

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BUSINESS MEETING  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

**ELECTION DISTRICTS:** Countywide

**CRITICAL ACTION DATE:** At the pleasure of the Board

**STAFF CONTACTS:** Dr. David Goodfriend, Health Department  
Erin McLellan, County Administration

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this item is to provide information to the Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding the County's response to the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic.

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**BACKGROUND:** On March 11, 2020, the Board requested that a standing item be placed on future Business Meeting agendas to provide information on the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing response thereto. This item provides pertinent updates since the last information item.

**LOUDOUN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**COVID-19 Related Metrics:** The cumulative number of confirmed positive cases in Loudoun County as of January 28, 2021 is 19,821 described as 9,777 females and 9,782 males (262 not reported), with 1,008 in the 0-9 age group; 2,414 in the 10-19 age group; 3,176 in the 20-29 age group; 3,221 in the 30-39 age group; 3,421 in the 40-49 age group; 2,935 in the 50-59 age group; 1,313 in the 60-69 age group; 613 in the 70-79 age group, and 501 in the 80+ age group (and 1,219 whose ages were not reported). Case counts reflect what has been reported to VDH by healthcare providers and laboratories. This does not include any cases that are waiting for test results. The seven-day average of new cases reported as of January 27, 2021 is 302.7, an increase of 197.3 from the seven-day average of 105.4 as of the January 19, 2021 Board update.

There have been 175 cumulative Loudoun fatalities associated with COVID-19 (an increase of 10 since the January 19, 2021, Board update). These are described as 105 females and 70 males, one in the 30-39 age group, one in the 40-49 age group, six in the 50-59 age group, 17 in the 60-69 age group, 32 in the 70-79 age group, and 117 in the 80+ age group (and one whose age is not reported). For more information, visit [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

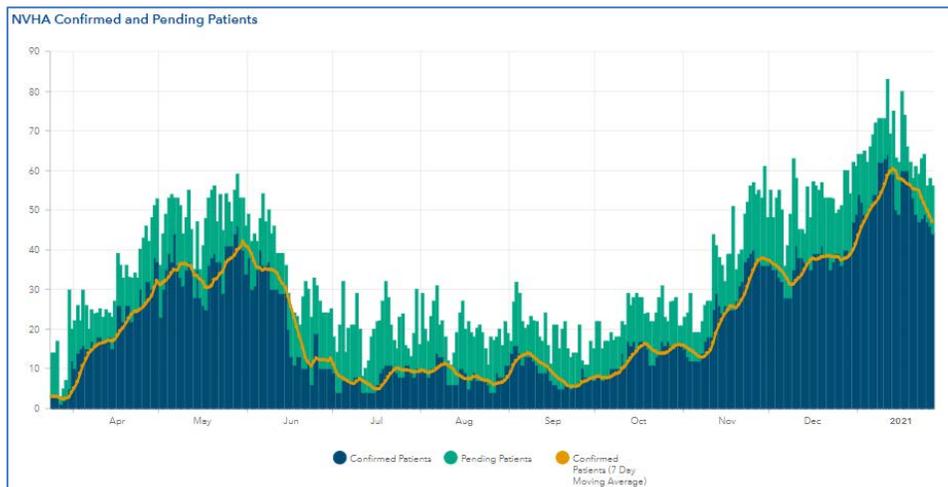
**COVID-19 Related Metrics:** As of January 28, 2021<sup>1</sup>, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reports 493,674 total cases and 6,308 deaths in the Commonwealth. For more information, visit [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

**B.1.1.7 Variant:** On January 25, 2021, VDH [announced](#) that the first case of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 has been identified in an adult resident of Northern Virginia with no reported recent travel history. In the United States, [nearly 300](#) cases of the B.1.1.7 variant have been detected in 23 states as of January 26, 2021. The B.1.1.7 variant, which first emerged in the United Kingdom in late 2020, is associated with increased person-to-person transmission of COVID-19. According to the [CDC](#), as a virus spreads from one person to another, it makes copies of itself and sometimes makes small genetic changes called mutations. Because of these mutations, new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. The B.1.1.7 variant contains an unusually large number of mutations. VDH and CDC advise that early data suggests that currently authorized vaccines are effective against the B.1.1.7 variant.

