

Virginia Beach Department of Public Health Guidance on Executive Order #53

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, Virginia Governor Ralph S. Northam issued an Executive Order #53 mandating that all restaurants close their dining areas from March 24th, 2020 until April 23rd, 2020. These establishments may offer delivery and take-out services. Food services must be limited to services of food intended for off-premise consumption only by eliminating seating of patrons on the premises (indoors or outdoors). Take-out orders should be delivered curbside by the food establishment employee(s). However, if patrons enter a food establishment to pick up an order, management should encourage customers waiting to maintain social distancing (a minimum of 6 foot spacing) and allow less than 10 patrons at one given time. Self-service of foods, including condiments and beverages, or single serve utensils, where multiple guest may handle common utensils is not permissible.

Establishments should identify and implement operational changes that increase employee separation. When it is impractical for an establishment's employees to maintain social distancing, effective hygiene practices, including frequent and proper hand-washing and routine cleaning of all surfaces must be followed.

Additionally, the Executive Order required the closure of all public recreational and entertainment business such as theaters, beauty and nail salons, barbershops, tanning salons, tattoo parlors and public pools.

Please note that violations of Executive Order #53 may result in a Misdemeanor charge and restaurant permit suspension.

Please know that the actions you take today to stay 6 feet away from others and limit all non-essential activities are the best ways to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives.

Additional information can be found at the Virginia Department of Health, the VDH Facebook page and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) at the following web links.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VDHgov>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>

The Virginia Beach Department of Public Health can be contacted at 757-518-2700, option 3.