

Archived - County to Institute Temporary Closures of Departments to Implement Social Distancing Protocols

County News *Posted on March 17, 2020*

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As part of an effort to mitigate the impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the county, Loudoun County employees are implementing social distancing measures in all offices. To plan, train and implement social distancing protocols, some Loudoun County government departments will suspend their public-facing operations for one to two days.

This week, several county service centers will temporarily close or adjust their hours of operation including the Departments of Family Services; Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services; Planning and Zoning; Building and Development; and the Office of Mapping and Geographic Information.

All impacts to county operations will be posted at loudoun.gov/temporaryclosures. Loudoun County residents are encouraged to check the webpage before making a visit to any Loudoun County government department or program in person to confirm the location is open to the public.

In addition, the county is suspending the use of its public conference rooms to anyone outside the county government at least until April 1, 2020.

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends social distancing as one of the best measures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The CDC defines social distancing as maintaining a distance of approximately six feet from others when possible, which limits the potential of the virus spreading from person to person through coughs and sneezes. The CDC also recommends avoiding mass gatherings and crowded public places where close contact with others may occur, such as shopping centers, movie theaters and stadiums.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the many online services available through the county website, loudoun.gov, including paying taxes, filing a marriage license application and viewing animals available for adoption, to name a few. The website also lists telephone numbers and emails for all county departments.

Board of Supervisors meetings also are available for viewing through the website at loudoun.gov/webcast and are televised live on Comcast Government Channel 23, Open Band Channel 40 and Verizon FiOS Channel 40.

In addition to practicing social distancing, 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 about COVID-19 may call the Loudoun County Health Department's information line, 703-737-8300, or email health@loudoun.gov.

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