## HOSPITALS

The Loudoun Health Director notes that while COVID-19 cases continue to increase in Loudoun County, for now, hospitalizations and deaths are not experiencing that same increase. Inova Loudoun and HCA StoneSprings hospitals data are posted on Loudoun County's [dashboard](#). As of January 27, 2021, 44 hospitalized patients are confirmed COVID-19 and 12 hospitalized patients are pending test results. The chart below shows the trendline of this data. The seven-day moving average for confirmed patients has decreased to 44.1, down from 60.4 as of the January 19, 2021, Board update.

**Figure 1. Inova Loudoun and HCA StoneSprings Hospitalization Data**



<sup>1</sup> Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on January 28, 2021.

The Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association has an [online data dashboard](#) to provide statistics on the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations across the Commonwealth, ventilator usage, current hospital bed availability, and metrics on the number of hospitals experiencing challenges obtaining or replenishing critical inventories of PPE and other needed medical supplies. As of January 28, 2021, 2,439 currently hospitalized patients are confirmed positive, a decrease of 381 patients since the January 19, 2021 Board update. There are 515 confirmed positive COVID-19 patients and those whose COVID-19 test results are pending currently hospitalized in the ICU, a decrease of 68 patients since the January 19, 2021 Board update. Approximately 36 percent of the available ventilators are currently in use at hospitals, with no change from the January 19, 2021, Board update. Over the summer, this number ranged between 19 and 23 percent.

## TESTING

**Testing Task Force:** The Loudoun County Testing Task Force will meet on February 4, 2021. Any updates will be provided after the February meeting. Please visit the [Testing Task Force](#) website during the month for upcoming testing events as well as ongoing testing location information.

**Mass Testing Event:** Loudoun County held a free, drive-through, mass COVID-19 testing event on January 27, 2021 at Claude Moore Recreation and Community Center in Sterling. The testing event was open to the public, with no age or residency requirements and no appointments necessary. A total of 732 persons received a PCR test (nasal swab).

**New Fixed Testing Events:** Beginning in February, Loudoun County will hold twice-weekly, free drive-through COVID-19 testing events at multiple locations. Unlike past testing events hosted by Loudoun County, these weekly, fixed events will not be mass testing sites and instead are intended to provide regular, predictable testing opportunities for the community. As a result, capacity at these fixed testing sites will be limited. The following upcoming testing events will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:

- 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](#)

These testing events are open to all. There are no age or residency requirements. No prescriptions or appointments are necessary. A person does not have to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 in order to be tested. A PCR test (nasal swab) will be administered, which tests for the novel coronavirus.

No antibody or rapid tests will be offered. No COVID-19 vaccine will be available at these events. For additional information including registration forms, visit [loudoun.gov/COVID19testing](https://loudoun.gov/COVID19testing). Visit the Virginia Department of Health's website to find additional [COVID-19 testing locations](#) in Loudoun County and Northern Virginia, including one-day testing events. For help finding testing, call the Loudoun Health Department information line at 703-737-8300, Monday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## VACCINE

**COVID-19 Vaccine Metrics:** According the VDH's [COVID-19 Vaccine Summary](#) dashboard, as of January 28, 2021, a total of 1,166,600<sup>2</sup> vaccine doses have been distributed throughout Virginia; 553,463 Virginians have received one dose of a vaccine, and 88,410 Virginians have been fully vaccinated. A total of 6% of Virginians have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

VDH's vaccine dashboard indicates that 23,966 doses have been administered to Loudoun County residents. Of those, 2,966 Loudoun residents are fully vaccinated (have received two doses). This total includes doses administered by the Health Department, by hospitals, and by CVS and Walgreens to long term care facilities. Between December 27, 2020 and January 26, 2021, Loudoun Health Department has administered a total of all 11,401 doses of the Moderna vaccine at one, large, closed vaccination site and has been administering vaccines to approximately 500 to 600 persons per day. LCPS also established a vaccination site at a school in central Loudoun and on January 14, 2021, began utilizing LCPS nurses to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to their 11,000 employees. The County and Loudoun Health Department are supporting LCPS in their vaccination effort. As of January 27, 2021, a total of 7,136 LCPS employees have received their first vaccination.

