

**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

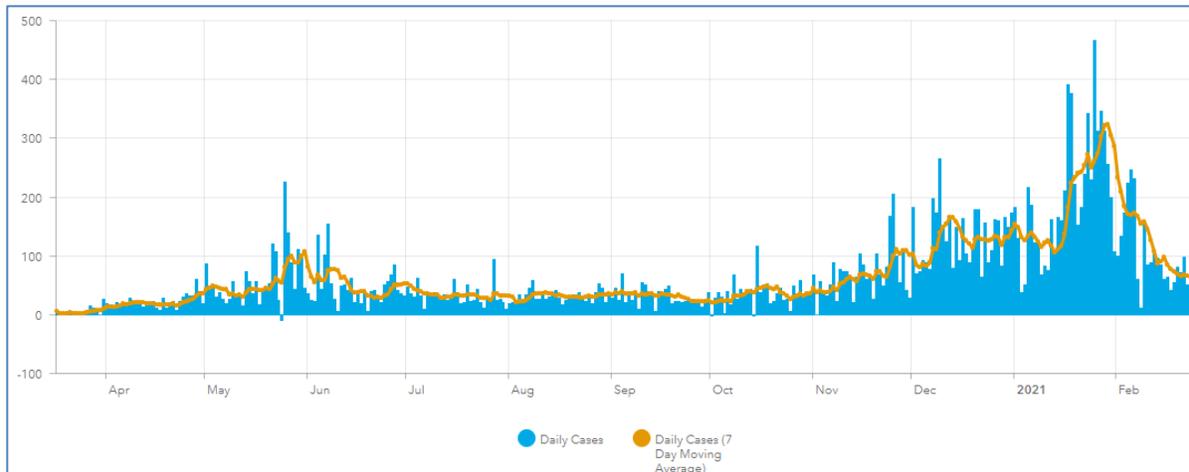
PURPOSE: The purpose of this item is to provide information to the Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding the County’s response to the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic.

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

Loudoun is now averaging 60 to 70 new COVID-19-positive cases per day. This is an improvement upon the 300 positive cases per day Loudoun was experiencing at its peak a few weeks ago. However, the current daily case rate remains higher than the 30 to 50 cases a day Loudoun was averaging before the winter peak.

Figure 1. VDH Daily COVID-19 Cases with 7-Day Moving Average



COVID-19 Related Metrics: The cumulative number of confirmed positive cases in Loudoun County as of February 25, 2021 is 22,873 described as 11,264 females and 11,301 males (308 not reported), with 1,219 in the 0-9 age group; 2,854 in the 10-19 age group; 3,628 in the 20-29 age group; 3,692 in the 30-39 age group; 3,928 in the 40-49 age group; 3,370 in the 50-59 age group; 1,504 in the 60-69 age group; 696 in the 70-79 age group, and 560 in the 80+ age group (and 1,422 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 February 25, 2021 is 66.4, a decrease of 59.6 from the seven-day average of 126 as of the February 16, 2021 Board update.

There have been 208 cumulative Loudoun fatalities associated with COVID-19 (an increase of 18 since the February 16, 2021, Board update). These are described as 123 females and 85 males, two in the 30-39 age group, three in the 40-49 age group, eight in the 50-59 age group, 21 in the 60-69 age group, 42 in the 70-79 age group, and 131 in the 80+ age group (and one whose age is not reported). Note that Virginia's recent surge in reported deaths was a data counting artifact associated with processing death certificates. See [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 Related Metrics: As of February 25, 2021¹, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reports 570,982 total cases and 7,963 deaths in the Commonwealth. For more information, visit [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

Virginia's Statewide Vaccine Pre-Registration System: On February 16, 2021, VDH launched a statewide COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration website at vaccinate.virginia.gov. Information for those who previously registered locally with the Loudoun Health Department (LHD) continues to migrate to the new centralized system. After the system is fully operational, persons can verify they are pre-registered using the "Check the List" feature. The statewide system does not currently have the functionality to provide each pre-registered person their place in the queue, due to the complexities involved with the many types of eligibility groups. Those who provided an email address when pre-registering either locally or with the state will receive periodic emails to provide peace of mind they are still on the list.

