

Sull-E Newsletter



March 25, 2020 Coronavirus Update

A Message from Kathy Smith

The Board of Supervisors took action at its meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 to assist residents during the coronavirus outbreak. We approved a one month extension for filing vehicle and business personal property taxes and paying the first installment of real estate taxes. The vehicle and business tax filing deadline is extended to June 1, 2020. The first installment real estate tax payment deadline is extended to August 28, 2020. More information is below.

Effective this Friday, March 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. all Fairfax County Government buildings and facilities will be closed to the public until further notice. The Sully District Office will remain open, but with limited in-person staffing. The majority of our staff will be teleworking; however, they will be available via email & voicemail.

Below is updated information regarding the Coronavirus situation in Fairfax County. This situation is continually evolving and my office will continue to inform the community as we receive information from our trusted sources. Please share this information with your family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Sincerely,

Kathy

Reminders!

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Departments Hosting Blood Drives:

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Centreville Volunteer Fire Department/Fairfax County Fire Station 17 (5856 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, VA 20121)

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Several Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Volunteer Fire Departments are partnering with Inova Blood Donor Services to hold blood drives in their fire station parking lots. Due to current events, blood supplies in Fairfax County and the nation are at dangerously low levels and dropping. [Inova Blood Donor Services is taking all precautions as it relates to COVID-19.](#) There will be plenty of space to spread out and use appropriate social distancing. To help protect our firefighters and paramedics, access to the fire station is prohibited. To register to donate, please go to the [Inova Blood Donor Services web site.](#)

Donate Blood!:

Due to cancelled blood drives, the [American Red Cross](#) is seeing an extreme shortage in blood donations. There is no evidence that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) can be transmitted through blood. Right now, eligible and healthy donors are strongly urged to make an appointment to provide lifesaving blood products to patients. To make your appointment, [click here.](#)

Department of Motor Vehicles Operating Status:

Effective March 18, 2020, all 75 DMV customer service centers are closed and all [DMV 2 Go and DMV Connect services](#) postponed until at least April 2, 2020 in response to the continued spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. [Details](#)

Fairfax County Extends Tax Deadlines for Car, Business, and Real Estate Taxes

The Fairfax County [Board of Supervisors](#) approved a one month extension for filing vehicle and business personal property taxes and paying the first installment of real estate taxes.

Vehicle and Business Tax Filing Deadline Extended to June 1:

With the extension, residents now have until Monday, June 1, to [report any changes in vehicle ownership and location](#), among other changes. Normally, residents must file these changes with the county by May 1 or face a 10% penalty. However, the 60-day deadline to register any new vehicles with the county — whether newly purchased or moved into the county after June 1—remains the same. Vehicle owners can [register online.](#)

Businesses now have until June 1, to file their [personal property with the county.](#) This includes vehicles, furniture and fixtures, machinery and tools, and computer equipment that are located in Fairfax County as of January 1. New businesses still must file for a Business, Professional and Occupational License within 75 days of the date on which the business began. Register for a [BPOL license online](#) or [paper application.](#)

First Real Estate Tax Payment Deadline Extended to Aug. 28:

The county extended the deadline to pay the first installment of [real estate taxes](#) until Friday, Aug. 28. Normally, the first installment is due by July 28. The extension will help homeowners who pay their real estate taxes directly to the county. Many homeowners pay these taxes as part of a monthly mortgage payment. The mortgage company then sends the taxes directly to Fairfax County. Homeowners should contact their mortgage company if they have questions. The county began mailing [real estate tax assessments last month.](#) However, the assessment notice is not a bill.

In addition to these measures, the deadline for seniors and people with disabilities to apply for county tax relief has been [postponed to June 1.](#)

More Information:

For more information about vehicle and business tax filings or real estate taxes, contact the [Department of Tax Administration](#) at **703-222-8234**, TTY 711.

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Drug Take Back Boxes Closed



To ensure the safety of both our community members and our first responders, the Drug Take Back boxes at all Police District Stations will be closed until further notice. As of today, community members will not be able to drop off excess medications at District Police Stations. Please do not flush unused medications - here are [alternative ways to safely dispose of medicines](#).