As of January 27, 2021, the [Virginia Vaccine Summary Dashboard](#) has been updated by VDH to provide greater transparency and clarity, and now shows that the majority of first doses available to the Commonwealth have been administered. This results from identifying doses that can be redistributed and administered quickly; reducing the backlog of data entry from vaccine providers; and clarifying the status of doses sent to CVS and Walgreens as part of the federal program to vaccinate residents of long-term care facilities. It is important to note that the number of doses shown as being "received" by hospitals and local health districts does not account for the doses they then redistributed to other partners such as physicians and pharmacies. About half of the doses that have been received but not administered are second doses that will be administered three or four weeks after the corresponding first doses.

**Vaccine Availability:** VDH is leading the vaccination effort for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Virginia is currently in [Phase 1b of vaccine eligibility](#). This means that approximately half of Virginia's population is now eligible to receive the vaccine. Those who are eligible under Phase

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<sup>2</sup> Doses Distributed: Cumulative counts of COVID-19 vaccine doses (Moderna and Pfizer) recorded as shipped in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Vaccine Tracking System (VTrckS) since December 13, 2020. Doses distributed does *not* include vaccine allocated to the Federal CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Facilities.

1b include frontline essential workers, people aged 65 years and older, people who have high-risk medical conditions identified by the CDC, and people living in correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and migrant labor camps.

Since 50% of Virginians are currently eligible to receive the vaccine, there are simply not enough doses available yet for everyone who is eligible to receive them. Vaccine supply is the single limiting factor to increasing Loudoun County's ability to vaccinate more people. As vaccine supply increases, more appointments for those in the [Phase 1a and Phase 1b](#) priority groups can be made. Further, as supply increases, the Health Department can consider allocating vaccine to other health care providers in the community, such as private doctors and pharmacies, in order to increase access to vaccine.

Like all states, Virginia relies on the federal government to allocate and distribute vaccine doses to the health districts throughout Virginia. Virginia takes the number of weekly doses allocated by the federal government, then further allocates those doses to counties based on population. For example, the week of January 25, Virginia received approximately 105,000 first doses of vaccine from the federal government. Of those doses, Virginia allocated 4,800 first doses of vaccine to Loudoun County. The same week, Loudoun additionally received second doses for those who were due to receive a second dose of the vaccine.

VDH has advised the Loudoun Health Department to expect about the same number of first doses, 4,800 per week, for the next few weeks. VDH further advises that the pace of incoming doses is not expected to increase until March. If supply continues on its current track, Virginia and Loudoun County are not likely to meet the demand for Phase 1b until March or April.

On January 26, 2021, President Joe Biden [announced](#) that starting the first week in February, the federal government will increase the overall weekly vaccination distribution to states by 1.4 million doses, from 8.6 million doses to a minimum of 10 million doses. Further, President Biden announced increased transparency by providing states a reliable three-week forecast on the supply of vaccine doses, to assist localities in planning and scheduling vaccine appointments.

Consistent with the federal announcement, on January 27, 2021, Governor Ralph Northam announced at his [press conference](#) that the Biden Administration will increase distribution of vaccines by 16% in the near future. The Governor reiterated that vaccine allocations for Virginia health districts are now distributed on a per capita basis. While health districts are allowed flexibility in how doses are administered to eligible individuals, roughly 50% of the available supply should be used for people ages 65 and older. The other 50% should be used for health care workers (Phase 1a), frontline essential workers (Phase 1b), people with high-risk conditions as identified by the [CDC](#); and people in correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and migrant labor camps. VDH has stated that frontline essential workers should be prioritized in the order in the [Phase 1b details](#).

The Governor also announced that CVS and Walgreen's pharmacies continue their efforts in the vaccination of health care workers and residents in Virginia long term care facilities (i.e., nursing

care and assisted living care) under federal contracts. Furthermore, Governor Northam stated that he has directed VDH to develop a process to collect race and ethnicity information for those who will be vaccinated in order to better understand whether certain groups are being underserved.

***Vaccine First Doses:*** Tens of thousands of Loudoun residents have requested appointments for the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The number of requested appointments far exceeds the 4,800 doses received per week. However, the Health Department continues to accept appointment requests for [Phase 1a and Phase 1b](#) priority groups in preparation for when vaccine becomes available.

