



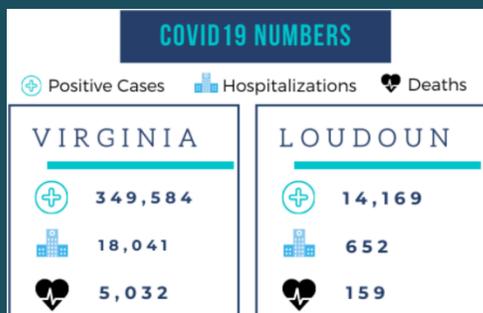
# All About Algonkian



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 12.5%. Recent days show that the seven-day average of positive tests remains above 10%. For example, December 25 saw a rate

of 15.5% and December 28 reported a positivity rate of 14.6%. Loudoun has also seen a stagnation in its seven-day moving average of daily cases since December 21. Starting at 132 daily cases, [Loudoun's data dashboard](#) shows that the seven-day moving average has slightly dropped to 130.6 daily cases as of December 30.

Virginia's statewide seven-day moving average has decreased since December 15, where it stood at 3,541 cases. The latest available data from the Virginia Department of Health shows that the state's seven-day moving average has since decreased to 2,972 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](#)



## Celebrate the New Year Safely

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that the safest way to celebrate the new year

is to celebrate at home with the people who live with you or virtually with friends and family. If you're celebrating New Year's with people outside your household, make sure you take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wear a mask.
- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) apart.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands.
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Get a flu shot as soon as possible.

Consider other activities to celebrate New Year's, such as:

- Have virtual celebrations with loved ones.
- Plan a New Year's party for the people who live with you.
- Plan a neighborhood countdown to midnight. Everyone can stand in front of their houses and cheer at midnight.
- Watch a livestreamed firework display, concert, First Night event, or other New Year's programming from your home.

[Read more from the CDC about safer ways to celebrate.](#)

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**Phase 1a of COVID-19 vaccinations has started in Loudoun. More information on vaccination efforts in the county can be seen [here](#).**





## COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program

Loudoun Water is committed to assisting customers who may be facing financial hardships due to the coronavirus pandemic. If you need help paying your bill due to the pandemic, we encourage you to request payment assistance through the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program. Loudoun Water is working with the County of Loudoun to administer funds received from the Commonwealth of Virginia's COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program to provide financial relief for customers in need.

To qualify for this option, you must attest that you are experiencing financial hardship due to the coronavirus public health emergency and **submit an application to Loudoun Water no later than January 12, 2021**. These funds will be administered in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth.

You may also call our Customer Service department at 571-291-7880, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for assistance in filling out the application.

We know these are challenging and difficult times and it is hard to keep up with typical routines. Please contact us as soon as possible to take advantage of this payment assistance program.

### COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program Application Form

- English - [CLICK HERE](#)
- Spanish - [CLICK HERE](#)

Email your completed application to [customerservice@loudounwater.org](mailto:customerservice@loudounwater.org).

### COVID-19 Vaccine: Information for Health Care Providers



## Health Department to Coordinate COVID-19 Vaccination for Health Care Workers

The Loudoun County Health Department is seeking to identify any health care offices or providers that are part of the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Phase 1a group for COVID-19 vaccination but are not already signed up to receive vaccine.

Health care providers have been defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by the Commonwealth of Virginia as being in the first group that should be vaccinated against COVID-19. All paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, including body substances, such as blood, tissue and specific body fluids; contaminated medical supplies, devices and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air are eligible for vaccination.

Loudoun County has received Moderna COVID-19 vaccine that can be provided to Loudoun County-based health care offices and providers in accordance with VDH guidelines. Health care offices and providers interested in receiving COVID-19 vaccine should email the Loudoun County Health Department and note whether they are making a request for an office or an individual not associated with an office. The Health Department will work with health care offices to enroll their eligible staff to receive vaccine.

Health care offices in jurisdictions other than Loudoun County should contact the Health Department in the county or city where they are located for information on how to sign up for vaccine. More information about COVID-19 vaccine is posted at loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine.