Inova COVID-19 Update



General Information on Inova's preparedness for COVID-19:

All Inova hospitals and care sites are open and serving patients. The most up to date information on Inova's response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at www.inova.org/covid19. Inova's team of clinical experts is up-to-date on developments and CDC guidelines, and has developed a comprehensive response plan to maintain the safety and well-being of our community.

What should I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?:

- Seek advice from your regular healthcare provider to determine if a medical evaluation is needed;
- If you feel it is an emergency and you cannot wait, contact a local urgent care center or emergency room. Ask for instructions regarding accessing the facility.
- Practice "social distancing" by avoiding mass gatherings and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet) from others when possible

Is COVID-19 testing available through Inova?:

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Yes, testing is available across the Inova system based on clinical criteria outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Department of Health.

At this time Inova does not offer drive-thru screening and testing. Inova has explored drive-thru testing, however due to limited testing kits available nationwide, Inova evaluates all patients and ensures necessary testing is conducted while preserving the capability to continue sustained testing.

Critical need for blood donation:

Inova is currently experiencing a shortage of blood supply and inventory is expected to continue to drop with the shortage of donors due to COVID-19. Inova Blood Donor Services has implemented extra precautions to protect donors - it is safe to give blood, and your donation will save a life. Make an appointment at www.inovablood.org or 800-BLOOD-SAVES.

Visitation:

Inova Health System will be suspending all in-person visitation as of Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 8 p.m. and encouraging video meetings between patients and loved ones. Understanding that a family member, caregiver or visitor may be crucial for clinical and patient care, exceptions to Inova's Visitation Guidance can be made in extenuating circumstances. More information on the temporary visitation restrictions may be found at www.inova.org/about-inova/temporary-visiting-hours.

Telemedicine:

With the philosophy of trying to limit risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 and to help our clinicians with greater flexibility to safely treat our patients, Inova has adopted a system-wide initiative that will allow patients to receive a wider range of healthcare services without having to travel to an Inova healthcare facility.

Beginning Thursday, March 19, Inova will offer the option for appointments to be conducted via telemedicine (video or phone), with flexibility to meet in person if a clinician determines necessary.

How can I protect myself?:

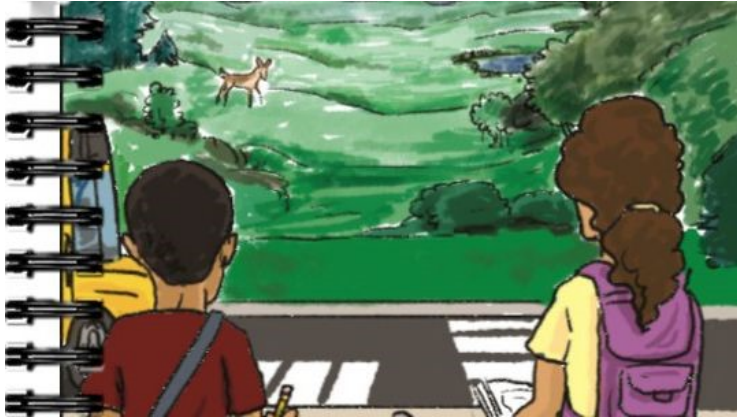
The best way to protect yourself and your community against the spread of COVID-19 is to avoid being exposed to the virus by:

- Practicing good hand hygiene,
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the using the inside of your elbow,
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick by practicing social distancing of six feet or more,
- Cleaning high-touch surfaces regularly, and
- Staying home if you feel sick.

For more information on how to protect yourself, visit www.cdc.gov or www.vdh.virginia.gov.

New Fairfax County Field Journal Available Online

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The [Watershed Education and Outreach team](#), in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools, has created a new [Fairfax County Field Journal](#). Kids are encouraged to use the journal to discover their backyard and neighborhood **while practicing social distancing**. The journal is full of ideas for exploring nature through art, writing, and science. The activities are a great way to engage young minds until distance learning begins. The arrival of spring means there are lots of interesting changes to observe.

The Watershed Education and Outreach team also has a [Field Guide to Fairfax County's Plants and Wildlife](#). Many species of plants and animals call Fairfax County home. The field guide helps readers identify common species found in typical neighborhoods, schoolyards, parks, and other areas.

