

Emergency Ordinance to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

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County Attorney
December 16, 2020



§ 15.2-1200. General powers of counties

Any county may adopt such measures as it deems expedient to secure and promote the health, safety and general welfare of its inhabitants which are **not inconsistent with the general laws of the Commonwealth**. Such power shall include, but shall not be limited to, the adoption of quarantine regulations affecting both persons and animals, **the adoption of necessary regulations to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among persons or animals . . .**

Status

- Emergency Ordinance adopted by the Board on November 18, 2020 to reduce the maximum size of gatherings from 50 to 25 under County regulations to match the reduction by the State from 250 to 25 in Executive Order (“EO”) 67 (amended)
- EO 72 issued on December 10 further reduced the maximum size of gatherings from 25 to 10 (with certain exceptions)
- Emergency Ordinance for the Board’s consideration would reduce the maximum size of gatherings under County regulations from 25 to 10 (with certain exceptions) to match EO 72
- A non-emergency version of the Ordinance is scheduled for public hearing on January 6, 2021

The Proposed Emergency Ordinance

- Updates the recitals and supporting references
- Section 3: Definitions
 - Further refines what are and are not “gatherings” and “public places”
- Section 4: The maximum indoor occupancy allowed at food establishments, farm wineries, limited breweries, and limited distilleries
 - No changes proposed
- Section 5: The maximum size of public and private gatherings
 - Reduces the maximum size from 25 to 10
 - Includes gathering limitations for entertainment and amusement businesses and recreational sports, which are consistent with EO 72
 - Clarifies the relationship between Section 5 and EO 72
- Section 6: The requirement for persons to wear face coverings in public places
 - Retains face covering requirement and limited exceptions included in EO 72
 - Clarifies the relationship between Section 6 and EO 72

Recommended Motion Language

I move that the Board adopt the proposed Emergency Ordinance dated December 15, 2020.