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New Update on COVID-19 for Chapter Boards 11 December 2020

Hello VMN volunteer

You are getting this message because you are a board member of a VMN chapter.

Dear VMN Chapter Board Members—

I know you have probably seen the news, but just in case, here is a quick email to share with you about Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's new statewide measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, which will go into effect Sunday at midnight and are currently scheduled to remain in place through January 31. You can read the [press release](#) for all the details.

Key things to know that are relevant for the VMN program:

- All social gatherings, whether indoor or outdoor, are limited to **10 people** (it had previously been 25 people.) This could impact your outdoor gatherings for service projects or class field trips.
- All Virginians aged five and over are required to wear face coverings in indoor settings shared with others and when outdoors within six feet of another person. VCE already asks that everyone wears a face mask when involved in in-person programming, whether outside or inside, so this is not a real change for us.
- All individuals in Virginia must remain at their place of residence between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. There are some exceptions, but I'd say plan on making it an early night if you are out listening to owls, looking for migrating salamanders, or doing other nocturnal naturalist activities! :)

For your own enjoyment, do get out this month to see the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter, though! They will appear closer together than they have in the last 800 years, and they are easy to observe early in the evening. Find more information at [astronomy.com](#).

Please spread the word about these guidelines to your chapter members, and thank you all for being safe.

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