

I-1

**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.

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 April 29, 2021 is 27,259 described as 13,457 females and 13,508 males (294 not reported), with 1,705 in the 0-9 age group; 3,796 in the 10-19 age group; 4,465 in the 20-29 age group; 4,587 in the 30-39 age group; 4,888 in the 40-49 age group; 4,270 in the 50-59 age group; 1,887 in the 60-69 age group; 856 in the 70-79 age group, and 671 in the 80+ age group (and 134 whose ages were not reported). Case counts reflect what has been reported to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) by healthcare providers and laboratories and do not include cases awaiting test results. The seven-day average of new cases reported as of April 29, 2021, is 47.3, a decrease of 37.1 from the seven-day average of 84.4 as of the April 20, 2021 Board update.

There have been 274 cumulative Loudoun fatalities associated with COVID-19 (an increase of 1 since the April 20, 2021 Board update). These are described as 150 females and 124 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, 26 in the 60-69 age group, 53 in the 70-79 age group, and 178 in the 80+ age group. See [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 Metrics: As of April 29, 2021¹, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reports 658,341 total cases and 10,751 deaths in the Commonwealth. For more information, visit [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

Variants: VDH has launched a [Variants of Concern Dashboard](#) to report the number of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths caused by a variant of concern (VOC) in Virginia. Data is based upon the infected person’s place of residence and can be viewed by region or health district. This dashboard also includes statewide demographic information—age group, ethnicity and race, and sex—for those infected with a VOC. VDH plans to update the dashboard each Friday.

The new dashboard indicates, as of April 23, 2021, VOCs have been identified in 38 samples from Loudoun County residents since the beginning of the pandemic. Variants are identified by additional laboratory testing of specimens that are positive for COVID-19. According to [VDH](#), VOCs are likely more common in Virginia than the number of reported cases suggests. This is because not all COVID-19 positive samples are tested to determine the variant type.

Table 1. COVID-19 Variants of Concern in Loudoun County and Virginia			
Variant of Concern	First Detected	Number of Infections Identified	
		Loudoun County	Virginia
B.1.1.7	United Kingdom	32	789
B.1.351	South Africa	1	74
B.1.427	California	2	60
B.1.429	California	1	37
P.1	Brazil	2	5
Total Infections as of April 23, 2021		38	965

Source: [Virginia Department of Health's Variants of Concern Dashboard](#).

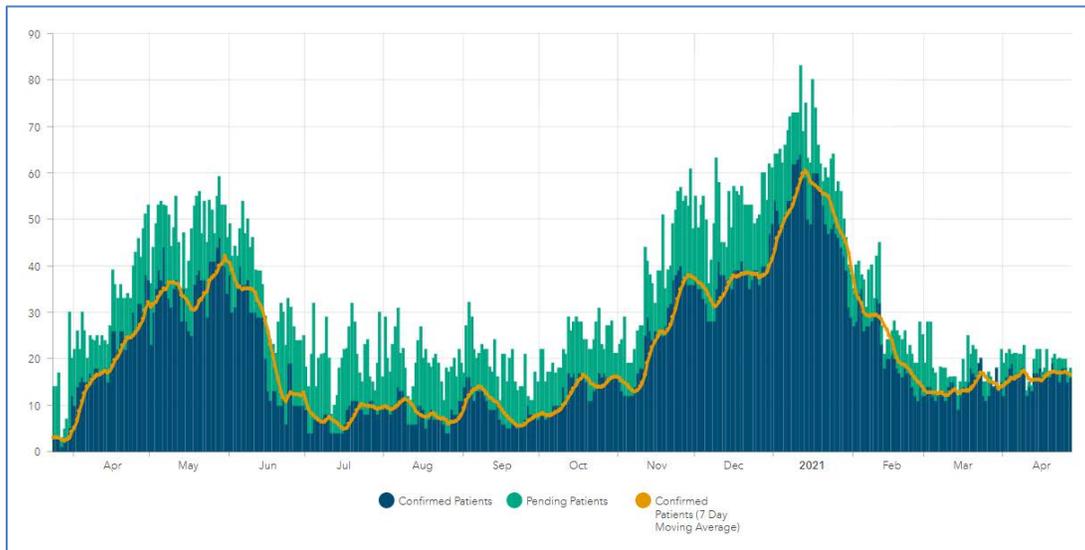
According to [VDH](#), these VOCs are associated with more efficient and rapid person-to-person transmission. For example, VDH estimates the B.1.1.7. variant, which is currently the most prevalent variant in the United States, spreads approximately 50% more easily than previous variants. More studies are needed to fully understand how these variants may affect disease severity and existing vaccines, antibody therapies, and diagnostic testing.

