



Chair Phyllis J. Randall Newsletter



Hello, Loudoun

Over the past month, I have received questions about vaccine distribution in Loudoun. As I've said many times, the only limiting factor to Loudoun County Government putting shots in arms is vaccine availability. Vaccine received by Loudoun County Government is being used. No vaccine is going unused or tossed out. For Loudoun County Government, we have two vaccine point of dispensing (POD) sites to vaccinate up to 7,500 citizens a day, when we get vaccine.

Vaccine is shipped not only to Loudoun County Government but also to hospitals, private facilities with congregate care living, employer-based clinics, etc. So when you look at numbers of vaccine shipped to Loudoun, a good deal of that is not in the hands of County Government. While County Government is using all supply and not holding any back for second doses, that may not be true for other facilities receiving vaccine in the County.

Loudoun County's vaccine supply comes from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), which allocates doses to local health districts based on each district's population. This week, a **letter** was sent to Governor Northam asking for a streamline of vaccine to come directly to Northern Virginia.

Below is a table of the COVID-19 vaccinations by Northern Virginia Health District and the Commonwealth reported on Monday, January 25th. You can keep track of doses administered to Loudoun residents through the VDH [COVID-19 Vaccine Summary Dashboard](#), which is updated daily.

Health District	Persons Fully Vaccinated	Persons Vaccinated With At Least 1-Dose	Persons Fully Vaccinated Change From Prior Week (6 Day Change)	Persons Vaccinated With At Least 1-Dose Change From Prior Week (6 Day Change)	Population Age 16+	Percent of Population Age 16+ Vaccinated With At Least 1-Dose	Percentage Point Change From Prior Week (6 Day Change)
Alexandria	529	7,418	198	2,218	133,272	5.6%	1.7%
Arlington	847	9,994	191	3,630	197,706	5.1%	1.8%
Fairfax	6,471	61,588	2,004	17,747	941,098	6.5%	1.9%
Loudoun	2,113	18,762	741	6,367	311,439	6.0%	2.0%
Prince William	2,430	19,757	830	6,433	403,189	4.9%	1.6%
NOVA Total	12,390	117,519	3,964	36,395	1,986,704	5.9%	1.8%
Virginia	64,381	458,472	27,555	153,910	6,884,232	6.7%	2.2%

COVID-19 Vaccination Registration Update

Residents May Continue to Submit a COVID-19 Pre-Screening Survey Online

If you are eligible for vaccine in the Phase 1a or Phase 1b priority groups and you have not already been contacted by your employer, or you have not already submitted the [online pre-screening survey](#), you may submit the survey to obtain an appointment for vaccination with the Health Department. Employers can sign up using this same survey by selecting “organization” when prompted. Please note that going forward many employers of essential workers in the Phase 1a and Phase 1b groups will have the opportunity to facilitate vaccination at employer-based clinics. You are encouraged to contact your employer about vaccination if you have not already done so. ([Learn more about who is currently eligible for vaccination in the Phase 1a and Phase 1b priority groups.](#))

- [Submit an online pre-screening survey](#). The fastest and most efficient method to obtain an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine is to submit the online form. This form verifies your eligibility and provides your contact information. Please submit one form and use one unique e-mail address for each individual who needs a vaccine (do not use the same e-mail address for multiple people). You will not receive a confirmation email after submitting the survey; however, you will be registered in our system. After submitting the form, it may be several weeks before you receive a response because vaccine supplies are limited. Please be patient; once you submit an online pre-screening survey, there is no need to call the Health Department as survey status cannot be verified by phone. Eventually, you will be contacted by e-mail to schedule an appointment.
- If you do not have access to the internet, you may call Loudoun County’s COVID-19 information line at **703-737-8300** between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Due to significant call volume, there may be a delay in reaching an operator.

What You Need to Know if You Already Submitted Your Information

If you have already submitted your pre-screening survey, you do not need to contact the Health Department again to verify whether you are on our list. The survey does not provide a confirmation e-mail indicating you are registered; however, submitting your contact information online or by phone completes the first step for getting a vaccination appointment.

After submitting your information to the Health Department, you must be patient. At this time, it will likely be several weeks before you are contacted by the Health Department for a vaccination appointment. There is no need to resubmit your information through the pre-screening survey or to call the Health Department to verify whether you are registered. The Health Department is unable to verify that a survey has been completed by phone. When more vaccine arrives, more appointments will become available, and the Health Department will contact you. If you submitted an e-mail address, you will be

contacted by e-mail. If you submitted only a phone number, you will be contacted by phone to schedule an appointment.