Keep Clean During COVID-19

Keeping yourself and your children clean and virus free is extremely important during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fairfax County says no matter where you live – condo, house or apartment – you can avoid a disgusting sewer backup into your home by not flushing wipes down the toilet. The package may say ‘flushable’ but frequently they are not and will block your wastewater pipe and send all that nasty, dirty stuff right back at ya! Do you really want your toilet to back up into your home? Do you want to spend your hard-earned cash on a plumber? Assuming your answer is “NO!” don’t put anything down the toilet except human waste and toilet paper. That means:

- No wipes of any type
- No paper towels
- No cotton swabs
- No feminine hygiene products
- No dental floss
- No tissue
- Nothing except human waste and toilet paper may be flushed down the toilet

For more information about what not to flush, visit [Preventing Backups and Overflows](#) or [watch this video](#).

County Operating Status

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Updated as of March 25, 2020: New information below is highlighted in yellow.

CLOSED:

- **Fairfax County Government Buildings:** Fairfax County will close all [government buildings and facilities](#) to the public starting Friday, March 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., until further notice. **However, the county government remains open for business online and by phone and mail.** Some specific public services may continue to be provided in-person as determined necessary by county agencies and employees will continue to be able to access these facilities. A full list of online service can be found on the county's [Assistance from a Distance webpage](#).
- **Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS):** All FCPS schools are closed through the end of the academic year in June. All extracurricular programs, athletic programs, and community use activities are cancelled through the remainder of the academic year. Food distribution at FCPS sites will continue as scheduled. [Details](#)
- **Fairfax County Park Authority:** Effective Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 11:59 p.m., all Fairfax County Park Authority parks and amenities will be closed to the public until further notice. Park Authority closures include: parking lots, athletic fields, sport courts, restrooms, nature centers, visitor centers, golf courses, historic sites, picnic areas, playgrounds, amusements, boat launches, skate parks, off-leash dog areas, outdoor fitness equipment, and any areas for open recreation. Trails will remain open for individual use, but not group use. All social distancing recommendations are in effect.
- **Libraries:** All Fairfax County Public Library full-service locations will be closed until further notice. Due dates for all physical materials will continue to be extended to ensure that no late fees accrue while FCPL branches are closed. Please help FCPL by keeping your materials while the library is closed. For details, [click here](#).
- **Senior Centers and Adult Day Health Care Centers:** Effective immediately, all Fairfax County [Senior Centers](#) and [Adult Day Health Care Centers](#) are closed to participants until further notice.
- **Community Centers/Neighborhood Centers/Resource Centers and Teen Centers:** Effective immediately, NCS [Community Centers/Neighborhood Centers/Resource Centers](#) and [Teen Centers](#) are closed to participants until further notice.
- **Fairfax County Virginia Career Works Centers:** All centers are closed until further notice. [Details](#)
- **School Aged Child Care (SACC):** [SACC](#) is closed through March 27, 2020. SACC will not offer any spring break services as previously planned.

Public Transportation Operating Status

Updated as of March 25, 2020: New information below is highlighted in yellow.

- **Fairfax Connector:** Regular service in effect system-wide. Beginning Tuesday, March 24, 2020, customers will be required to enter and exit the bus using the rear doors. Fare collection on buses will be temporarily suspended. [Details](#)
- **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA):** Beginning on Thursday, March 26, Metro will close [17 additional stations](#) following the closures of Smithsonian and Arlington Cemetery stations last week. The 19 stations will remain closed until further notice and trains will pass through without stopping. Even with the station closures, four out of five Metrorail stations will remain open for essential travel only. Metrorail, Metrobus, and MetroAccess are operating limited services and hours for essential trips only.
- **Virginia Railway Express (VRE):** Effective Tuesday March 17, 2020, VRE will operate at a reduced ["S" schedule](#) level. Only trains marked with an "S" on our schedule will operate. Amtrak is operating on their reduced schedule, so no cross-honor step-up trains will be offered. For details, [click here](#).

Ways to Stay Informed About Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Here is a list of ways you can stay updated on COVID-19 in Fairfax County.

