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**COVID-19 RELEASE No. 4
Thursday, April 9, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.**

**First COVID-19 Case Confirmed in Rappahannock County; Shenandoah National Park
Closed to All Visitors; Board of Supervisors Adopts Emergency Ordinance**

(Washington, VA) – The Virginia Department of Health Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District (“RRHD”) announced Monday the first COVID-19 case in Rappahannock County. According to the RRHD, the individual is a male in his 40s who, at the time of Monday’s announcement, had shown only mild symptoms, was being treated as an outpatient, and who self-quarantined prior to becoming symptomatic. This announcement and other updates are available on RRHD’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/RappRapHD/posts/>.

As cases of COVID-19 become more prevalent in our area, we urge county citizens to heed the Governor’s “Stay at Home” order. If you must leave your home for essential purposes, please protect yourself and those around you by following the latest CDC guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html>

The National Park Service announced yesterday the temporary closure of **all** access to Shenandoah National Park, including Skyline Drive, trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, and other facilities. The latest National Park Service announcements are available here: <https://www.nps.gov/shen/planyourvisit/alerts.htm>.

Finally, the Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors enacted Monday an emergency ordinance that ensures continuity of government while limiting the Board of Supervisors to conducting only “essential business” for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. Under the ordinance, the Board of Supervisors will continue to conduct all public meetings electronically using the *Zoom* electronic-meeting platform. Dial-in credentials for upcoming public meetings will be available here: <https://go.boarddocs.com/va/corva/Board.nsf/vpublic>. Citizens are encouraged to listen via *Zoom*, with instructions for public participation posted in advance of each meeting.

The Rappahannock County Office of Emergency Management continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will provide updates as developments warrant and additional information becomes available.

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