

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coalition Introduces New Initiative to Support the Reopening of the Richmond Region

RICHMOND, VA – Richmond region business, community, and governmental leaders have come together to form ForwardRVA, a coalition focused on creating an innovative reopening and planning framework.

The immediate focus is to reopen safely. In the days and weeks ahead, ForwardRVA will share reopening resources, which will include the perspectives of RVA's restaurateurs, retailers, and small business owners.

To assist businesses in a responsible reopening, ForwardRVA will provide free Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) starter toolkits for RVA's small, local, retail, and restaurant businesses with 25 or fewer employees. The toolkits include face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and important safety information.

The toolkits will be available for pickup at several locations throughout the region on Wednesday, May 27th and Thursday, May 28th, 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Small business owners must register in advance for the toolkits and select their pickup location at forwardrva.com.

Locations include:

- Deep Run High School
- Richmond International Raceway
- Stonebridge
- John Tyler Community College
- Virginia Center Commons Mall
- Arthur Ashe Athletic Center
- Southside
- Southpark Mall – Sears

Because the toolkits contain starter quantities of PPE, recipients are encouraged to build up a proper supply for their employees and patrons according to the State's Forward Virginia guidelines, which can be found at forwardrva.com.

ForwardRVA’s approach to reopening aligns with the Forward Virginia three-phased approach announced by Gov. Ralph Northam in late April. Both approaches follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

For more information on the PPE Starter Toolkits, ForwardRVA and Forward Virginia, go to www.forwardrva.com.

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About ChamberRVA: ChamberRVA is the chamber of commerce representing the entire greater Richmond region – one city, seven counties and one town – since 1867. The chamber’s mission is to build a thriving regional community by supporting the success of members, providing a strong business voice and developing RVA’s future leaders. Learn more about ChamberRVA at chamberrva.com.