Time for Your Second Dose?

If you already received your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and you are approaching the time for your second dose, you should seek vaccine appointments from the same source of your first dose. If you made your own appointment through the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS), you should log in to VAMS and make your second appointment. You do not need to submit additional information to the Health Department. If you made an appointment by phone, the Health Department will contact you regarding an appointment for your second dose.

New Vaccination Site

At the January 19th Board business meeting, we approved a **lease arrangement** to operate a full-scale COVID-19 vaccination point of dispensing (POD) at a large site in the eastern portion of the County. As of today, this site is not stood up or open to the public. Appointments will still be required via the process outlined above and indicate the site's address once it is operational. The site will have the capacity to facilitate approximately 4,800 doses a day; however, the Health Department's ability to administer vaccine will still be dependent on doses received.

Reopening Schools

We have received numerous e-mails from residents about reopening schools. Throughout the entire time that we have been dealing with the COVID-19 virus, I have relied on science and data to guide my decisions. When I made the decision to ask the Governor not to move Northern Virginia to Phase 1 back in May, it was because science and data supported that position.

My position on reopening schools is also supported by science and data. There is no scientific evidence that indicates that a school setting is a high transmission risk.

In fact, the data indicates that some students experience more harmful effects NOT being in a school setting. I do not believe that any parent should be required to send their child to school if they do not think that is the right choice for their family. However, I do believe – and the science supports this – that parents should have that option provided that all CDC and VDH guidelines are strictly followed. I will either believe in science or I will not, I choose to believe the data.

Having said that, the decision to reopen Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) is one that lies exclusively with LCPS and the School Board. I have shared my thoughts, but I respect the fact that it is their decision to make.

Below are several articles and studies that speak to this issue.

1. The article "[Three studies highlight low COVID risk of in-person school](#)" demonstrates low risk of COVID-19 infection and spread in schools.

- The first study in this article took place in North Carolina. **Article Summary:** In the first 9 weeks of in-person instruction in North Carolina schools, we found extremely limited within-school secondary transmission of COVID-19, determined by contact tracing. **What This Study Adds:** We examined 11 school districts with nearly 100,000 students/staff open for 9 weeks of in-person instruction, tracking secondary transmission of COVID-19; within-school infections were extremely rare. Each case was independently adjudicated for community or within-school acquisition by local health departments. Full PDF for this study: [Incidence and Secondary Transmission of SARS-CoV-2](#).
- The second study took place in Sweden. **Article Summary:** Despite Sweden's having kept schools and preschools open, we found a low incidence of severe COVID-19 among schoolchildren and children of preschool age during the pandemic. Full PDF for this study: [Open Schools, COVID-19, and Child and Teacher Morbidity](#).
- The third study took place in Norway. **Article Summary:** Systematic tracing and testing of school contacts of pediatric COVID-19 cases showed minimal child-to-child and child-to-adult transmission in primary schools with implemented IPC measures. The results obtained during low to medium community transmission demonstrate the limited role of children in transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in school settings. This is an important finding in view of the ongoing discussions on school closures and use of quarantine for a large number of children. Strengthening of IPC measures in schools when community transmission levels increase could be an option. Full PDF for this study: [Minimal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from pediatric COVID-19 cases in primary schools, Norway, August to November 2020](#).

2. [CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(Jan 13, 2021\)](#). **Article Summary:** What is already known about this topic? Studies have consistently shown that children, adolescents, and young adults are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infections. Children and adolescents have had lower incidence and fewer severe COVID-19 outcomes than adults. What are the implications for public health practice? To enable safer in-person learning, schools and communities should fully implement and strictly adhere to multiple mitigation strategies, especially universal and proper mask wearing, to reduce both school and community COVID-19 incidence and help protect students, teachers, and staff members. Full PDF for this study: [COVID-19 Trends Among Persons Aged 0–24 Years — United States](#).

3. [WHO report on COVID-19 in schools \(October, 2020\)](#). **Article Summary:** Children and schools are unlikely to be the main drivers of COVID-19 transmission, when community transmission is low and when appropriate mitigation measures are applied. Link for PowerPoint: [What we know about COVID-19 transmission in schools](#).

