



News Release No. 4

For Immediate Release: April 1, 2020

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES OF GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND DIRECTIVES

RICHMOND – The Virginia State Police encourages all Virginians to adhere to Virginia Governor Northam's directives and do their part by staying home in order to best mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 within the Commonwealth. State troopers, for their personal protection and for the safety of the public, are minimizing their direct contact with the public. All Department recruitment events, public presentations, training, ceremonies, etc., have all been canceled or postponed through June 10, 2020.

Governor Northam has directed state and local law enforcement to initially address violations of the following [Executive Order 53](#) and [Executive Order 55](#) directives with education and warnings. Persistent violation of these Executive Order (EO) directives can result in an individual(s) or business being charged with a class one misdemeanor, which carries up to a year in jail and \$2,500 fine:

- Prohibition of all public and private in-person, indoor and outdoor gatherings of more than 10 individuals – *with the exception of the operation of businesses not required to close under EO 53 and the gathering of family members living in the same residence;*
- Closure of all dining and congregation areas in restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms and farmers markets;
- Any brick and mortar retail business (not listed in paragraph 5 of EO 53) failing to limit all in-person shopping to no more than 10 patrons per establishment. If any such business cannot adhere to the 10-patron limit with proper social distancing requirements, it must close.
- Closure of all public access to recreational and entertainment businesses;
- Closure of [public beaches](#) for all activity, except for exercising and fishing;
- Cancellation of in-person classes and instruction at institutions of higher education;
- Cessation of all reservations for overnight stays of less than 14 nights at all [privately-owned campgrounds](#)

Virginia State Police have been and will continue to assess Virginia EO violations on a case-by-case basis.

State police is required to uphold the laws of the Commonwealth and will continue to have a visible presence within our communities and on the roads for the safety of those living, working and traveling in Virginia. The law still requires law enforcement to have reasonable suspicion to initiate a traffic stop on a

Regional Media Contacts

Statewide (804)674-2789	Richmond (804)553-3494	Culpeper (540)829-7713	Appomattox (434)352-7128	Wytheville (276)228-3131	Chesapeake (757)424-6827	Salem/Roanoke (540)375-9598	Fairfax (804)674-2789
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vehicle. Virginia State Police will not be making random traffic stops on vehicles nor conducting checkpoints to determine if a driver is traveling for a permissible reason, as granted by [EO 53](#) and [EO 55](#).

The current Governor's Executive Orders related to COVID-19:

- Do not require an individual to carry documentation related to one's purpose of travel;
- Do not close Virginia roads/interstates to Virginia residents;
- Do not restrict non-Virginia residents from traveling into and/or through Virginia;
- Do not prevent Virginians from traveling out of the state. State police does encourage any Virginian(s) traveling out-of-state to check, in advance, the other state(s) for any travel restrictions in effect for that state(s). Governor Northam has advised Virginians returning from out-of-state and/or international travel to self-quarantine for at least 14 days.

For any additional questions related to the statewide "Stay at Home" order, please go to www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/fag.

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