

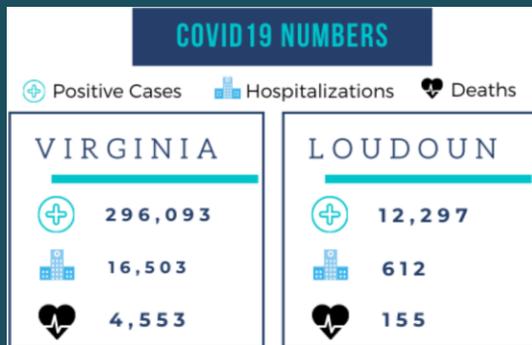


All About Algonkian

Juli E. Briskman | Algonkian District Supervisor



COVID-19 Update



Local and State COVID-19 Trends

Loudoun's seven-day test positivity rate has steadily increased since late November, with the latest number standing at 12.3%. Recent days show that the seven-day average of positive tests remains above 10%. For example, December 10 saw a rate of 10% and

December 13 reported a positivity rate of 10.6%. Loudoun has also seen an decrease in its seven-day moving average of daily cases since December 13. Starting at 164.7 daily cases, [Loudoun's data dashboard](#) shows that the seven-day moving average has decreased to 131.9 daily cases as of December 16.

Virginia's statewide seven-day moving average has decreased since December 4, where it stood at 3,148 cases. The latest available data from the Virginia Department of Health shows that the state's seven-day moving average has since decreased to 2,683 cases.

Data resources provided by Loudoun County can be accessed [here](#).

View Comprehensive Data on the Virginia Department of Health Website:

- [Cases, demographics, localities, outbreaks, testing, and more](#)
- [Virginia's Key COVID-19 Measures](#)
- [COVID-19 Data Insights](#)



Thank You to Everyone Who Came Out to the Free COVID-19 Testing Event at Potomac Falls HS

With the assistance of County Administration, we were able to schedule a free COVID-19 testing event at Potomac Falls High School earlier this month. A total estimated 1,910 tests were

performed and attendees can expect to receive their results within days. To date, Loudoun County has administered 15,955 COVID-19 tests during various testing events



Loudoun to Host Virtual COVID-19 Update with Health Director Tonight

Loudoun County will host a virtual live COVID-19 question-and-answer session with Health Department Director Dr. David

Goodfriend on Thursday, December 17, 2020, from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The live event will provide an opportunity to hear from Dr. Goodfriend about the latest trends and developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to ask questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms, testing, vaccines or other timely topics. Members of the public may participate in the virtual meeting in two ways:

- Facebook Live: The event will be livestreamed on the Loudoun County Government Facebook page at facebook.com/LoudounCountyVa.
- Webex Events: The event also can be accessed live via the internet through the county's virtual meeting platform, Webex. For meeting details and a link to join the meeting, visit loudoun.gov/remoteparticipation.

Questions may be submitted in advance through the [scheduled event on Facebook](#).

COVID-19 TESTING

Tuesday, December 29
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Franklin Park
17501 Franklin Park Drive
Purcellville, 20132

Drive-thru only. Free & open to everyone.

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loudoun.gov/COVID19testing

Loudoun County Hosts Free COVID-19 Testing Event December 29

Loudoun County will hold another free drive-thru COVID-19 testing event Tuesday, December 29, 2020, from 10:00

a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at [Franklin Park, 17501, Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville.](#)

The testing event is open to all. There are no age or residency requirements. No prescriptions or appointments are necessary. A person does not have to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 in order to be tested. A PCR test (nasal swab) will be administered, which tests for the novel coronavirus. No antibody or rapid tests will be offered.

Registration Form

To help reduce wait times, people who plan to attend the testing event are strongly encouraged to complete a registration form for each person who will be receiving a test prior to arriving at the testing site. The registration form is required and asks for general demographics and contact information, including name, date of birth, address, phone number and current symptoms, if any.