Even though COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration has transitioned to a [statewide system](#), the LHD continues to schedule vaccine appointments using our original local waitlist. Everyone in Loudoun maintained their place on the waitlist. When persons become eligible and vaccine becomes available, LHD will contact persons on the waitlist with instructions on how to schedule an appointment.

Virginia COVID Information Center (Call Center): On February 17, 2021, Virginia launched a statewide call center at 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682), to assist Virginians with COVID-19 vaccine inquiries and to help people register on the statewide vaccine pre-registration system. Operating hours are daily between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Hundreds of English- and Spanish-

¹ Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on February 25, 2021.

speaking agents are available, as well as a call-back service in 100 other languages. Text-to-Voice (TTY) service is also offered to assist people who are deaf or speech impaired. VDH advises that people age 75 and older will have priority access to the call center.

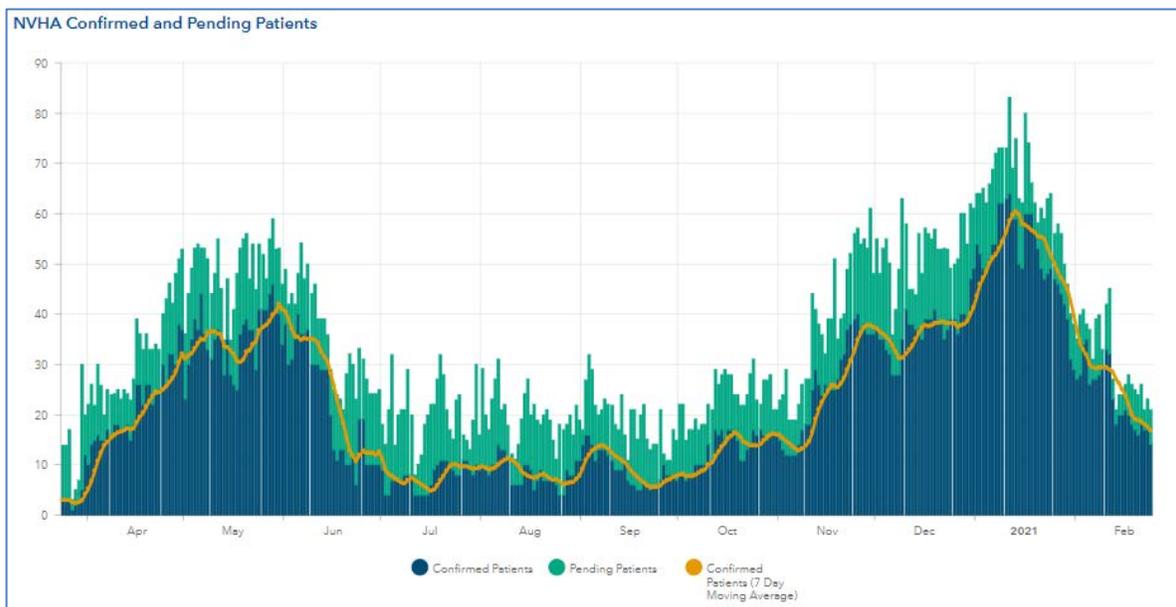
Loudoun residents are encouraged to continue calling our local call center at 703-737-8300 on Monday through Sunday between 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. From 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and again from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., calls to Loudoun’s call center are automatically forwarded to the statewide call center; however, before being forwarded to the statewide call center, callers will hear a local message that includes our local call center hours.

Activity at the LHD call center remains steady with 400 to 500 incoming calls per day. Most callers seek assurances they have maintained their place in the vaccine waitlist and want to know why their names are not yet appearing in the statewide pre-registration system.

HOSPITALS

Hospitalization trends continue to improve. Inova Loudoun and HCA StoneSprings hospitals data are posted on Loudoun County’s [dashboard](#). As of February 24, 2021, 14 hospitalized patients are confirmed COVID-19 and 7 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 16.7, down from 28.9 as of the February 16, 2021, Board update.

