



## City of Covington Press Release

### COVID-19 UPDATE:

**Friday, February 26, 2021**

The City of Covington would like to convey how important it is to continue taking actions to stay safe during these unprecedented times. We urge our citizens to take precautions and stay safe during their daily lives.

The City of Covington continues to monitor the case counts of (COVID-19) and enhancing measures to diminish potential exposure as much as possible. The goal is to protect those we serve as well as our Employees who work diligently to provide City Services.

Please find below our Governor's Mandate Effective March 1, 2021 the city will continue following the governor's orders to ensure the safety of all with regards to services and facilities. We truly appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation during these unprecedented and constantly changing times. We will continue to update you as new information becomes available. Please stay safe, healthy, and remember that we are **#AllInThisTogether**.

#### **GOVERNOR'S MANDATE:**

Governor Northam is beginning to ease public health restrictions by taking steps to increase capacity limits in outdoor settings, where evidence shows the risk of airborne transmission of COVID-19 is lower. The key changes in the Third Amended Executive Order Seventy-Two include:

- **Social gatherings:** The maximum number of individuals permitted in a social gathering will increase from 10 to 25 people for outdoor settings, while remaining at 10 persons for indoor settings.
- **Entertainment venues:** Outdoor entertainment and public amusement venues will be able to operate with up to 1,000 individuals or at 30 percent capacity, whichever is lower. If current trends continue, these venues may be able to operate at 30 percent capacity

with no cap on the number of people permitted to attend starting in April. Indoor entertainment and public amusement venues must continue to operate at 30 percent capacity with a cap of 250 people. All entertainment venues were previously limited to a maximum of 250 individuals.

- **Dining establishments:** The on-site sale, consumption, and possession of alcohol will be permitted until midnight, extended from 10:00 p.m. All restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, and tasting rooms still must be closed between midnight and 5:00 a.m.
- **Overnight summer camps:** As of May 1, overnight summer camps will be able to open with strict mitigation measures in place. Registration can begin now.

	NOW	MARCH 1
NON-ESSENTIAL RETAIL	Open	Open
RESTAURANTS AND BEVERAGE SERVICES	Open	Open
ENTERTAINMENT VENUES	Open at 30 percent capacity or 250 persons	Indoors: Open at 30 percent capacity or 250 persons Outdoors: Open at 30 percent capacity or 1,000 persons
FITNESS AND EXERCISE	Open at 75 percent capacity	Open with 75 percent capacity
RECREATIONAL SPORTS	Indoors: Open at 30 percent capacity or 25 spectators per field Outdoors: Open at 30 percent capacity or 2 spectators per participants	Indoors: Open at 30 percent capacity or 25 spectators per field Outdoors: Open at 30 percent capacity or 250 spectators per field
GATHERINGS	10-person limit	Indoors: 10-person limit Outdoors: 25-person limit
CHILDCARE	Open	Open
PLACES OF WORSHIP	Open	Open
PERSONAL GROOMING	Open	Open
PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS	Open	Open
OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMPS	Closed	Open May 1 with mitigation measures
LARGE AMUSEMENT VENUES	Open at 50 percent capacity (outdoor only)	Open at 50 percent capacity (outdoor only)

The new guidelines will be effective for at least one month and mitigation measures may be eased further if key health metrics continue to improve. Current guidelines for retail businesses, fitness and exercise, large amusement venues, and personal grooming services will remain in place. Individuals are strongly encouraged to continue teleworking if possible.

The full text of Third Amended Executive Order Seventy-Two and Order of Public Health Emergency Nine is available [here](#). Updated guidelines for specific sectors can be found [here](#).

Last week, Governor Northam [amended](#) Executive Order Seventy-Two to increase the number of spectators permitted at outdoor youth sporting events to 250.

Visit [virginia.gov/coronavirus/forwardvirginia](http://virginia.gov/coronavirus/forwardvirginia) for more information and answers to frequently asked questions.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES:

- **The Departments within Covington's City Hall**
  - The first floor will RE-OPEN to the Public for services beginning on March 1, 2021.
- **City of Covington Facilities & Sponsored Events**
  - The City of Covington will not have any events that take place within any of the City's Indoor Facilities until pending case counts and other guidelines as indoor gatherings with individuals outside ones house remain a risk for transmission.
    - These include The Covington Recreation Center, Red Train Depot, The Jeter-Watson Center, etc.... We apologize for any inconvenience but we must take steps to keep everyone healthy, and safe.
    - With the Governor's mandate placing a capacity on gatherings of no more than 10 indoors, the City will no longer be booking any events at our indoor facilities until the mandate is lifted.
    - The Recreation Department is currently accepting park shelter reservations for the upcoming season.
  - The City will reevaluate the status of COVID-19 cases as well as the Governor's Mandate and will update the citizens, in the direction that the City will take with events and other efforts, as our goal is health and safety for all.

A 3D rendering of a coronavirus particle, showing its characteristic spherical shape with a textured surface of red and grey protrusions.

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
PRESS RELEASE  
COVID-19 UPDATE**