



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Piedmont Health District
111 South Street, 1st Floor
Farmville, VA 23901
PHONE: (434) 392-3984
FAX: (434) 392-1038
TDD 1-800-828-1120

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF:
AMELIA
BUCKINGHAM
CHARLOTTE
CUMBERLAND
LUNENBERG
NOTTOWAY
PRINCE EDWARD

March 12, 2020

Dear Community Partner,

As of March 12, there have been several laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Virginia and one locally. Histories associated with all of these patients suggest that they were exposed while traveling or close contact with someone infected. At this time, there is no evidence of local, community spread of COVID-19 in Virginia, but community leaders should start preparing now for that possibility.

The Piedmont Health District is closely monitoring updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and coordinating our efforts with the VDH central office on COVID-19 detection and mitigation. However, the COVID-19 situation around the world, including in the United States, is rapidly evolving. That is why we are asking for your help to educate community partners about best practices to prevent COVID-19. Guidance documents to help business owners, faith based leaders, school administrators, event planners and others to prepare for the arrival of COVID-19 in their communities have been developed and are available at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/> and <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-health/>.

On March 11, 2020, we have had a confirmed positive, relatively asymptomatic case of COVID-19 in a College Student in the county. This student was a family contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case from Northern Virginia. The student has been in quarantine since March 9, 2020 and remains asymptomatic. Two students who shared the living space have been quarantined as of March 11. The University has taken aggressive, responsible measures to limit exposure to other students and staff, including canceling all classes and activities for the next week, and evaluating the logistics of conducting tele-classes for the remainder of the semester. This has been an isolated event involving a known contact of a confirmed travel related case from Northern Virginia. There is no evidence of community spread either within the University community or the surrounding Farmville community. The self-reporting by the students and rapid response of the University leadership have done all appropriate measures to contain this situation and minimize contact and possible spread of this virus. Their prompt and responsible actions have appropriately responded to safe guard the community.

As you know, we all need to do our part to be prepared for the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak in our communities. As a leader in your community, we ask that you stress to local government employees to:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe. More information about cleaning and disinfection in community settings can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html#Cleaning>
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Piedmont Health District
111 South Street, 1st Floor
Farmville, VA 23901
PHONE: (434) 392-3984
FAX: (434) 392-1038
TDD 1-800-828-1120

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF:
AMELIA
BUCKINGHAM
CHARLOTTE
CUMBERLAND
LUNENBERG
NOTTOWAY
PRINCE EDWARD

- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

This is an evolving situation and so, as more cases are reported, information posted on VDH websites will be updated and additional guidance may be distributed. Piedmont Health District will communicate directly with community leaders or as there significant changes in the situation.

We also encourage you to remain up to date on COVID-19 information by visiting the following websites:

- VDH COVID-19 website: www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus
- CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

If you have questions, please contact your local health department at [insert number here].

Sincerely,

H. Robert Nash, M.D., F.C.A.P.
Director Piedmont Health District
Virginia Department of Health