Figure 2. Inova Loudoun and HCA StoneSprings Hospitalization Data



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 February 25,

2021, 1,271 currently hospitalized patients are confirmed positive, a decrease of 865 patients since the February 16, 2021 Board update. There are 303 confirmed positive COVID-19 patients and those whose COVID-19 test results are pending currently hospitalized in the ICU, a decrease of 148 patients since the February 16, 2021 Board update. Approximately 31% of the available ventilators are currently in use at hospitals, a two percent decrease from the February 16, 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 again on March 4, 2021. Any updates will be provided after the March meeting. Please visit the [Testing Task Force Webpage](#) during the month for upcoming testing events as well as ongoing testing location information and updates.

Testing Events: Loudoun County hosted a mass testing event on February 24, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park in Leesburg. A total of 116 persons received a PCR test (nasal swab) for the virus that causes COVID-19. This was the final mass testing event until further notice.

In February, Loudoun began holding twice-weekly, free drive-through COVID-19 testing events at multiple locations. Capacity at these fixed testing sites is limited. The following table details how many persons received a PCR test at a fixed testing site during February 2021.

Table 1. Fixed COVID-19 Testing Events		
Date	Location	Persons Tested
February 4	Franklin Park, Purcellville	166
February 9	Phil A. Bolen Memorial Park, Leesburg	167
February 16	Cascades Library, Potomac Falls	200
February 23	Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, South Riding	142
February 25	Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, South Riding	149
	Total	824

Note: Testing events scheduled for February 2 and February 18 were cancelled due to inclement weather.

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

- March 2 and 4: [Franklin Park, 17501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville](#)
- March 9 and 11: [Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park, 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg](#)
(Enter the park on Crosstrail Boulevard from Sycolin Road.)
- 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](#)

The County has identified a location in the Broad Run district to integrate into the fixed site testing rotation in April. 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. 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.

VACCINE

COVID-19 Vaccine Metrics: According the VDH's [COVID-19 Vaccine Summary](#) dashboard, as of February 25, 2021, a total of 1,709,828² vaccine doses have been distributed throughout Virginia; 1,166,434 Virginians have received one dose of a vaccine, and 543,394 Virginians have been fully vaccinated. A total of 13.7% of Virginians have received at least one dose of the vaccine. The [Virginia Vaccine Summary Dashboard](#) shows that the majority of first doses available to the Commonwealth have been administered.

VDH's vaccine dashboard indicates that 59,080 doses have been administered to Loudoun County residents, an increase of 16,879 since the February 16, 2021 report. Of those, 18,844 Loudoun residents have received two doses and are fully vaccinated, which is 9,568 more than reported in the February 16, 2021 item. This total includes doses administered by the LHD, by hospitals, and by CVS and Walgreens to long-term care facilities.

Between December 27, 2020 and February 24, 2021, LHD has administered a total of all 35,110 doses of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and is now administering vaccines to between 1,300 and 1,700 persons per day at the Dulles Town Center (DTC) POD. Note that this metric includes first and second doses. As of February 24, 2021, a total of 16,038 doses have been administered to LCPS employees (first and second doses). The LCPS POD is expected to close on March 8, with any remaining doses for LCPS employees to be administered at the county's DTC POD.

Vaccine Eligibility: In Virginia, [Phase 1a and Phase 1b](#) priority groups are currently eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. These priority groups include health care workers, long-term care facility residents, people age 65 and older, people ages 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions as identified by the [CDC](#), people living in correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and migrant labor camps, and frontline essential workers in priority order. Within the frontline essential workers group, the first three tiers are currently eligible—Police/Fire/Hazmat, Corrections and Homeless Shelter Workers, and Child Care/Pre-K-12 Teachers and Staff. As directed by Governor Northam, the LHD continues to schedule approximately 50% of the available doses for people ages 65 and older and the remaining 50% for all others who are currently eligible.

² 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.

Vaccine Availability: The demand for vaccine across the region continues to be far greater than the available vaccine supply. The LHD continues to schedule vaccination appointments and is currently vaccinating Pfizer and Moderna vaccine to between 1,300 and 1,700 people daily (first and second doses combined) for Virginia's [Phase 1a and Phase 1b](#) vaccine priority groups.

