

Date of Meeting: July 6, 2021

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.

GUBERNATORIAL ACTIONS

On June 21, 2021, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced that 70 percent of adults 18 years and older in the Commonwealth have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Virginia is the 16th state in the nation to meet this goal set by President Joe Biden in early May 2021 and reaches the key vaccination milestone two weeks ahead of the nationwide July 4 target. As of June 29, 2021, nearly 9.7 million doses of vaccine have been administered in Virginia and more than 4.3 million individuals, or 61.5 percent of the population 18 and older, are fully vaccinated. Virginia and Loudoun continue to see a significant decline in new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Data on COVID-19 and vaccination efforts in Virginia can be found on the [Virginia Department of Health's \(VDH\) data dashboards](#).

State of Emergency Ends: With increased vaccination rates, public health metrics trending in the right direction, and revised federal guidelines, Virginia [ended](#) all COVID-19 mitigation measures on May 28. The state of emergency that Governor Northam declared on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19 expired on June 30, 2021. State and local agencies do not have access to federal funding for extensive vaccination strategies after June 30. As such, most COVID-19-related support services provided by agencies such as VDH and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management have ended meaning that remaining efforts for responding to the effects

of COVID-19 are being managed solely by the County, which intends to end its State of Emergency in September 2021. This date is likely to also coincide with an end to the remaining County-led efforts that go beyond standard Health Department efforts for vaccinations.

SYNOPSIS: A total of 463,373 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Loudoun County residents as of June 29, 2021. Approximately 76.4% of adults (age 18 and older) in Loudoun County have received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 68.0% of adults are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Loudoun’s rate of new cases continues to decline, with a current average of 4 reported daily cases. COVID-19-related hospitalizations are also declining, with 2 hospitalized patients having confirmed positive COVID-19 infections on June 29. Additionally, Loudoun’s PCR test percent positivity rate has declined to 1.1%. Information in the following table is current as of June 29, 2021.

Table 1. COVID-19 Metrics – Loudoun County	
Cumulative Cases	28,102
7-Day Average of New Daily Cases	7
Confirmed Current Hospitalizations	2
Cumulative Deaths	283
PCR Test Percent Positivity Rate	1.1%
Percentage of Total Population Fully Vaccinated	54.1%
Percentage of Total Population with at Least One Dose	61.6%
Doses Administered by the Loudoun Health Department	298,379

Sources: [Virginia Department of Health | COVID-19 Dashboard](#) and [County of Loudoun | COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

On May 13, 2021, following approval by the VDH, the Loudoun County Health Department began offering COVID-19 vaccination appointments at the Dulles Town Center Point-of-Dispensing site to eligible Loudoun County adolescents:

Table 2. COVID-19 Adolescents Vaccination Summary – Loudoun County (As of June 16, 2021)								
First Doses			Population*			First Dose %		
12-15	16-17	Total 12-17	12-15	16-17	Total 12-17	12-15	16-17	Total 12-17
14,402	9,940	24,342	27,380	13,167	40,547	52.6%	75.5%	60.0%

*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](#).

In addition to focusing on this age group, the County’s community outreach and vaccination efforts aim to reduce barriers to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and offer vaccine to individuals who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 or hesitant to receive the vaccine.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 Metrics: As of June 29, 2021¹, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reports 680,065 total cases and 11,412 deaths in the Commonwealth. For more information, visit [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

Variants: There are currently six variants of concern in the United States that are being closely monitored and characterized by federal agencies. All six variants of concern have been identified in Virginia. 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. The dashboard is updated each Friday.

This dashboard indicates, as of June 29, 2021, VOCs have been identified in 119 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 3. 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 (Alpha)	United Kingdom	98	2,351
B.1.351 (Beta)	South Africa	3	113
B.1.427 (Epsilon)	California	2	75
B.1.429 (Epsilon)	California	2	56
B.1.617.2 (Delta)	India	3	48
P.1 (Gamma)	Brazil	11	75
Total Infections as of June 29, 2021		119	2,718

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. (Alpha) variant, which is currently the most prevalent variant in the United States and Loudoun, spreads approximately 50% more easily than previous variants.

Guidance: VDH has further indicated that at this time, the evidence shows that FDA-authorized vaccines remain effective in protecting the public against all currently circulating variant strains of the virus that causes COVID-19. VDH recommends that individuals should continue to follow all the standard COVID-19 [prevention measures](#). On June 30, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky indicated that the CDC’s guidance has not changed and that fully vaccinated individuals are safe

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

from the current variants and do not need to wear masks. Public health recommendations for [stopping the spread of COVID-19](#) will work for all variants, including the Delta variant recently detected in Virginia. Vaccine manufacturers are working to create booster shots to improve protection against emerging variants in case these are needed. The CDC is also working with global partners such as the World Health Organization to monitor the situation, update recommendations, and coordinate prevention efforts.

