

Date of Meeting: April 20, 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.

LOUDOUN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COVID-19 Related Metrics: The cumulative number of confirmed positive cases in Loudoun County as of April 15, 2021 is 26,488 described as 13,033 females and 13,100 males (355 not reported), with 1,561 in the 0-9 age group; 3,571 in the 10-19 age group; 4,273 in the 20-29 age group; 4,385 in the 30-39 age group; 4,665 in the 40-49 age group; 4,070 in the 50-59 age group; 1,810 in the 60-69 age group; 831 in the 70-79 age group, and 645 in the 80+ age group (and 677 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 15, 2021, is 84.4, a slight decrease of 0.9 from the seven-day average of 85.3 as of the April 6, 2021 Board update.

There have been 273 cumulative Loudoun fatalities associated with COVID-19 (an increase of 4 since the April 6, 2021 Board update). These are described as 148 females and 125 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 177 in the 80+ age group. See [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

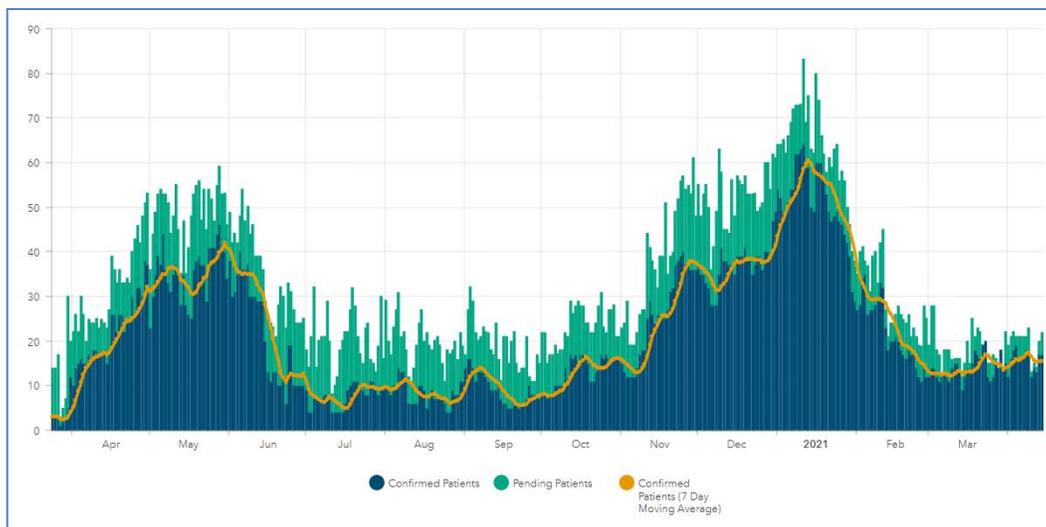
COVID-19 Metrics: As of April 15, 2021¹, the VDH reports 641,626 total cases and 10,529 deaths in the Commonwealth. For more information, visit [VDH COVID-19 in Virginia: Demographics](#).

Vaccine Allocation Method: VDH [announced](#) a shift to a different method for allocating vaccine doses to health districts. Recently, VDH has been allocating doses to health districts based on demand, which resulted in increased doses in Northern Virginia and Loudoun County. Beginning April 18, 2021, allocations will be proportionate to a health district's number of unvaccinated people aged 16 to 64.

HOSPITALS

As of April 14, 2021, Inova Loudoun and HCA StoneSprings hospitals report 17 hospitalized patients are confirmed COVID-19 positive and 5 hospitalized patients are pending test results. Figure 1 shows the trendline of this data. The seven-day moving average for confirmed patients has increased to 15.4, up from 14 as of the April 6, 2021, Board update. For more information, view Loudoun County's COVID-19 [dashboard](#).

