



PlanRVA is excited for the day that we can loosen restrictions and start having in person business meetings as we did prior to COVID19. To promote and maintain compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders, we will continue to follow all the state and CDC guidelines for the promotion of health and safety in our community.

PlanRVA serves a large and diverse region, and we want to ensure that the whole of our region is considered when making decisions for public meetings. We ask that you please bear with us as we prepare to host more in person meetings; we are actively working to balance our organizational capacity to host in person meetings with staff, attendee, and public safety. Some of the considerations are:

- As of April 1st, Virginia is still administering vaccines to persons eligible under Phases 1 a, b & c. This includes healthcare workers, long term care facility residents and staff, frontline essential workers, people over 65, people with medical conditions, and other essential workers. While this phased approach ensures that our most essential workers and vulnerable populations are vaccinated, it does not include family members and other members of the public who are currently ineligible. Even among those who have been vaccinated, there is no vaccine currently available for children and teens under the age of 16. Data is still unavailable regarding the potential transmission of the virus from/among vaccinated persons.
- Jurisdictions within the PlanRVA footprint are in different stages of vaccination based on population, vaccine availability, proximity to a vaccination site, and willingness of those eligible to take the vaccine. PlanRVA respects the privacy of our employees, our members and of those from the public who wish to participate in our meetings and is not requiring proof of vaccination. PlanRVA wants to ensure that the safety of all the members of our staff, the committees, boards and commissions we serve, and the general public is a priority when in person meetings are considered.
- We are grateful to VDH and partner jurisdictions for assisting us in coordinating opportunities for our staff to access the vaccines alongside other governmental employees in as part of Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) efforts. While members of the PlanRVA staff have been given an opportunity to receive a first dose of the vaccine, those who have accepted the invitation are not likely to receive their second dose until mid- late April.
- Virginia is still under an Emergency Declaration due to COVID19. Although we are permitted to meet with smaller groups, the state is still encouraging teleworking if possible, to avoid unnecessary exposure as part of Safer At Home: Phase 3. Most PlanRVA staff members are operating under a hybrid schedule, working remotely during periods of the work week to maintain health/safety standards and to meet the requirements and expectations of their positions.
- PlanRVA has limited access to facilities suitable for in person meetings. Many of our meeting rooms have been converted to staff working spaces to meet the requirements of the [Virginia Employer Safety Standards](#) issued by the Department of Labor. This creates increased demand on our large conference room, and we know other partner organizations are experiencing the same challenges. Many meeting spaces previously available to us have not reopened for external use. We are working to prioritize use of our



meeting room and can accommodate a limited set of meetings based on our space and technology limitations.

Current State restrictions are loosening, however all indoor public and private in-person gatherings are restricted to 50 people as indicated in [Executive Order 72, as amended March 23, 2021](#). While the operation of Government is included among the exemptions to the limitations for gatherings, we continue to utilize virtual meeting platforms where possible and promote the recommended physical distancing and wearing of masks for in person gatherings.