



Nearby Virginia Beach City Public Schools closes its doors "until further notice." Public schools turn to online learning for the remainder of the school year.

CORONAVIRUS AT THE BEACH

**PHOTO ESSAY BY:
Alexis Caravas**

Virginia Beach is a social city, full of life! However, this once vibrant and care-free beach town is experiencing a new sense of solidarity with beaches, playgrounds, and schools closed due to coronavirus. Sandbridge beach, home to many beach lovers has closed its beloved beaches and remains open to only exercise and fishing activities. Locals say police officials are cracking down on how many people are allowed to even be near the beach at a time. "The beaches have never been so empty," Sandbridge native remarks. Locals now rely on signs of hope and faith instead of turning to the beach for fulfillment. This beach community is quite social and there is no doubt the community is experiencing hardship through this pandemic.



Above: Local faith community places a cross in the sand as a sign of hope in times of uncertainty. Clockwise from left: Signs prohibiting sunbathers from gathering on the beach are posted to remind the public that only fishing and exercising are allowed until further notice. A red mailbox sits on top of the pier, inviting people to write letters of hope for those who need it most. The mailbox is a new tradition Sandbridge locals started in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Below: Fences surround local playgrounds, keeping children from playing with one another. Other playgrounds in the area are also fenced off with no further notice on when they will reopen.



Sandbridge Pier, a usual gathering place for fishermen, dolphin watchers, and sunset chasers remains empty on a sunny, spring afternoon.