

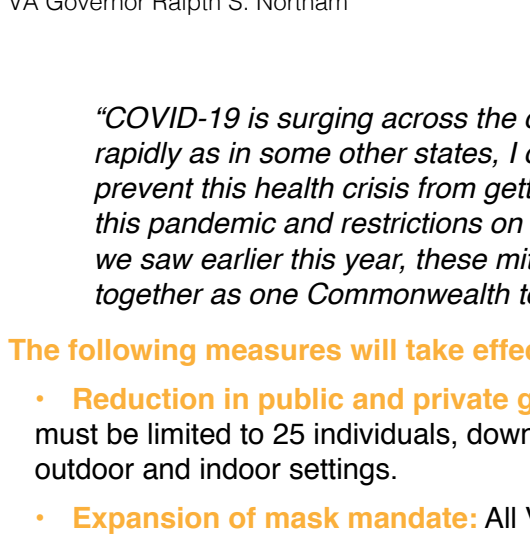
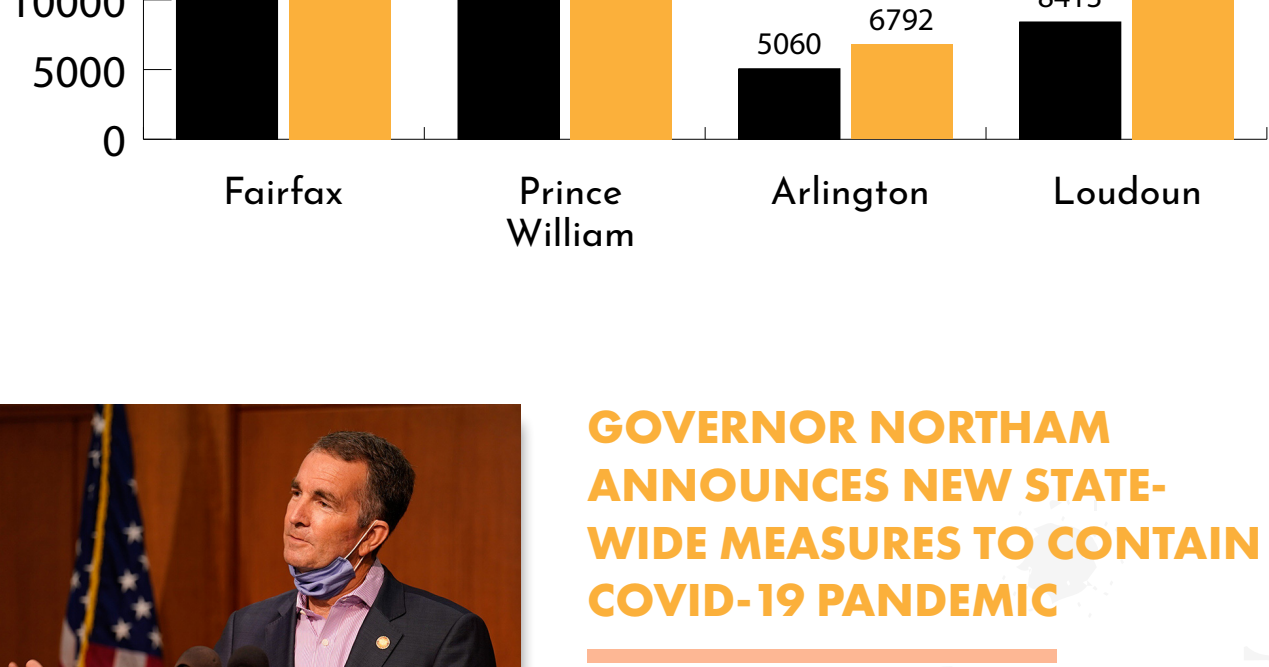
BPSOS Falls Church NEWSLETTER

December 2020

COVID-19 CASES IN VIRGINIA

as of December 7th

LOCATION	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Fairfax County	25463	33145
Prince William County	15286	19404
Arlington County	5060	6792
Loudoun County	8413	10635
VIRGINIA	193k+	255k+



VA Governor Ralph S. Northam

GOVERNOR NORTHAM ANNOUNCES NEW STATE-WIDE MEASURES TO CONTAIN COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Governor Ralph Northam announced new actions to mitigate the spread of the virus in Virginia. While the Commonwealth's case count per capita and positivity rate remain comparatively low, all five health regions are experiencing increases in new COVID-19 cases.