Figure 1. Inova Loudoun and HCA StoneSprings Hospitalization Data



According to the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association's [online data dashboard](#), as of April 15, 2021, 906 currently hospitalized patients are confirmed positive, an increase of 17 patients since the April 6, 2021 Board update. There are 261 confirmed positive COVID-19 patients and those whose COVID-19 test results are pending currently hospitalized in the ICU, a decrease of 104 patients since the April 6, 2021 Board update. Approximately 30% of the available ventilators are currently in use at hospitals, a 2% increase from the April 6, 2021 Board update.

¹ Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on April 15, 2021.

TESTING

Testing Task Force: The Loudoun County Testing Task Force will be meeting in early May and updates will be provided after that meeting. Please visit the [Testing Task Force](#) website during the month for upcoming testing events as well as ongoing testing location information.

Testing Metrics: Between March 1, 2020 and April 15, 2021, Loudoun County tested 19,671 persons at the following types of testing events:

- Mass: 9,137
- Community-based: 6,124
- County employee, volunteer, and households: 1,937
- Micro-targeted: 377
- School employees: 76
- Fixed: 2,020

Testing Events: Loudoun continues to offer fixed testing events that are open to all, with no age or residency requirements and no prescriptions or appointments. On April 6, 2021, a total of 116 people received a PCR test (nasal swab), which tests for the novel coronavirus, at Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park. On April 13, 2021, a total of 84 people were tested at Cascades Library.

For the remainder of April and in 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.:

- April 20: [Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding](#)
- April 27: [Ray Muth Sr. Memorial Park, 20971 Marblehead Drive, Ashburn](#)
- May 4: [Franklin Park, 17501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville](#)
- 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](#)

More details and 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 15, 2021, a total of 3,233,915 Virginians have received one dose of a vaccine, and 1,933,945 Virginians have been fully vaccinated. A total of 37.9% of Virginians have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 22.7% of the population have been fully vaccinated.

VDH's vaccine dashboard indicates that 220,246 doses have been administered to Loudoun County residents, an increase of 61,143 since the April 6, 2021 report. A total of 152,624 Loudoun

residents have received at least one dose, and 78,436 Loudoun residents are fully vaccinated, an increase of 24,003 since the April 6, 2021 update. As a result, 37% of Loudoun's population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, 19% of Loudoun's population is now fully vaccinated, and 25% of Loudoun's population aged 16 and older are fully vaccinated.² 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.

With regards to the COVID-19 vaccine administered by the LHD, between December 27, 2020 and April 15, 2021, LHD has administered a total of 172,779 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 46,477 doses since the April 6, 2021 Board update.

During the first week of April, LHD reached two milestones at the DTC POD, exceeding 4,000 vaccinations in one day on April 1 (first and second doses) and exceeding 4,500 vaccinations in one day on April 6, 2021. LHD is now consistently administering vaccine at the DTC POD to more than 4,000 persons per day, six to seven days a week.

Please note that vaccine is administered at the DTC POD by appointment only, and currently, only individuals who live or work in Loudoun County are eligible to receive the vaccine at the DTC POD. Initially, anyone could make an appointment for a vaccine at the DTC POD through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) COVID-19 vaccine scheduling system, Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS). Due to VAMS enhancement, the County is now able to limit appointments solely to Loudoun residents and workers.

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 are scheduled to advance 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 [Phases 1a, 1b, or 1c](#).

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. The LHD continues to offer appointments in the order in which preregistration forms are received and continues to prioritize and vaccinate persons within Phase 1 (1a, 1b, and 1c).

² 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.

Loudoun has also begun prioritizing COVID-19 vaccinations for Loudoun youth who are aged 16 and older to help mitigate the spread of infection. Currently, only the Pfizer vaccine is authorized for those aged 16 and 17. Therefore, when making an appointment for someone who is 16 or 17 years old, persons should choose a clinic that offers the Pfizer vaccine. Note that anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at their vaccination appointment or they will be turned away.

With regards to the local waitlist, the LHD has started offering appointments to eligible individuals in Phase 2 who submitted preregistrations on February 23, 2021. There are currently 30,529 Phase 2 preregistration entries on Loudoun's waitlist. The waitlist continues to grow daily as more individuals in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 submit preregistration forms. To follow Loudoun's vaccination progress, visit loudoun.gov/vaccinatedata.

