



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update May 29, 2020

Friends,

Happy Friday! There have been a lot of developments over the past week related to COVID-19, and today I wanted to update you on them. As I wrote in the May newsletter that came out Monday, Loudoun County and Northern Virginia entered Phase 1 of the Governor's reopening plan today. You can read more about that [here](#). As part of Phase 1, the County yesterday launched our "Loudoun Is Ready" business program - more on that below.

There is some uncertainty moving forward. The County has not received details about exactly what Phase 2 entails and what gating criteria should be used to enter it. We did hear from the Governor yesterday that Virginia will be in Phase 1 for at least one more week, and that Phase 2 is a possibility for the whole state on Friday, June 5th. Until I understand exactly what that means, there's not too much I can say about it. I do know that our staff has been working on plans to reopen various County facilities such as parks, recreation centers, and libraries as soon as we safely can. Next Tuesday, the Governor will announce guidelines for youth sports to resume play this

Matthew F. Letourneau

Dulles District Supervisor,
Loudoun County Board of
Supervisors

Chairman
[Finance, Government
Operations and Economic
Development Committee](#)

Principal Director
[Washington Metropolitan
Area Transit Authority
Board of Directors](#)

Member
[Rt. 28 Transportation
Improvement District
Commission](#)

Member
[Northern Virginia
Transportation
Commission](#)

Member
[Transportation Planning
Board](#)

Member
[Dulles Area Transportation
Association](#)

summer, and provide an update on the status of schools for the fall.

Status of COVID-19 in Loudoun, Healthcare & Testing

According to the official numbers released today by the Virginia Department Health, there are 2,429 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Loudoun County. 62 individuals have died from the virus in Loudoun. Virginia now has 42,533 confirmed cases with 1,358 deaths. These numbers have spiked in the last week, mostly due to large scale testing events like the one we hosted at Bolen Park. The daily hospital census in Northern Virginia has been flat over the past week, with exactly the same numbers each day. You can track all these statistics at our Loudoun COVID-19 [GeoHub](#).

Loudoun County's COVID-19 Testing Task Force continues to make progress on testing issues. Documents that inform their work will be posted [here](#).

COVID-19 Testing Event at Bolen Park, June 1

Loudoun County has scheduled a second round of free, drive-through testing for COVID-19 at Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park in Leesburg on Monday, June 1, 2020, beginning at 10:00 AM. Testing will end when the site reaches capacity or at 6:00 PM. As many tests as possible will be administered during the one-day testing event.

Motorists should enter Bolen Park on Crosstrail Boulevard from Sycolin Road. If navigating to the park by GPS, use the following address to arrive at the park's general location: 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg.

The June 1 event is open to all and will occur rain or shine. The test type will be a PCR test for the novel coronavirus; the test does not indicate whether an individual has antibodies from a previous COVID-19

Contact Me

Mailing Address

1 Harrison Street S.E.
P.O. Box 7000
Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

E-Mail

matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov

Office Phone

(703) 771-5069

Legislative Aide

[Tom Parker](#)

Staff Aide

[Jared Midwood](#)



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exposure. Test results will be provided approximately three days following the test.

No appointments are necessary. There are no age or residency requirements. A person does not have to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 in order to be tested. No prescription or doctor's order is necessary.

A key change in testing this time, which came at the County's request to the contractor: to help reduce wait times, people who plan to attend Monday's 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 fillable form is posted online [here](#) (PDF), and may be filled out and printed in advance of the testing event. 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.

Five Things to Know About the June 1 COVID-19 Testing:

1. Fill out a [registration form](#) (PDF) prior to arriving at the testing site.
2. Testing is open to everyone.
3. Testing is drive-through only; no walk-ups.
4. Enter the testing site on Crosstrail Boulevard; follow all directions throughout the testing site.
5. Plan on long wait times, which may be 2 hours or more; restrooms will be available periodically throughout the waiting line.

This will be the second mass COVID-19 testing opportunity in Loudoun County provided by the Virginia Department of Health. On May 20, 2020, more than 1,800 individuals received a COVID-19 test.

There is some debate about mass testing. At this point, testing availability has improved with private providers, however some still have criteria in place to receive tests. There are individuals who may not meet that criteria but believe they have exposure, so this is a

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[COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)

good opportunity for them. There are also those without access to private medical care, so this is a good opportunity for them to get a free test.

Executive Order Requiring Use of Face Coverings in Public

Beginning Friday, Governor Northam's [Executive Order 63](#) will go into effect, requiring use of a face covering while inside public buildings. This measure is intended to stop the spread of the virus by asymptomatic individuals who are in the incubation period or who have contracted COVID-19 and do not know it.