Additional vaccine could be available soon from the following three vaccine candidates and will increase vaccine throughout the country:

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) is expected to approve [Johnson and Johnson](#)'s Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for their one-dose vaccine (Janssen Biotech Inc.) on February 26. Virginia could begin receiving shipments of this vaccine as early as March 1.
- Novavax [announced](#) on February 22, 2021, they have completed enrollment of Phase 3 trials to evaluate the efficacy and safety of their COVID-19 vaccine. [Novavax](#) is a two-dose regimen, administered 21 days apart.
- [Astrazeneca](#), who is partnering with Oxford University, has completed clinical trials and is expected to submit an EUA application to the FDA soon. Astrazeneca is a two-dose regimen with an interval of 8 to 12 weeks.

For two-dose regimen vaccines, the [FDA](#) continues to recommend following the documented science of receiving two doses—a prime, followed by a booster—in order to achieve the optimal protection. Even though one dose can provide some protection, the durability or how long the protection lasts is not as much with one dose as it is with two doses.

Vaccine Allotment from Virginia: The federal government [announced](#) on February 23, 2021, the fifth consecutive week of vaccine supply increases to states. Virginia has begun receiving approximately 161,000 doses per week, an increase of 25% over the most recent weekly allocation of 129,000. As a result, for the week of February 22, 2021, LHD's weekly first dose vaccine allocation increased from the 4,800 doses to 5,440 doses (~13% increase). Virginia has been directing some doses from the increased federal allotment to key priorities, including long-term care facility residents and elderly African-American residents.

Originally, Virginia was allocating vaccine to vaccinate Phase 1a individuals, healthcare workers and residents of long term care facilities. In early January, the allocation system changed to increase vaccine deliveries to those jurisdictions that had entered Phase 1b. Most recently, they have been allocating vaccine primarily based on population. On February 19, 2021, VDH announced that the state is contemplating a move in March towards a weighted allocation model that prioritizes individuals 65 and older, communities with higher rates of 65 and older and Black and Latino residents, and communities most impacted by COVID-19 based upon hospitalizations and deaths³. It is unknown at this time how this new allocation model will impact Loudoun County's weekly allocation.

³ ["Virginia to shift vaccine distribution toward Black, Latino Residents ages 65 and up in next few weeks," Richmond Times Dispatch: February 19, 2021](#)

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 to Phases 1a and 1b priority groups at this site by appointment only at a rate of 1,300 to 1,700 persons per day.

Inclement weather delayed vaccine shipments and postponed vaccine appointments during the second week of February. The following week, the LHD received all back doses of vaccine and increased the number of vaccinators and appointments at the DTC POD accordingly. Also during the third week of February, approximately 1,200 vaccine doses were redistributed to the LHD from another jurisdiction for use at the DTC POD.

Loudoun County Public Schools Point-of-Dispensing Site (LCPS POD): Since January 14, 2021, LCPS has been operating its own COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Brambleton Middle School. As of February 24, 2021, a total of 16,038 doses have been administered to LCPS employees (first and second doses). LCPS continues to administer first doses to a few remaining LCPS employees on a walk-in basis, but the focus since February 12, 2021, has been administering second doses to LCPS employees. LCPS plans to close their POD on March 8; any LCPS personnel needing second doses can receive those at the DTC POD.

Vaccination Opportunities for Targeted Subpopulations: The LHD is actively coordinating with community partners to offer closed vaccination opportunities for the subpopulations below. Additional information will be provided as the situation evolves.

- African Americans age 65 and older;
- Spanish-speaking persons age 65 and older;
- Homebound individuals; and
- Disabled persons.

Purcellville Pharmacy and Middleburg Safeway: 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—the Purcellville Pharmacy and the Middleburg Safeway. Middleburg Safeway vaccinates eligible persons on LHD's pre-registration list. The Purcellville Pharmacy is scheduling patients through its own registration portal. This is a local program and is unrelated to the federal government's retail pharmacy program.

