



**Office of the County Administrator**  
 150 South Main Street  
 Lexington, Virginia 24450  
 Phone: (540) 463-4361  
[www.rockbridgecountyva.gov](http://www.rockbridgecountyva.gov)



**Office of the City Manager**  
 2039 Sycamore Ave.  
 Buena Vista, Virginia 24416  
 Phone: (540) 261-8600  
[www.buonavistava.org](http://www.buonavistava.org)



**Office of the City Manager**  
 300 East Washington Street  
 Lexington, Virginia 24450  
 Phone: (540) 462-3700  
[www.lexingtonva.gov](http://www.lexingtonva.gov)

## NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release – March 17, 2020**

### **Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista Declare Local State of Emergency**

*Lexington, VA* – Rockbridge County, the City of Lexington and the City of Buena Vista have joined others localities in the region and state in declaring a Local Emergency in response to the threat to public health and safety associated with the Coronavirus (COVID-19). In addition to providing the ability to be more nimble in decision-making during this ever-changing event, the declaration will allow the localities easier access to funding and other resources from state and federal agencies as they become available.

A joint statement from local leaders:

Rockbridge County Administrator, Spencer Suter  
 Lexington City Manager, Jim Halasz  
 Interim Buena Vista City Manager, Jay Scudder

“We are working together as a region to continually plan, coordinate and evaluate new information in this rapidly evolving public health threat. Our top priority is protecting the health and safety of our residents. We, along with elected officials and staff will continually reevaluate the way in which we provide services to the public. Our communities should be prepared for any adjustments, postponements, and cancellations that go into effect as we work together as a region to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your patience and anticipated cooperation.”

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Residents and businesses are asked to continue to closely monitor the evolving situation through credible sources such as the Virginia Department of Health website.

[Virginia Department of Health Coronavirus Disease 2019 website](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus)

All citizens are strongly encouraged to visit the Center for Disease Control website for detailed information on simple steps which can help protect themselves, their families, our neighbors and community.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Additional resources are listed below.

[Virginia Department of Health Coronavirus Disease 2019 website](#)

[CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 website](#)

[CDC Situation Summary](#)

[CDC Prevention and Treatment](#)

[CDC Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)

New information will be released as it becomes available.