

**Mayors and Chairs of the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William,
and the City of Alexandria**

May 10, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

Thank you for your leadership during this extraordinary time for our Commonwealth. We appreciate your partnership with local governments in addressing the public health crisis, the human crisis and the economic crisis that this outbreak has caused in our jurisdictions. This partnership will be critical as we address the decisions in the weeks and months ahead.

We appreciate that you took the time to speak with us this week and solicit our perspectives on the reopening decisions that you must make. As you know, together our jurisdictions represent half of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths. As we make local decisions during this time, we understand that confidence in public health is a foundation for restoring commerce. We appreciate your thoughtful and data-driven approach to striking the correct balance.

As you make the decision as to when Phase 1 should commence, we offer the following input:

- 1) The threshold metrics that you provided in the *Forward Virginia* plan should guide any transition to Phase 1.
- 2) We believe the industry-specific guidelines that you provided for Phase 1 are appropriate and prudent.
- 3) The transition to Phase 1 in Northern Virginia should occur when our region has achieved the threshold metrics.

Two weeks ago, you released your *Forward Virginia* blueprint for the easing of the public health restrictions currently in place. You provided five threshold metrics for a transition to Phase 1:

- Downward trend of positive tests over a period of 14 days
- Downward trend of hospitalizations over a period of 14 days
- Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity
- Increasing and sustainable supply of PPE
- Increased testing and tracing

On Friday, you provided additional detail as to what an easing of public health restrictions would look like in Phase 1. Sharing the specific industry guidelines greatly assists our small businesses in determining how they will operate during this important transitional phase.

While it is certainly useful to examine statewide metrics as we gauge the success of current public health policies, we feel strongly that any changes to current policies be guided by what is occurring in our region. We eagerly wish to rebuild our economy and help our residents recover. It is only through our regional achievement of these milestones that we will be positioned to avoid a more damaging return to business closures later in the summer.

We have attached a memo provided to the State Health Commissioner by our public health directors with their analysis of the region's achievement of the threshold metrics.

We thank you for your consideration of our views during this time.

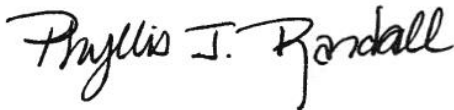
Sincerely,



Libby Garvey, Chair
Arlington County Board



Jeff McKay, Chair
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Phyllis Randall, Chair
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors



Ann Wheeler, Chair
Prince William County Board of Supervisors



Justin Wilson, Mayor
Alexandria City Council

Enclosure: As Stated



Health Department



May 9, 2020

To: Dr. M. Norman Oliver, State Health Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health
Mark Jinks, Alexandria City Manager
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manger
Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive
Tim Hemstreet, Loudoun County Administrator
Christopher Martino, Prince William County Executive

Dear Dr. Oliver and Chief Administrative Officers,

Governor Northam issued Executive Orders 53 and 55 that closed businesses in the Commonwealth to help maintain the public’s health in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Various criteria have been provided for determining when entering into Phase 1 of re-opening could be safely accomplished. Executive Order 61 was issued on May 8, 2020, to provide for the Phase 1 easing of certain temporary restrictions due to COVID-19.

The Northern Virginia Health Directors were asked to assess the status of the Northern Virginia region against the metrics. **Based on our assessment, we do not believe that the Northern Virginia region has met the criteria for moving into Phase 1 at this time.** We recommend continuing current community mitigation strategies and reassessing this on a regular basis to determine when Northern Virginia can move into Phase 1 according to these criteria (and any additional agreed upon criteria).

The following table is our assessment against the metrics issued on April 24:

Metric	Met or Unmet	Health Directors’ Comments
Moving downward: Percentage of positive tests over 14 days	<u>Unable to assess</u>	As of May 4 the data shows that Northern Virginia (NOVA) is higher than the rest of Virginia: 27% for NOVA and 18% for all of Virginia (the latter is inclusive of NOVA) Without additional information, we cannot assess whether it has gone down over the past 14 days We have asked Virginia Department of Health for this data (including past data)

Moving downward: Hospitalizations over 14 days	<u>Unmet</u>	* See chart below: “Hospitalizations over the 14 day period for NoVa, Outside of NoVA and All of VA” (See suggestion below)
Increased testing	<u>Unable to assess</u>	Currently only have baseline We have asked Virginia Department of Health for this data (including past data)
Increased (contact) tracing (capacity)	<u>Unmet</u>	Infrastructure is not yet in place to respond to every new case, trace and actively monitor their close contacts, and coordinate testing for symptomatic contacts
Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity	<u>Unable to assess</u>	Available critical care beds continue to decrease but still fall within normal operating capacity Note: there is 20% surge capacity that is not yet utilized (See suggestion below)
Increasing and sustainable supply of PPE	<u>Unmet</u>	<u>Met</u> : PPE for hospitals appears to be adequate at this time <u>Unmet</u> : PPE for outpatient facilities (private practices, long-term care facilities and first responders) continues to be a challenge

* COVID-19 Hospitalizations over the past 14 Days - Northern Virginia, Outside of Northern Virginia and All of Virginia

INPATIENT		Northern Virginia		Outside Northern Virginia		ALL Virginia	
14-Day Period	Date	Inpatient	Ratio Inpatient to Prev Day	Inpatient	Ratio Inpatient to Prev Day	Inpatient	Ratio Inpatient to Prev Day
1	7-May	670	0.99	943	1.03	1613	1.01
2	6-May	676	1.03	918	1.09	1594	1.07
3	5-May	654	1.09	842	0.97	1496	1.02
4	4-May	598	1.03	865	1.04	1463	1.04
5	3-May	580	1.03	833	0.96	1413	0.99
6	2-May	561	0.94	865	1.04	1426	1.00
7	1-May	596	1.01	835	0.87	1431	0.92
8	30-Apr	589	1.03	961	0.97	1550	0.99
9	29-Apr	571	1.00	995	1.06	1566	1.04
10	28-Apr	569	1.03	939	1.04	1508	1.04
11	27-Apr	553	1.03	902	1.00	1455	1.01
12	26-Apr	538	0.99	898	1.04	1436	1.02
13	25-Apr	543	0.99	862	1.02	1405	1.00
14	24-Apr	551	1.05	848	0.99	1399	1.01

Suggestions Regarding Metrics

- 1) Regarding Hospital Beds and ICU Capacity: should indicate whether hospitals are able to double the number of patients treated in ICUs from current census (including staffing)
- 2) Regarding Increasing and Sustainable Supply of PPE: clarification needed about the meaning of “sustainable” (e.g. “assured resupplies available from vendors within 2 weeks”?)
- 3) Additional Metrics: need to be considered for Phase 2 and Phase 3, including Contact Tracing indicators, Availability of Facilities for Non-hospitalized Persons Needing Isolation and/or Quarantine, Long-Term Care Facility metrics, etc.

Note: all metrics need to be measured using an equity perspective

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Haering, MD, MPH, FACPM
Director, Alexandria Health Department

Reuben K. Varghese, MD, MPH
Director, Arlington Health District

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH
Director of Health, Fairfax County Health Department

David Goodfriend, MD, MPH
Director, Loudoun County Health Department

Alison Ansher, MD, MPH
Director Prince William County Health District