HOSPITALS

As of April 29, 2021, Inova Loudoun and HCA StoneSprings hospitals report 15 hospitalized patients are confirmed COVID-19 positive and 4 hospitalized patients are pending test results. Figure 1 shows the trendline of this data. The seven-day moving average for confirmed patients has decreased to 16, down from 17 as of the April 20, 2021 Board update. For more information, view Loudoun County’s COVID-19 [dashboard](#).

¹ Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on April 29, 2021.

Figure 1. Inova Loudoun and HCA StoneSprings Hospitalization Data



According to the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association’s [online data dashboard](#), as of April 29, 2021, 784 currently hospitalized patients are confirmed positive, an decrease of 122 patients since the April 20, 2021 Board update. There are 237 confirmed positive COVID-19 patients and those whose COVID-19 test results are pending currently hospitalized in the ICU, a decrease of 24 patients since the April 20, 2021 Board update. Approximately 29% of the available ventilators are currently in use at hospitals, a 1% decrease from the April 20, 2021 Board update.

TESTING

Testing Task Force: The Loudoun County Testing Task Force representatives recognize that observed demand for testing is low, and accessibility to testing opportunities remains strong. The Task Force will meet on an as-needed basis moving forward. Please visit the [Testing Task Force](#) website during the month for upcoming testing events as well as ongoing testing location information.

Testing Events: Loudoun continues to offer fixed testing events that are open to all, without age or residency requirements, and prescriptions or appointments. On April 20, 2021, a total of 88 individuals received a PCR test (nasal swab), which tests for the novel coronavirus, at the Dulles South Recreation and Community Center. At Ray Muth Sr. Memorial Park on April 27, 2021, a total of 106 individuals were tested. Since the County launched these events on February 4, 2021, a total of 2,214 individuals have received a COVID-19 test at a fixed testing event.

For the remainder of May, Loudoun is hosting the following free, drive-through COVID-19 testing events on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:

- May 11: [Phil A. Bolen Memorial Park, 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg](#)
- May 18: [Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Sterling](#)

May 25: [Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding](#)

Loudoun County has administered COVID-19 tests to 19,865 individuals at a variety of types of testing events since the pandemic began in March 2020. More details about Loudoun County testing events, including registration forms, are available at loudoun.gov/covid19testing.

VACCINE

COVID-19 Vaccine Metrics: According the VDH’s [COVID-19 Vaccine Summary](#) dashboard, as of April 29, 2021, a total of 3,743,536 Virginians (43.9% of the population) have received one dose of a vaccine, and 2,550,627 Virginians (29.9% of the population) have been fully vaccinated.

VDH’s vaccine dashboard indicates that 292,654 doses have been administered to Loudoun County residents, an increase of 72,408 since the April 20, 2021 report. A summary is provided in the table below. These totals include doses administered to Loudoun County residents by the LHD, hospitals, CVS and Walgreens to long-term care facilities, private physicians, and pharmacies participating in the Federal Pharmacy Program.

Loudoun County Population*	# of People With at Least 1 Dose	% of Population With at Least 1 Dose	# of People Fully Vaccinated	% Population Fully Vaccinated
Total Population	191,456	46.3%	112,155	27.1%
Population Aged 16+		61.5%		36.0%

*Population is based on the [U.S. Census Bureau’s 2019 Populations Estimates Program](#), which estimates a total Loudoun County population of 413,538 and a total Loudoun County population aged 16 and older of 311,439. Source for vaccination data: [Virginia Department of Health | COVID-19 Vaccine Summary](#).

The LHD reached a milestone on April 24, 2021, administering over 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine at the DTC POD since it became operational. Between December 27, 2020 and April 28, 2021, LHD has administered a total of 215,971 doses (first and second doses) of Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech (Pfizer), and Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen (J&J) vaccine across all LHD Point-of-Dispensing (POD) sites—Dulles Town Center (DTC), Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), and Relocation Drive. This is an increase of 43,192 doses since the April 20, 2021 Board update. The County has been administering between 3,000 and 4,000 doses (first and second) of the COVID-19 vaccine at the DTC POD six days a week, by appointment only, to individuals who live or work in Loudoun County.

