

**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**

Loudoun is now averaging 60 new COVID-19-positive cases per day. This is an improvement upon the 300 positive cases per day Loudoun was experiencing during the winter peak. However, case numbers remain concerning as upcoming spring break and other spring celebrations could increase the spread of the virus, including the emerging COVID-19 variants.

**COVID-19 Related Metrics:** The cumulative number of confirmed positive cases in Loudoun County as of March 11, 2021 is 23,708 described as 11,696 females and 11,702 males (310 not reported), with 1,301 in the 0-9 age group; 2,998 in the 10-19 age group; 3,761 in the 20-29 age group; 3,826 in the 30-39 age group; 4,065 in the 40-49 age group; 3,498 in the 50-59 age group; 1,568 in the 60-69 age group; 734 in the 70-79 age group, and 597 in the 80+ age group (and 1,360 whose ages were not reported). Case counts reflect what has been reported to VDH by healthcare providers and laboratories and do not include cases that are waiting for test results. The seven-day average of new cases reported as of March 11, 2021 is 62, a increase of 2.0 from the seven-day average of 60 as of the March 2, 2021 Board update.

There have been 262 cumulative Loudoun fatalities associated with COVID-19 (an increase of 54 since the March 2, 2021, Board update). These are described as 145 females and 117 males, one in the 20-29 age group, two in the 30-39 age group, four in the 40-49 age group, ten in the 50-59 age group, 28 in the 60-69 age group, 50 in the 70-79 age group, and 165 in the 80+ age group

(and two whose age are not reported). Note that many of the newly reported fatalities occurred during the winter peak. See [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

**Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):** MRC volunteers continue to play a key role in protecting the community's health during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of February 28, 2021, MRC have worked a total of 39,627 hours, which is valued at approximately \$1.1 million. Some of their primary activities are staffing COVID-19 testing sites, vaccine clinics, and the call center.

**Loudoun COVID-19 Call Center:** Loudoun's COVID-19 call center has been receiving approximately 400 incoming calls per day. Themes of the inquiries are placement on the waitlist and timing for vaccine appointments. Residents with COVID-19 questions may call the Loudoun call center at 703-737-8300 on Monday through Sunday between 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. From 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and again from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., calls to Loudoun's call center are automatically forwarded to the statewide call center.

## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**COVID-19 Related Metrics:** As of March 11, 2021<sup>1</sup>, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reports 590,625 total cases and 9,902 deaths in the Commonwealth. For more information, visit [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#). On March 5, 2021, VDH [reported](#) Virginia's first COVID-19-related death of a child under 10 years old. The child was from the Central Virginia Region and died from complications of a chronic health condition and COVID-19.

**Statewide Vaccine Preregistration System:** The statewide COVID-19 vaccine preregistration system that launched on February 16, 2021, has completed data migration. VDH reports the system was unable to merge some records due to missing information. On March 4, 2021, VDH asked everyone who has preregistered through local health departments or the statewide system to verify and update their preregistration information at [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov) or 877-VAX-VA. This is necessary because VDH added some questions to the preregistration form, seeks consistent information for registrants across the state, and wants everyone's current eligibility information. VDH advises that updating information will not change the preregistration date, and those who cannot find their name in the state system should call the state call center at 877-VAX-VA. Note the LHD is *not* using the statewide system to schedule vaccine appointments. LHD is scheduling appointments from Loudoun's original waitlist, and everyone maintained their place on the waitlist.