- Registration Form: [English \(PDF\)](#) | [Spanish \(PDF\)](#)

The fillable form may be downloaded, filled out, printed and completed forms should be brought with you to the testing site. Forms will also be available at the testing site for individuals who do not have access to a printer or otherwise are unable to complete the forms in advance. The forms are also available at loudoun.gov/COVID19testing.

- [View, print or download a flyer about the COVID-19 testing event \(English\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [View, print or download a flyer about the COVID-19 testing event \(Spanish\) \(PDF\)](#)



COVIDWISE Exposure Notification App Joins National Key Server To Increase Effectiveness Across State Lines

Virginia's first-in-the-nation COVID-exposure notification app will now work across DC and all 15 states that have such an app. More than one in ten Virginians have downloaded and are using COVIDWISE, which notifies people if they have been physically close to someone who tested positive. COVIDWISE, Virginia's free COVID-19 Exposure Notifications app, is now participating with the Association of Public Health Laboratories' (APHL) National Key Server, allowing COVIDWISE interoperability with Washington, D.C. and other states' apps that also use the server. Now COVIDWISE can communicate with other state notification apps to share anonymous bits of information or "exposure notification keys" using a national server that will enable users to find out when they may have been exposed by users from other states.

Virginia joins the District of Columbia and 15 other states with exposure notification systems, by integrating anonymous positive submissions to the National Key Server. The other 15 states include Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wyoming.

COVIDWISE, which launched on August 5, 2020, has surpassed 885,000 downloads, making it one of the two most downloaded exposure notification apps in the U.S. The app alerts users if they have been in close contact with an individual who anonymously reported his/her positive COVID-19 test result. COVIDWISE does not use any personal information or location data. Users opt-in to download and use the free app, which is available through the App Store and the Google Play Store. The first new release for COVIDWISE occurred on December 10. In addition to transitioning to the National Key Server, new version updates will include user interface enhancements, current COVID-19 data and statistics, an onboarding flow on how the app works, the ability to easily share the app with others, Virtual VDH updates and additional resources, a change to exposure notifications to 15 minutes within 24 hours and the ability to include symptom onset date when submitting an anonymous report.

Continued adoption and widespread use of COVIDWISE remains critical to the success of this effort. Similarly, VDH remains committed to the app's privacy protections and use of the app as a tool to support the public's health and reduce the spread of the virus.

To learn more about COVIDWISE and download the app, visit www.covidwise.org.



Celebrating Christmas Safely

The Loudoun County Health Department encourages residents to plan their holiday celebrations and travel carefully to lower the risk of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others.. Talk with your family and friends and make plans together for socially distanced holiday celebrations. Those who choose to gather and travel over the holiday season should avoid high-risk activities.

Lower-Risk Activities

Celebrating virtually or with members within your household poses the lowest risk for spread of COVID-19. While transmission of COVID-19 continues, the CDC recommends that families participate in these lower-risk activities that can be enjoyed with family and friends at a safe distance:

- Small dinner gatherings with only people who live in your household.
- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others.
- Having a virtual dinner and sharing recipes with friends and family.
- Shopping online rather than in person.
- Participating in a virtual walk or run, just you or with others you live with.
- Watching sports events, parades, movies and tree or menorah lighting ceremonies from home.
- Send a letter to Santa in the mail.
- Going to a drive-thru holiday light show with people in your household.
- Driving around with the people who live with you to look at other people's holiday decorations.
- Contact-free cookie exchanges or gift drop off for friends and family.

Holiday Shopping

When planning holiday shopping this year, staying home and shopping online is the safest way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you choose to shop in-person, avoid crowded stores and take precautions. Everyone 5 years and older is required to wear a mask in all public settings and to maintain 6 feet of distance from others.

Residents can find ways to support local businesses, online and in-person, in the [Take Loudoun Home for the Holidays Guide](#). These business have taken the [Loudoun Is Ready](#) pledge in commitment to the best health and safety guidelines for customers.

Need to Buy or Rent in Northern Virginia?



Log on to the virtual
2021 Northern Virginia Housing Expo!

