



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA  
State Health Commissioner

Department of Health  
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### ORDER OF THE STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

#### Order of Public Health Emergency

WHEREAS, the State Health Commissioner declared COVID-19 a disease of public health threat on February 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Governor Ralph S. Northam declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19 on March 12, 2020, in Executive Order No. 51 by virtue of the authority vested in the Governor by Article V, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia and by §§ 44-146.17 and 44-75.1 of the Code of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Governor Ralph S. Northam closed all Virginia schools for the remainder of the academic year on March 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and State Health Commissioner issued Order of Public Health Emergency One on March 17, 2020, as amended on March 20, 2020, declaring a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 spreads from person-to-person, transmitted via respiratory droplets, and can be spread from an infected person who does not have symptoms to another person; and

WHEREAS, no current vaccine or known treatment options exist at this time; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia seeks to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia simultaneously seeks to allow students to safely resume in-person instruction and progress in their education; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 32.1-13 of the Code of Virginia, the State Health Commissioner, acting for the State Board of Health when it is not in session pursuant to § 32.1-20 of the Code of Virginia, is vested with authority to make separate orders to meet any emergency not provided for by general regulations, for the purpose of suppressing communicable, contagious, and infectious diseases.

NOW THEREFORE, the State Health Commissioner hereby issues this Order requiring every public school division and preK-12 private school in Virginia, before reopening in accordance with Phase II and III guidelines, to submit to the Virginia Department of Education a plan

outlining their strategies for mitigating the spread and public health risk of COVID-19 and consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Virginia Department of Health mitigation recommendations. Such plans shall include policies and procedures for the use of face coverings; health screenings of staff and students; physical distancing measures; enhanced hygiene practices for staff and students; isolation of symptomatic cases; and cleaning and disinfecting procedures and other topics as outlined in the Phased Guidance for Virginia Schools.

WHEREAS, this Order shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by a further executive order.

Given under the Seal of the Office of the State Health Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 8th Day of June, 2020.

  
M. Norman Oliver