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program: The [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) is a recent program between the federal government, pharmacy partners, and states. The program aims to increase access to COVID-19 vaccination and help promote equitable vaccine distribution. Select retail pharmacy locations in Virginia receive limited amounts of vaccine. Within Loudoun County, the select pharmacy locations below have already begun or will soon begin participating in this program and will be offering a few vaccine appointments weekly:

- [CVS](#), 19305 Ruby Drive, Lansdowne Town Center, Leesburg
- [Giant](#), 43760 Greenway Corporate Drive, Ashburn
- [Safeway](#), 12. W. Washington Street, Middleburg
- [Safeway](#), 22350 S. Sterling Boulevard, Sterling Park
- [Safeway](#), 30 Pidgeon Hill, Sterling
- [Safeway](#), 437 S. King Street, Leesburg

Note the majority of Loudoun's vaccine continues to be provided at the LHD's DTC POD. VDH is still working out logistics with the above pharmacies, but their stated goal is to honor existing local waitlists and prioritize 65 and older. Due to technical barriers, CVS is scheduling appointments using their own registration portal. Participating retail chains vary by state and county; there could be pharmacies participating in a neighboring jurisdiction that are not participating in Loudoun. As supply increases, the federal government plans to expand this program to include over 40,000 pharmacy locations nationwide.

CVS & Walgreen's at Long-Term Care Facilities: These large corporate chains continue their vaccination efforts at long-term care facilities (i.e., skilled nursing homes and assisted living facilities), through a partnership with the federal government. Low-income independent living facilities for seniors are not specifically included in this arrangement. Therefore, the LHD has arranged a pharmacy to administer vaccinations at several of Loudoun's low-income senior independent living facilities.

Vaccine for Children: Pfizer and Moderna are conducting trials to determine the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine for children. These studies are beginning with ages 12 to 17, then shifting to ages 6 to 12, followed by ages 2 to 6, and then ages 6 months to 2 years. The [federal government](#) anticipates that by fall 2021 they will have the information needed to make decisions regarding administering the vaccine to children ages 12 to 17 years old. Data on children ages 6 to 12 is anticipated during the first quarter of 2022, followed by the remaining age groups.

REGION

COVID-19 Testing for Passengers at Airports: The Airports Authority will be opening in-airport COVID-19 testing facilities at Dulles International Airport and Reagan National Airport. The intent is to help airline passengers who are traveling to a destination that requires a negative COVID-19 test prior to entry. The facilities will be operated by [XpresCheck](#), a health and wellness company, in pre-security locations. PCR testing will be available for \$75, with results in one to three days. Rapid tests will also be available for \$200, with results in minutes. The testing sites at both airports are scheduled to be operational in March. Appointments or walk-ins will be accepted.

NVRC Coronavirus Vaccine Dashboard: The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) has released a COVID-19 vaccine dashboard at novaregiondashboard.com/vaccine. The dashboard tracks total vaccine doses administered, persons vaccinated with at least one dose, and persons fully vaccinated at the county and regional level. Updated daily, data reflects health records entered into VDH's system as of the prior day. The dashboard includes vaccine distributed by VDH or

administered through the [Federal CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Facilities](#) and the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#).

GUBERNATORIAL ACTIONS

Second Amended Executive Order 72 (EO 72): On February 17, 2021, Governor Ralph Northam amended [Executive Order 72](#) to increase the capacity for outdoor recreational sporting events to the lesser of 30% of the occupancy load of the certificate of occupancy for the venue or 250 spectators per field. Spectators must wear masks at all times, and spectators who are not family members must maintain 10 feet of physical distance. The new limits went into effect on February 22, coinciding with the beginning of the high school football season. Parks, Recreation, and Community Services (PRCS) has notified all of its leagues of this change. The Second Amended EO 72 expires on February 28. The above changes carried forward to the Third Amended EO 72.

