

June 3, 2020

Independent Health Compliance Certification for Establishments

Dear Fairfax County Supervisor,

The members of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (FCFCA) appreciate the successful guidelines the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Governor have promoted to balance the need to keep residents safe and healthy with the need to maintain our economy.

We also understand that Fairfax residents are anxious to resume a more normal life style. One aspect of normalcy is the reopening of establishments such as retail businesses, work places, recreation facilities, and houses of worship.

Although the Governor has established guidelines for safe reopening and has mandated wearing face coverings, consumers may not feel confident that an establishment is responsibly complying with the recommended COVID-19 sanitation and health protocols. The Governor's strategy may not be enough to encourage residents to go out and contribute to the economy at reopened establishments.

What's missing from this strategy is government support for an independent certification program to assure residents that establishments are following COVID-19 protocols. This certification would provide consumers with greater confidence that they can safely patronize those certified establishments. Private and public establishments could then emphasize their participation by displaying in their stores, on their websites or on the County's website that they have received safety and health training and implemented appropriate protocols.

Additional benefits to consider would be certification gives employees confidence in their own safety and provides establishments with some liability protection if someone claims that the business might have exposed them to the coronavirus.

Several jurisdictions have implemented this type of certification:

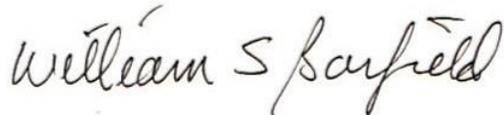
- The City of Alexandria's program "ALX Promise",
(see <https://www.alexandriava.gov/health/info/default.aspx?id=115542>),
- North Carolina's, "Count on Me NC" (see <https://countonmenc.org/>), and
- The City of Palm Beach Gardens voluntary certification effort
(see <https://www.pbgfl.com/1066/Voluntary-Business-Verification-Certific>).

Based on the above considerations and examples, the members of the Board of the FCFCA strongly recommend that the BOS initiate a voluntary certification program which would help assure that our residents can feel safer when patronizing certified Fairfax establishments.

Sincerely,



Michael Perel
Chairman, Human Services Committee
FedHumanServicesChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org



William S. Barfield
President
FedPres2020@fairfaxfederation.org
<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org>