Vaccine Eligibility: As of April 12, 2021, every Loudoun County resident who is 16 years old or older is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. All health districts in Virginia advanced to Phase 2 of VDH’s vaccination plan by April 18, 2021. Phase 2 refers to the general population and

includes all persons aged 16 and older who are not already prioritized for vaccination as part of [Phase 1](#). Anyone 16 years of age and older who lives or works in Virginia can preregister for a COVID-19 vaccine by submitting a preregistration form at vaccinate.virginia.gov. Each person who will receive a vaccine—including those aged 16 and 17, spouses, and household members—should submit a separate preregistration form with a unique email address. Individuals without internet access may preregister by calling 1-877-829-4682.

Vaccine Demand: In Loudoun County, demand for the COVID-19 vaccine has begun to decline. Loudoun’s waitlist for COVID-19 vaccine is now exhausted. LHD has shifted its focus to strengthening vaccine confidence. Loudoun is trying to identify and reduce barriers for those who are hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Public Affairs has launched a targeted digital and print outreach campaign to address a variety of barriers that are unique to Loudoun’s various subpopulations. Loudoun has also started identifying census tracts that are experiencing lagging vaccine uptake and of which may benefit from targeted messaging and vaccination opportunities. Additionally, LHD is contacting individuals who received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the DTC POD but are overdue for the second dose of the vaccine.

Modified Hours of Operation a DTC POD: As the vaccination pace slows, beginning May 25, 2021, Loudoun will transition to a new schedule for the Dulles Town Center Point of Dispensing (DTC POD). The DTC POD will shift from operating six days per week to operating four days per week. Vaccination appointments will continue to be offered on Monday, Friday, and Saturday during the regular hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On Tuesdays, vaccinations will be offered from noon to 8:00 p.m. to provide those who work during the day another opportunity to receive the vaccine. The DTC POD will continue to be closed on Sunday; and effective May 25, 2021, it will also be closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Thursdays will serve as a flex day to be used as needed to accommodate any heightened demand.

Online Self-Scheduling: Virginia shifted to an online, self-service appointment-making process as of April 18, 2021, when vaccination eligibility expanded to include everyone aged 16 and older who lives or works in Virginia. Most Northern Virginia localities, including Loudoun, transitioned to online self-scheduling portal the last week of April. As a result, persons may now make their vaccination appointment through the [Loudoun County COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment](#) website by following the on-line instructions provided. This allows persons to schedule their appointment directly using the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS). Alternatively, they may call the Loudoun COVID-19 Information Line at 703-737-8300 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to be scheduled by phone. If persons decide to use the [Virginia Vaccination](#) website for seeking a vaccination appointment in Loudoun County, they will be re-directed to the Loudoun COVID-19 vaccination website for scheduling at the DTC POD. The state website also has a link to [Vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org), which enables a person to access the Loudoun County COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Website for DTC POD scheduling, or any other location of their preference in Loudoun County (e.g., pharmacy) who offers vaccinations.

Vaccine for Adolescents Aged 12 to 15: VDH expects Advisory Commission on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to make a recommendation and the FDA to decide in mid- to late-May regarding Pfizer’s Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) request to vaccinate adolescents aged 12 to 15.

Approval would enable this age group to begin receiving the COVID-19 vaccine over the summer and prior to the 2021-2022 school year. The LHD does not anticipate a surge in the demand for the COVID-19 vaccine until adolescents aged 12 to 15 become eligible to receive the vaccine.

Vaccine Equity:

Pilot Equity-Focused Vaccination Program for Nonprofits and Communities of Faith: At the request of the LHD, the Human Services team continues to facilitate targeted COVID-19 vaccination events between vaccination partners and Loudoun County residents who may otherwise have difficulty gaining access to vaccines or may have some hesitancy about receiving a vaccine. The County works exclusively with organizers who are nonprofits, places of worship, or employers serving Loudoun County residents who are disproportionately impacted by COVID. These persons include those with disabilities, Black and Latinx populations, individuals over the age of 65, and persons with economic or transportation issues that prevent them from accessing the DTC POD vaccination site.

LHD is not sponsoring these events, but LHD is facilitating the events and 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:* Forty slots are available per day at the clinic for priority-eligible individuals.
2. *Mobile Clinics:* Sponsored by MedsPack, these mobile clinics can accommodate 100 or more priority-eligible participants per day at the organization's site.

