



Supervisor

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Dulles District



### **COVID-19 Vaccination Update**

We have some important updates to the COVID vaccination process that I wanted to share. The Virginia Department of Health is implementing a new preregistration system that will take the place of the one set up by local health districts. In addition, select CVS locations will now be offering the vaccine. There are details on both items below.

### **Current Pace and Vaccine Availability**

Overall, vaccinations in Loudoun are slow but steady. The issue continues to be vaccine availability. So far, the Loudoun Health District - the local branch of the state entity - has administered over 43,000 doses of vaccine with over 10,000 people fully vaccinated (having received both required vaccine doses). All LCPS personnel who wish to receive the vaccine have now received at least one shot. The rate of vaccination in Loudoun is consistent with other localities in Northern Virginia. I have heard from a number of people who have anecdotal stories about relatives or friends who have received the vaccine in other places, but if you talk to those elected officials (as I have) and are following progress, you quickly realize that circumstances are very similar around the region.

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As I've mentioned before, the Health Department is reliant on doses being shipped from the federal government to the Virginia Department of Health, which are then distributed to localities based on share of the population. Loudoun County is continuing to receive about 4,800 doses per week, with additional doses being provided for second shots. Over the last several days, the pace of vaccination has risen to about 1,000 people per day (which includes both first and second shots). At the request of the Health District, the County government established a vaccination center at the former Nordstrom at the Dulles Town Center mall. The center is being staffed with a combination of volunteers from the Medical Reserve Corps and EMTs from Loudoun County Fire-Rescue.

Last I heard, the waiting list to receive a vaccine in Loudoun is around 60,000. At the current pace, it will obviously take quite some time to get through that list. The current estimated wait time from preregistering to scheduling a vaccination appointment is about 6 weeks. For example, Loudoun is now starting to schedule appointments for people aged 65 and over who submitted their preregistration surveys before January 15.

I know that many citizens are frustrated about not knowing when they will receive doses. With the state taking over the system (and the waiting list) this is all about to change anyway, but the Health Department has told us that they are required to segment their vaccine doses. With the uncertainty from week to week about how many doses are actually arriving, it has been difficult for them to provide quality information to those on the waiting list.

### **New State Preregistration System; Loudoun System Being Taken Down**

The Commonwealth of Virginia is announcing today that it is launching a new Statewide Vaccine Preregistration System to provide a unified and

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comprehensive process for people in Virginia to preregister for the COVID-19 vaccine. The Virginia Department of Health has directed the Loudoun Health Department, as well as all local health districts across the commonwealth, to close the current preregistration survey this evening at 5 PM.

Taking its place starting Tuesday, February 16 at 8 AM will be the new statewide system. You can find the system [here](#) when it launches. In the interim, Loudoun's existing waiting list is being imported to the new system; **if you have already filled out the Loudoun survey, there is no need to preregister with the new system.** Information for all individuals who previously filled out a survey or form or signed up for a waiting list to be vaccinated through the Loudoun Health Department will be imported into the new statewide system. Individuals will maintain their current place in the queue and will be able to search the new system for their information starting Tuesday morning. The County plans to communicate with people on the current waiting list to inform them of the transition to the new system. Those who have already preregistered will be contacted if further information is required. Implementation of the new system is not expected to significantly impact the timeline of vaccination for those who have already preregistered. **Meanwhile, preregistration will be temporarily unavailable until the new system launches on Tuesday morning.**

In addition to the new registration system, Virginia will also launch a new statewide system for scheduling appointments that will eventually replace the scheduling tool currently being used by Loudoun. Virginia is also working to establish a statewide call center to support the launch of the new systems. The Loudoun Health Department intends to maintain the local call center for now, and local staff has begun to receive training with the new systems for maximum customer service effectiveness.

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[COVID-19](#)

## CVS Vaccination Program

[CVS Health](#) has committed to providing approximately 26,000 vaccine doses to Virginians at select retail stores throughout the state. This new initiative follows CVS' prior vaccination efforts, which were also coordinated by the federal government to vaccinate residents and staff of long-term care facilities (e.g. skilled nursing and assisted living facilities) and select independent living facilities (see CVS' own [data](#) on this effort).

CVS is currently offering COVID-19 vaccines to people aged 65 and over at one CVS location in Loudoun ([Lansdowne CVS Store #2278](#) at 19305 Ruby Drive, Leesburg) on a limited basis. It is expected that approximately 100 appointments will be available each day at this location.

Appointments are expected to book very quickly, as demand is high. To check availability, visit CVS' public signup [portal](#).

The opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine through CVS is independent of Virginia's vaccination plans. CVS is contracted directly with the federal government and will receive their vaccine supply directly from them. CVS doses are not allocated by the Loudoun Health Department and do not impact weekly allocation of the vaccine to Loudoun County residents. VDH is not involved with the administration or coordination of the CVS program.

That being said, the Virginia Department of Health allowed localities to give a courtesy notice of the option to receive a COVID-19 vaccine from CVS to vulnerable populations who meet the eligibility requirement. The Loudoun Health Department did contact a number of Loudoun residents aged 65 and over who are on the waiting list and notified them of the option to receive the vaccine from CVS. No one will lose their spot on

the waiting list, despite personal preference about where they receive the vaccine.

### **Avoid COVID-19 Vaccine Scams**

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has released information on how to avoid potential scams related to COVID-19 vaccine distribution. The first and most important rule is to protect yourself by not giving out personal information to unknown sources. LCSO has released some signs of potential scams:

- You are asked to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine
- You are asked to pay to put your name on a vaccine waiting list or to get early access
- Advertisements for vaccines through social media platforms, email, telephone calls, online, or from unsolicited/unknown sources
- Marketing offers to sell or ship doses of the vaccine for payment

If you believe you have been the victim of COVID-19 fraud, immediately report it to 1-800-HHS-TIPS, [tips.hhs.gov](https://tips.hhs.gov), 1-800-CALL-FBI, [ic3.gov](https://ic3.gov), or 1-800-MEDICARE.

### **Sign Up to Receive Alerts**

Additional information about the ongoing vaccination efforts will be published as it becomes available. To stay informed about when it is your turn to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, you should sign up to receive text or email updates about COVID-19 from Loudoun County:

- Text LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts in English.
- o Text LCCOVIDESP to 888777 to receive text alerts in Spanish.

- Sign up for email and text updates on COVID-19 in [Notify Me, Blogs category, “Coronavirus \(COVID-19\).”](#)
- Follow Loudoun County on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Visit the county’s website, [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](http://loudoun.gov/coronavirus).

### **Stay Vigilant in Slowing the Spread of COVID-19**

Before and after Loudoun residents receive a COVID-19 vaccine, everyone is encouraged to continue taking the steps that help prevent the spread of the disease, including washing hands frequently, wearing face coverings, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings of people and staying home when sick. Learn more about [COVID-19 prevention and care](#) on the county’s website.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Loudoun County, visit [loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine](http://loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine).

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