For individuals who are eligible to be vaccinated and their employer has not made arrangements for vaccination, the fastest and most efficient method to request an appointment for a vaccine is to complete this [online pre-screening survey](#). Employers who are interested in requesting appointments for multiple employees should use the same survey; select “organization” when prompted. After submitting the survey, patience is requested, as it may be weeks or longer before vaccination appointments become available for those who have registered. Since vaccine allocations have varied significantly from week to week, as distributed by the state and federal government, the Health Department is only scheduling appointments when they are assured that there is vaccine for those appointment slots.

***Vaccine Second Doses:*** For persons who are approaching the time for their second dose, the Health Department advises to schedule a vaccine appointment from the same source of the first dose, if possible. For example, individuals who scheduled first appointments through the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) should log in to VAMS and make the second appointment. There is no need to submit additional information to the Health Department. For persons who made an appointment by phone, the Health Department will contact those individuals regarding second dose appointments.

According to the [CDC](#), the second dose should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible—21 days for Pfizer-BioNTech and 28 days for Moderna. Persons should not be scheduled to receive the second dose earlier than recommended. However, second doses administered within a grace period of 4 days earlier than the recommended date for the second dose are still considered valid. If a person misses the second dose at the 21- or 28-day mark, the CDC advises the second dose may be administered up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose. Note that for those who receive a first dose of vaccine, the vaccine distribution system is set up to automatically ship the appropriate number of second doses to arrive at the correct time, three or four weeks later as appropriate.

***Vaccine Sites:*** Vaccination sites are currently limited in Loudoun County due to the limited amount of vaccine supply. The Loudoun Health Department is operating two closed vaccine clinics in central and eastern Loudoun. One is limited to LCPS personnel; the other is administering vaccine to Phases 1a and 1b priority groups. CVS and Walgreen’s also continue their vaccination efforts at long term care facilities through a partnership with the federal government. Area hospitals continue to administer vaccine to health care workers (Phase 1a).

Loudoun is actively standing up additional infrastructure so that when supply becomes available, Loudoun will be ready to administer vaccine. First, the County has entered into a lease agreement to operate a full-scale COVID-19 vaccination clinic at a large site in the eastern portion of the county. This site is not yet operational for the general public. The Health Department expects to be able to administer three times as many vaccines per week (approximately 4,800 doses a day) at the new site than it is currently administering, pending a reliable vaccine supply. Further, the Health Department is actively training additional vaccinators, including medics and emergency medical technicians with the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System, to supplement the Medical Reserve Corps and local Health Department's public health nurses. These additional vaccinators will support more throughput at the new vaccine site once it is operational and when vaccine supply increases.

The Health Department has also begun the process of expanding access to vaccine in western Loudoun County by entering into partnerships with select health care providers in that portion of the county. The Health Department is balancing the value in providing equal geographic access with the need to maximize efficiency and minimize waste. Once a vaccine vial is opened, all 10 doses must be used within 6 hours or the unused portion is thrown away. More information will be made available as details are finalized. Finally, the County and the Health Department have also initiated conversations with several potential private providers, such as pharmacies and medical offices, laying the groundwork for potential partnerships in the coming months when vaccine supply increases.

***COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions:*** Loudoun County's [COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage](#) provides information and answers to frequently asked questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine in the county. Also, VDH and the CDC continue to update their FAQs on the COVID-19 vaccine. See [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs](#) and [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs](#).

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

***Wi-Fi Hot Spot in Western Loudoun:*** Loudoun County has installed a new outdoor Wi-Fi hot spot at the Loudoun Valley Community Center, which is operated by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and located at 320 W. School Street in Purcellville. Funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the hot spot 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. The signal is available to access in the parking lot of the community center. The name of the network is ParksRec-Public. No password is required. The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Last year, the county amplified the Loudoun County Public Library's Wi-Fi signal so that it is available to access in the parking lots immediately adjacent to the Lovettsville, Middleburg, and Purcellville libraries. A similar project is underway at the Lovettsville Community Center. Refer to the [News Release](#).

