

Waterford Citizens' Association
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August 18, 2020

Dear Supervisor Kershner and Chair Randall,

We are writing to express our gratitude to Loudoun's elected officials and the County's dedicated public health and health care professionals for Loudoun's careful handling of this pandemic. We also wish to express our concern regarding risk to the health of Loudouners from the current surging Covid-19 cases in several areas of the State and other parts of the country.

We believe it is now crucial to redouble efforts to reduce Covid-19 cases and the reproduction rate as significantly as possible, in the State and locally, before we head into colder weather and of necessity more indoor activities in the Fall. We ask in particular that the County continue to enforce the Phase III guidelines rigorously, specifically in regards to service at bars, restaurants, and other non-essential indoor activities.

We are concerned that the current surge in sixteen of Virginia's health districts not only places citizens in these regions at risk, but also may spill over to other regions of the State including Northern Virginia. Surging Covid-19 districts indicates it may have been premature to go to Phase III in some cases under the Virginia Forward Plan. We are encouraged to see Northern Virginia's Covid-19 reproduction rate below 1.0. We would like to see this rate continue to decline, and would like to see the rate in all of Virginia's districts drop well below 1.0 in the near term.

We know that the County must follow State guidance and cannot enforce stricter rules, so we ask you to communicate our concerns to State representatives (we have copied VA Delegate LaRock, VA Senator Bell and US House Representative Wexton). Ideally, we would like the County to have the power to take more stringent action if local risk is increasing. In the absence of that power, we ask that the County continue to enforce the Phase III guidelines as rigorously as possible, specifically in regards to service at bars, restaurants, and other non-

essential indoor activities, including issuing appropriate sanctions for non-compliant behavior.

We have seen a surge of Covid-19 cases and thousands of unnecessary deaths throughout our country where care has not been taken, and where the pressure to open has often overridden good sense. We think being especially careful now will better protect both our health and our economy as we head into the winter months.

Sincerely,

Ray Daffner, President
Jill Kadish, Vice President
Betsy Gibson, Treasurer
The Waterford Citizens Association

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