Stay Informed:

- Call **703-267-3511** with Coronavirus (COVID-19) questions. A Health Department call center is open from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends to help provide answers.
- Text **FFXCOVID to 888777** to receive updates from Fairfax County about COVID-19.
- Email ffxcovid@fairfaxcounty.gov with specific questions or concerns related to the coronavirus. This email account will be staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., to respond to community questions.
- Visit the new [web portal for coronavirus](#) that will be updated regularly to provide a one-stop online resource for information about the COVID-19 situation in Fairfax County.
- Learn more about COVID-19 on the Health Department Coronavirus (COVID-19) [Webpage](#) or [FAQ](#) page.

Subscribe for Updates:

In addition to checking our web portal for coronavirus, subscribe to these news feeds to get the latest information as it becomes available:

- Follow the [Fairfax County Government Facebook Page](#) and [Health Department Facebook Page](#)
- Follow [@fairfaxcounty](#) and [@fairfaxhealth](#) on Twitter
- Subscribe to the county's [Emergency Blog](#).

[Click here](#) to visit the Coronavirus webpage.

Fairfax County Public Schools: Coronavirus Update

- [Food Resources: For Those in Need, and How to Contribute](#)
 - [Coronavirus Update - Superintendent's Messages to the Community](#)
 - [Coronavirus Update - Academics and Continuity of Learning Plan](#)
 - [Coronavirus Update - Mental Health and Community Resources](#)
 - [Coronavirus Update - Videos and Fact Sheets](#)
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Recent Headlines

Tuesday, March 24, 2020:

- [Video: Coronavirus 101 Health Department Presentation - English and Spanish](#)

Monday, March 23, 2020:

- [Governor Announces Business and School Closures Due to COVID-19](#)
- [Fairfax Connector Temporarily Suspends Fare Collection, Requires Rear Door Boarding Beginning March 24](#)

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Sunday, March 22, 2020:

- [Second Resident of The Kensington Tests Positive for COVID-19](#)

Saturday, March 21, 2020:

- [Fairfax County Health Department Reports First COVID-19 Death in the Fairfax Health District](#)

Friday, March 20, 2020:

- [Mental Health - Take Care Both Physically and Emotionally During Coronavirus](#)
- [Neighbor 2 Neighbor Program: Another Way to Help Out in Your Community](#)
- [Health Director and County Executive Provide Updates About COVID-19 on Connect with County Leaders](#)
- [Park \(Indoor\), Library, and Other Community Facilities to Remain Closed Until Further Notice](#)
- [How to Support Local Businesses During COVID-19](#)

Thursday, March 19, 2020:

- [Keeping Children Safe in Child Care Programs During COVID-19](#)
- [Low-Interest Loans Now Available for Fairfax County Businesses Impacted by Coronavirus](#)
- [Update on COVID-19 Testing in Fairfax County](#)
- [Health Department Announces Positive Case of Coronavirus in Senior Living Center](#)
- [COVID-19 Mental Health Resources](#)

Wednesday, March 18, 2020:

- [Find Food Resources in Fairfax County During COVID-19 Emergency](#)
- [Video: What is a Contact Investigation for COVID-19?](#)

Tuesday, March 17, 2020:

- [Contact Coordinated Services Planning \(CSP\) for Basic Needs Assistance](#)
- [Video: Social Distancing and Other Health Tips](#)
- [Donating to and Supporting Local Community-Based Organizations](#)
- [Fairfax County Declares Local State of Emergency for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Most Court Cases Canceled Following State Supreme Court Order](#)

Monday, March 16, 2020:

- [4 Ways to Stay Engaged During Social Distancing](#)
- [5 Tips to Help Your Neighborhood Prepare During This Time](#)

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue,
then throw the tissue
in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently
touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick,
except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap
and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health
or email us at health@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Ayude a prevenir la propagación de virus respiratorios como el nuevo COVID-19.

Evite el contacto cercano con las personas enfermas.



Cúbrase la nariz y la boca con un pañuelo desechable al toser o estornudar y luego bótelos a la basura.



Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca.



Limpie y desinfecte los objetos y las superficies que se tocan frecuentemente.



Quédese en casa si está enfermo, excepto para buscar atención médica.



Lávese las manos frecuentemente con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos.



Para obtener más información: vaya a www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health envíenos un correo electrónico a health@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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