## **HOSPITALS**

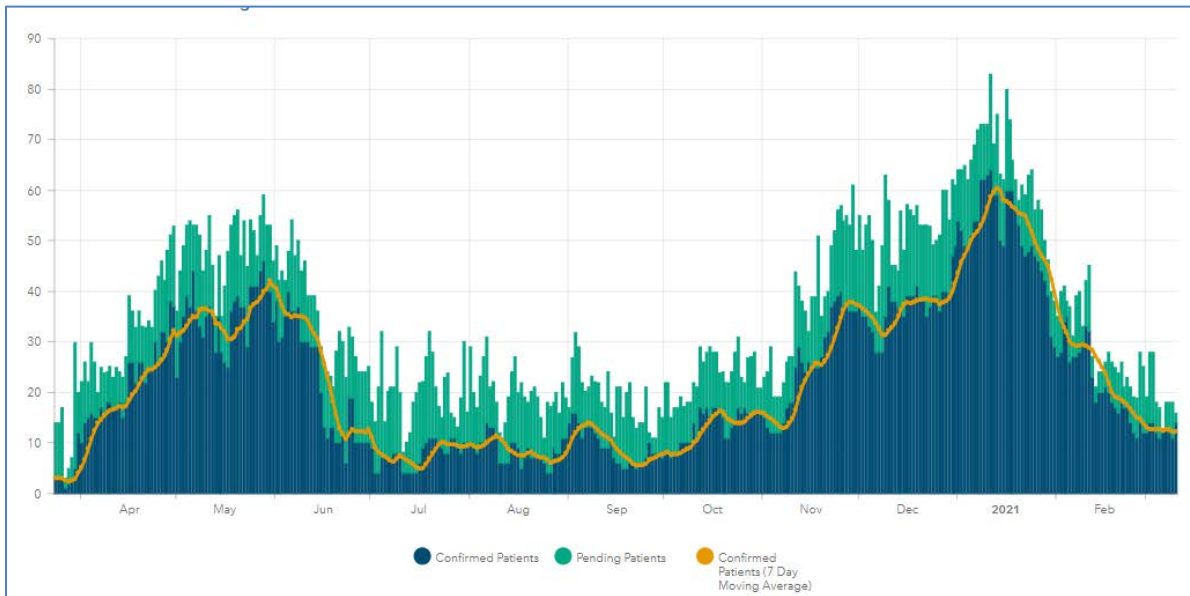
Hospitalization trends continue to improve. As of March 10, 2021, Inova Loudoun and HCA StoneSprings hospitals report 14 hospitalized patients are confirmed COVID-19 and 2 hospitalized patients are pending test results. The chart below shows the trendline of this data. The seven-day

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<sup>1</sup> Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on March 11, 2021.

moving average for confirmed patients has decreased to 12.1, down from 16.7 as of the March 2, 2021, Board update. For more information, view Loudoun County's COVID-19 [dashboard](#).

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



According to the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association's [online data dashboard](#), as of March 11, 2021, 1,129 currently hospitalized patients are confirmed positive, a decrease of 142 patients since the March 2, 2021 Board update. There are 230 confirmed positive COVID-19 patients and those whose COVID-19 test results are pending currently hospitalized in the ICU, a decrease of 73 patients since the March 2, 2021 Board update. Approximately 30% of the available ventilators are currently in use at hospitals, a one percent decrease from the March 2, 2021 Board update.

## TESTING

**Testing Task Force:** The Loudoun County Testing Task Force met on March 4, 2021. Task Force members continued discussions regarding vaccination progress. Our infectious disease experts discussed the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) single-dose vaccine and the FDA Advisory Committee's granting emergency use authorization and recommended use for individuals 18 years of age and older. The experts also discussed information to counter moral objections to the J&J vaccine. The first J&J vaccine clinic was held in Loudoun County on March 06, 2021. The Task Force also discussed opportunities to increase the number of vaccinators. The Testing Task Force will meet again on April 1, 2021. Please visit the [LC COVID-19 Testing Task Force Webpage](#) during the month for ongoing updates.

