

Community Engagement and Public Information Department



**IMPORTANT EMERGENCY
INFORMATION – PSA #6, April 2nd, 2020**

**County Government Encourages Strict
Adherence to State and National Guidelines in
Response to COVID-19 Crisis**

FOR IMMEDIATE

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TIME: 10:00 a.m.

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On Monday, March 30th, Governor Northam issued a statewide Stay at Home Order as part of the Commonwealth's ongoing aggressive response to COVID-19.

Gloucester leaders are following suit, urging all residents to adhere to the Governor's order. "Though our numbers may seem low at this time, the only way to keep them from drastically increasing is to isolate yourself from others," said Brent Fedors, Gloucester's County Administrator. "Our story is not told yet," Fedors added. "As residents, you can determine the outcome. Let's work together, adhere to the experts' advice and stay home."

The Governor's order will remain in place until June 10th, unless amended or rescinded by a further executive order. Compliance with this order is essential in flattening the curve and stopping the spread of COVID-19. Gloucester County officials continue to work with the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and will remain in close contact with those entities through this evolving situation.

"I would strongly suggest that, anytime you go out, you have the mindset that someone around you has come in contact with this virus," Fedors said.

The order directs all Virginians to stay home at all times, except in extremely limited circumstances such as seeking medical attention, going to work, caring for family, obtaining goods and services like groceries, prescriptions, or engaging in isolated outdoor activities that meet the strict social distancing requirements.

Richard Williams MD MPH, Director of Three Rivers Health District, has been issuing similar advice to local governments. "The COVID-19 virus is present in our jurisdictions and community-based transmission is occurring," Williams said. "I do not believe the current confirmed case counts reflect the

true extent of disease in our communities. I am sure the number of people with COVID-19 currently is much higher.”

According to Williams, the virus causes a wide range of disease expression, from no symptoms, to mild bad cold symptoms, to severe pneumonia and death. Milder cases may never be tested, and those people may never isolate themselves. Also, the accuracy of the COVID 19 test is not known.

Williams said it is crucial that residents immediately take the following steps:

1. Stay at home as much as possible and comply with the Governor’s stay at home order.
2. If you must go out on essential business, practice strict social isolation. Stay 6 feet away from others, wash your hands frequently, sanitize surfaces you touch as best you can.
3. If you get sick, stay home, contact your health care provider and follow their advice. Most cases of this disease will self-limit. If you become more ill, especially if you have difficulty breathing, seek health care immediately.
4. Check in with your elderly family and neighbors by phone. Try to avoid as much contact as possible with others.
5. Beaches and private campgrounds (short-term stays) are closed, in addition to the previous business directives that were ordered last week. He has also made a request for Major Presidential Disaster Declaration to receive more resources for our state's response.”

“We can work together by adhering to these guidelines, and save lives,” Williams added. “We still have a chance to limit the impact of this virus on our lives here in rural Virginia. If we fail to take this seriously, if we allow the virus more chances to spread, it will do so, and more lives will be lost. Each of us has a duty to act right now to try to save ourselves, our families, and our neighbors.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This is an evolving situation and all information is subject to change at any time. For up to date information, visit www.gloucesterva.info or the County’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gloucesterva. For specific questions, contact Gloucester’s Community Engagement and Public Information office at 804-693-5730 or e-mail gsheppard@gloucesterva.info.

For health-related information, contact the Virginia Department of Health, Three Rivers Coronavirus Call Center, by calling 804-313-1638. Call Center Hours are 8AM to 6PM Monday through Friday. Alternatively, the public is encouraged to visit the Virginia Health Department’s special website on Coronavirus at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>.