



# City of Virginia Beach

[VBgov.com](http://VBgov.com)

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2401 COURTHOUSE DRIVE  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456-9001

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Robert M. Dyer, Mayor  
Members of City Council

RE: April 27 Letter to Governor Northam Regarding Reopening our Beaches

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

For your records, please find attached a copy of the April 27 letter Mayor Dyer sent to Governor Northam regarding reopening our beaches during Phase 1 of the Virginia Forward Blueprint. This letter was also e-mailed to Council on April 28, 2020.

Please contact me or Ron Williams if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Leahy, P.E.  
Acting City Manager

TML:AMF:pam

c: Ronald H. Williams, Jr., Deputy City Manager

Attachment



ROBERT M. DYER  
MAYOR

# City of Virginia Beach

**VBgov.com**

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April 27, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam:

As we continue to deal with the historic COVID-19 emergency, I am writing to request your consideration for a measured opening of our beaches during Phase One of the Virginia Forward Blueprint. As you know our 28 miles of beaches on the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay help create one of the top economic engines for our City and the Commonwealth. More importantly, research shows that beaches offer mental health benefits through rest, relaxation, meditation and exercise. We have an opportunity to provide that safe outlet for residents and visitors on one of the widest beaches on the East Coast.

As you consider guidelines for Phase One openings, Virginia Beach is prepared to recommend the following parameters by which the beaches open:

1. Posting of public safety placards regarding social distancing, cleaning & PPE protocols
2. Deploy a safety ambassador patrol to encourage adherence to protocols and augment enforcement efforts on the beach, boardwalk and in parking facilities
3. Promote physical distancing and no more than 10 people in group gatherings
4. Increased cleaning of benches, bathrooms, showers and railings at access points and deploy sanitation stations
5. No programming of mass gatherings or entertainment and continued closure of beach playgrounds
6. Reduction in parking capacity at garages and dispersal of on-street parking
7. Suspension of the bus trolley service

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The City of Virginia Beach remains committed to coordinated government actions to better protect the health and safety of the City's residents and visitors. We are prepared to assist with adherence to business safety restrictions, continued social distancing, continued teleworking and promotion of face coverings in public.

Thank you for consideration of opening our beaches in a responsible way during Phase One of the Virginia Forward Blueprint. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you or videoconference to discuss these recommended guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bobby Dyer".

Robert M. "Bobby" Dyer  
Mayor

RMD:RHW, Jr.:pam