## **Parks & Rec Master Plan (Virtual) Public Meeting Jan. 14**

The second in a series of (virtual) public meetings regarding the Master Plan for the Loudoun County

Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services will be held Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. The department has contracted for a strategic master planning process with the goal of creating an environment for providing exceptional facilities, recreational opportunities and community services that enhance the health and well-being of Loudoun residents.

The meeting held September 29, 2020, included an overview of the process that will be taken to create the strategic master plan and an opportunity for input on the current use of PRCS resources and where opportunities for improvement should be focused in the next 10 years.

The January meeting will include a presentation of the key findings from the recent community needs assessment surveys. Details about the master planning project and how to join virtual meetings and submit comments can be found at www.loudoun.gov/prcsmasterplan.



## Federal Government Passes New Stimulus Package

The federal government passed a new stimulus package earlier this month and some features of the relief package are:

- Does *not* include any direct funding for state and local governments.
- Extends Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) spending until December 31, 2021.
- Provides stimulus payments of \$600 per person earning up to \$75,000/year and \$1,200 for couples earning up to \$150,000 /year, plus \$600 per child.
- Extends the CDC eviction moratorium through January 31, 2021.
- Restores the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) supplement at \$300 per week (in addition to state benefits) between December 26, 2020 – March 14, 2021, and increases the maximum number of benefit weeks an individual may claim from 39 to 50.

Other allocations of note include:

- \$8.75 billion for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.
- \$22.4 billion for testing, contact tracing, and mitigation.
- \$25 billion for rental assistance.
- \$638 million for low-income water bill assistance.
- \$13 billion to increase SNAP and child nutrition benefits for six months.
- \$400 million to food banks and food pantries under the Emergency Food Assistance Program through September 30, 2021.
- \$175 million for nutrition services for seniors.
- \$10 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grants to assist child care providers and \$250 million for Head Start.
- \$82 billion for schools (\$54.3 billion for K-12 and \$22.7 billion for colleges and universities).
- \$325 billion for small business assistance, largely a second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of up to \$2 million for businesses with fewer than 300 employees that have had at least 25% drops in revenue.
- \$14 billion in transit emergency relief.
- \$15 billion for airports, including economic relief for retailers at the airport.
- \$10 billion for State Departments of Transportation for maintenance, operations, and personnel costs.

- \$300 million for a rural broadband funding grant program, \$3.2 billion for broadband for low-income families, and \$250 million for telehealth.

The full text of the bill is available [here](#) and a summary of each section is provided [here](#). Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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## Governor's Updates

Governor Ralph Northam allocated an additional \$20 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to the Rebuild VA economic recovery fund to meet demand for the program and fulfill pending grant applications. This new funding will bring the program total to \$120 million and will enable more than 300 small business and nonprofit organizations that applied before the last round of funding was exhausted in early December to

receive grants. Eligible applicants that are still in the pipeline have been notified via email that their applications have been re-opened.

Earlier this month, Governor Northam [announced](#) that Rebuild VA had fully committed the \$100 million in federal funds previously allocated to the program, which provided grants to 2,500 small businesses and nonprofits whose normal operations were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 45 percent of the available funding was awarded to nearly 1,000 small businesses and nonprofits located in low-income and economically disadvantaged communities and about \$50 million was awarded to women, minority, and veteran-owned businesses. To date, Rebuild VA has received nearly 20,000 applications and the average grant award was \$35,636.

Administered by the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD), Rebuild VA [launched in August](#) with \$70 million in CARES Act funding. Governor Northam directed an additional \$30 million to the program in [October](#) and SBSD expanded eligibility so that businesses with less than \$10 million in gross revenue or fewer than 250 employees could apply.

For more information on Rebuild VA, please visit [governor.virginia.gov/RebuildVA](http://governor.virginia.gov/RebuildVA).

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**Loudoun County**  
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## NEWS

### 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](#)

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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](mailto:zachary.harris@loudoun.gov) and we'll put them in our updates and newsletter.

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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](http://www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus)

Call: (703) 737-8300

Email: [Health@Loudoun.gov](mailto:Health@Loudoun.gov)

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