The Inova Clinic in Sterling started March 10, 2021; the MedsPack mobile clinics program started the last week of February 2021. Through these two programs, a total of 7,192 individuals have received at least one dose of vaccine as of April 23, 2021. Since the County’s move into Phase 2 on April 12, 2021, these events have continued to prioritize underserved communities who may have difficulty accessing the DTC POD or hesitancy about receiving the vaccine.

Homebound Vaccination Program: The Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue (LCFR) Homebound Vaccination Team enters the community to provide vaccinations for individuals who are homebound or living in assisted care facilities. Through this program, 397 homebound persons have received at least one dose of vaccine, and 324 are fully vaccinated as of April 22, 2021. There are currently 69 homebound individuals on the waiting list to receive vaccinations through this program.

Table 3. Equity-Focused COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics		
Vaccination Clinic	At Least One Dose	Fully Vaccinated
Sterling Inova Clinic	800	440
Mobile Clinic	5,995	2,195
Homebound Vaccinations	397	324
Totals	7,192	2,959

Sources: Loudoun County Human Services and Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue.

The LCFR Homebound Vaccination program has been expanded to include vaccinations for homebound students. The County and LCPS are working together to ensure that the parents or guardians of any student who is aged 16 or older and homebound can sign up through the LHD call center. LCPS has communicated this opportunity directly to these students' parents or guardians. As of April 28, 2021, there have been no homebound students who have utilized this program.

GUBERNATORIAL ACTIONS

Since the previous Board update, Governor Ralph Northam has issued three amendments to Executive Order Seventy-Two (EO 72), easing COVID-19 mitigation measures throughout the Commonwealth.

Fifth Amended Executive Order Seventy-Two: Governor Northam issued the [Fifth Amended Executive Order 72](#), effective April 21, 2021. A summary of the eased restrictions follows:

- *School Theatrical and Musical Performances:* These performances may allow patrons up to 30% of the venue capacity, with a maximum of 500 patrons indoors and no specific limit outdoors;
- *Entertainment and Amusement Venues and Other Venues:* Distancing requirements have been decreased from ten feet to six feet for entertainment and public amusement venues, graduations, recreational sporting events, and swimming pool seating;
- *Bar Areas of Restaurants:* Seating is now permitted in bar areas of restaurants, provided at least six feet is maintained between parties, and karaoke is no longer prohibited;
- *Outdoor Road Races:* Outdoor races and marathons may place runners in staggered groups of up to 100 (up from 50);
- *Personal Care and Grooming Services:* These services are no longer required to maintain appointment logs and contact information for customers; and
- *Splash Pads, Hot Tubs, and Saunas:* These amenities are no longer prohibited.

Sixth Amended Executive Order Seventy-Two: In a news release on April 22, 2021, Governor Northam [announced](#) the further easing of COVID-19 restrictions, effective May 15, 2021. The full text of these changes is detailed in the [Sixth Amended Executive Order Seventy-Two and Order of Public Health Emergency Nine](#) and the [Updated Guidelines for All Business Sectors](#). Key changes follow:

- *Social Gatherings:* The limit on social gatherings will increase from 50 to 100 indoors and from 100 to 250 outdoors.
- *Entertainment Venues:* Capacity limits at entertainment venues will increase from 30% to 50%, with an increase in the maximum number of indoor patrons from 500 to 1,000 and no specific limit on the number of outdoor patrons.
- *Recreational Sporting Events:* Capacity limits at recreational sports venues will increase from 30% to 50%, with a maximum of 250 spectators per field for indoor events and 1,000

spectators per field for outdoor events (further amended below to take effect on April 29, 2021).

- *Alcohol Sales at Restaurants:* Restaurants may return to selling alcohol after midnight, and dining room closures will no longer be required between midnight and 5:00 a.m.

Seventh Amended Executive Order Seventy-Two: On April 29, 2021, Governor Northam issued the [Seventh Amended Executive Order Seventy-Two](#) to align with the CDC's recently issued guidance on mask use for fully vaccinated individuals in outdoor settings. Consistent with the CDC guidance, fully vaccinated individuals in the Commonwealth are no longer required to wear masks outdoors when alone or in small gatherings. Mask use continues to be required indoors and outdoors at large crowded events like concerts, sporting events, and graduation ceremonies.