The full Executive Order is below, but I'll make one point here. This EO is difficult to enforce, and the Governor has said that law enforcement and health departments will not be enforcing it in person. In other words, there won't be a "mask police" out there busting people who aren't wearing masks. There are enforcement mechanisms through warrants in extreme circumstances. The State has published a [FAQ document](#) regarding Executive Order 63 that I would encourage you to read.

The real crux of it is - please wear a mask. While the science has certainly varied over these last several months, there is consensus that wearing masks helps to prevent the spread of the virus. Many people are asymptomatic but are carrying the virus and we know that it spreads easily. It's not some kind of political statement not to wear a mask; wearing one is simply being courteous to everyone around you. So, unless you meet one of the exceptions listed below, please wear a mask! And, when County facilities do reopen (some, like the Government Center, never closed) you will be required to wear a mask in them.

Here is the language from the executive order:

All patrons in the Commonwealth aged ten and over shall when entering, exiting, traveling through, and spending time inside the settings listed below cover

their mouth and nose with a face covering, as described and recommended by the CDC:

1. Personal care and personal grooming businesses, including but not limited to, beauty salons, barbershops, spas, massage centers, tanning salons, tattoo shops, and any other location where personal care or personal grooming services are provided.

2. All brick and mortar retail businesses, including both essential and non-essential brick and mortar retail businesses, as delineated in Amended Executive Order 61 and Amended Order of Public Health Emergency Three (2020).

3. Food and beverage establishments, including but not limited to, restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, and farmers markets, when permitted to reopen for indoor dining.

4. Entertainment or recreation businesses, including but not limited to, racetracks, historic horse racing facilities, theaters, performing arts centers, concert venues, museums, and other indoor entertainment centers, bowling alleys, skating rinks, arcades, amusement parks, trampoline parks, fairs, arts and craft facilities, aquariums, zoos, escape rooms, public and private social clubs, and all other places of indoor public amusement, once permitted to reopen to the public. Face coverings shall also be required when patrons are outdoors at these businesses if a distance of six feet from every other person cannot be maintained.

5. Train stations, bus stations, and intrastate public transportation, including buses, rideshares, trains, taxis, and cars for hire, as well as any waiting or congregating areas associated with boarding public transportation. This requirement shall not apply in any area under federal jurisdiction or control.

6. Any other indoor place shared by groups of people who are in close proximity to each other. This

restriction does not apply to persons while inside their residence or the personal residence of another. Face coverings may be removed to participate in a religious ritual.

7. State or local government buildings when accessed for the purpose of securing public services, with the exception of students in daycare centers or participating in-person classes in K-12 education or institutions of higher education.

All employees of essential businesses will also be required to wear a face covering while working. The Virginia Department of Health will have the authority to enforce this order. Violation is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. It will not be the responsibility of business owners or law enforcement personnel to enforce the face covering requirement. Enforcement will be done via an injunction or a warrant issued by a magistrate. Enforcement will be aimed only at "gross, egregious, and repeated" refusal to comply with the order. Businesses should politely ask customers to wear masks and offer to provide a mask if appropriate. Businesses can refuse service and report to the Health Department any non-compliant customers.

Exceptions are listed below:

1. While eating or drinking;
2. Individuals exercising or using exercise equipment;
3. Any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance;
4. Any person seeking to communicate with the hearing impaired and for which the mouth needs to be visible;
5. When temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to secure government or medical services;
and

6. Persons with health conditions that prohibit wearing a face covering. Nothing in this Order shall require the use of a face covering by any person for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition.

Any person who declines to wear a face covering because of a medical condition shall not be required to produce or carry medical documentation verifying the stated condition nor shall the person be required to identify the precise underlying medical condition.

"Loudoun Is Ready" Campaign

Loudoun's Department of Economic Development has partnered with Visit Loudoun and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce to create "Loudoun Is Ready," a marketing campaign intended to bolster consumer confidence in local small businesses and create incentives for businesses to prioritize health and safety of customers. Companies who are participating are pledging to follow the standards and practices outlined by the Virginia Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control.

Participants will be provided a digital toolkit, a sticker with the logo, banners, campaign buttons, and floor stickers to mark where customers must stay six feet apart. All companies that take the pledge will be listed and mapped [here](#).



Business Interruption Fund

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$1.15 million in grant funding for a Round One COVID-19 Business Interruption Fund to support Loudoun businesses throughout the County impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. The Loudoun County Economic Development Authority added \$250,000 to this fund as well. The County received about 670 qualified applicants, with enough funding for about 200 recipients. A random drawing was held to select those businesses (58 of those selected were in the Dulles District).

CARES Act funding, which flows from the Commonwealth, will be arriving shortly. The Board has elected to use \$5.7 million of that funding for two more rounds of support. Round Two will deliver grants to the more than 450 businesses that were eligible in Round One but didn't get selected (\$3.7 million). Those companies will automatically receive grants. Round Three (\$2 million) will be used for businesses under 3 employees, which were excluded from the first process.

