



HARRISONBURG | VA

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For Immediate Release – July 1, 2020

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City urges social distancing, firework safety as residents celebrate Independence Day

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The City of Harrisonburg is urging residents to be mindful of social distancing recommendations and the vital importance of wearing a mask when out in public as the community prepares to celebrate Independence Day this weekend.

As many gather for the holiday weekend, Harrisonburg residents must remember to abide by Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam’s executive order requiring masks, as well as social distancing requirements from the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. With cases of COVID-19 spiking in many states across the country, there are a few simple steps everyone should consider to protect the health and wellness of yourself, your family and your community.

“COVID-19 is still impacting our community, and it is important to make sure you are still following health and wellness recommendations when you celebrate,” Harrisonburg Director of Communications Michael Parks said. “Wear a mask as much as possible, keep at least six feet between yourself and others, wash your hands often and avoid large groups.”

Additionally, it is important that residents keep their neighborhoods and themselves safe by practicing firework safety. All fireworks and sparklers are illegal in the City of Harrisonburg, and you should never allow children to play with fireworks or use sparklers, as both can cause severe burns. More information is available at www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Fireworks.

- **The City of Harrisonburg is urging all residents to follow VDH and Centers for Disease Control guidelines when it comes to responding to COVID-19. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Wear a mask when you go out.**
- **Put at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and other people at all times. Remember, even if you are not showing symptoms, you could still have COVID-19 and could pass it to someone else.**

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.



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