



**COUNTY OF FAUQUIER
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020

Important Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Warrenton, Virginia –

Today, Fauquier County Administrator Paul McCulla declared a Local Emergency in Fauquier County effective March 17, 2020, at 9:00 am. The Local Emergency was declared due to the threat to public health and safety of the citizens of Fauquier County from exposure to COVID-19. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic constitute an emergency of such sufficient severity to warrant a coordinated response from various County departments, agencies, and volunteer organizations.

As a result of the Declaration of Local Emergency and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fauquier County is taking a number of precautionary measures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the community. We urge citizens to follow the recommendations of the CDC especially in regards to practicing good hygiene, social distancing and staying home if you exhibit flu-like symptoms. The measures provided below will help promote and enforce social distancing while still providing services to our citizens.

In response to President Trump's urging that citizens of the United States avoid gatherings of more than ten people, the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors will be holding a virtual public hearing on its proposed budget and tax rates on Thursday, March 19, at 7:00 pm. Citizens may view the virtual public hearing via livestream by going to:

http://fauquier-va.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=1 and selecting the Board of Supervisors' March 19 Budget Public Hearing. To have your comments read to the Board of Supervisors during the budget public hearing, citizens may e-mail their comments to: budgetoffice@fauquiercounty.gov. Because of the directive to limit gatherings to no more than

ten people in one location, live citizen participation at the meeting location cannot be accommodated. Please participate virtually in this process.

In order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to its citizens, Fauquier County has taken the following actions as of March 16, 2020:

- All government meeting rooms are closed to non-governmental meeting uses effective immediately.
- Closed all libraries effective today, March 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Beginning Wednesday, March 18, the Library will begin phone and curbside services at all Library locations. Please visit the Fauquier County Public Library website for further details.
- Closed all Parks and Recreation facilities. All Parks and Recreation programs are cancelled effective immediately. All rental of shelters and other park locations are also cancelled immediately. County parks will remain open for passive recreation, however, all playgrounds and restrooms are closed and will remain closed.
- Sheriff's Office public events, off-duty staffing and car seat installation/inspection is temporarily suspended.
- The Board of Supervisors' work session meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 2:00 pm is cancelled.
- The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2020, is cancelled and all matters are rescheduled to its next meeting.
- The Board of Zoning and Appeals meeting scheduled for April 2, 2020, is cancelled and all matters are rescheduled to its next meeting.
- In transacting business with the County, citizens are strongly encouraged to complete their transactions online or via the phone. Checks for payments may be placed in the mail rather than being paid in person or you can pay for services online. If you must visit a County department, please call prior to your visit. A phone directory can be accessed on our webpage at <https://www.fauquiercounty.gov/>.

In addition, we are directing staff to use social distancing as much as possible to avoid unnecessary physical contact and help citizens via phone rather than in person when possible. The County also has a coronavirus updates website at <https://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-a-g/fire-rescue/covid-19-information>

“While we realize the inconvenience to the citizens of the County in taking these actions, the unprecedented nature and effects of COVID-19 require these actions be taken to protect the citizens of the County from its further spread and to ensure the continuity of governmental service to the citizens of Fauquier County during this crisis.” said County Administrator Paul McCulla.

(ENDS)



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March 17, 2020

A local emergency is hereby declared in Fauquier County effective March 17, 2020 at 0900.

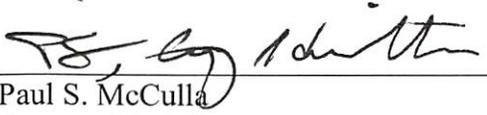
This local emergency has been declared due to the threat to public health and safety of the residents of Fauquier County from exposure to COVID-19. This constitutes an emergency or disaster of such sufficient severity to warrant a coordinated response from various County departments, agencies, and voluntary organizations.

This local emergency will remain in effect until rescinded by a subsequent order.

As the County Administrator and Director of Emergency Management, I, Paul S. McCulla, exercise the authority given to me under Section 44-146.21 of Code of Virginia (1950), to preserve the public safety and hereby render all required and available assistance vital to the security, well-being, and health of the citizens of this County.

I hereby direct all departments and agencies of Fauquier County to take whatever steps necessary to protect life and property, public infrastructure, and provide such emergency assistance deemed necessary.

FAUQUIER COUNTY

By:  (Signature)
Paul S. McCulla
County Administrator
March 16, 2020 (Date)