**Testing Events:** Between March 2020 and March 9, 2021, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) together with the LHD, the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and contractors have tested 18,723 persons at various testing events. The breakdown follows:

- Mass testing: 9,137
- Community-based testing: 6,124
- County employee/volunteer and households testing: 1,937
- Micro-targeted testing: 377
- School employees testing: 76
- Fixed testing: 1,072

A total of 85 persons were tested on March 2, 2021, and 61 persons were tested on March 4, 2021, at drive-through fixed testing events held at Franklin Park in Purcellville. A total of 102 persons were tested on March 9, 2021, and 101 persons were tested on March 11, 2021 at Phil A. Bolen Memorial Park in Leesburg. These numbers are included in the fixed testing totals above.

Upcoming testing events are scheduled for the following Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:

- March 16 and 18: [Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls](#)  
(Access the testing location in the rear parking lot, near the senior center.)
- March 23 and 25: [Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding](#)

Testing events are open to all, with no age or residency requirements and no prescriptions or appointments needed. A PCR test (nasal swab) will be administered, which tests for the novel coronavirus. For more information, including registration forms, visit [loudoun.gov/COVID19testing](http://loudoun.gov/COVID19testing).

## VACCINE

**COVID-19 Vaccine Metrics:** According the VDH's [COVID-19 Vaccine Summary](#) dashboard, as of March 11, 2021, a total of 2,493,097<sup>2</sup> vaccine doses have been distributed throughout Virginia; 1,621,643 Virginians have received one dose of a vaccine, and 916,276 Virginians have been fully vaccinated. A total of 19% of Virginians have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

VDH's vaccine dashboard indicates that 96,133 doses have been administered to Loudoun County residents, an increase of 37,053 since the March 2, 2021 report. A total of 34,230 Loudoun residents are fully vaccinated, an increase of 15,386 since the March 2, 2021 update. This total includes doses administered by the LHD, by hospitals, by CVS and Walgreens to long-term care facilities, and by pharmacies participating in the Federal Pharmacy Program.

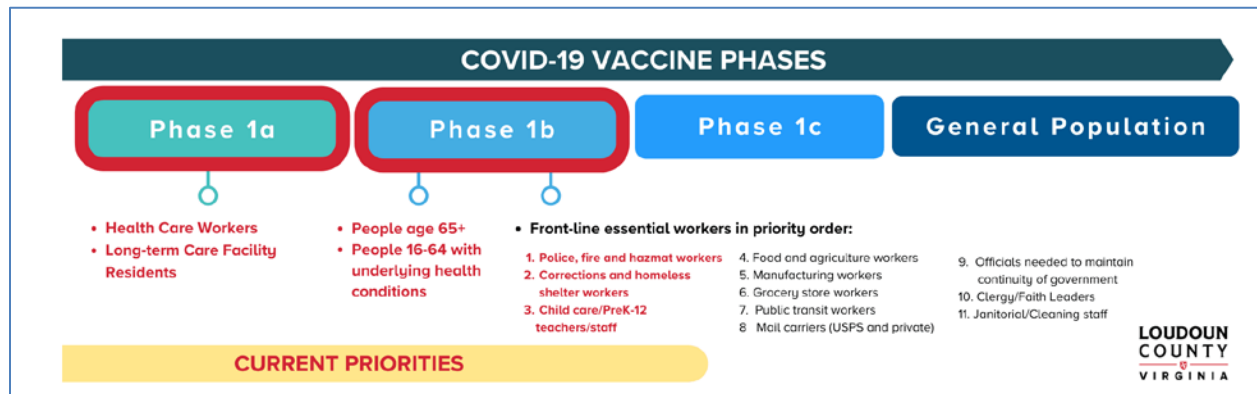
LHD reports that between December 27, 2020 and March 10, 2021, LHD administered a total of 83,160 doses of Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, and Janssen vaccine (first and second doses) at the Dulles Town Center (DTC) POD, an increase of 48,050 since the March 2, 2021 Board update.

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<sup>2</sup> Doses Distributed: Cumulative counts of COVID-19 vaccine doses (Moderna, Pfizer, and Janssen) 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 Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Facilities.

Between January 14 and March 6, LCPS administered a total of 21,235 doses (first and second) to LCPS employees at the LCPS POD in Brambleton.