## GUBERNATORIAL ACTIONS

***Extended Executive Order 72:*** Governor Northam extended by amendment his [Executive Order 72](#) and Order of Public Health Emergency 9 on January 27, 2021 until 11:59 a.m. on February 28, 2021. This order extends the COVID-19 restrictions that were already in place under this Order. He justified the extension due to the case metrics which as of January 25 has Virginia's seven-day (7-day) moving average of new COVID-19 cases at more than 4,000 per day. Virginia's PCR percent test positivity rate is at 12.5%, an increase of 11.1% approximately one month ago. The Governor also cited that the statewide hospitalization rate of COVID-19 hospitalizations (6.1 per 100,000 persons) is well above the threshold of concern (3.5 per 100,000 persons).

***Virginia's Workplace Safety Standards:*** Governor Northam [announced](#) that the permanent version of Virginia's COVID-19 workplace safety requirements ([Final Standard for Infectious Disease Prevention of the Virus That Causes COVID-19](#)) went into effect on January 27, 2021. The permanent standards align closely with the temporary standards adopted in July 2020. The standards are designed to protect Virginia's workforce by requiring personal protective equipment, sanitation, social distancing, infectious disease preparedness and response plans, record keeping, training, and hazard communications in workplaces across the Commonwealth. The standards will remain in effect throughout the pandemic; the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's Safety and Health Codes Board will reconvene within 14 days of the expiration of Governor Northam's COVID-19 emergency declaration to determine whether there is a continued need for the standard.

## FEDERAL ACTIONS

On January 14, 2021, President Biden unveiled an extensive \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package, the [American Rescue Plan](#). The plan calls on Congress to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for state and local governments to support front-line public-sector workers. The proposed plan also uses federal resources to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine, scale testing, and reopen schools. The plan contains many county priorities, including a national COVID-19 vaccination program, increased food assistance, and emergency funding for childcare, small businesses, unemployment benefits, rental assistance, and public transit. Highlights of the proposed plan follow:

- \$50 billion for the expansion of COVID-19 testing
- Funding for 100,000 public health workers to perform vaccine outreach and contact tracing.
- Funding for states to deploy teams to long term care facilities experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks.
- Renewal of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) emergency paid leave program through September 30, 2021, with 14 weeks of paid sick and family medical leave.
- Extension of the eviction and foreclosure moratoriums and continued applications for forbearance on federally guaranteed mortgages until September 30, 2021.
- \$30 billion in rental and energy and water assistance for families.
- A third round of Economic Impact Payments at \$1,400 per person.

- \$25 billion for an Emergency Stabilization Fund to help childcare providers safely stay open or reopen after the pandemic, as well as an additional \$15 billion in emergency funds for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).
- \$170 billion for education, \$130 billion of which would target K-12 schools for expenses associated with reopening safely, facilitating remote learning, and meeting students' academic and mental health needs.
- \$400 per week unemployment insurance benefit through September 2021.
- \$20 billion to support public transit.
- Increase in federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour.
- \$15 billion in "flexible, equitably distributed" grants to the hardest-hit small businesses
- \$35 billion in small business financing programs, with the aim of leveraging it into \$175 billion in lending and investment.

***National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness:*** On January 21, 2021, the Biden administration released a national strategy for responding to COVID-19. See the [National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness](#). The strategy is intended to serve as a roadmap to guide America out of the public health crisis. The strategy is designed around seven stated goals: 1) Restore trust with the American people. 2) Mount a safe, effective, and comprehensive vaccination campaign. 3) Mitigate spread through expanding masking, testing, data, treatments, health care workforce, and clear public health standards. 4) Immediately expand emergency relief and exercise the Defense Production Act. 5) Safely reopen schools, businesses, and travel while protecting workers. 6) Protect those most at risk and advance equity, including across racial, ethnic and rural/urban lines. 7) Restore U.S. leadership globally and build better preparedness for future threats.

## **RESIDENT SUPPORT**

***Information and Referral Program:*** Loudoun's Information and Referral Program continues to help individuals and families better understand the range of health and human services options available in Loudoun County, including critical services such as food resources, employment services, housing and homeless services, utility assistance, and childcare assistance. Since March 2020, the Department of Family Services (DFS) has received 11,611 calls to the information and referral program. Of those, DFS has made 7,080 referrals to programs providing the services listed above and provided requested information or responded to questions for the remaining 4,496 inquiries. Residents may contact an Information and Referral Line specialist at 703-777-0420 or online, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours and on the weekend, complete an [online form](#) or send an [email](#) and a specialist will respond the next business day.