Additionally, the Governor revised EO 72 to allow up to 1,000 spectators for outdoor recreational sports, effective April 29, 2021, which eased this restriction two weeks earlier than originally planned with the Sixth Amended EO 72. The Governor's [news release](#) states he expects to ease the remaining capacity limits in mid-June if the Commonwealth's health metrics remain stable and vaccination progress continues. Parks, Recreation, and Community Services (PRCS) is actively reviewing these revisions to assess operational impacts.

COVID-19 Vaccine in Virginia's Public Colleges and Universities: In an [Official Advisory Opinion](#) issued on April 26, 2021, Attorney General Mark R. Herring concluded, Virginia's public institutions of higher education "may condition in-person attendance on receipt of an approved COVID-19 vaccine during this time of pandemic." According to the Attorney General, individual colleges and universities have the authority to determine whether requiring students to receive a COVID-19 vaccine is necessary to protect the safety and welfare of students on their campus. He further advised colleges and universities to be prepared to provide reasonable accommodations for medical conditions or religious objections.

FEDERAL ACTIONS

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine: Following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC's recommendation to pause the use of the single-dose Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine on April 13, 2021, the CDC's [ACIP](#) investigated the six reported cases of a rare blood clot disorder among women aged 18 to 59 who experienced symptoms between six and 15 days after receiving the J&J COVID-19 vaccine. Based on the results of the ACIP investigation, on April 23, 2021, the CDC and FDA issued a [joint announcement](#) lifting the recommended pause. According to the joint announcement, the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks, and the likelihood of the rare blood clot disorder occurring is very low. In response, VDH [informed](#) health districts and providers across the Commonwealth they may resume administering the J&J vaccine. Loudoun County resumed administering the J&J vaccine during a vaccination clinic on May 1, 2021.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Staff continue to evaluate provisions included in the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (ARPA) ([H.R. 1319](#)), which was signed into law by the President on March 11, 2021. The bill provides \$1.9 trillion to address the continued impact of

COVID-19 on the economy, public health, individuals, businesses, and state and local governments through the establishment of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Loudoun County is estimated to receive \$80,203,149. This allocation and guidance are still to be finalized by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. When final numbers are received, staff will bring an item to the Board for consideration.

County staff continue to coordinate to evaluate organizational and community needs including impacts to residents, local businesses, the nonprofit community, and specific economic sectors significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including tourism and associated community partners, like *Visit Loudoun*. Additionally, areas of need throughout the County government are also being evaluated to ensure that the safety of County employees continue to be paramount and that sufficient resources are available to continue to deliver programs and services to residents.

At this time, broad areas of need and potential areas of opportunity for the County are being evaluated. The ability to implement any spending plan is ultimately dependent upon strict adherence to guidance that has yet to be issued from the Department of the Treasury. This guidance is expected in early May 2021 and will provide specific interpretation of provisions that require clarification and direction. Any funds expended in a way that is contrary to this federal guidance must be repaid.

It is important to note that the ARPA provides both significant additional funding to the Commonwealth and additional fiscal and policy support to a wide range of new and existing federal programs. These additional funds, which are provided beyond those included in the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, will likely augment and/or continue the County's overall response in FY 2022 and provide additional flexibility with the uses of funds directly allocated to the County. At this time, areas of particular focus identified by staff include additional rental and utility assistance, food assistance and support for nonprofit organizations, initiatives that support local business, and opportunities to address some revenue loss, should guidance allow. Other uses of funds that may be allowed, including specific potentially allowable capital expenditures, are also possible opportunities.

Staff continues to monitor expenditure needs for pandemic response operations. Currently, funding is available within existing appropriations for ongoing pandemic response activities in FY 2021.

CDC Guidance for Those Who Are Fully Vaccinated: The CDC provided guiding principles for fully vaccinated people on April 27, 2021. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated beginning two weeks after receiving their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or the single-dose J&J vaccine. The guidance aims to allow fully vaccinated individuals to resume some pre-COVID activities without wearing a mask and may help incentivize vaccine uptake.

According to the CDC guidance, fully vaccinated people should now be able to do the following:

- Gather indoors without wearing a mask with other fully vaccinated individuals or unvaccinated individuals from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease;

- Participate in small-scale outdoor activities and recreation without a mask;
- If asymptomatic, refrain from routine screening testing and testing or quarantine following a known exposure;
- Resume domestic travel without testing before or after travel and without self-quarantining after travel; and
- Resume international travel without testing before leaving the United States for (unless required by the destination) and without self-quarantining after arriving back in the United States.

