



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOUDOUN COUNTY AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA REQUEST DELAY IN PHASE 1
REOPENING OF VIRGINIA DUE TO HEALTH DATA CRITERIA
NOT YET MET FOR OUR REGION**

PURCELLVILLE, Va., May 11, 2020 — On Friday, May 8, 2020, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam issued Executive Order Sixty One, which eases the temporary restrictions due to COVID-19 beginning on Friday, May 15, 2020, at 12 a.m. The issuance of Order 61 marks the entrance of Virginia into Phase One of the “Forward Virginia” plan to safely and gradually ease public health restrictions while containing the spread of COVID-19. This new executive order modifies the public health guidance in Executive Orders Fifty-Three and Fifty-Five, and provides guidelines for Phase One. However, the plan does allow localities to consider delaying implementation of Phase One guidelines based on local health data and statics.

On Sunday, May 10, 2020, a Joint Regional Reopening Letter was sent to Governor Northam on behalf of the Mayors and Chairs of the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, and the City of Alexandria urging the Governor to examine the medical data of the Northern Virginia Region prior to allowing entrance into Phase One. The correspondence to Governor Northam included a letter to the State Health Commissioner from the Health Directors of the five County and City CAO’s representing the Northern Virginia communities, which stated: “Based on our assessment, we do not believe that the Northern Virginia region has met the criteria for moving into Phase 1 at this time. We recommend continuing current community mitigation strategies and reassessing this on a regular basis to determine when Northern Virginia can move into Phase 1 according to these criteria (and any additional agreed upon criteria).”

The letter outlined the five threshold metrics release by the Governor’s Office for a transition into Phase 1:

- Downward trend of positive tests over a period of 14 days
- Downward trend of hospitalizations over a period of 14 days
- Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity
- Increasing and sustainable supply of PPE
- Increased testing and tracing

The following table is the assessment against the metrics issued on April 24:

Metric	Met or Unmet	Health Directors' Comments
Moving downward: Percentage of positive tests over 14 days	<u>Unable to assess</u>	As of May 4, the data shows that Northern Virginia (NOVA) is higher than the rest of Virginia: 27% for NOVA and 18% for all of Virginia (the latter is inclusive of NOVA) Without additional information, we cannot assess whether it has gone down over the past 14 days We have asked Virginia Department of Health for this data (including past data)
Moving downward: Hospitalizations over 14 days	<u>Unmet</u>	*See chart below: "Hospitalizations over the 14-day period for NOVA, outside of NOVA and all of VA" (see suggestion below)
Increased testing	<u>Unable to assess</u>	Currently only have baseline We have asked Virginia Department of Health for this data (including past data)
Increased (contact) tracing (capacity)	<u>Unmet</u>	Infrastructure is not yet in place to respond to every new case, trace and actively monitor their close contacts, and coordinate testing for symptomatic contacts
Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity	<u>Unable to assess</u>	Available critical care beds continue to decrease but still fall within normal operating capacity Note: there is 20% surge capacity that is not yet utilized (See suggestion below)
Increasing and sustainable supply of PPE	<u>Unmet</u>	<u>Met</u> : PPE for hospitals appears to be adequate at this time <u>Unmet</u> : PPE for outpatient facilities (private practices, long-term care facilities and first responders) continues to be a challenge

*COVID-19 Hospitalizations over the past 14 Days – Northern Outside of Northern Virginia and all of Virginia,

The Mayors and Chairs who were signatory to the letter to the Governor concluded:
"While it is certainly useful to examine statewide metrics as we gauge the success of current public health policies, we feel strongly that any changes to current policies be

guided by what is occurring in our region. We eagerly wish to rebuild our economy and help our residents recover. It is only through our regional achievement of these milestones that we will be positioned to avoid a more damaging return to business closures later in the summer.”

View the data, graphs and charts <https://www.loudoun.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=5768> from the joint letter issued by Loudoun County and the four other Health Directors in Northern Virginia as well as the full text of Loudoun County’s May 10, 2020 News Release and associated letters.

The Governor plans to discuss the Phase 1 postponement for Loudoun County and Northern Virginia on Wednesday, May 13th at 2:00 PM, where he will be joined by officials from the Northern Virginia communities.

For additional Coronavirus information please visit the Town of Purcellville website at <https://www.purcellvilleva.gov/944/Information-about-the-Coronavirus> or visit the Loudoun County Health Department website: www.loudoun.gov/coronavirus. Residents may also text LCCOVID19 to 888777 receive text alerts from Loudoun County about Coronavirus.

The Town of Purcellville, Virginia

“Purcellville-your small Town, where history and progress intersect and people prosper,” is an award-winning town of over 10,000 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 50 miles west of Washington, DC. Having received the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities, Purcellville continues to be honored for its green initiatives with most recently being the Tree City USA recipient for the 12th year. The Town was reaffirmed as a AAA rated community by S&P Global Ratings, the highest credit rating possible, and is ranked “Safest City” in Virginia in 2020. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, which has been converted to a multi-use trail from Alexandria, VA to Purcellville, the Town has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiquing, equestrian activities, farmer’s markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at www.purcellvilleva.gov.

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