

# Commonwealth of Virginia

## COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

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COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

March 13, 2020

In light of the health risks made imminent by COVID-19, the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will take the following steps to limit the number of people who need to come into the courthouse and limit possible exposure to the virus by people who work within our criminal justice system:

1. The Office will broadly agree to any requests for continuances for Circuit Court trials and pleas scheduled for the next month. Prosecutors are directed to proactively contact defense counsel and attempt to agree to dates that are more than one month from now.
2. The Office will broadly agree to continue felony preliminary hearings. The Office will create a special process for producing initial discovery in those matters. Defense attorneys wishing to continue their preliminary hearings should reach out to the assigned prosecutor. Defense attorneys who are unsure of which prosecutor is assigned to the matter should call the office's main number to make an inquiry.
3. The Office will broadly agree to continue all traffic and misdemeanor matters occurring within the next month.

This temporary policy does not constitute and should not be taken to infer any leniency in future pleas and/or proceedings for affected cases. This measure is a necessary action to respect the seriousness of this pandemic and protect the health and well-being of our community while respecting the rule of law and continuing the pursuit of justice.



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Fairfax County, VA