***Rental Assistance Program:*** Since the beginning of April 2020, the Loudoun County Department of Family Services (DFS) has received a total of 3,977 inquiries. The department has made 384 unique household rental payments covering 1,187 months of assistance, totaling more than \$1.9 million to eligible Loudoun households. Each household may receive up to 9 months of assistance. As of December 18, 2020, eligibility is no longer income based. The Board created this program with the reallocation of funds from the Eastern Loudoun County Home

Revitalization Program. The program has been funded largely by federal CARES Act dollars and is currently supplemented with local dollars. Learn more about the program at [loudoun.gov/lra](https://loudoun.gov/lra) and watch the “How to Apply” video for a detailed tour of the website and online application: [English video](#) and [video en español](#).

**Utility Assistance Program:** Administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington and Loudoun Cares, the program has received responded to 208 referrals since it began in October 2020 and has a waiting list of over 200. The Utility Assistance Program is funded with \$170,000 in Round 2 CARES Act dollars and has spent \$109,252 in direct payments to date. Residential customers, including those in the seven incorporated towns, who meet eligibility criteria can request support with paying their utilities up to \$1,750 by accessing the COVID-19 Emergency Fund and Helpline at 703-669-5040. Utilities include electric, water, and gas bills, as well as propane, oil, or wood, if those are used for heating or cooking. The Utility Assistance Program will transition to the use of general fund dollars starting January 28. It is projected that the program will increase direct assistance significantly due to the end of town moratoria on shut offs.

**Complementary Safety Net Payment Program:** DFS and the Health Department have made 72 referrals to the County’s Complementary Safety Net Payment Program since its start on October 19, 2020. The Safety Net program will continue through June 30, 2021 using general fund dollars and has expanded outreach to Inova Loudoun Hospital. It is anticipated that an average of \$20,000 in direct assistance payments will be issued per month. This program supports residents who test positive for COVID-19 at Loudoun Health Department or HealthWorks events and require financial assistance to maintain good standing with debtors while safely isolating. Individuals may receive up to \$1,500 made payable to vendors on their behalf for household expenses.

**Isolation and Quarantine Program:** DFS, in coordination with Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Developmental Services (MHSADS), has established temporary isolation and quarantine housing for Loudoun residents to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Four residents have been assisted to date since the program started on September 10, 2020.

**CARES Act Funding for Nonprofits and Faith Based Organizations Round 2:** Loudoun County allocated \$2.25 million in federal CARES Act funding for eligible nonprofit and faith-based organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible organizations could request funding for these four programs: Emergency Food Assistance Program, Service Expansion Program, Nonprofit Service Interruption Program, and Nonprofit Service Continuity Program. The County received 64 applications for Round 2 of CARES Act nonprofit/faith-based funding. To date, the County has distributed all awards totaling \$2,160,013 of Round 2 funding. The deadline to expend current funds has been extended to February 28, 2021.

## **BUSINESS SUPPORT**

***Post-Grant Surveys Distributed:*** All recipients of both the Business Interruption Fund and Outdoor Seating grants have received a survey to help the County assess the impact of the grants, and the overall health of the businesses moving into the new year. Recipients were also asked in the survey if they would be part of a case study group that the Department of Economic Development will work with over the next several months to further assess the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the business community. The post-grant survey results will be provided on February 9 at the Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee meeting.

***FireUp Business Mentoring and Coaching Program:*** Applications were received from 47 Loudoun County small businesses for the FireUp Business Mentoring and Coaching Program. The current cohort brings together businesses from the region, in partnership with Loudoun County, Prince William County, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia. The program is operated by Ureeka, an inclusive online community of entrepreneurs providing resources that are tailored to female and minority-owned small businesses. The application period ran from January 12-26, and applications are being considered in the order that they were submitted online. Additional details are available at [grants.ureeka.biz/fireup-program](https://grants.ureeka.biz/fireup-program).

