

Archived - Loudoun County Declares Local Emergency in Response to COVID-19

County News *Posted on March 16, 2020*

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Loudoun County has declared a local emergency in response to the continued spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet issued a declaration of local emergency Monday, March 16, 2020, with the concurrence of Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall.

“It is critical that we remove any barriers to the county’s ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Randall. “This declaration will give us more flexibility as we respond in the coming days, weeks and months to this public health threat.”

The declaration of a local emergency in Loudoun follows the declaration of a statewide emergency from Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and local declarations from other jurisdictions in the region.

The local declaration of emergency relaxes 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. Also, the local declaration is sometimes a requirement for residents and businesses to obtain financial aid and emergency loans offered by the federal or state governments.

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The Board of Supervisors is expected to formally ratify the declaration at its next business meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Loudoun County continues to encourage everyone in the community to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19, which include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid non-essential travel.

Loudoun County encourages residents to stay informed about COVID-19.

- Visit loudoun.gov/coronavirus to sign up for email and text updates on COVID-19.
- Text LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19.

Residents with questions may call the Loudoun County Health Department public information line, 703-737-8300, or send an [email](#).

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