



Supervisor

Matt Letourneau

Dulles District



New Information on COVID Vaccine Distribution

I have some real concerns about the pace of vaccination in Virginia. Media reports indicate that the Commonwealth is lagging behind in terms of getting vaccines actually distributed. The system has been set up by the Virginia Department of Health, and it is difficult to understand exactly where the holdups are. This was the subject of my questions to our Health Director, Dr. David Goodfriend, at this week's Board of Supervisors meeting.

The good news is that he expects Virginia's COVID-19 vaccination efforts will increase in the coming weeks and months. The highest-priority individuals (healthcare workers, EMS personnel, and residents of long-term care facilities) have already been receiving the vaccine at hospitals, pharmacies, and Loudoun County Government sites. This group has been referred to as "1A." As of today, 5,753 Loudoun residents have received the vaccine. The current pace in the County is 500 vaccines administered per day. I have personally spoken with some of the recipients and have yet to

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encounter anyone who hasn't tolerated it just fine. It is important to understand that two shots are needed, which happen several weeks apart, and it takes another 7-10 days after the second shot for antibodies to start growing. So at this moment, there are very few people who have reached that stage.

The Virginia Department of Health this week released details on who is included in the next phases of vaccination. The "1B" group is next in line for vaccine distribution and includes the following people: front-line essential workers, those at higher risk of COVID exposure, those 75 and older, law enforcement, firefighters, hazmat workers, corrections and homeless shelter workers, childcare providers, K-12 teachers and staff, food and agriculture workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and mail carriers / package delivery workers.

After folks in the "1B" group are vaccinated, the "1C" group will be next in line: people aged 65-74, people aged 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions or disabilities, utility workers, housing construction workers, food service workers, faculty and staff at higher education institutions, members of the media, and officials needed to maintain continuity of government.

Once these groups have been vaccinated, vaccine opportunities will be expanded to include everyone else.

VDH has not yet released information on when vaccination for groups 1B and 1C will commence.

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The Loudoun Health Department is currently completing and submitting the necessary paperwork requesting authorization to vaccinate 1B and 1C individuals.

The County has existing plans for mass vaccinations in the event of an emergency like this. Those plans are being reviewed and refined and there will be more information at a later date.

Currently, people in Phase 1A are being contacted by their employers, designated pharmacies, and Loudoun County. In addition to hearing from these entities, Loudoun will announce when the other vaccination phases will begin. You can keep track here:

- Text LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts in English.
 - 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.

Which Type of COVID Test Should I Get?

I have seen some confusion in the community on what type of COVID test to receive, when they should be tested in the first place, and where to get

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one. Loudoun County's COVID-19 Testing Task Force, led by Dr. John Farrell of Dulles South, has released guidance on when to seek a rapid antigen test and when to seek a standard PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test for COVID-19. Rapid testing results come back much sooner than a PCR test, but produce more false negatives and positives and are not recommended in most cases.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, either test will suffice. However, if you receive a rapid antigen test and your result comes back negative, you are encouraged to receive a PCR test as well since rapid testing more frequently leads to false negatives. Testing in this instance can be performed from the day you have symptoms until 5 days after you begin to exhibit them.

If you were exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 and are asymptomatic, testing should be done by standard PCR - not rapid. Testing in this instance is best performed 5-7 days after contact with the sick individual.

Finally, if you are asymptomatic and were not exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 (for example, you may need a negative test result to travel), testing should be done by standard PCR - not rapid. In this instance, if you do receive a rapid test and your result comes back positive, you should take a PCR test since false positives are possible with rapid testing. This is the area that I have the most concerns about. I know sometimes people quickly need a test for emergency travel, activity requirements, etc. In those cases, it is tempting to get a rapid antigen test because the results will be quick. But they will also

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be VERY inaccurate unless you actually have symptoms. My concern is that we have people who are gathering with family, etc. who think they may be "safe" but could actually be carrying the virus.

The Testing Task Force continues their mission of facilitating more COVID-19 testing in the Loudoun community. For more information and a list of testing locations in the County, click [here](#).

Dulles South Food Pantry Temporary Relocation

Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry can be made in person at the former Arcola Volunteer Fire Department, located at 24300 Stone Springs Boulevard (new temporary location for the next few months) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM or [online](#). The Dulles South Food Pantry provides food assistance up to twice a month to any person who resides in the school attendance zones for the following high schools: Freedom, John Champe, Lightridge, Independence, Rock Ridge and Briar Woods. Call 703-507-2795 or email info@dsfp.org to schedule an appointment. See the Dulles South Food Pantry's [website](#) for information on how you can help the food pantry fight local hunger. Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry, Inc. are tax deductible.

Dulles Solar Project Public Meeting 1/12

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is currently considering the potential environmental effects of the Western Solar Development at Dulles Airport. MWAA will host a virtual public meeting on January 12 from 6 PM to 7 PM in order to provide information on the proposed improvements and the latest project updates, and to solicit comments from the public.

The virtual meeting can be attended via this [link](#). The password to join is 818541. If you'd like to call in, the number to do so is 215-861-0692 or 888-251-2909 (toll free). The conference code is 394890

You can review presentation materials [here](#).

Written comments from the public can be submitted by mail to Tom Wasaff from the Planning Department at 1 Aviation Circle, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Washington, D.C. 20001-6000 or by email at environmental.comments@mwaa.com. Please submit your comments by 5 PM on February 1.

PRCS Master Plan Update Meeting 1/14

The Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services is currently undergoing 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." PRCS will hold a virtual public meeting on January 14 at 7:30 PM. The meeting will include the results of recent community needs assessment surveys. For details about the process and how to join the virtual meeting and submit comments, please click [here](#). For those of you interested in more access to everything from baseball fields to trails, please consider tuning in. I will note that the public input into the program so far seems somewhat light from the active recreation community - I hear complaints from sports leagues all the time about not being able to access fields, yet the input so far is not indicative of that.

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