***Paycheck Protection Program Reopens:*** The Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Treasury reopened the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for both new applicants and previous applicants to receive additional aid until March 31, 2021. To promote access to capital, this round of the PPP began with opening to community financial institutions for First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11. The window then opened for Second Draw PPP Loans on January 13, which are for businesses that previously received a PPP loan, used the full amount for authorized uses, and meet all eligibility criteria. The PPP opened for lenders with \$1 billion or less in assets on January 15, and then opened to all participating PPP lenders on January 19. Updated PPP guidance outlining Program changes to enhance its effectiveness and accessibility was released on January 6 in accordance with the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-Profits, and Venues Act. This round of the PPP continues to prioritize millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$284 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses. Additional details are available at [biz.loudoun.gov](https://biz.loudoun.gov).

## **COURTS**

***Extension of Judicial Emergency:*** On January 19, 2021, the Supreme Court of Virginia extended its Declaration of Judicial Emergency through February 14, 2021 for the 16<sup>th</sup> time. Provisions of the 15<sup>th</sup> Order extending the Declaration of Judicial Emergency in response to the Covid-19 Emergency, entered on December 18, 2020 (Fifteenth Order), shall continue to apply in all courts for the duration of this Order unless amended by a future order. The period of Judicial Emergency now extends from March 16, 2020, through February 14, 2021.

***Resumption of Criminal Jury Trials:*** The 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in Loudoun began its first multi-week criminal jury trial on January 19, 2021. The trial, now in its second week, has implemented Loudoun Circuit Court's Jury Resumption Plan, which was approved by the Virginia Supreme Court in the fall of 2020. The plan requires a series of mitigation measures to protect the health and safety of those involved in jury trials and was developed under the advisement of the Health Department. These measures include reconfiguration and expanded use of other court rooms and jury management areas to accommodate appropriate social distancing and an expanded jury pool. Additional technology, protective equipment, enhanced routine cleanings, and an expanded juror questionnaire have been actively deployed. The departments of General Services and Information Technology, Sheriff's Office, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Circuit Court, and the Office of Emergency Management played significant roles in planning and implementation for this initial jury trial.

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Parks, Recreation, and Community Services (PRCS) continues to support the County's COVID-19 response effort in a variety of ways. PRCS continues to offer childcare through the distance learning childcare program. Approximately 330 children are enrolled in the program; this dropped by approximately 40 since the winter break and since LCPS returned to one hundred percent distance learning.

PRCS is also assisting the Health Department in standing up the new POD site in eastern Loudoun, and providing staffing to assist with logistics and parking at the existing vaccination site. Seven PRCS staff members are assisting Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers respond to a high volume of calls and emails at the Health Department's call center; this is largely associated with scheduling appointments for the Phase 1b priority group vaccines. PRCS has visited the Health Department's vaccination site to assess its ability to accommodate seniors and are providing a staff member from the Area Agency on Aging at the vaccination site for assisting with accommodation issues and assistance with seniors that may arise. There is also continued discussions surrounding the exploring of additional potential vaccine locations. PRCS has also communicated the most current information on vaccines to all patrons within their registration system who are in the 75 and older group.

## **LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

***Cases in Loudoun County Public School System:*** As of January 28, 2021<sup>3</sup>, there are 27 active coronavirus staff cases and 4 active student cases across 26 LCPS sites. A total of 39 staff members and 2 students are actively quarantining. Since the school year began on September 8, 2020, the cumulative number of confirmed positive coronavirus cases in the LCPS system is 443 staff members and 164 students. For more information, visit [LCPS COVID-19 Case Data](#).

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<sup>3</sup> Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on January 28, 2021.

***Vaccine for LCPS Employees:*** LCPS has established a vaccination site at a school in central Loudoun and on January 14, 2021, began utilizing LCPS nurses to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to their 11,000 employees. The County and Loudoun Health Department are supporting LCPS in their vaccination effort. As of January 27, 2021, a total of 7,136 LCPS employees have received their first vaccination.

***Return to Hybrid Model of Instruction:*** On January 26, 2021, the School Board deliberated on the possibility for students to return to the hybrid model of instruction based upon their preferences. Under the proposal being considered, grades K-5 students and special education students could return to the hybrid classroom on February 15, 2021, and students in grades 6-12 could return to hybrid model on March 3, 2021. This applies only to those students whose families selected the hybrid model. A decision by the LCPS School Board is expected to be entertained at their February 2, 2021 Business Meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.