**Local Vaccine Waitlist:** LHD continues to make progress on administering COVID-19 vaccines to people on the local waitlist and has started offering appointments to individuals who are eligible based on the [VDH priority groups](#) shown in red below and who submitted preregistrations to the LHD online or by phone on February 2, 2021. This does not mean the LHD has completed scheduling appointments for everyone who preregistered before January 25<sup>th</sup>. Governor Northam directed health districts to designate half of each week’s available doses for people ages 65 and older and the remaining half for all others who are currently eligible. To achieve this, for example, the LHD may be scheduling frontline essential workers who registered on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and ages 65 and older who registered on January 25<sup>th</sup>.



A total of 10,556 persons are on the waitlist as of March 10, 2021. The waitlist includes eligible people who preregistered with LHD online or by phone by 5:00 p.m. on February 12, 2021. The expectation is the LHD will begin offering vaccine to other 1b priority group 4 (e.g., Food and Agriculture Workers) before the end of March. To follow LHD’s vaccine progress, visit [loudoun.gov/vaccinedata](http://loudoun.gov/vaccinedata).

**Vaccine Manufacturers:** Starting March 6, 2021, the LHD began offering COVID-19 vaccine from three manufacturers: Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen, which is pronounced with a “y” sound. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [issued](#) an emergency use authorization (EUA) for [Johnson and Johnson](#)’s one-dose vaccine, Janssen Biotech Inc. (Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine arm) on February 27, 2021. Like Moderna, Janssen may be administered to people ages 18 and older, whereas the Pfizer vaccine is approved for ages 16 and older.

People cannot choose which vaccine manufacturer they prefer at the time of vaccination. However, when making an appointment in the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS), note that vaccine clinics with available appointments specify the vaccine manufacturer (i.e., Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson) to ensure people know which vaccine manufacturer they are signing up to receive. The LHD, VDH, or CDC do not recommend one vaccine manufacturer over another. All three of the currently available vaccines are proven to protect against serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. All three types of vaccines have similar side effects,

such as soreness at the injection site, fatigue, and muscle aches. The best vaccine is the one that is available first.

Additional vaccine could also be available soon from the following vaccine candidates and will further increase vaccine supply:

- [Novavax](#), a two-dose regimen, administered 21 days apart
- [Astrazeneca](#), a two-dose regimen with an interval of 8 to 12 weeks

***Vaccine Sites:***

*County’s Main Point-of-Dispensing Site (POD):* The LHD continues to administer the majority of Loudoun’s COVID-19 vaccine at the DTC POD in eastern Loudoun. This large-scale vaccination clinic in the former Nordstrom’s department store has been operational since February 2, 2021. Vaccine is administered at the DTC POD to eligible persons on LHD’s waitlist by appointment only. LHD is now administering vaccine at this POD at a rate of 2,000 persons per day, six days a week.

*Federal Retail Pharmacy Program:* An increasing number of local pharmacies have begun offering COVID-19 vaccine in Loudoun County through the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination](#). The program is a partnership between the federal government, states, and pharmacies that aims to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine comes from the federal government and not from the LHD’s weekly allotment. As shown in the table below, the number of participating pharmacies has increased significantly since the March 2, 2021 Board update. The pharmacies below are offering a limited number of vaccine appointments at multiple locations throughout the county. Except for Giant (and Middleburg Safeway for now), appointments at these pharmacies are *not* limited to Loudoun or Virginia residents and they book quickly.

<b>Table 1: Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccine</b>	
<b>Pharmacy</b>	<b>How to Schedule an Appointment</b>
CVS	Contact CVS directly.
Giant	LHD schedules appointments for Giant from the local waitlist.
Harris Teeter	Contact Harris Teeter directly.
Safeway	Contact Safeway directly. Exception: LHD currently schedules appointments for the Middleburg Safeway using the LHD waitlist. The Middleburg Safeway is expected to transition to the Federal Pharmacy Program.