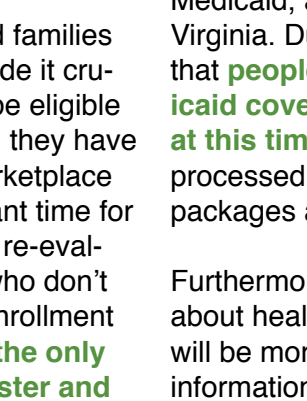
"COVID-19 is surging across the country, and while cases are not rising in Virginia as rapidly as in some other states, I do not intend to wait until they are. We are acting now to prevent this health crisis from getting worse," said Governor Northam. *"Everyone is tired of this pandemic and restrictions on our lives. I'm tired, and I know you are tired too. But as we saw earlier this year, these mitigation measures work. I am confident that we can come together as one Commonwealth to get this virus under control and save lives."*

The following measures will take effect at midnight on Sunday, November 15th:

- **Reduction in public and private gatherings:** All public and private in-person gatherings must be limited to 25 individuals, down from the current cap of 250 people. This includes outdoor and indoor settings.
- **Expansion of mask mandate:** All Virginians aged five and over are required to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces. This expands the current mask mandate, which has been in place in Virginia since May 29 and requires all individuals aged 10 and over to wear face coverings in indoor public settings.
- **Strengthened enforcement within essential retail businesses:** All essential retail businesses, including grocery stores and pharmacies, must adhere to statewide guidelines for physical distancing, wearing face coverings, and enhanced cleaning. While certain essential retail businesses have been required to adhere to these regulations as a best practice, violations will now be enforceable through the Virginia Department of Health as a Class One misdemeanor.
- **On-site alcohol curfew:** The on-site sale, consumption, and possession of alcohol is prohibited after 10:00 p.m. in any restaurant, dining establishment, food court, brewery, microbrewery, distillery, winery, or tasting room. All restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, and tasting rooms must close by midnight. Virginia law does not distinguish between restaurants and bars, however, under current restrictions, individuals that choose to consume alcohol prior to 10:00 p.m. must be served as in a restaurant and remain seated at tables six feet apart.

Virginia is averaging 1,500 newly-reported COVID-19 cases per day, up from a statewide peak of approximately 1,200 in May. While Southwest Virginia has experienced a spike in the number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases, all five of the Commonwealth's health regions are currently reporting a positivity rate over five percent. Although hospital capacity remains stable, hospitalizations have increased statewide by more than 35 percent in the last four weeks.

For information about COVID-19 in Virginia, visit vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus.



OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR HEALTH INSURANCE IS ALMOST OVER!

During the **Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment period (11/1 - 12/15)** this November, BPSOS — Falls Church's certified navigators have been **helping more than 120 individuals and families with their annual Marketplace enrollments**.

Due to COVID-19, a lot of people and families were shaken up financially, which made it crucial that they update their income to be eligible for a more suitable plan than the plan they have been using before the pandemic. Marketplace Open Enrollment period is an important time for people with Marketplace coverage to re-evaluate their current plans. For people who don't have Marketplace coverage, Open Enrollment is even more important since **this is the only time in the year when one can register and enroll freely**. Outside of Open Enrollment,

one must prove that they have experienced a special event that made them eligible for the Special Enrollment Period.

Our experienced navigators also helped enroll more than 60 individuals and families into Medicaid, an alternative healthcare program in Virginia. Due to COVID-19, VA has announced that **people will not lose their existing Medicaid coverage, even if they do not renew at this time**. Medicaid renewal are still being processed during the pandemic, so renewal packages are still being mailed out to everyone.

Furthermore, we aim to educate our clients about health insurance literacy so that they will be more confident in the future. For more information, please call **(703) 538-2190**.



CADV

Throughout the pandemic, our Community Against Domestic Violence case managers has been assisting clients with basic necessities to help them overcome this difficult time. Many of our clients were identified from our other programs at BPSOS — Falls Church, especially from our health insurance program mentioned above.

