



# HARRISONBURG | VA FRIENDLY BY NATURE



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## City urges social distancing as COVID-19 cases spike

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Following a recent spike in diagnosed cases of COVID-19 that has increased the amount of positive tests to more than 80 in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County area, the City of Harrisonburg is urging residents to utilize strict social distancing measures and reminding all that citations will be issued to offenders.

As many gather for the holiday weekend or to enjoy spring weather, it is vital that every Harrisonburg resident abide by Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's Stay-At-Home Order and social distancing requirements from the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. The order, which was issued on Monday, March 30, instructs all Virginia residents to stay at home as much as possible, unless traveling for work, for medical care for yourself or a loved one, or essential travel such as grocery shopping or purchasing other needed supplies.

Residents are still welcome to go outside for exercise or other activities if they are not sick, as long as they maintain social distancing rules of keeping a mandatory six feet of distance between yourself and others. If you are outside in a group of more than 10 people and in violation of Gov. Northam's order, you will receive a citation from the Harrisonburg Police Department.

With the holiday weekend upcoming, City officials are concerned that some individuals may disregard social gathering warnings.

"The dramatic increase in the numbers show the importance of continuing social distancing, washing our hands, and staying home as much as possible," Harrisonburg Fire Department Administrative Officer and Deputy Emergency Coordinator Paul Helmuth said. "Remember, even when having to be in small groups, social distancing practices are important."

It is very important that you limit contact with others as much as possible right now. Coronavirus is very serious and spreads easily, and dozens have died in Virginia because of it. Even if you don't feel sick, you could still have coronavirus and possibly spread it to others.

The Virginia Department of Health has created a phone number where you can call and speak to someone with your COVID-19 concerns. That number is 1-855-949-8378. It is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

***The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 54,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).***



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