

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

Virginia Tourism Corporation | 901 E. Cary St. – 9th Floor | Richmond, VA | virginia.org

A Message from Rita McClenny, President & CEO

Dear Industry Partners,

Today, Governor Ralph Northam held a press briefing announcing further actions to help contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth.

- Virginia will follow the federal guidelines of gatherings of 10 or more people. This means that all restaurants, malls, fitness centers, and other businesses must comply with these regulations or temporarily close. Restaurants are encouraged to continue offering take-out options.
- Virginians that are 65 or older should self-quarantine. The administration is working on solutions to ensure that older Virginians can still get food, medicine, and other needs met.
- All DMV offices will be closed to the public. [Online services](#) are still available, so anyone who needs to renew a license or registration may do so online. For Virginians who have a license or registration that expires on May 15, 2020, there will be a 60 day extension.
- Unemployment funds are available through the [Virginia Employment Commission](#). The Governor has waived the one week waiting period so that workers can start receiving benefits right away. Affected workers or businesses can contact the Virginia Employment Commission for information on how to apply for help.
- The Governor is urging younger Virginians to social distance, underscoring the importance of mitigating the spread of this disease. It is critical that we think not of ourselves, but of others. Young and healthy people may think this won't affect them, but the Governor is asking everyone to think of parents and grandparents, your neighbors, and your communities.
- The Virginia Department of Health will continue posting information on the number of cases on their website at noon, in addition to other resources. Please visit the [VDH website](#) often.
- Finally, please continue to take basic health precautions to avoid contracting the disease:
 - Wash your hands with soap and water
 - Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze

- Stay at home if you feel sick
- Avoid touching your face

Virginia Tourism will continue to update our industry-facing page daily. Please visit vatc.org/coronavirus for more information.

Thank you for your continued leadership during this difficult time. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at any time: President@virginia.org.

Stay well,
Rita

For more guidance from the Office of the Governor, please [click here](#).

For guidance from the Virginia Department of Health, please [click here](#).

For more information on COVID-19 and its impact on the travel industry, please visit vatc.org/coronavirus

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