The event features free online exhibits,
workshops and financial counseling.
Starts January 1, 2021, and continues
throughout the year.

novahousingexpo.org

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Virtual Northern Virginia Housing Expo Begins Jan. 1

The 2021 Northern Virginia Housing Expo will launch January 1, 2021, as a free virtual event. The online expo, geared to first-time homebuyers and renters, will feature the

three key aspects of the annual regional housing expo in a virtual format: an exhibit hall with dozens of exhibitors, free workshops for first-time homebuyers and renters, and personal financial counseling sessions.

Beginning January 1, the [2021 Northern Virginia Housing Expo](http://novahousingexpo.org) will open the virtual exhibit hall as well as online registration for workshops and financial counseling sessions that will be held throughout the year.

The virtual event will also include a weekly series of free workshops in English and Spanish that will be livestreamed on the second Saturday of every month. Sessions will feature several topics ranging from "Local COVID-19 Rental Assistance Programs," "Avoiding Eviction or Foreclosure during COVID-19," "Household Budgeting and Finance," "Fair Housing," "Basic Home Security and Maintenance," "Senior Housing Options," and the spring and fall "Homebuying Market Overview." Additional workshops also are being planned.

The 11th Annual Northern Virginia Housing Expo is hosted by First Home Alliance in cooperation with Loudoun County and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William; the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church; Virginia Housing; the Dulles Area Association of Realtors; the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors; and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Details about how to participate in the event are online at novahousingexpo.org. Resources geared toward homebuyers and renters in Loudoun County are online at loudoun.gov/housing.



Governor's Updates

Yesterday, Governor Ralph Northam addressed the Joint Money Committees of the General Assembly to share his proposed amendments to the 2020–2022 biennial budget. The Governor's proposed budget provides funding for Virginia's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, bolsters the Commonwealth's economic recovery, and continues restoring the bold,

progressive agenda advanced during the 2020 legislative session.

The Governor's budget delivers on his signature priorities by making key investments to support early childhood, K-12, and higher education; boost funding for historically black colleges and universities; increase access to quality, affordable housing; transform African American historical and cultural sites; expand high-speed broadband; and reform the criminal justice system. The budget also funds Virginia's aggressive pandemic response and ensures Virginians will have widespread access to the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available.

Importantly, this budget invests in the future while maintaining sound financial stewardship. The Commonwealth's strong economic fundamentals and the Northam Administration's focus on prudent management and budget stability have protected Virginia from cutting services, like many other states. While states need additional federal relief, this budget enables the Commonwealth to continue navigating the pandemic—regardless of what happens in Washington.

The Governor's remarks as prepared for delivery are below and the key highlights of the Governor's budget amendments can be found [here](#).



How to Receive Updates or get Questions Answered

Loudoun County staff continues to coordinate answering your COVID-19 health related constituent questions. Please call the Health Department COVID-19 Information Hotline at 703-

737-8300 for a quick response (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or [Email the Health Department](#).

Please visit the [County's COVID-19 webpage](#). The [questions and answers](#) page is continually updated.

Please encourage your constituents to view and sign up for updates from Loudoun

- Text LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19
- [Sign up for email and text updates on COVID-19 in Notify Me, Blogs category](#)
- Follow the [Loudoun County Government Facebook Page](#) and Twitter [@LoudounCoGovt](#)

Seen any message of hope and inspiration? Do you know someone making a difference in your community? Share with us at zachary.harris@loudoun.gov and we'll put them in our updates and newsletter.

If you are having trouble paying your utilities because of COVID-19, visit the County's webpage on [COVID-19 Utilities](#). You will find program information on:

Columbia Gas
Dominion Power
Loudoun Water
NOVEC
Washington Gas
Wi-fi Connectivity

For More Current COVID-19 Information

Visit: www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus

Call: (703) 737-8300

Email: Health@Loudoun.gov

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Have an interesting comment you'd like to share? Want to see someone you know from Algonkian featured? [Email Rey Cheatham-Banks](#)

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