4. **Association of American Medical Colleges AAMC**: The virus spreads in schools but schools are rarely super spreaders. Early data from K-12 schools do not confirm fears that bringing students together in classrooms inevitably creates COVID-19 petri dishes — although the absence of a standardized national database of school cases makes it impossible to know for sure. University researchers have partly filled the void with a plethora of data analyses from selected schools and grades. Link for article: **Kids, school, and COVID-19: What we know — and what we don't.**

Broadband

The County has installed a new outdoor Wi-Fi hot spot for residents in western Loudoun at the Loudoun Valley Community Center in Purcellville. The signal is available to access in the parking lot of the community center at 320 W. School Street in Purcellville. The name of the network is ParksRec-Public. No password is required. The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents are asked to stay in their vehicles in order to maintain the physical distancing needed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Users of the service who are not in vehicles are also asked to maintain a distance of approximately 6 feet from others.

The installation of the free hot spot, which was accomplished with funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, is intended to help residents who have no reliable internet service to access information about COVID-19 and complete any other type of essential online business, such as ordering groceries or other household supplies.

COVID-19 Testing

The County will hold twice-weekly, free drive-thru **COVID-19 testing events** at multiple locations beginning in February. Please note, these are not mass testing events; a limited number of tests will be available based on the capacity of each location. 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. **No COVID-19 vaccine will be available at these events.**

The events will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

- February 2 and 4: Franklin Park, 17501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville
- February 9 and 11: Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park, 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg (Enter the park on Crosstrail Boulevard from Sycolin Road)
- February 16 and 18: Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls
- (Access the testing location in the back parking lot, near the senior center)
- February 23 and 25: Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding

COVID-19 TESTING

February 2021

Multiple
Locations

Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Drive-thru only. Free & open to everyone.

LOUDOUN
COUNTY
VIRGINIA

loudoun.gov/COVID19testing

Thank you. I will continue to keep you informed about vaccine availability.

Sincerely,
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Board Business

FY 2022 Budget: Tim Hemstreet, County Administrator, will present the proposed FY 2022 budget to the Board on Wednesday, February 10th at 5:00 pm. Two budget public hearings have been scheduled on Tuesday, February 23rd at 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm and

Saturday, February 27th at 9:00 am. Members of the public who would like to provide comments to the Board are encouraged to do so remotely until further notice to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Details on how to provide comments remotely are available [here](#).

At the January 5th Board business meeting, we provided **final budget guidance** to the County Administrator to prepare the FY 2022 proposed budget at one cent above the overall equalized tax rate and provide options to either increase 1 cent or decrease 1 cent from the proposed budget.

Strategic Workplan: At the January 19th Board business meeting, we approved Loudoun County's vision statement and directed staff to develop a workplan to implement priority initiatives from our strategic focus areas. You can see an overview of the workplan including the status of initiatives already underway or completed in the [item](#).

The following is our approved vision statement:

While appreciating and acknowledging our rich history, Loudoun County strives to be a prosperous, inclusive, equitable and sustainable community where residents feel free to live, work, learn and play.

Conveyance of Aldie Assemblage: At the January 13th public hearing, I moved that the Board forward the item to the February 9th Finance, Government Operations, and Economic Development Committee meeting for discussion. My job is to listen to the public and I heard your concerns about the process being rushed. Moving the item to the Finance Committee will give us more time to discuss the good points raised in the public hearing.

Prohibition of Firearms on County Property: The public hearing for the draft ordinance is scheduled on February 10th.

Community Information

Online Community Survey: The online version of the survey allows all residents to provide their feedback. Loudoun County surveys its residents periodically to get their feedback on government services, the county's quality of life and priorities for government initiatives. Residents may take the survey online through February 1st.

Loudoun is one of many communities across the United States that use this tool to help improve governmental performance, guide policy decisions, strengthen communications with community stakeholders and identify clear priorities for use in goal and budget setting. Results of the survey are expected to be presented to the Board later this year.

For more information on the 2021 Loudoun County survey, call 703-777-0539 or e-mail budget@loudoun.gov.

Loudoun Restaurant Campaign: Have you heard about the #LoveLoudounFood restaurant campaign? Show your support for Loudoun restaurants by posting a picture of your meal on Facebook or Instagram, tag the restaurant and use the hashtag #LoveLoudounFood. Every post you make enters you to win a dinner for six for Super Bowl Sunday, a Valentine's Day dinner for two or a St. Patrick's Day dinner for six. It's an easy (and tasty) way to support our restaurants this winter.

Complete campaign information can be found on the [Loudoun Is Ready Restaurant campaign website](#).



#LoveLoudounFood

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