*Walmart Temporary Clinic:* As part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, the Walmart Corporation held a temporary vaccine clinic at the former County POD site at Relocation Drive in Sterling on March 10 and 11, 2021. They vaccinated approximately 1,200 persons from Loudoun’s waiting list of high-risk individuals by appointment. Walmart will return to the same location on March 30 and April 1 to administer second doses. Walmart is *not* currently offering vaccine at their stores.



*Local Pharmacy Program:* To serve those who may be unable to drive or be transported to the DTC POD, the LHD has been redistributing a small amount of vaccine (100-200 doses per week) to two pharmacies in western Loudoun. Vaccine doses come from LHD’s weekly allotment. The Middleburg Safeway is expected to transition to the Federal Pharmacy Program; the LHD will continue redistributing weekly doses to the Purcellville Pharmacy.

<b>Table 2: Local Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccine</b>	
<b>Pharmacy</b>	<b>How to Schedule an Appointment</b>
Middleburg Safeway 12 W. Washington St., Middleburg	LHD currently schedules appointments from the LHD waitlist.
Purcellville Pharmacy 609 E. Main St., Purcellville	Contact Purcellville Pharmacy directly.

*Pilot Equity-Focused Vaccination Program for Nonprofits and Communities of Faith:* At the request of the LHD, the Human Services team in County Administration is facilitating targeted COVID-19 vaccination events between vaccination partners, nonprofits, and local communities of faith for individuals in Loudoun County who may otherwise have difficulty gaining access to vaccines or may have some hesitancy about getting a vaccine, particularly Black and Latinx residents. LHD is not sponsoring these events, but LHD is providing the vaccine to the event sponsors, [Inova Health System - Sterling](#) and [MedsPack](#).

There are two options available currently for this limited pilot program:

1. *Inova Clinic:* 40 slots are available per day at the clinic for priority-eligible individuals. Given vaccination limitations and the goal to assist as many communities as possible, each participating group is assigned one day to fill at this time.
2. *MedsPack Mobile Clinics:* 100+ priority-eligible participants per day at the organization's site.

Current eligibility criteria for vaccination through these clinics includes the following:

1. Must be a Loudoun County resident;
2. Must be a member of a demographic group disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, e.g., Black or Latinx; and
3. Must fall into one of the following high-priority vaccination groups established by the Virginia Department of Health: ([vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine](https://vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine)):
  - Over 65 years of age;
  - 16 to 64 years of age with an underlying medical condition(s);
  - Individuals with disabilities and their caregivers; or
  - Parents of children with high-risk medical conditions.

The Inova Clinic in Sterling will start March 10, 2021. The MedsPack mobile clinics program started the last week of February 2021, with 610 individuals being vaccinated as of March 8, 2021. Staff will maintain the table below to show progress with equity-focused vaccine clinics.

<b>Table 3: Equity-Focused Vaccine Clinics</b>			
<b>Vaccination Clinic</b>	<b>First Dose of Moderna</b>	<b>Second Dose of Moderna</b>	<b>Full Vaccination Total</b>
Sterling Inova Clinic	0	0	0
Mobile Clinic	610	0	0

**Vaccine Hesitancy:** Public Affairs produced this [video](#) featuring Dr. David Goodfriend who encourages COVID-19 vaccination among Loudoun residents. In the coming weeks, Public Affairs plans to create more videos that reach specific audiences and that address vaccine hesitancy.

### **GUBERNATORIAL ACTIONS**

**Community Vaccination Center:** During a press conference on March 9, 2021, Governor Ralph Northam announced the Virginia Department of Emergency Management will open three Community Vaccination Centers (CVS) in Danville, Petersburg, and Portsmouth. Funded by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) dollars, these large-scale vaccination sites are the first of 13 CVCs planned in Virginia. These sites are expected to vaccinate between 200 to 2,000 persons per day, depending on facility size. Vaccine will be offered by appointment only, using the statewide preregistration system. It is unknown where the remaining 10 sites will be or whether any of the CVCs will be in northern Virginia. President Joe Biden’s National Strategy for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness directed the federal government to establish federally supported CVCs and charged FEMA with supporting their set-up and operations. Refer to this [White House Fact Sheet](#).

