



# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY BOARD

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July 24, 2020

Dear Property Manager:

On behalf of my County Board colleagues I am reaching out to you to thank you for helping us get out important information about COVID-19 and resources available for residents in our community.

As you know, the health and safety of our community is being strained like never before. This includes the impact of COVID on our residents, our businesses, our families, neighbors, and friends. Over the past four months, we have learned that it is critically important for individuals to know how they can protect themselves and others during this unprecedented pandemic.

### **Helping Residents in Need**

As you are aware, our public health crisis has also created economic challenges for our community. We are seeing the highest levels of unemployment since 2009, when Arlington's unemployment rate was 4.3%. Today our unemployment rate is 6.1%. More than 15,000 Arlington residents have lost their jobs during the pandemic, leaving many individuals wondering how they will pay their rent, put food on the table, and meet their family's essential needs.

Arlington County has provided over \$3 million dollars for over 1,500 families during COVID for emergency support to cover expenses for housing, food, electricity, and other essential services. To mitigate housing insecurity related to COVID-19 and its anticipated impacts, the County is once again requesting that Arlington multifamily rental properties voluntarily take the following actions regarding tenants who are current on their rent:

- Ask tenants who will not be able to pay their August or September rent on time to submit a written request for relief which includes a general description of their hardship or household situation.
- Offer an installment payment plan to those who seek relief that allows tenants who may miss their upcoming payment an opportunity to make up the amount over the next twelve months, with no fees or penalties.

- Waive late fees and/or penalties for those paying August and September rent partially, or in increments, at any time(s) during the month, as they are able.
- Do not file eviction proceedings against any tenant who is late paying August or September rent.
- Refer tenants who may be struggling to Arlington County's Department of Human Services for emergency assistance at 703-228-1300.

### **Public Health Protocols**

While we have moved to Phase 3, it is important to note that we still have community transmission of COVID here in Arlington. This makes these actions even more important. For those of us who live in multi-family buildings, it is more important than ever to take key public health actions to protect ourselves, our residents and our staff.

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands and keep surfaces clean
- Practice physical distancing of 6 ft. or more
- Wear a face covering when in public settings, including lobbies, elevators, laundry rooms and other common areas.

If you have not already, I hope you will join more than 200 businesses, including multi-family buildings, in the [WE ARE COVERED](#) campaign taking a stand on combatting the COVID-19 virus. It is only when we ALL take the necessary precautions that we have a chance of keeping the number of cases and deaths due to the virus at lower rates. In addition to posting WE ARE COVERED placards, we have created a [COVID Toolkit](#) that includes signage and fact sheets for you to use to help everyone learn what they can do to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

For the latest information about the virus and resources that the County and others are providing locally, please consult our website at <https://health.arlingtonva.us/covid-19-coronavirus-updates>.

Thank you for your partnership in helping our community stay safe, ensure that Arlingtonians are counted in the 2020 Census, and help with reducing the stress of families in need during this unprecedented pandemic.

Sincerely,



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