



# All About Algonkian



Juli E. Briskman | Algonkian District Supervisor



## COVID-19 Update

COVID19 NUMBERS	
VIRGINIA	LOUDOUN
 32,908	 1,579
 3,979	 146
 1,074	 49

### County Launches New COVID-19 Data Dashboards

Loudoun County's Office of Mapping and Geographic Information has updated its [COVID-19 page](#) in the county's GeoHub to include interactive dashboards that illustrate key metrics important for decision-

making regarding the region's reopening.

These dashboards include the "gating criteria" that are important in determining reopening timelines regionally and in the Commonwealth and also include other key measures. Data is updated daily from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to provide information on testing totals, cases, hospitalizations and deaths in Loudoun County.

The county's data dashboard includes a map of Loudoun COVID-19 cases by ZIP Code. At the direction of Governor Ralph Northam, and in coordination with VDH, case rates are now presented by 5-digit ZIP codes. The recent data release is a change from VDH's long-standing policy not to disclose data at the ZIP code level, which is particularly important to protect patient privacy when there are relatively few cases of a disease.

The governor's guidelines for reopening Virginia follow a three-phase plan. Phase 1, "Safer at Home," may be implemented in Northern Virginia as early as May 29, 2020. The timeline for Phase 1 and subsequent phases will be determined by monitoring gating criteria to determine when it is safe to progress to the next phase.

These criteria include the number of cases, the number of positive tests, and percent positive; trends in the percentage of cases hospitalized; hospital bed and ICU capacity; and the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The hospital bed capacity and PPE availability for Loudoun and Northern Virginia are not represented on the county's dashboard.



## Governor's Update

Today, Governor Northam announced that Virginia was able to conduct over 10,000 COVID-19 tests yesterday. To further improve testing efforts, \$58 million in CARES Act funding will be allocated to hire 200 communicable disease investigators and 1,000 contact tracers. Those interested in applying for such positions can contact the various [staffing agencies](#) responsible for hiring.

Governor Northam also announced that hospitals have been able to acquire adequate amounts of PPE. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia has distributed 793,765 N95 masks, 1.3 million surgical masks, 285,301 gowns, and 427,425 face shields.



## County Allocates \$36 Million in CARES Act Funding

The Board of Supervisors approved \$36 million in CARES Act funding to help address the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible expenses include those related to

Loudoun's direct response to the pandemic, which includes public health needs. Additionally, "second order" effects of the pandemic are eligible, including business disruption funding and other economic support to those impacted economically. It is important to note that federal guidance specifically prohibits the use of CARES funding to offset any losses of revenue incurred by public entities.

Staff monitors COVID-19 related expenditures closely and many of the expenses incurred to date will be eligible for reimbursement under CARES Act funding. Examples of these uses include:

- Overtime costs for public health and public safety positions responding to the public health emergency

- Grants and other aid provided to stabilize local businesses experiencing disruption
- Financial support to non-profit organizations
- Acquisition of personal protective equipment and other sanitization and disinfectant product purchases
- Technology and equipment costs incurred to expand utilization of telework
- Costs related to higher frequency or more specialized cleaning and disinfection of County facilities
- Facility and workspace modification (e.g., to allow appropriate social distancing)
- Increased rent assistance and food assistance expenditures

The specific Board item can be viewed [here](#).



## Board Donates \$50,000 to the Community Emergency Relief Fund

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved a \$50,000 donation to the Community Foundation's Community Emergency Relief Fund. The Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization with 501(c) status, established the CERF to address COVID-19 emergency response and relief efforts specific to Loudoun. The overall purpose of the CERF is to help those affected by the crisis to pay their rent, utility bills, and medical expenses. The County's donation will be specifically used for rental assistance.

The CERF has greater flexibility to help workers in non-traditional jobs (all-cash, independent or on-demand workers) and/or living situations (not having a lease or renting a room from a renter) that may need rent assistance due to job loss or reduced hours because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The specific Board item can be viewed [here](#).



## County Expands Rent Assistance Program

The Loudoun County government has expanded its rent assistance program for Loudoun County households economically impacted by COVID-19.

The Board of Supervisors has approved re-allocating \$480,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to expand the rent assistance program. The goal is to help ensure housing stability for low-income workers who have been furloughed, lost jobs or had work hours reduced due to the pandemic.

The terms of the program include:

- Income eligibility based on household size for households earning up to 70% of the state median income (\$70,332 for a family of 4).
- Direct payments made to landlords or property management companies on behalf of residents who qualify for the program.
- Depending on funding availability, the program provides rent assistance up to \$1,000 per month for up to three months. Applicants need to apply for one month of assistance at a time; months do not need to be consecutive.
- Residents must be current in their rent payments as of March 30, 2020.
- The program will continue as long as the local emergency declaration is in effect and funding is available.

Residents who were current in their rent payments as of March 30, 2020, and who now need help paying rent, may submit a completed application form as well as eligibility documentation, such as a current lease and paperwork that shows a job loss, reduced income, or hardship due to COVID-19. This documentation will be verified to determine eligibility. Submitting an application does not guarantee financial assistance will be provided.

To download an application, visit [loudoun.gov/limitedrentassistance](https://loudoun.gov/limitedrentassistance). To request a paper copy of the application form and checklist be mailed to you, contact the county's Information and Referral program at 703-777-0420.

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The one-day COVID-19 testing site at Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park in Loudoun County closed prior to the advertised closing time of 6:00 p.m. after reaching capacity. By the time testing is complete, more than 1,700 people will have received tests for COVID-19. Additional COVID-19 testing events that are facilitated by the Virginia Department of Health are planned in Northern Virginia.



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Please share any messages of hope you see. Submissions may be sent to Zachary Harris at [zachary.harris@loudoun.gov](mailto:zachary.harris@loudoun.gov) and we'll share 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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