



Office of the County Administrator

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release – June 1, 2020

Rockbridge County to Gradually Reopen Offices

Rockbridge County continues to develop a responsive plan for a phased reopening of government facilities and activities after closures and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic. The plan has been created with the foremost goal of protecting the health and safety of all citizens.

The plan follows State and Federal guidelines to gradually ease public health restrictions and seeks to generally align with the State's Forward Virginia Plan. The phases are based on the level and intensity of public interaction for individual departments with focus on physical distancing, safety measures, and sanitizing protocols. The County is currently in Phase 1 of its plan.

County Administrator Spencer Suter notes that, "Our goal is to gradually move toward a more normal state of operations, while doing our best to keep both staff and the public as safe as possible. However, it is an ever-moving target. Implementation of a reopening plan will ultimately depend on data reflecting the spread or containment of the virus. The plan may require adjustment depending on guidance from the State."

Phase 2 of the County's plan is currently slated to begin on June 11th.

- The County Administration Building is scheduled to reopen on June 11th. The first floor, where most business is transacted, will be open to the public and those wishing to conduct business on the second floor are asked to call ahead to make an appointment. Protective screening is being installed at previously open counters in the Treasurer's and Commissioner of Revenue's offices. However, **residents are asked to continue to use U.S. mail and the drop box at the main street entrance whenever possible**, especially to purchase vehicle decals or make real estate payments - to limit personal interaction and spread of the virus. "The corridor shared by the Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue and Registrar does not provide much space to spread out," said Mr. Suter. "Residents can really help each other and County staff by mailing or placing correspondence in the drop box." For information on contacting a specific County office, please visit www.rockbridgecountyva.gov.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at each entrance. All visitors are asked to adhere the Governor's order number 63 and wear a cloth face covering.
- Lake Robertson Campground, lake and trails are open with increased precautions.
- Lake Robertson and Fairfield pools will remain closed.
- Fleet Services and Fire-Rescue offices will continue to conduct business by appointment.

Public meetings will continue to utilize technology and limit numbers of attendees in a room to 10. The 3rd and final phase of the plan involves a full reopening of offices at a date not yet determined.

Other public offices such as Courts, Library and Department of Social Services have or are developing their own reopening plans based on individual needs and guidance received from the Commonwealth or their governing bodies.

“Residents have been incredibly understanding of the position we have found ourselves in,” said Dan Lyons, Chair of the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors. “We want to get back to normal as quickly as we safely can.”

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