However, according to the CDC's recommendations, fully vaccinated individuals should continue wearing a mask and maintaining physical distancing when attending a crowded, outdoor activity, such as a concert or sports event, or in an indoor public setting, such as a restaurant or movie theater. For the full text of the guidance, see [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated](#).

CDC Guidance for Summer Camps: On April 24, 2021, the CDC issued [Guidance for Operating Youth and Summer Camps During COVID-19](#). The guidance advocates assigning campers to cohorts that will remain together for the entire camp session. The CDC also recommends physical distancing consistent with the current guidance for school: at least three feet between campers in the same cohort and at least six feet between campers in different cohorts or between campers and staff. The CDC also recommends that activities occur outdoors while wearing a mask and maintaining six feet of physical distancing, when possible.

For overnight camps, the CDC recommends that staff, campers, and family members be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 before arriving at camp. Unvaccinated individuals should quarantine two weeks prior to arrival and provide proof of a negative viral test taken no more than one to three days before arriving at camp. Campers should be assigned to household cohorts that will remain together for the entire camp session. Members of "household cohorts" do not need to wear masks or physically distance when they are together without non-household cohort members. Three to five days after camp, those who have not been fully vaccinated should be tested with a viral test and self-quarantine at home for seven days.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Nutrition Assistance for Children: On April 20, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [extended](#) flexibilities for federal child nutrition programs to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through June 30, 2022. Originally set to expire in June 2021, the extension will allow schools nationwide to continue serving free meals to all children through the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option, which is typically only available during the summer months.

On April 26, 2021, the USDA [announced](#) a new effort funded by ARPA to expand Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits for the duration of the pandemic, including through the summer months. Established in March 2020, and originally set to expire on September 30, 2021, this program provides funds to families for meals missed due to school and childcare closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Families of eligible children—those who receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year or those under age six who live in a SNAP

household—receive a temporary emergency benefit loaded onto an EBT card for use to purchase food. The typical benefit is \$6.82 per child, per weekday.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Travel Restrictions: On April 20, 2021, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security [extended](#) the restrictions on nonessential travel at U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico through May 21, 2021. The restrictions aim to deter the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining the flow of essential trade and travel.

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 9,518 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 more than 4,400 inquiries since April 2020. The department has made 437 unique household rental payments covering more than 1,500 months of assistance, totaling more than \$2.4 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. Now that a majority of Loudoun's rental assistance clients have shifted to the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Rent Relief Program, we will provide a monthly update going forward. Additional details regarding program changes are available in a County news release [here](#) from March 10.)

Utility Assistance Program: Administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington and Loudoun Cares, the program has responded to 232 referrals since January 28, 2021, and no longer has a waiting list. This program has expended \$102,332.47 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.

Complementary Safety Net Payment Program: DFS and the LHD have made 256 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 \$238,310 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. Loudoun residents needing to isolate and quarantine to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be assisted on a case-by-case basis, if necessary.

General Fund COVID-19 Relief for Nonprofits and Faith Based Organizations: The Board 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 \$1,902,846 to nonprofits for services to support residents.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Restaurant Revitalization Fund: ARPA established the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) to provide funding to help restaurants and other eligible businesses stay in business. This program will provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss, up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location. Recipients are not required to repay the funding if funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023. Eligible uses include payroll costs, business rent or mortgage obligations, and various standard costs of business and added costs of operating safely during the pandemic. Additional details are available at [sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov).

Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program: A wide variety of businesses that operate or promote live venues are eligible for aid through this program, which reopened for applications on April 24. The SVOG program was established by the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act, and amended by ARPA. Eligible applicants may qualify for grants equal to 45% of their gross earned revenue, with the maximum amount available for a single grant award of \$10 million. The program is administered by SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance and includes over \$16 billion in grant funding, of which \$2 billion is reserved for eligible applications with up to 50 full-time employees. SBA is accepting SVOG applications on a first-in, first-out basis and allocating applicants to respective priority periods as it receives applications. SVOG grants will be given starting in mid-May and the first 14 days will be dedicated to entities that suffered a 90% or greater revenue loss between April and December 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next 14 days will include entities that suffered a 70% or greater revenue loss between April and December 2020. Following those periods, SVOG awards will include entities that suffered a 25% or greater revenue loss between one quarter of 2019 and the corresponding quarter of 2020. Further details are available at biz.loudoun.gov and [sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov).

