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**COVID-19 RELEASE No. 6  
Wednesday, May 6, 2020 – 3 p.m.**

**Six Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Rappahannock County  
Shenandoah National Park Closed to All Visitors  
Governor's Stay-At-Home Order Remains in Effect**

(Washington, VA) – As of today, the Virginia Department of Health is reporting six COVID-19 cases in Rappahannock County, with the first case identified in early April.

Because confirmed COVID-19 cases in our community continue to increase, we urge citizens to heed the Governor's "Stay at Home" order and protect themselves and those around them when leaving home for essential purposes. Follow the latest CDC guidance when leaving your home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html>

Last week, Governor Ralph Northam lifted the ban on elective surgeries. On Monday, May 4, the Governor announced a plan to reopen certain businesses, with the lifting of restrictions under Phase One of the "Forward Virginia Blueprint" now planned for Friday, May 15. Updated daily COVID-19 statistics, plus detailed state and local information, are available on the Virginia Department of Health website: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

Shenandoah National Park remains closed, including Skyline Drive, trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, and other facilities. Federal officials are planning a phased reopening, with Skyline Drive likely to open first, followed later by local trailheads. Updated announcements from the National Park Service are available here: <https://www.nps.gov/shen/planyourvisit/alerts.htm>.

Our fire and rescue volunteers are concerned people might be reluctant to dial 911 due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. If you have a medical emergency and need assistance, please do not hesitate to dial 911. Our emergency responders are ready to serve, and remind you they are taking all precautions required to ensure your safety during this public-health emergency.

For any general questions regarding our local response to the COVID-19 crisis, please contact your representative on the Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors, or the Rappahannock County Administrator's office. Contact information is available on the county website here: <http://www.rappahannockcountyva.gov/contact.html#B>

The Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors will continue to conduct all of its public meetings via the *Zoom* electronic-meeting platform, with the Board limited to conducting only “essential business” for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. The Board’s next meeting is a budget-related session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11. Citizens are encouraged to listen to and participate in this meeting via *Zoom*, with instructions for public participation and dial-in credentials available here: <https://go.boarddocs.com/va/corva/Board.nsf/vpublic>.

The Rappahannock County Office of Emergency Management is monitoring closely the evolving COVID-19 situation in our community and will provide updates as developments warrant and additional information becomes available.

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