



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

March 30, 2020

## **NOTICE**

### **Virginia “Stay Home” Order**

To further combat the spread of COVID-19, the Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam, has issued an executive order directing all residents to stay home except in extremely limited circumstances. Individuals may leave their residence for allowable travel, including to seek medical attention, work, care for family or household members, obtain goods and services like groceries, prescriptions, and others, and engage in outdoor activity with strict social distancing requirements. The executive order also directs all Virginia institutions of higher education to stop in-person classes and instruction. Private campgrounds must close for short-term stays, and beaches will be closed statewide except for fishing and exercise. The executive order takes effect immediately and will remain in place until June 10, 2020, unless amended or rescinded by a further executive order. The order is available at [https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-55-Temporary-Stay-at-Home-Order-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-55-Temporary-Stay-at-Home-Order-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf).

#### **How does this impact foreign missions and their members?**

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in the state of Virginia. However, all foreign missions are expected to adopt strategies aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as maximizing opportunities for their members to work from home (“telework”), applying social distancing of at least six feet, and avoiding local travel unless required for purposes of protecting health, safety, and protection of property.

When not performing those functions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents are expected to fully comply with the requirements of the Governor’s order, as well as any other applicable orders issued by local or municipal authorities.

The Department appreciates your patience and understanding as local authorities begin to implement these new restrictions.

## **Questions or Issues**

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to [OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov](mailto:OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov).

## **Resources**

- COVID-19 in Virginia: <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/>
- CDC's Coronavirus Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>
- Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM\_Ambassador