but I have put it on hold since the virus hit Fairfax city. I stayed at home daily and have not had any personal or social interaction with anyone and lther than my son, who is currently living with me.

Im very concerned for the community because this woman was very nonchallant and seemed not to have much knowledge about how quickly corona virus can spread. Needless to mention, I'm still seeing optical medical offices, dental and physical therapy facilities where doctors, Dentists still have very close contact with the patients. As we also see that many travelers recently came back from Europe, cruiships etc.. with or without symptoms yet they have experienced. We can not wait for Fairfax city turning into Rochelle, NY or San Francisco, CA. I'm afraid it will be too late to stop the spreading if there are no specific hours restrictions in placed for local stores and restaurants. What can the local government do to send messages to the individuals who do not follow the news or understand how important of the 14

days self quarantine guidelines? How can we educate those who still do not take this pandemic seriously? Please advise. Thank you.

Julian says : **March 17, 2020 at 9:31 pm**

You are saying what I am feeling. What is going on?! Like a freak movie! But in real life!

Disappointed says : **March 17, 2020 at 7:34 pm**

What was the use of airing that podcast this morning when you all already had your minds made up to keep the facilities open. What will it take for one of your staff to get sick or die from this virus before you take action. You speak about how much ffx appreciate their employees, but your actions speaks otherwise. Close the facilities and perform a deep cleaning of the buildings. The Headstart programs are closed for the children, but what about the staff? They do not have the option of teleworking from home. I can understand Essential personnel maintaining their duties, but everyone else does not fall under that category.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 8:44 pm**

Fairfax is a dumpster fire run by idiot leftists.

Julian says : **March 17, 2020 at 8:57 pm**

Write the Va Governor. Let your voice be heard. Its crazy to not put down the hammer to not shut down all non essential shops, stores, offices any place. This will help with people who are too ignorant to know what is going on today!

Laura says : **March 17, 2020 at 11:47 pm**

I'm annoyed that the governor is allowing spas, nail salons, hair salons and such to stay open. There is no way this services can be done from 6 feet away. DC and MD have shut everything down because of the "oh we will just clean more often attitude". Then Equinox in Bethesda chose to stay open after a COVID case. I assume that's why the Rec Centers shut down due to an abundance of caution.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 9:11 pm**

I think everyone should stay home for 14 days, after that, life will be back to normal. If not, this will drag on forever. At that time, we really will run out all our daily essentials because majority of the workers are sick. No one could show up to work except stay in hospital and medical staffs would be overworked. They get sick and die. Is this the kind of life you prefer!

Anonymous says : **March 18, 2020 at 7:13 am**

I agree with you on that one.

Anonymous says : **March 18, 2020 at 9:33 am**

Life will not magically go back to normal in two weeks. Life must go on and we must find ways to keep working during this time. It is going to last till August or more.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 9:15 pm**

This is the county who doesn't care, you can see the ffx Connector Buses running dirty putting the passengers its drives exposed to this deadly virus. The should have reduce the services since the ridership is plunging down.

JuliAn says : **March 17, 2020 at 9:28 pm**

You hear stories people out running roads and in stores and sharing they have family at home with the Covin-19. Its like a freak fest! This shut in needs to come from the Government. When? I have no idea. We are already behind. Living with blinders on and us citizens suffer.

Idonotmatter says : **March 17, 2020 at 10:21 pm**

Give this some common sense thought for just a brief moment for FFX CTY employees. Dining in restaurants in booths is no longer an option, but sitting in an office of cubicles is fine. Social distancing is the social law if you have to leave your home, but sharing elevator space in a ten story building is fine. What if your floor has 4 or more doors that require a proxy security card to get through? There are 4 or more handles/knobs that people have to touch before they get to their desks. Is there a legitimate risk here or not people? The separation between government deciding my fate and me doing so as an American citizen on my own terms is non-existent.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 10:12 pm**

this is not the DEADLY CORONAVIRUS...this is a coronavirus that may cause COVID-19 a disease from it. Older and sick persons are more at risk of having severe complications. No one seems to be reminding you that all these quarantines and cut backs on restaurants/Bars and gathers are to reduce the SPEED AT WHICH IT SPREADS... not to stop it. Then there are those who anyone who was near anyone who was near someone with symptoms is infecting everyone.... NOT true. Do your part, try to avoid getting it as best as possible – and try harder not to give it to others if you get sick. its not about telework or your ball games or even your check j- its about trying to do something for others. pay attention and wash your hands.