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Paused: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC recommended a pause in the use of the J&J vaccine on April 13, 2021, to investigate a rare and severe side effect reported in the United States among 6 individuals after receiving the vaccine. According to the [CDC News Release](#), six cases of a blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) have been reported in combination with low blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48. Symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after receiving the J&J vaccination. This adverse side effect appears to be extremely rare and has been reported in only 6 out of 6.8 million J&J vaccinations as of April 13, 2021.

J&J issued a [statement](#) announcing their decision to pause vaccinations in all clinical trials while developing updated guidance. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) held an emergency meeting on April 13 and determined insufficient information was available to make recommendations to the CDC regarding the pause in administering the J&J COVID-19 vaccine. ACIP plans to reconvene within the next 10 days to further review these cases.

Following the CDC and FDA recommendation to pause the use of the J&J vaccine, VDH [announced](#) Virginia would cease all J&J vaccines until completion of the ACIP investigation. In a separate [news release](#), VDH reported the ACIP investigation includes the March death of a Virginia woman, which was reported to the CDC's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) as incident number [VAERS ID 1114806-1](#).

In Loudoun County, approximately 2,840 people were scheduled to receive a J&J vaccine at the DTC POD on Saturday, April 17, 2021. The LHD contacted all impacted individuals and encouraged them to keep their appointments and receive the first in a two-dose series of the Pfizer vaccine.

Individuals who have already received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider or call 911 if it is a medical emergency. Anyone who has already received the J&J vaccine does not need to receive another type of vaccine. The vaccine will provide protection against COVID-19.

Vaccine for Ages 12-15: The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is currently authorized for ages 16 and up. After reporting successful results of a COVID-19 vaccine study among adolescents aged 12-15, on April 9, 2021, Pfizer [announced](#) they have requested that the FDA consider a proposed amendment to their Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), expanding the age eligibility to include adolescents aged 12-15. [J&J](#) and [Moderna](#) are actively studying the safety and effectiveness of their COVID-19 vaccines upon adolescents aged 12 to 17.

Duration of Immunity: In a news release on April 1, 2021, [Pfizer](#) reported its vaccine is 91.3% effective at preventing COVID-19 for six months after the second dose. [Moderna](#) announced on April 7, 2021, a separate study also indicates protection for six months after the second dose of the Moderna vaccine. Both vaccine manufactures are conducting additional trials to monitor immune responses beyond 6 months, as well as studying the effectiveness of a booster shot in extending protection, especially against emerging variants.

Vaccine Equity:

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

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

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

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

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

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 6,764 individuals have

received at least one dose of vaccine as of April 13, 2021. With the County’s move into Phase 2 on April 12, 2021, these events continue to prioritize underserved communities who may have difficulty accessing the DTC POD or hesitancy about receiving the vaccine through a government-sponsored program.

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. This includes larger assisted care facilities and First Touch Homebound residents and caregivers identified through the LHD, Human Services, and LCFR. Through this program, 359 homebound persons have received at least one dose of vaccine, and 277 are fully vaccinated as of April 13, 2021. There are currently 81 homebound individuals on the waiting list to receive vaccinations through this program.

Table 1: Equity-Focused Vaccine Clinics		
Vaccination Clinic	At Least One Dose	Fully Vaccinated
Sterling Inova Clinic	760	240
Mobile Clinic	5,645	535
Homebound Vaccinations	359	277
Totals	6,764	1,052

The LCFR Homebound Vaccination program is being 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 Loudoun Health Department’s call center. LCPS plans to communicate this opportunity directly to these students’ parents or guardians.

Vaccine Access: In addition to receiving a vaccine from Loudoun County at the DTC POD or through one of the above equity programs, persons may find available vaccination appointments at pharmacies and private physician’s offices, as discussed further below.

