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**For Immediate Release**  
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### Radford City first responders may begin wearing masks or face coverings:

**April 5, 2020:** Radford City first responders are taking precautionary measures in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Police, fire and rescue personnel have been encouraged to wear masks or face coverings when responding to calls and interacting with the public.

This change will not affect how public safety personnel operate. Both the police department and fire and ems agencies in Radford will continue to respond to calls, but this added precaution will help ensure the safety of the first responders and the public.

Please continue to do your part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by:

- washing your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer,
- keeping household surfaces clean (including cell phones),
- coughing or sneezing into a tissue (and discard it) or your elbow,
- avoiding touching your face,
- practicing “social distancing,”
- avoiding shaking hands,
- remaining at home if you’re sick,
- avoiding others who are sick, and
- staying home except in extremely limited circumstances

Should you think you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus:  
(Symptoms of coronavirus - <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>)

- CALL your health care provider or your local health department (do not go to the emergency room).
- The New River Health District has activated a local public health hotline at 540-267-8240, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. – noon; Sunday, noon – 4 p.m.
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH) also has a public health hotline at 877-ASK-VDH3, available weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Call 2-1-1 Virginia

For updates related to coronavirus and the impact on our community, visit [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov)