

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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## CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Schools will be closed for rest of academic year

Governor places new limits on businesses

Va. Beach man in his 70s is state's seventh death

# 'A period of sacrifice'

From staff reports

Gov. Ralph Northam on Monday ordered all schools closed for the rest of the academic year, along with additional closings and restrictions for businesses and gatherings of more than 10 people, in an effort to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

The shutdown of schools, public and private, and the closing of recreational and entertainment businesses such as theaters and gyms comes as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Virginia climbed to 254, an increase of 35 from Sunday, with seven deaths.

Among the confirmed cases is a Richmond police officer, the first known case for a city employee.

"These numbers, unfortunately, will continue to rise," Northam said at a briefing Monday afternoon, adding that Virginia is moving into "a period of sacrifice" that could last months.

With restaurants and many other businesses already closing down, the number of unemployed Virginians also has soared. About 40,000 Virginia residents applied for unemployment benefits last week, Northam said.

"Our priority is to save lives," Northam said. "We have a health crisis, and we have an economic crisis. But the sooner we can get this health crisis under control, the sooner our economy will recover."

### Additional business restrictions ordered

The restrictions on businesses go into effect at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday.

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DEAN HOFFMEYER/TIMES-DISPATCH

"Our priority is to save lives," Gov. Ralph Northam said at a news conference in Richmond on Monday. "We have a health crisis, and we have an economic crisis. But the sooner we can get this health crisis under control, the sooner our economy will recover."

## Decision to close schools 'takes your breath away'

BY JUSTIN MATTINGLY  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Virginia schools will stay closed for the rest of the academic year, Gov. Ralph Northam ordered Monday, a step only one other state has taken in hopes of mitigating the spread of the coronavirus.

Northam's announcement came four days before his first round of mandated school

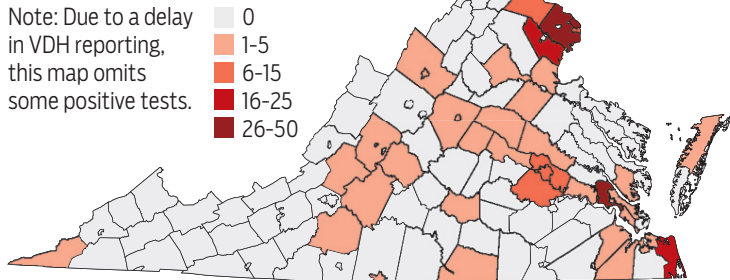
closures was set to expire, on March 27. His decision, which applies to all K-12 public and private schools, is the latest step in Virginia's escalating response to a virus that's already killed seven people in the state.

"School closures are necessary to minimize the speed at which COVID-19 spreads and protect the capacity of our health care system," Northam

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### COVID-19 cases in Virginia

Note: Due to a delay in VDH reporting, this map omits some positive tests.



Source: Virginia Department of Health



HUNTER MITCHELL

Hunter Mitchell, who grew up in Henrico County, took this selfie on March 18 in Cheongna International City, South Korea, where he was working as a teacher.

## A long way from home during global pandemic

Being alone in a foreign country is an adventure all its own, but being there at a time of a pandemic is, well, something else entirely.

I reached my neighbor Hunter Mitchell last Wednesday in South Korea, one of the world's early hot spots in the COVID-19 outbreak and where he's been since December, teaching English and geography to young Korean students. In more recent times, he was quarantined for a couple of weeks, though



Bill Lohmann  
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he tested negative for the coronavirus.

It's been quite the experience, he said: people in hazmat suits at a hospital taking his temperature (he had no fever or other symptoms for that matter,

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Meeting in Richmond is canceled over COVID-19. **Page A2**

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Inmates making masks for use by offenders and officers. **Page A5**

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Some retailers are hiring and giving raises or bonuses. **Page A8**

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Louisa company shifts to selling directly to the public. **Page A8**

### A first for U.S.

The nation has 100 COVID-19 deaths in a single day. **Page A10**

### Sports halted

Va. high school spring season is canceled. **Page B4**

## State treasury could take \$2B revenue hit in pending budget

Forecast is revised from when growth appeared healthy

BY MICHAEL MARTZ  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Virginia's top finance official says the state is likely to lose \$1 billion in revenue in each year of the pending two-year budget — and that's the best scenario, assuming signifi-

cant aid from the federal government for workers and business owners who have lost their livelihoods because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne shared the outlook with 140 state legislators in a conference call Friday, the day before Congress stalemated over a proposed \$1.8 trillion emergency aid package. Critics said

the measure would do too little to help state and local governments cope with economic damage of the ongoing public health emergency.

Layne based his estimate on a pessimistic scenario considered and rejected by the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates in the fall when state revenue growth appeared to be robust.

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## Senate negotiators cite progress on \$2 trillion stimulus measure

BY ERICA WERNER, PAUL KAINE, RACHAEL BADE AND MIKE DEBONIS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Senate leaders and the Trump administration appeared closer to reaching bipartisan agreement Monday evening on a massive stimulus bill that could inject \$2 trillion into the

economy to blunt the impacts of the coronavirus.

The developments came as President Donald Trump on Monday said that he is considering scaling back steps to constrain the spread of the coronavirus in the next week or two due to concerns that the impact on the economy has become too severe, despite the internal warn-

ings of senior U.S. health officials who have said that the United States has not yet felt the worst of the pandemic, according to people with knowledge of the deliberations.

Trump said at a news conference Monday night that at some point soon the damage being done to the economy could

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