



Virginia Winter Storm

01/23/2026

Office of the Governor

Abigail Spanberger
1111 E Broad Street, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-786-2441

[Governor of Virginia](#)

[Governor of Virginia | Facebook](#)

“RICHMOND, VA. — Governor Abigail Spanberger declared a State of Emergency today due to winter weather that will impact most of the Commonwealth beginning Saturday and lasting through Monday morning. Current forecasts have the storm arriving Saturday late morning in the far western part of the Commonwealth, and progressing eastward, reaching the I-95 corridor by evening. The slow-moving system will continue to impact the entire Commonwealth throughout the day Sunday and lingering into Monday morning for areas east of I-95. The executive order is designed to help the Commonwealth prepare for, respond to, and recover from any impacts and to streamline processes that help localities and communities affected by the storm. “Today, I am declaring a State of Emergency ahead of the winter weather event to ensure Virginia is fully prepared to respond and recover,” said Governor Spanberger. “Our top priority is the safety of every Virginian. State agencies are mobilized, and we are working closely with local governments and utility partners. Everyone should stay informed, avoid travel when possible, and take precautions to protect themselves and their families as this storm moves through our Commonwealth.”

“Under the Governor’s State of Emergency declaration, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management is coordinating closely with state agencies, local governments, and our private-sector partners to support preparedness and response efforts,” said VDEM State Coordinator John Scrivani. “Our focus is on maintaining situational awareness, and ensuring communities have what they need to support those that may be impacted. We need Virginians to stay weather-aware, follow guidance from local officials, and avoid unnecessary travel when conditions deteriorate.”

Governor Spanberger is asking everyone to be weather aware and prepared:

- Prepare your family, home, and vehicle ahead of the storm. For tips on how to prepare, please visit: <https://www.vaemergency.gov/threats/winter-weather>
- Stay off the roads during and after the storm as much as possible and only drive when absolutely necessary. Always give snowplows and responders the right of way.

- If you absolutely need to be somewhere, get to your destination before the storm begins.
- Storm impacts will likely delay emergency response to stranded motorists.
- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal burning device inside your home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any other partially enclosed area.
- Snow shoveling is a known trigger for heart attacks. Always avoid overexertion when shoveling.
- When severe weather occurs, plan to check on elderly or disabled neighbors and relatives.
- If you must travel, know road conditions before you leave home. Visit 511.vdot.virginia.gov, check the [511 Virginia mobile app](#) or call 511 for road condition updates.

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Virginia Department of Emergency Management
9711 Farrar Ct
Richmond, VA 23236
804-897-6500

[Home | VDEM](#)

[Virginia Department of Emergency Management | Richmond VA | Facebook](#)

[Virginia Department of Emergency Management | LinkedIn](#)

[VDEM - YouTube](#)

American Red Cross

American Red Cross Virginia
2825 Emerywood Parkway
Richmond, VA 23294
1-800-733-2767

[Virginia Region | American Red Cross](#)

[American Red Cross | Facebook](#)

[American Red Cross \(@americanredcross\) | TikTok](#)

[American Red Cross \(@RedCross\) / X](#)

[American Red Cross | LinkedIn](#)

Open Shelters: [Disaster Shelters](#) | [Find Shelters](#) | [American Red Cross](#)

Salvation Army Shelter

1900 Chamberlayne Parkway

Waynesboro area Refuge ministry

First Baptist church in Waynesboro

Valley Mission
1513 W. Beverly St
Staunton, VA

Rescue Mission of Roanoke-overnight shelter open 365 days a year from 3p.m to 9 a.m.

Department of Transportation

Virginia Department of Transportation
1221 E. Broad St
Richmond, VA
1-800-367-7623

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Visit 511.vdot.virginia.gov, check the [511 Virginia mobile app](#) or call 511 for road condition updates.

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[Virginia Department of Transportation \(VDOT\) - YouTube](#)

“The safety of the traveling public and of state agency employees and partners is always top priority for VDOT. Crews are pretreating bridges and roadways and will be monitoring roadways and treating conditions as they develop. Snow removal operations take time, so travelers should not expect to see bare pavement during — and for a period after — the storm. VDOT clears interstates and most major primary roads first. Crews also plow major secondary roads with vital emergency and public facilities or those with high traffic volumes. Other secondary roads and subdivision streets will be treated if multiday storms hit Virginia, but crews will focus their efforts on roads that carry the most traffic. With the predicted impact of the storm, plows may not get to subdivisions for several days after the storm ends. This could take longer depending on the amount of snow we receive and the forecasted temperatures following the storm’s end. VSP will have troopers and supervisors actively monitoring roadway conditions statewide and will move to 12-hour shifts as the storm approaches. To help prevent unnecessary crashes, motorists should closely monitor road conditions and follow guidance from VDOT before traveling. Motorists should give snowplows and VDOT trucks ample space to safely perform their duties.

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and

demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

Call 211 or 1-800-230-6977- [search for your local 211 agency here](#).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](#)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com](#).

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.