### **FEDERAL ACTIONS**

**American Rescue Plan Act:** On March 10, 2021, the U.S. Congress approved the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act. President Biden is expected to sign the bill into law on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of the bill follow:

- \$1,400 direct payments to individuals making up to \$75,000 annually;
- Extension of unemployment benefits through Labor Day, with an increase of \$300 a week;
- \$5 billion expansion of federal food assistance programs;
- \$7 billion to aid student Internet access;
- Changes to the tax code to help families with children, including expansion of the tax credit of up to \$3,600 per child;
- \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance, including \$5 billion for emergency housing vouchers;
- \$37 million to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for low-income seniors;
- \$14 billion for vaccine distribution;
- \$130 billion to elementary, middle, and high schools to aid with reopening;
- \$50 billion for small businesses, including \$7 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program;
- \$25 billion for relief for small and mid-sized restaurants; and



- \$30 billion for transit costs, \$8 billion for airports, and \$15 billion for the airline industry workers.

The bill also includes \$350 billion in direct assistance to state and local governments, including \$65.1 billion in direct aid to counties in an amount that is allocated based on population or calculated share under the CDBG allocation method. Loudoun County's [projected allocation](#) is \$80,203,149 (subject to change). The bill requires the U.S. Treasury to issue first disbursements to counties within 60-days after enactment, and second payments no earlier than 12 months after the first payment. The deadline to spend funds is December 31, 2024. Eligible expenses may include and are not limited to:

- Economic assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits;
- Premium pay for eligible workers for work during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Revenue shortfalls for government services; and
- Investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

***Vaccine Community Connectors Pilot Program:*** During a White House press briefing on March 3, 2021, the federal government [announced](#) a \$100 million investment and partnership with health insurance providers, including [America's Health Insurance Plans \(AHIP\) and Blue Cross Blue Shield Association \(BCBSA\)](#). Their goal is to facilitate the vaccination of 2 million seniors ages 65 and older in at-risk, underserved communities, such as African American and Hispanic communities. They will call seniors enrolled in their insurance plans and assist them with scheduling appointments and arrange transportation to and from a vaccination site. Health insurance providers will use the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) to help identify the most vulnerable communities.<sup>3</sup>

***U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Meals Program:*** On March 9, 2021, the USDA, today [announced](#) the nationwide extension of several waivers that allow all children to continue receiving meals over the summer through the [Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#) and [Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\)](#). Previously set to expire on June 30, these flexibilities are extended through September 30, 2021.

***Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance:*** On March 8, 2021, the CDC [issued](#) new guidance for people who are fully vaccinated. The CDC considers individuals fully vaccinated after two weeks and up to 90 days after their final dose of vaccine. For two-dose vaccines like Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, that is two weeks after the second dose, and for one-dose vaccines such as Janssen, that is two weeks after the single dose.

Under the new [guidelines](#), fully vaccinated persons may gather indoors with other fully vaccinated persons without wearing a mask. Fully vaccinated persons may also gather indoors with unvaccinated persons from one household without masks, unless any of those people or anyone

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<sup>3</sup> The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) is a metric used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that considers 15 social factors across socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status and language, and housing type and transportation.

they live with has an [increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#). Finally, persons who are fully vaccinated may refrain from quarantine and testing if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19 after contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Note that [Executive Order \(EO\) 72](#) as amended and issued by Governor Northam on February 24, 2021, has not changed and is still in place in Virginia as of March 1, 2021 and until further notice. EO 72 requires all individuals in the Commonwealth aged five and older to wear a mask in an indoor setting shared by others.

