



# NEWS RELEASE

York County Public Affairs

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## York County Update 7/31/2020:

Emergency Shelter Operations during COVID-19; Libraries Reopening August 4; Tourism Development Reports Additional Safety Measures on Trolley; National Night Out Moved to October 6

July 31, 2020

### Emergency Shelter Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic

- As the activity during this hurricane season has already proven to be quite active, and we have one storm – Isaias – that could impact our region early next week, the County and the City of Poquoson have been actively working to adjust shelter operations to incorporate safety measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. When an emergency situation threatens that requires the opening of a shelter, the County typically opens schools as those disaster shelters. If sheltering is necessary during this hurricane season or for any emergency, the plan will include certain school facilities and potentially state-supported shelters and other resources. The County, along with all other localities in Hampton Roads, is working on contingencies and in coordination with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the American Red Cross due to the current unique situation. As is normal practice, if and when it becomes necessary to open a shelter, specific information will be shared with the public at that time. Residents should review their personal preparedness plans. Helpful information is available on the Ready York County website.
- When a tropical storm or hurricane is forecast to impact our area, information and updates are posted on the County's [Emergency Alert Center](#) located on our home page, as well as the County's [Facebook page](#) and WYCG TV 24/7 Announcement Channel (Cox 48, Verizon 40). Media notices are sent to local television and radio stations. York County has partnered with WXGM FM 99.1 to broadcast county-specific information at a time designated by the station. Citizens are encouraged to [register to receive emails or text messages](#) from York Alert, our emergency notification system. Preparedness information for storms and other emergency situations is available on our [Ready York County website](#).

## **York County Public Libraries Reopening August 4**

- York County Public Libraries will reopen to the general public on Tuesday, August 4, with modified hours of operation: **10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday.** Both libraries will be **closed on Sunday and Monday. The first hour of each day (10-11 a.m.) will be reserved for senior citizens and at-risk individuals.**
  - Patrons are required to wear a face covering or mask and practice social distancing guidelines while in the library.
  - All returned items will continue to be quarantined for 72 hours.
  - Book drops will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
  - In-house programs, study rooms and meeting rooms will not be available at this time.
  - Curbside pickup remains available to those who are not able to enter the building.

## **Tourism Development Reports Yorktown Trolley COVID-19 Safety Measures in Place; Ridership has Increased**

- The Yorktown Trolley Service continues to run daily, though the operations look a little different these days due to COVID-19. Since the delayed season start on June 15, policies and procedures have been put in place to ensure the safety of both passengers and drivers. Those added measure include the requirement of face masks, limited access and egress to the rear doors of the trolley (to reduce passenger/driver contact), the installation of hand sanitizing stations, a reduction in capacity by 50%, and the postage of signage encouraging social distancing and adherence to these requirements. In spite of the safety measures put in place, the trolleys have seen a steady increase in ridership as we move through the summer months. Additionally, we have contracted with a company to perform weekly electrostatic sanitizing of the interiors, which keeps surfaces sanitized for seven days. The treatment reduces the hourly interruption in services it would have required to have drivers manually sanitize those same high-touch areas. Equipment and materials have been ordered to bring the weekly sanitizing of the trolleys in-house in an effort to reduce costs. We look forward to the delivery of our newest trolley, which is scheduled to arrive in mid to late August.

## **National Night Out Moved to Tuesday, October 6**

- National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes law enforcement and community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie ([official website](#)), is typically held on the first Tuesday in August. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's **National Night Out** has been **rescheduled for Tuesday, October 6.** Please contact the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office at (757) 890-3630 if you would like deputies to join your neighborhood for National Night Out.

## **Board of Supervisors Work Session August 4**

- The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is Tuesday, August 4, at 6:00 p.m., and is a work session. The agenda is available [online](#). This meeting is being held remotely and broadcast live on WYCG-TV (Cox 46, Verizon 38) and on the York County [website](#).