Third Amended Executive Order 72 (EO 72): During a press conference on February 24, 2021, Governor Northam announced the relaxation of certain mitigation measures beginning March 1, with no expiration date. The order makes no changes to indoor activities. Highlights follow:

- The stay at home order between midnight and 5:00 a.m. expires on February 28, 2021.
- Regarding all public and private social gatherings, the limit for outdoor gatherings is increased from 10 to 25 people. This also applies to outdoor private events at restaurants, wineries, and breweries, etc. Indoor social gatherings continue to be capped at 10 persons.
- The requirement for restaurants, wineries, and breweries, etc. to stop selling or consuming alcoholic beverages is extended from 10:00 p.m. to midnight.
- For outdoor group exercise and fitness classes, the total number of attendees is expanded from 10 to 25. The indoor cap remains at 10 attendees.
- For outdoor entertainment and amusement venues, the total number of spectators cannot exceed the lesser of 30% of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy or 1,000 persons. The cap for indoor venues remains at 250.

Additionally, the order outlines limitations for overnight summer camps. The summer camp requirements take effect on May 1, 2021. Of note is the requirement to use cohorts for the first 14 days of any overnight camp session. Cohort size may not exceed 25 campers, excluding camp personnel. Refer to the [News Release](#) and the [Third Amended Executive Order 72](#).

Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP): Governor Northam [announced](#) on February 16, 2021, \$524 million in new federal funding for rental assistance in Virginia. The Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP) is funded through the federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program and will assist households and landlords with rent payments to avoid eviction. The new ERA funding does not include mortgage relief. Tenants may be eligible for rent arrears payments back to April 1, 2020 and up to three months of future payments; the total payments may not exceed 15 months of rental assistance per household. To check eligibility, visit [Virginia Rent Relief Program](#).

FEDERAL ACTIONS

Homeowners Forbearance and Foreclosure Extensions: The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [announced](#) an extension and expansion of forbearance and foreclosure relief programs for homeowners. These protections were due to expire in March. The actions:

- Extend the foreclosure moratorium for homeowners through June 30, 2021;
- Extend the mortgage payment forbearance enrollment window until June 30, 2021, for borrowers who wish to request forbearance; and
- Provide up to six months of additional mortgage payment forbearance, in three-month increments, for borrowers who entered forbearance on or before June 30, 2020.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Variants: The CDC is closely monitoring three emerging variants in the United States: the United Kingdom B.1.1.7 variant, the South Africa B.1.351 variant, and the most recent Brazil P.1. variant. The first two variants have been identified in the Northern Virginia region. The CDC [cautions](#) that based on the modeled trajectory of the B.1.1.7 variant, it could become the predominant variant in March 2021. Scientists are working to learn how widely these new variants have spread, how the disease caused by these new variants is different, and how these variants may affect existing therapies, vaccines, and tests. On February 17, 2021, the federal government [announced](#) an investment of nearly \$200 million to increase genomic sequencing of the virus that causes COVID-19 to better prepare for the threat of variants. Refer to [CDC COVID-19 Variants](#).

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Testing: On February 17, 2021, HHS [announced](#) a \$650 million federal investment to expand testing opportunities for K-8 schools and underserved congregate settings, such as homeless shelters, through new regional “hubs.” HHS will partner with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to establish these hubs and organize increased COVID-19 testing, with the goal of performing up to 25 million additional tests per month. HHS and DOD also announced \$815 million in federal dollars to ramp up the domestic manufacturing of testing supplies and raw materials to facilitate further testing. At this time, it is unknown if the Northern Virginia region will have one of these hubs.

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 more than 12,000 calls to the information and referral program. Of those, DFS has made 7,564 referrals to programs providing the services listed above and provided requested information or responded to questions for the remaining 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, DFS has received a total of 4,211 inquiries. The department has made 414 unique household rental payments covering 1,341 months of assistance, totaling more than \$2.19 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 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 112 referrals since it January 28, 2021 and has a waiting list of 36 residents. The Utility Assistance Program has expended \$37,343.99 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, as well as propane, oil, or wood, if those are used for heating or cooking. It is projected that the program will increase direct assistance significantly due to the end of town moratoria on shut offs.

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 131 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 \$102,390 in assistance to date. The program has seen a 40% increase in referrals in the past month. 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 awarded \$1,556,346 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 including 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 or 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, more than a dozen employer Workforce-Ombudsman consultations have been provided, and 14 employers have submitted requests to incorporate new job listings.

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 begins in the first week of March and 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.