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Extension: To ensure sufficient time for small businesses to complete PPP loan applications, the PPP Extension Act of 2021 was signed into law on March 30, 2021 to keep the application window open through May 31, 2021. The extension will also provide more time for processing applications and for lenders to implement the series of changes the Biden administration made to the program. ARPA includes an additional \$7.25 billion for PPP, with eligibility expanded to additional nonprofits and digital news services. Further details are available at biz.loudoun.gov and [sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov).

2021 Innovation Challenge: On April 8, The Loudoun County Economic Development Authority (EDA) announced the dates for the 2021 Loudoun Innovation Challenge, the second-annual competition for entrepreneurs that supports our local business ecosystem through direct investment into our startup community. The window for applications will open during National Small Business Week, at noon on May 3, remaining open for two weeks and closing at noon on May 17, 2021. Loudoun EDA has dedicated \$150,000 in funding that will be awarded through a total of six grants. After a rigorous review and pitch process by EDA directors, members of the business community, and Loudoun Economic Development staff, the following grants will be awarded:

- A first prize grant of \$40,000;
- Runner up for a technology venture-focused startup (\$25,000);
- Runner up for a commercial venture-focused startup (\$25,000);
- Runner up for a launch-stage startup (\$25,000);
- Runner up for a smart county-focused award (\$25,000);
- Winner of a people's choice award (\$10,000).

All successful applicants will be a for-profit business that is already located in or willing to invest in Loudoun County. To be eligible, each application must demonstrate the following:

- How its product or service is truly unique and innovative;
- How it can create value for existing or potential customers;
- The potential economic benefits to Loudoun County;
- The potential to scale the proposed product or service offering;
- Any additional value to Loudoun.

Winners will be chosen at the discretion of the EDA and announced in July 2021. To learn more, please visit [LoudounInnovationChallenge.com](https://loudouninnovationchallenge.com).

TRANSIT

Loudoun County Transit Resumes Fare Collection: Loudoun County Transit will resume fare collection on all bus routes beginning Monday, May 3, 2021. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board approved waiving bus fares; at the April 20, 2021 Board business meeting, the Board voted to resume fare collection. In preparation for this service change, riders are encouraged to review the fares for their trips at loudoun.gov/transit. SmarTrip cards and/or cash will be accepted for all Commuter Bus, Metro Connection Bus and Local Bus routes. Riders of the Route 40 Purcellville Connector will still use cash only or the Virginia Regional Transit (VRT) punch pass. Loudoun County Transit continues to follow the guidance of local, state, and national health authorities to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure on transit buses. Such guidance includes frequent bus cleanings and requiring passengers to wear masks and maintain physical distancing.

PARKS AND RECREATION

K-6 Distance Learning Child Care Program: Following a decision by LCPS to offer hybrid learners four days per week of in-person learning, the County modified the K-6 Distance Learning Child Care Program. As such, effective April 20, 2021, PRCS began offering this program at only the two rental facilities located at the Fernbank Child Care in Sterling and Greenway Pavilion Child Care in Ashburn. Some of the staff previously assigned to the childcare program have since been reallocated to the DTC POD. For program details, visit [K-6 Distance Learning Child Care Program](#).

LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Cases in Loudoun County Public Schools: As of April 29, 2021², the cumulative number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in LCPS is 1,067, described as 535 staff members and 532 students. As summarized in the table below, as of April 29, 2021, there are 4 active coronavirus staff cases (a decrease of 1 since the last Board update) and 32 active student cases (a decrease of 18 since the last Board update). A total of 23 LCPS facilities are currently reporting active cases.

Table 4. Loudoun County Public Schools – COVID-19 Cases and Quarantining				
Metric	March 11, 2021	March 26, 2021	April 15, 2021	April 29, 2021
Staff Active Cases	6	12	5	4
Staff Cumulative Cases Since September 8, 2020	498	517	529	535
Staff Actively Quarantining	51	21	17	12
Student Active Cases	33	64	50	32
Student Cumulative Cases Since September 8, 2020	269	366	464	532
Students Actively Quarantining	38	133	11	84

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

During the April 27, 2021 Loudoun County School Board meeting, it was [reported](#) that one elementary class had temporarily reverted to 100% distance learning. The entire class began quarantining after two students in the same classroom tested positive for COVID-19.

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

² Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on April 29, 2021.