BPSOS — Falls Church case managers have helped 2 clients keep the roof on their heads with more than **\$300 of rent** in November. 3 more clients and their children were provided with **food and supplies**, which included milk, diapers, fruits...Working together with "Just Neighbors," a non-profit organization providing immigration legal service to low-income immigrants, we also translated complicated documents for a DV client's **green card application**. All clients were happy and very grateful for our help.

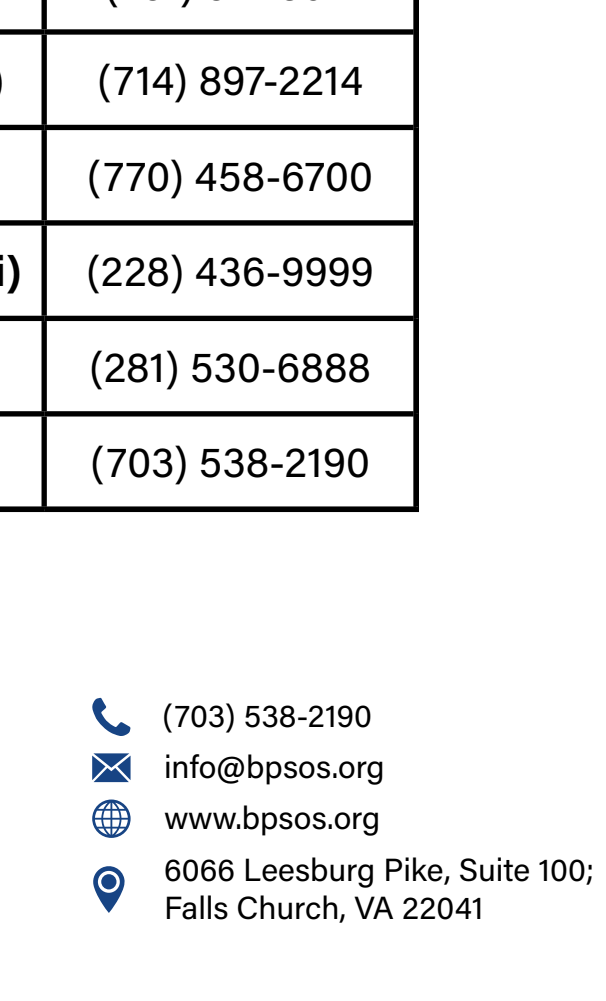


SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

In November, our HAPP and RISE — TRANN project coordinator has managed to **help 2 seniors with their grocery shoppings and 8 seniors with their doctor visits**. Those transportations were getting more and more challenging with ages, so those seniors were very grateful for our help.

BPSOS — Fall Church has been launching our **e-referral program**, which connect non-profit organizations and healthcare providers, to better serve our community, including seniors. By signing up, our partners were able to connect potential patients to their appropriate health services. As one gets older, it is more important to diagnose early than to cure late.

For more information, please contact **(703) 538-2190**.



CACOS — SAFETY AT WORK

We are beginning to launch our CACOS program, which raises awareness about occupational safety in our community. If you operate or work at a hair or nail salon, the following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

Limitations of contact: Although nail and hairdressers are expected to be in close contact with their clients, please do not hug, shake hands and have close personal contact with customer outside working area.

Social distancing: Each store must have a seating area that guests can sit at least 6 ft from other employees and customers. Family and friends of customers are not allowed to enter the shop to minimize the number of people in the shop.

Service via appointments only: Appointments should always be arranged in advance through social media, phone or any other means of communication. At the time of appointment, the store must screen customers for COVID-19 symptoms in the past 9 days and whether they contacted a symptomatic person in the past 14 days.

BPSOS BRANCHES

BPSOS-AL (Alabama)	(251) 517-3011
BPSOS-CA (California)	(714) 897-2214
BPSOS-GA (Georgia)	(770) 458-6700
BPSOS-MS (Mississippi)	(228) 436-9999
BPSOS-TX (Texas)	(281) 530-6888
BPSOS-VA (Virginia)	(703) 538-2190