For eligibility requirements and the application form, please visit this [site](#).

Here are the details on how to obtain Round 3 funding:

Round 3 funding will provide 400 randomly selected applicant businesses with a \$3,000 grant. Applicants must demonstrate the following criteria:

- Have between zero and two W-2 employees (no limit on 1099 contractors);
- Have less than \$2.5 million in gross annual receipts;
- Have at least a 25% loss in revenue that can be attributed to COVID-19;
- Be a licensed and operational for-profit business in Loudoun County, Va.
- If the applicant business received a grant from the COVID-19 Business Interruption Fund in the first or second rounds, they are not eligible to apply again.

The fund will open for applications at noon on June 3, 2020, and remain open for 72 hours, closing at noon on June 6, 2020. All submissions will be accepted based on the time stamp that the application was received, verified by county employees, and placed into a pool, where businesses will be randomly selected until the funding has expired.

Process for Food and Beverage Establishments to Add Outdoor Seating

As you know, Phase 1 of the Governor's plan allows for 50% capacity of outdoor seating. Many restaurants, however, do not have outdoor seating, or have very little. Loudoun County has prepared a process to assist those establishments that wish to add or expand their outdoor capacity.

Under Phase One of the Forward Virginia reopening plan, restaurants, food courts, breweries,

microbreweries, distilleries, cideries and wineries have the option to operate with outdoor seating if they have a permit from the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (Virginia ABC) for the sale of alcohol.

To obtain approval for added or expanded outdoor seating from the Virginia ABC, the establishments must show that Loudoun County has approved the seating area. To obtain written approval from Loudoun County for adding or expanding outdoor seating, establishments must submit an application for a Temporary Outdoor Seating Permit and include a sketch of the area to be used. There is no fee for this application. Issued approvals will be effective immediately. The temporary permits will expire on the expiration of restrictions on indoor occupancy in the Governor's Executive Orders or the Board of Supervisors rescinding the county's Declaration of Emergency due to COVID-19, whichever comes first.

The occupancy of the outdoor seating area may not exceed 50% of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy previously approved for indoor seating. In addition, the outdoor seating must:

- Be on the same parcel as the establishment that it serves.
- Not be located within any vehicular travel lanes, fire lanes, handicapped accessible area, or required access to and from the building.
- Not block pedestrian walkways or be located in an area that will block the use of parking spaces required for the establishment. Establishments in Loudoun's incorporated towns should seek approval from the town. If tents or other temporary structures are used, they may require a permit from the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office, depending on their size.

More information, including application requirements and a link to the Temporary Outdoor Seating Permit application, is [online](#).

Community Help

Residents who were current in their rent payments as of March 30 and who now need help paying rent because of employment impacts due to COVID-19 may contact the County's Information and Referral program at 703-777-0420 for information on the Rental Assistance Program. Applicants will need related financial and rent documents.

The Board of Supervisors has allocated \$150,000 in additional funding for organizations that provide emergency food assistance in our community. Donations to Loudoun Hunger can be made in person at 750 Miller Drive SE in Leesburg or via [the web](#). Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry can be made in person at 24757 Arcola Mills Drive on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM or online [here](#).

Loudoun's other services also remain available. During this time of high anxiety, resources are available for those who are suffering. Please contact Loudoun County's Mental Health Department if you are struggling. Furthermore, our Department of Family Services exists as a resource for those who have been displaced or otherwise need help during this time. They can be reached at 703-777-0353.

For information on the operating status of County Departments and the Court system, click [here](#).

Mortgage and Housing Assistance

To ensure homeowners and renters have the most up-to-date and accurate housing assistance information during the COVID-19 national emergency, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launched the new mortgage and housing assistance website at cfpb.gov/housing.

FHFA and HUD are offering extensive CARES Act assistance and protection for Americans having trouble paying their mortgage or rent during the COVID-19 national health emergency. The joint website consolidates the CARES Act mortgage relief, protections for renters, resources for additional help, and information on how to avoid COVID-19- related scams. It also provides lookup tools for homeowners to determine if their mortgage is federally backed, and for renters to find out if their rental unit is financed by FHA, Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac.

Upcoming Blood Drive

I previously announced that Loudoun County Public Schools would be hosting blood drives during the month of May at John Champe High School and Freedom High School. Unfortunately, after we announced that, both blood drives were cancelled by the Red Cross for unknown reasons. The blood drive at John Champe, located at 41535 Sacred Mountain Street, has been rescheduled for Monday June 15. Due to COVID-19, appointments are necessary and drop-in donations will not be allowed. To make an appointment, click [here](#). Blood donations are more necessary than ever right now, so I encourage you to take this opportunity if you are able.

Did someone forward this to you? Click below to sign up to receive future updates directly.



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Supervisor Matt Letourneau, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., 5th Floor,
P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177

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Sent by matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov in collaboration with



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