TESTING AND VACCINE DOSES

Testing Task Force: The Loudoun County [Testing Task Force](#) representatives recognize that observed demand for testing is low and have suspended their meetings moving forward.

Testing Events: The County offered its last fixed testing event on June 29, 2021, yielding a total of 20,373 individuals tested at events hosted by the County since March 2020. A total of 47 individuals were tested on June 29, compared to 84 on April 13, and 68 on May 18. To further illustrate the decline, the County tested 938 individuals on December 29, 2020. Additionally, the percent positive at several events held in May and June has been 0.00%. These events were open to all, without age or residency requirements, and prescriptions or appointments. The County has updated its website to offer information on alternate [COVID-19 testing locations](#) throughout Loudoun with a variety of providers. Also, at-home COVID-19 test kits are available with multiple retailers, such as CVS, Safeway, Target, Walgreens, and Walmart. The LHD will provide a kit for free to individuals not having the ability to purchase one.

Vaccine Demand: In Loudoun County, demand for the COVID-19 vaccine significantly declined since first becoming available. For instance, on June 26, 469 individuals received vaccine across all LHD vaccine sites, compared to 4,437 doses provided on April 30 and 1,184 on May 28. Loudoun continues to identify and reduce barriers for those who are hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Public Affairs has launched a digital and print outreach campaign to address a variety of barriers that are unique to Loudoun's various subpopulations.

Loudoun has also identified census tracts that are experiencing lagging vaccine uptake, and of which may benefit from targeted messaging and vaccination opportunities. Trusted community partners continue to assist the County in outreach to individuals in these communities. 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. In keeping with [the Governor's announcement on June 21](#), vaccination efforts are shifting from large-scale vaccination sites to health care providers, pharmacies, and mobile vaccine clinics. In fact, most of the vaccine received in the County is now redistributed to local medical offices, pharmacies, and urgent cares.

Society is returning to the pre-COVID operational paradigm, where vaccinations are primarily handled through established health care providers. The Health Department and nonprofit partners supported by the County, like the [Loudoun Free Clinic](#) and [HealthWorks for Northern Virginia](#) (also a community-based Federally Qualified Health Center), will again take the lead in providing services to and making referrals for individuals who do not have another health care alternative.

Dulles Town Center Point-of-Dispensing Site Closing: The County is taking steps to vacate the DTC POD by the time the lease for the space ends in September 2021. The reason is due to a steady decrease in vaccine appointments at the site. The Loudoun Health Department will not schedule appointments at this site past August 2021. The DTC POD closing reflects the operational status of mass vaccination sites across the Commonwealth. The Richmond Raceway (Richmond and Henrico health district), once one of the busiest vaccination sites in the state, closed May 27. The mass vaccination clinic at Virginia Beach Convention Center closed June 16. The Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District (including Culpeper and Fauquier health districts) closed the Germanna Community College mass vaccination site on June 24. The Tysons Community Vaccination Center closed June 26; this site had been operated by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and VDH in cooperation with the Fairfax County Health Department and the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.

Loudoun continues to promote [other vaccination opportunities](#) on its website, to include a search tool for vaccination appointments at pharmacies and other locations, in addition to a schedule for local community vaccination events being held throughout the County this summer.

COMMUNITY VACCINATION PROGRAMS: The County continues to facilitate community COVID-19 vaccination outreach and events for Loudoun County residents who may have difficulty gaining access to vaccines, who may be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, or who may be hesitant to receive the vaccine. Vaccinations are free of charge for everyone regardless of immigration or health insurance status. The vaccination events are intended to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine by providing more opportunities in various locations throughout the County. The events offer the 2-dose Pfizer vaccine to anyone 12 and older. The vaccination events are open to anyone on a first-come, first-served basis as long as vaccine supplies last; however, appointments are also available through pre-registration. The schedule of community vaccination events and optional pre-registration information is posted at www.loudoun.gov/vaccineevents.

HUMAN SERVICES: The [Information and Referral Program](#) continues to help individuals understand the range of health and human services options available in Loudoun County, such as food resources, employment services, housing and homeless services, utility aid, and childcare assistance. Through this program, the Department of Family Services (DFS) has made more than 10,000 referrals as of June 21, 2021. DFS continues to manage an Isolation and Quarantine Program as needed. The Board approved \$2.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding during its Business Meeting on June 15, 2021, to provide support for non-profit organizations assisting Loudoun County with both COVID-19 response and recovery from the economic impacts of the pandemic. An application process opened to nonprofits who serve Loudoun County residents on June 28, 2021.

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