**For Immediate Release**

**For More Information:**

[Bank Contact

Contact Title

Contact Phone Number

Contact Email Address]

**[Bank Names] Proactively Addressing COVID-19 Impacts in Virginia**

[City, Virginia] - [Bank Names] are proactively addressing the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, [Bank Names] are taking aggressive steps to safeguard the health and safety of their customers, staff and communities while ensuring the delivery of important financial services such as money and credit availability.

With approximately [[$x] billion in deposits and strong capital levels, [Bank Names] remain financially solid and stand ready to provide important financial services to their fellow Virginians. They are also delivering a larger number of products and services through their enhanced mobile and digital channels. [Cite additional examples here.]

Federal and state regulation requires financial institutions to have continuity plans and testing processes in place which address pandemic response scenarios. Each of these banks, and all banks in Virginia, has such a plan in place, and they are implementing many changes to minimize person-to-person contact and to encourage responsible social distancing.

The banks are:

* Encouraging customers to utilize drive-thru, digital and ATM channels for transactional services.
* Closing lobby access to walk-in traffic; asking customers who desire personal or specific banker services to set up office appointments in advance of their visit.
* Enhancing cleaning and sanitary practices to help mitigate the potential spread of the virus.
* Implementing travel restrictions for staff members.
* Asking many non-essential, non-customer-facing bank employees to work from home until further notice.
* Requesting customers facing financial hardships as a result of COVID-19 to contact their respective bankers to discuss their individual situations.
* Urging customers to take advantage of their debit and credit cards when making purchases. The United States continues to maintain a world-class payments system.
* Encouraging customers to check their banks’ websites and social media channels for updates as the situation evolves.
  + [List sites and/or social media handles]

[CEO Name, Bank & Title] commented, “Virginia banks are the cornerstone of our communities. Providing safe and reliable service is a key priority for every one of our banks, especially in challenging times. We will take every step necessary to protect the health and safety of our fellow Virginians while continuing the professional delivery of banking services.”

“Our banks are proud to play a small part in working to defeat this health challenge by following suggested business operating guidelines,” said [CEO Name, Bank & Title].

“Our banks are open for business,” said [CEO Name, Bank & Title]. “Like all other employers, banks are taking common sense steps to keep people healthy. Our financial system is strong, and business as usual continues in communities across the state.”

In addition, these banks are working closely, and routinely communicating with, state and federal bank regulatory agencies and Virginia elected officials to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of banking services and access to liquidity.

If you would like to schedule an interview with [Bank Executives’ Names], please email [Contact Information].

*About [Bank Name]*

[Bank boiler plate]

[Copy boiler plate as needed.]

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