Paycheck Protection Program Reopens: On Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. ET, the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) will establish a 14-day, exclusive PPP loan application period for businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees. This will give lenders and community partners more time to work with the smallest businesses to submit their applications, while also ensuring that larger PPP-eligible businesses will 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 and sba.gov.

PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Operational Adjustments in Response to Third Amended Executive Order 72: The Governor's amended executive order (discussed earlier in this report) triggered the need for some adjustments to the operations of PRCS programs or facilities beginning March 1. Regarding social gatherings, PRCS is still allowing certain rentals of PRCS pavilions. However, staff is informing prospective

renters the limit has been increased from 10 to 25 persons for pavilions. PRCS has also posted signs at all pavilions that the maximum number of persons is 25 and social distancing must be maintained.

The Governor's new mitigation measures also increase the number of spectators allowed at outdoor recreational sports activities to 30% occupancy load of the certificate of occupancy or 250 spectators per field, whichever is less (reduced from 2 spectators per player). PRCS has notified all of its outdoor leagues of this change. PRCS can now increase the total number of attendees (participants and instructors) at outdoor group exercise and fitness classes to 25, up from 10. PRCS will continue to ensure the total number of attendees in indoor group exercise and fitness classes does not exceed 75% of the minimum occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy or 10 persons, whichever is less.

The amended order also increases the allowed number of attendees (participants and instructors) for outdoor events at entertainment and amusement businesses (e.g., performing arts centers and concert venues) to 30% of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy or 1,000 persons, whichever is less (increased from 250 persons). Currently, the Franklin Park Arts Center is doing virtual or broadcasted events. For rental inquiries for an indoor private event at the Franklin Parks Arts Center, staff will inform potential renters that the maximum number of participants remains at 250.

COVID-19 Response: PRCS continues to support the County's COVID-19 response effort in a variety of ways. PRCS offers childcare through the distance learning childcare program. Seven PRCS staff members are assisting Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers respond to a high volume of calls and emails at LDH's call center. PRCS is also assisting at the new DTC POD site by providing staffing to assist with logistics and parking. PRCS provides 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. PRCS maintenance, park, and sports staff are also assisting with the operations of the drop-in testing locations located primarily at PRCS sites as well as with the recent mass testing event. Set up and breakdown of these testing sites as well as parking and traffic flow management are the primary responsibilities during these events. Additionally, PRCS sports staff continue to work with the local leagues to prepare for the upcoming spring season. This includes the approval of all Return To Play documents to ensure all mitigation factors are in place to safely resume outdoor sports.

LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Cases in Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS): As of February 24, 2021, the cumulative number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in LCPS is 694, described as 489 staff members and 205 students. As summarized in the table below, as of February 24, 2021⁴, there are 3 active coronavirus staff cases and 17 active student cases across 12 LCPS sites.

⁴ Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on February 24, 2021.

Table 2. Loudoun County Public Schools – COVID-19 Cases and Quarantining	
Staff Active Cases	3
Staff Cumulative Cases Since September 8, 2020	489
Staff Actively Quarantining	28
Student Active Cases	17
Student Cumulative Cases Since September 8, 2020	205
Students Actively Quarantining	1

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

Return to Hybrid Model of Instruction: On February 16, 2021, approximately 14,828 students returned to hybrid learning along with 2,109 teachers. Returning students included preschool through fifth grade whose parents chose hybrid learning for the second semester, Monroe Advanced Technical Academy students, Academy of Engineering and Technology seniors and Academy of Science seniors who chose hybrid learning, grades K-12 English learners in proficiency levels 1.0 – 1.9, and students with disabilities. Most returning students are in the classroom two days per week.

LCPS reports that the return to school is going well with a high level of compliance with mask wearing and physical distancing. School mitigation measures include thermal cameras at the most-used entrance to each school (to scan up to 45 individuals per second and identify individuals with a temperature at or exceeding 100.4 degrees), student and staff sneeze guards at all desks, health mitigation monitors checking to see that health-mitigation practices are followed, and a Care Room at each LCPS school for students and staff exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

On March 3, 2021, approximately 6,784 middle school students and 8,092 high school students who selected hybrid learning for the second semester will return to hybrid learning. They will be joined by 1,538 teachers ([LCPS News Release](#)).

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