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program: The [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) is a partnership between the federal government, states, and pharmacies that aims to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine. One third of the Commonwealth’s weekly vaccine allocation is currently being directed to this program. The number of local pharmacies participating in this program continues to increase. Within Loudoun County, the following pharmacies are actively participating: Akina, CVS, Giant, Harris Teeter, Safeway, Ted, Walgreens, Walmart, and Wegmans. To locate participating pharmacies, visit vaccinefinder.org. According to VDH, pharmacies in this program expanded to Phase 1c on April 11 and will expand to Phase 2 no later than April 18, 2021.

Local Pharmacy Program: To serve those who may be unable to drive or be transported to the DTC POD, the LHD continues to redistribute 100-200 doses of vaccine weekly to the Purcellville Pharmacy in western Loudoun.

Private Providers: According to VDH, an increasing number of private physicians around Virginia are receiving the COVID-19 vaccine to administer to their patients. These providers underwent a CDC approval process. VDH expects private providers will play a larger role beginning in the May/June 2021 timeframe, as local health districts transition away from large-scale vaccination clinics. Individuals should contact their primary care physician to inquire about vaccine availability.

GUBERNATORIAL ACTIONS

Virginia's Vaccinator Workforce: Governor Ralph Northam [announced](#) efforts aimed at increasing Virginia's vaccinator workforce. The Governor issued the [Third Amended Executive Order Fifty-Seven](#) to expedite volunteer processing and provide additional flexibility for COVID-19 vaccinators. Health care providers who are now authorized to administer the vaccine in Virginia include but are not limited to dentists, veterinarians, optometrists, podiatrists, physical therapists, and health professional students enrolled in an accredited Virginia program. Volunteers are required to complete training and demonstrate competency in administering the COVID-19 vaccine. [Eligible providers](#) may [register to volunteer as a COVID-19 vaccinator](#) through either the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps or the newly-established Virginia Volunteer Vaccinator Registry, which is specifically for volunteers who wish to serve only as COVID-19 vaccinators.

Virginia Employment Commission: The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) [announced](#) on April 5, 2021, the requirement to apply for at least two jobs each week will soon be reinstated for all customers, including those receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). The weekly work search requirement, which is part of state and federal law, has been suspended temporarily due to the pandemic.

The VEC [reports](#) that unemployment insurance claims remain higher than normal, including 423 initial claims in Loudoun County for the week ending April 3, 2021. The number of initial claims is within the range that has prevailed since mid-August, and the 1,780 continued claims during that week is around 3 times the weekly number from early March 2020, before the rapid rise in claims due to the pandemic. The peak levels of weekly claims since that time were 7,070 initial claims in the week ending April 4, 2020 and 17,465 continued claims in the week ending May 23, 2020. The pandemic has impacted employment in many industries, with the largest numbers of unemployment claims continuing to be related to hospitality, food services, health care, retail, and other airport and travel-related industries. The unemployment rate for Loudoun County was 4.3% for February, which is 2.1% higher than a year earlier but down from the peak of 9.9% in April 2020.

FEDERAL ACTIONS

Community Vaccination Centers (CVCs): CVCs are high-volume vaccination clinics that are organized by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VEST) and VDH in collaboration with local health districts, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and operated by a turnkey contractor. There are currently five CVCs in Virginia in the Chesterfield/Petersburg, Danville, Portsmouth, and Suffolk areas. The nearest CVC in Prince

William County is administering vaccine by appointment only to those who are preregistered on the statewide system and who live or work in the Prince William Health District. The CVC is not accepting residents outside the health district. Additional CVCs are expected to open across Virginia in the coming weeks. VDH chooses the sites using an equity lens, selecting areas with large vulnerable populations or higher rates of COVID-19 illnesses and death.

FEMA and the Peace Corps [announced](#) that for the second time in the Peace Corps' history, volunteers will be deployed domestically, to assist with COVID-19 vaccination efforts at federally supported CVCs across the country. Hurricane Katrina was the only other time Peace Corps volunteers have been deployed domestically. Deployment is expected to begin in mid-May.

