

CAROLINE COUNTY PRESS RELEASE



*For immediate release
March 14, 2020
Charles M. Culley, Jr.
County Administrator*

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECLARES LOCAL EMERGENCY AND ADOPTS MEASURES TO PROTECT AGAINST SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

*Parks & Recreation Programs and Activities Postponed, Library Branches and
Visitor Center Closed, DMV & Passport Services Suspended
Gatherings of Over 250 People Strongly Discouraged*

At a special meeting on the evening of Friday, March 13, 2020, the Caroline County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency and took protective actions related to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The closures and suspensions will remain in place for a two-week period beginning Monday, March 16 through Monday, March 30, 2020. The Board of Supervisors will reevaluate conditions surrounding the spread of the virus and the need for continued suspension of County services at its March 24, 2020 meeting.

Impacted services and programs include:

- Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Select and passport services in the Commissioner of the Revenue and Treasurer's Office have been suspended. All other Commissioner of the Revenue and Treasurer's Office services will remain open to the public.
- All County library branches will be closed to the general public. Tax preparation appointments with AARP have been suspended as of Monday, March 16. Curbside library services will be available to County residents by appointment. Contact the library at 804-633-5455 for more information.
- All Department of Parks & Recreation programs and activities are postponed during the two week period. The rental of all indoor facilities by the public has been suspended. Outdoor facilities remain available for rental.

- The Caroline County Visitor Center on Route 207 in Carmel Church will be closed from March 16th to March 30th.
- The Caroline County Animal Shelter is closed to public traffic during the two-week period. For Animal Control related services, call 804-633-5400.
- At the recommendation of the Fire-EMS Chief, all events or gatherings involving 250 or more people are strongly discouraged as a preventative measure against the spread of the virus.

The declaration of a local emergency by the Board of Supervisors makes Caroline County eligible for federal and state reimbursement funds for expenditures related to the coronavirus outbreak and enables the more efficient procurement of needed supplies and services.

The Virginia Department of Health recommends the following routine precautions to help protect against influenza, COVID-19, and other infectious respiratory illnesses:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%–95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

Further guidance and information is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and the Virginia Department of Health at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>.

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