Anonymous says : **March 17, 2020 at 10:27 pm**

Government deceleration if not enough for COVI 19 . If governmet wants every body safe youhave to shutdown every things at least 1 month . Otherwise more then worse China and Italy . We are already late for protection.

Idonotmatter says : **March 17, 2020 at 10:51 pm**

If one out of 100 people die, as very commonly predicted, there is a very deadly virus spreading. The more one person interacts with other people, the more the threat exponentially grows. Telework, no spreading. Share an elevator, share office space that parallels that of a restaurant, repeatedly touch shared door handles/knobs, the more the threat exponentially grows. Either there is a threat, which is very much being addressed by local governments in some instances, or there is not, and the rest of us can hope that the lack of government interaction in other locales is no more important than paying attention and washing your hands. Thank you for that moment of clarity to help ease my anxiety.....

Watchful Waiting says : **March 18, 2020 at 7:45 am**

It is disappointing that Fairfax County government can't devote one communications employee (perhaps working from home) actually answering questions here. My question is whether there has been any public comment on the status of BOS public hearings — e.g. the budget hearings are coming in a few weeks. Surely the Board doesn't think the situation will be substantially better by then. Are there contingency plans to adopt a budget without hearing input? How about a phone-in line for registered speakers? How about you just say SOMETHING on the subject.

Fairfax County Emergency Information says : **March 18, 2020 at 8:21 am**

We are monitoring all comments. No decisions have been made about budget hearings in April, but as soon as that information is available, it'll be announced.

Watchful Waiting says : **March 18, 2020 at 9:28 am**

Thank you very much for responding. And I do recognize the difference between specific, focused questions and general rants (which are understandable in the current climate of fear and uncertainty).

Glenn says : **March 18, 2020 at 8:18 am**

When this is all over (and it will be) and we have survived (and we will), then let's beat each other up. But for now, just give each other a break.

The government cannot now and never will be able to replace personal responsibility nor personal planning and preparedness.

Louann says : **March 18, 2020 at 11:34 am**

We now have a case of community spread in Virginia. Can we shut things down the in the state and Fairfax County, please?!?! I thought this was what you were waiting for, now what more do you need?

Fairfax County Emergency Information says : **March 18, 2020 at 11:44 am**

The Fairfax Health District has reported 12 positive local COVID-19 cases. To date, health department staff has performed contact investigations on those individuals to identify the source of their exposure (travel exposure or contact to a positive COVID-19 case) and anyone they may have come into close contact with to prevent further spread. But, this is a rapidly evolving situation and we recognize there may come a time when we cannot identify where or how an individual was exposed. This situation – when a person gets sick and the source of their exposure is unknown – is called “community spread.” At this moment in time, we have been successful in identifying the source of the exposures and performing the relevant public health actions to isolate those individuals and keep them from spreading the illness to others.

Anonymous says : **March 18, 2020 at 2:29 pm**

so you want to wait until people start getting sick and you can't figure out why before you start doing anything? so you don't want to prepare for anything you just want to hope nothing happens and if it does then you MAY consider finally doing something?

Peter says : **March 18, 2020 at 6:33 pm**

If county staff wish to vacate government center or a library, why not simply take personal leave?

Anonymous says : **March 19, 2020 at 7:49 am**

Because some people don't have the leave to take

anonymous says : **March 21, 2020 at 3:38 pm**

I was in a local Home Depot today (in Fairfax county) and the store's parking lot was packed with easily over 200 people in the store and no visible control over this situation. It was very close quarters with many seemingly unconcerned shoppers and lots of people bumping their way through the crowd. These people were mostly shopping for "home improvement" and decorative supplies (as usual). Definately not

a situation where people were there to buy "essential items". Where is the local enforcement of our current national policy? Why is this being allowed to happen? WHY IS FAIRFAX COUNTY NOT PROTECTING IT'S TAX PAYERS!

Sudip says : **March 22, 2020 at 8:32 pm**

I think we should lock down Virginia at least for 10 days to stop the new cases to go up.

Trackbacks / Pingbacks

1. **City, County, Commonwealth Take Action on Coronavirus - Prepare For Coronavirus** - March 17, 2020
2. **COVID-19 Updates & Resources – Dick Saslaw** - March 17, 2020
3. **Need-to-know resources for Fairfax County businesses during COVID-19 emergency | Fairfax County EDA** - March 19, 2020



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