## **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. Since March 2020, the Department of Family Services (DFS) has made 8,288 referrals to programs including critical services such as food resources, employment services, housing and homeless services, utility assistance, and childcare assistance. 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:*** DFS has received a total of 4,328 inquiries since April 2020. The department has made 433 unique household rental payments covering 1,465 months of assistance, totaling more than \$2.37 million to eligible Loudoun households. Each household may receive up to 9 months of assistance. 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 program at [loudoun.gov/lra](http://loudoun.gov/lra).

***Utility Assistance Program:*** Administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington and Loudoun Cares, the program has responded to 152 referrals since January 28, 2021, and has a waiting list of 5 residents. This program has expended \$58,768 in general fund dollars for direct payments to utility providers on behalf of residents. Residential customers, including those in the seven incorporated towns, 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, and propane, oil, or wood, if used for heating or cooking. Direct assistance is expected to increase significantly due to the end of the town moratoria on shutoffs.

***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. Eight residents have been assisted to date since the program started on September 10, 2020.

***Complementary Safety Net Payment Program:*** DFS and the LHD have made 173 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. The program has issued \$146,843 in assistance to date. This program supports residents who test positive for COVID-19 at LHD 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.

***General Fund COVID-19 Relief for Nonprofits and Faith Based Organizations:*** The Board of Supervisors approved \$2 million in general fund dollars to support residents through services provided by nonprofits and faith-based organizations. These services include continuing rental assistance for nonconforming leases, utility assistance to all residential utility customers, safety net program services, and food assistance. To date, the County has allocated \$1,833,346 to nonprofits for services to support residents.

## **BUSINESS SUPPORT**

***Work In Loudoun:*** On January 28, 2021, the Department of Economic Development (DED) announced the launch of its new workforce program, Work In Loudoun. This initiative includes active programming and hands-on service from DED's Workforce Development Manager, Nancy Evanko, as well as a suite of professional matchmaking services designed to connect the D.C. region's talented workforce with open positions at businesses in Loudoun. The three key audiences for this program are existing businesses, prospective businesses, and jobseekers/existing employees that may be looking to upskill/change careers/find a new job. The website ([workinloudoun.com](http://workinloudoun.com) or [biz.loudoun.gov/work-in-loudoun](http://biz.loudoun.gov/work-in-loudoun)) contains a robust collection of labor market data, business resources, and the Loudoun jobs board that was launched during the early months of COVID-19. Since the launch of the site, there have been 41 employer Workforce-Ombudsman consultations providing information and support with unemployment insurance, healthcare coverage, notifications related to layoffs, and talent retention and attraction strategies.

***FireUp Business Mentoring and Coaching Program:*** In partnership with Loudoun County, Prince William County, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, the FireUp Business Mentoring and Coaching Program has selected a cohort of 87 small businesses from across the region, including 15 from Loudoun County. The three-month program began in the first week of March and is starting with a focus on strategy, developing a messaging framework, and competitive positioning. It is operated by Ureeka, an inclusive online community of entrepreneurs providing resources that are tailored to female and minority-owned small businesses. Additional details are available at [grants.ureeka.biz/fireup-program](http://grants.ureeka.biz/fireup-program).

***Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Reopens:*** To ensure support for all small businesses, the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) opened an exclusive PPP loan application period from February 24 to March 9 for businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees. This provided lenders and community partners more time to work with the smallest businesses to submit their applications, while also ensuring that larger PPP-eligible businesses still have plenty of time to apply for and receive support before the program expires on March 31, 2021. The SBA also announced the following changes to the program to support small businesses:

- Allow sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed individuals to receive more financial support by revising the PPP's funding formula for these categories of applicants;
- Eliminate an exclusionary restriction on PPP access for small business owners with prior non-fraud felony convictions, consistent with a bipartisan congressional proposal;
- Eliminate PPP access restrictions on small business owners who have struggled to make student loan payments by eliminating student loan debt delinquency as a disqualifier to participating in the PPP; and
- Ensure access for non-citizen small business owners who are lawful U.S. residents by clarifying that they may use Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to apply for the PPP.

