From: Farrell, Robert
To: DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
Subject: The Branch
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Hello everyone,

In accordance with Governor Northam's announcement on May 14th the VDOF will ease all distancing and capacity restrictions as of this Friday. So when we return to work after the Memorial Day Holiday on June 1st we will be able to return to normal use of our offices and facilities. The state of emergency has been continued so our revised telework agreements will remain in effect while the state works through the process of returning to more normal office operations. As we shared last week, fully vaccinated people do not have to wear a mask at work, those that are not vaccinated are encouraged to wear masks, and anyone is free to continue wearing a mask as their personal choice. I don't have any more details to share at this time, we will provide more guidance as it is made available. As always, if you have questions please route them through your supervisor.

One sign of the return to normalcy was the return of the Logging and Sawmill Equipment Expo at the Richmond Raceway last week. It was good to see so many of our partners and employees in person for the first time in a year. Thanks to all of the DOF folks that worked on and in our booths during the event.

I am happy to share that Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, formerly Commissioner of VDACS, has been confirmed as the Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture. Brad Copenhaver who currently serves as the Deputy Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry has been appointed as the new VDACS Commissioner, and Assistant Secretary Heidi Hertz has been appointed as Deputy Secretary.

On a sad note, I wanted to share that our HR Director Hector Rivera's father passed away this past weekend. Please keep Hector and his family in your thoughts.

Rob Farrell
State Forester
Virginia Department of Forestry

Headquarters
900 Natural Resources Drive, #800
Charlottesville, VA 22903
office (434) 220-9047

cell (757) 810-6943
fax (434) 220-9140

rob.farrell@dof.virginia.gov

www.dof.virginia.gov