CDC Funding for Vaccination Efforts: On April 6, 2021, the CDC [awarded](#) a total of \$3 billion in funding to 64 jurisdictions across the country to ensure equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine among those disproportionately affected by the novel coronavirus. Virginia's allocation is \$77.1 million. The funding was made available by the American Rescue Plan and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Assistance: The USDA [announced](#) on April 9, 2021, that young adults under the age of 25 who are experiencing homelessness can now receive meals at emergency shelters participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The USDA normally only reimburses shelters for meals served to children through age 18, but the American Rescue Plan Act has expanded the program through age 24 for the duration of the public health emergency.

The USDA also [announced](#) an additional \$1 billion per month towards the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The increase will provide temporary emergency food assistance to approximately 25 million people in the lowest income households. Households participating in SNAP that were not receiving at least \$95 per month in emergency benefits because they were already receiving the maximum benefit are now eligible to receive the additional emergency benefit.

CDC Travel Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People: The CDC updated its [travel guidance](#) for fully vaccinated people. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine. Fully vaccinated people can travel within the United States without COVID-19 testing prior to travel and without self-quarantining after travel, if they maintain precautionary measures while traveling wearing a mask, avoiding crowds, socially distancing, and washing hands. The CDC discourages nonessential domestic travel by those who are not fully vaccinated and continues to recommend nonvaccinated travelers be tested one to three days before travel and again three to five days after 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 9,117 referrals to programs including critical services such as food resources, employment services, housing and homeless services, utility assistance, and childcare assistance. Residents may contact an Information and Referral Line specialist at 703-777-0420 or online, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours and on the weekend, complete an [online form](#) or send an [email](#) and a specialist will respond the next business day.

Rental Assistance Program: DFS has received a total of 4,402 inquiries since April 2020. The department has made 435 unique household rental payments covering 1,497 months of assistance, totaling more than \$2.38 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.

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. Nine residents have been assisted to date since the program started on September 10, 2020. The program will be in place until April 16.

Complementary Safety Net Payment Program: DFS and the LHD have made 229 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 \$201,920 in assistance to date. This program supports residents who test positive for COVID-19 at LHD or HealthWorks events and require financial assistance to maintain good standing with debtors while safely isolating. Individuals may receive up to \$1,500 made payable to vendors on their behalf for household expenses.

General Fund COVID-19 Relief for Nonprofits and Faith Based Organizations: The Board 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

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. The American Rescue Plan Act signed into law on March 11, 2021, 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.

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 was established by the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act, and amended by the American Rescue Plan Act. 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. Further details are available at biz.loudoun.gov and 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, this year dividing it among six total 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.

LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Vaccination Encouraged for Students Aged 16 and Older: LCPS sent information to parents, guardians, and students on April 7, 2021, to encourage any student aged 16 and older to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as part of the Phase 2 vaccination effort by signing up at vaccinate.virginia.gov. At this time, COVID-19 vaccines are not approved for those under age 16. COVID-19 vaccination clinics for students at school sites are not planned at this time. The LHD will provide the COVID-19 vaccination at the time, date, and location parents and guardians select when registering their dependent(s) through VAMS.

Cases in Loudoun County Public Schools: As of April 15, 2021³, the cumulative number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in LCPS is 993, described as 529 staff members and 464 students. As summarized in the table below, as of April 15, 2021, there are 5 active coronavirus staff cases (a decrease of 7 since the last Board update) and 50 active student cases (a decrease of 14 since the last Board update). A total of 35 LCPS facilities are currently experiencing active cases.

Table 2. Loudoun County Public Schools – COVID-19 Cases and Quarantining				
Metric	February 10, 2021	March 11, 2021	March 26, 2021	April 15, 2021
Staff Active Cases	3	6	12	5
Staff Cumulative Cases Since September 8, 2020	489	498	517	529
Staff Actively Quarantining	28	51	21	17
Student Active Cases	17	33	64	50
Student Cumulative Cases Since September 8, 2020	205	269	366	464
Students Actively Quarantining	1	38	133	11

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

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

³ Data entered at the end of the previous day and published on April 15, 2021.