Additional details are available at [biz.loudoun.gov](http://biz.loudoun.gov) and [sba.gov](http://sba.gov).

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

***K-6 Distance Learning Child Care Program:*** Parks, Recreation, and Community Services (PRCS) opened a new location for the K-6 Distance Learning Child Care Program at the Lovettsville Elementary School. Registration for the Lovettsville location opened March 3, 2021, and the program began March 8, 2021. The distance learning program launched in September 2020 to provide care for children in kindergarten through 6th grade whose parents or guardians work while their children are enrolled in distance learning. Parents can choose from school-day sessions and after-school sessions for two, three, or five days per week. Details about the program, including schedules, fees, safety precautions, and registration, are available at this link: [Distance Learning Child Care Program](#). Families can [email casa@loudoun.gov](mailto:email.casa@loudoun.gov) for more information.

***Home Delivered Meals Program:*** PRCS reached a milestone on March 5, 2021, delivering 100,000 hot meals to seniors through the Home Delivered Meals Program (HDM) since the pandemic began a year ago. The HDM program needs adults 18 and older to safely deliver noontime meals to older adults confined to their home. Volunteers use their personal vehicle to deliver the meals along a specified route. The commitment is less than two hours weekly or monthly. Drivers are needed weekdays especially in Leesburg and Sterling, but also in Ashburn, Dulles South, and Purcellville. Find more information at [loudoun.gov/adultvolunteers](http://loudoun.gov/adultvolunteers). To volunteer, email [volunteer4PRCS@loudoun.gov](mailto:volunteer4PRCS@loudoun.gov) or call 703-771-5984.

## **LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

***Cases in Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS):*** As of March 11, 2021, the cumulative number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in LCPS is 767, described as 498 staff members and 269 students. As summarized in the table below, as of March 11, 2021<sup>4</sup>, there are 6 active coronavirus staff cases and 33 active student cases across 19 LCPS sites.

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<sup>4</sup> Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on March 10, 2021.

<b>Table 4. Loudoun County Public Schools – COVID-19 Cases and Quarantining</b>		
<b>Metric</b>	<b>February 10, 2021</b>	<b>March 11, 2021</b>
Staff Active Cases	3	6
Staff Cumulative Cases Since September 8, 2020	489	498
Staff Actively Quarantining	28	51
Student Active Cases	17	33
Student Cumulative Cases Since September 8, 2020	205	269
Students Actively Quarantining	1	38

Source: [LCPS COVID-19 Case Data](#).

**Return to Hybrid Model of Instruction:** On March 3, 2021, approximately 6,784 middle school and 8,092 high school students who selected hybrid learning for the second semester returned to the classroom. They joined the preschool through fifth grade students who returned to hybrid instruction February 16, 2021. Most returning students are in the classroom two days per week. The March 23, 2021 School Board meeting will include a discussion on expanding in person instruction to four days per week before the end of the current school year.

**Loudoun County Public Schools Point-of-Dispensing Site and Call Center:** LCPS closed their COVID-19 vaccine POD at Brambleton Middle School on March 6, 2021. Between January 14 and March 6, LCPS administered a total of 21,505 doses (first and second) to LCPS employees. LCPS personnel needing first or second doses can receive those at the DTC POD. LCPS is also ramping down their COVID-19 call center and directing inquiries to the LHD call center.

**Revised Reopening Guidance:** On March 9, 2021, VDH and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released [Revised Interim Guidance for Reopening PreK-12 Schools](#). A cursory review indicates the new guidance recommends maintaining six feet of physical distance within the classroom to the greatest extent possible. However, between three and six feet may be considered if masks are worn and if the reduced distance is necessary to continue in-person instruction. Six feet is still the standard for defining close contacts and triggering the need to quarantine. The new guidance is scheduled for discussion at the March 23, 2021 School Board meeting.

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