



NEWSFLASH
Inside Sterling
Supervisor Koran T. Saines

COVID-19 UPDATES
~SEPTEMBER 30, 2020~

Loudoun Election Officials Remind Voters of Proper Procedures for Absentee and Early Voting



Loudoun County election officials remind voters of the proper procedures for absentee voting and early voting for the November 3 general election.

“There are three things that appear to be causing some concern and confusion among voters right now: absentee ballot witness signatures, which envelopes are required for return and how to participate in

early voting,” said Loudoun County General Registrar Judy Brown, who provides the following information:

Absentee Ballot Witness Signature Requirement Waived

Due to health and safety concerns brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the witness requirement was recently waived. However, the requirement is still listed

in the instructions, with the provision that people may opt out of the requirement if they cannot safely obtain a witness signature.

Follow Instruction and Use the Return Envelope

Brown reminds voters who have received an absentee ballot to make sure they follow the instructions for filling it out. When completed, they should seal the ballot in the 'B' envelope and complete the required information and then seal the 'B' envelope in the return envelope, which is the one with the purple stripe.

Early Voters Do Not Have to Apply in Advance

Anyone who would like to vote early in person may do so without an appointment or application. The last day to vote early in person is Saturday, October 31, 2020.

[More Details](#)

New 2020 Census Target Date

The Secretary of Commerce has announced a target date of **October 5, 2020** to conclude 2020 Census self-response and field data collection operations.

Loudoun's response rate has now reached 82% but we need to keep going!

Encourage your family members, neighbors, friends, and coworkers to complete the Census if they have not already done so. The count affects the allocation of federal funding to the county and affects how legislative districts are drawn, and your response ensures we have the resources to build stronger communities.



Respond now online, by phone, or with a census taker in your community, and shape your future for the next 10 years. Learn more at [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://2020census.gov).

Support Loudoun Firefighters as they Fill-the-Boot for Muscular Dystrophy Virtually



Members of the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System (LC-CFRS) and the Loudoun Career Fire Fighters Association (LCFFA) Local 3756 will join the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) to promote the 2020 virtual "Fill-the-Boot" campaign.

The Fill-the-Boot drive is the result of a partnership between MDA and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) to assist MDA in any way possible until a cure was found to treat this debilitating disease.

All funds raised by Loudoun County firefighters assist local families affected by one of the forty-three neuromuscular diseases. These donations provide families with a network of specialized clinics, financial aid for assistive equipment, support groups, informative publications, and accessible summer camps for kids.

[Donate on Behalf of Your Loudoun County First Responders](#)

Updates from LCPS

LCPS Expands Tech Support for Distance Learning

Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) Department of Digital Innovation (DDI) has expanded its support services to community locations across Loudoun County.

These expanded services are meant to help make sure students' technology is working properly so that they can effectively participate in distance learning.

LCPS has 120 digital experience specialists working at 11 sites to provide technology support to students and staff members. These specialists are handling



roughly 650 appointments per day across the school division, with about 200 devices per day sent out for repair.

Sites in the Sterling District include:

- Sterling Middle School
- Sugarland Elementary School

[More Information](#)

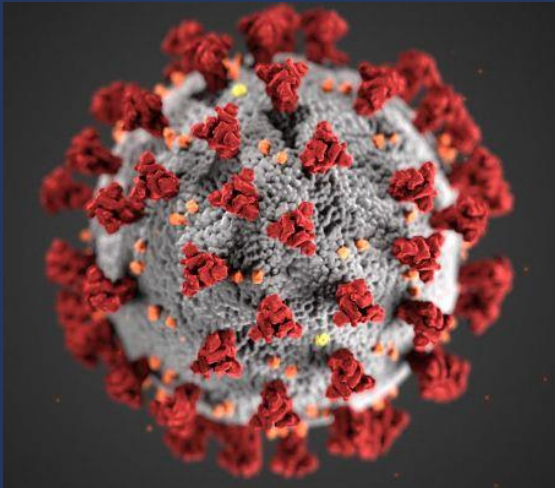
LCPS Connect U: Connecting Students to Colleges, Universities, and the Military

LCPS is unable to host its traditional College Fair this fall due to the pandemic. To continue to assist students and families as they research postsecondary education, a website has been created that provides information on over 160 colleges and universities.

Students also are encouraged to contact their school's counseling offices and Career Centers, register for virtual fairs and attend virtual college visits scheduled with their school.

[Access "LCPS Connect U" Today](#)

"Demystifying COVID-19" Lecture Series



Get the facts about the COVID-19 pandemic from "Demystifying COVID-19," a three-part virtual lecture series presented by LCPL and Janelia Research Campus with virologist Angela Rasmussen of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

While the first installment of the series was held on September 24th, the remaining two sessions will occur on October 1st and October 7th.

Part Two of Three: SARS-CoV2 Epidemiology and Transmission

Thursday, October 1st from 7:00-8:00 pm

In this second talk, Rasmussen will discuss the various routes of transmission and the science behind how the virus spreads between hosts.

Part Three of Three: SARS-CoV2 Therapeutics and Vaccines

Wednesday, October 7th from 7:00-8:00 pm

In the final talk in this series, Rasmussen will review some of the different treatments and vaccines in development, and what to expect from these ameliorative efforts.

[Register Here to Receive Event Links](#)

Metro Opens Public Comment Period on Service Cuts as Federal Funding Support Ends

Metro has officially opened the public comment period and announced the many ways the public can make their voice heard regarding the impact of COVID-19 budget cuts that must be considered as federal funding support ends.



Due to the pandemic's impact on ridership and revenue, Metro is heavily dependent on CARES Act funding that will run out by the end of the year. As a result, Metro's Board of Directors must prepare to cut more than \$200 million from the transit agency's annual operating budget, something that is only possible through a combination of service cuts, reduced hours, layoffs, furloughs, and internal cost-cutting measures.

Metro is encouraging anyone impacted by these changes to make their voice heard as part of the official Public Comment period, which runs through 9 a.m. October 19, 2020.

[Make Your Voice Heard](#)

Virginia Department of Health's Pandemic Metrics Dashboard



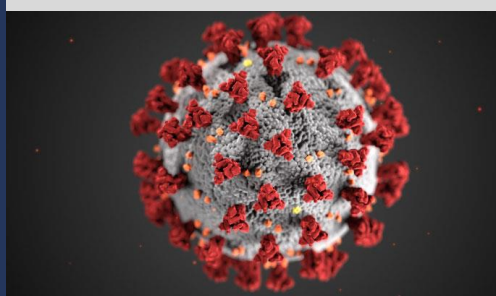
The Pandemic Metrics Dashboard compiles various data sources related to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak in Virginia into understandable metrics for burden, trend, and extent of transmission.

These metrics are provided at the region level in Virginia.

- Burden is the measure of disease and its impact on a community.
- Trend is a measure of how individual metrics and the overall situation are changing over time.
- The extent of transmission is a new measure that consolidates a variety of data sources into one metric.

[View the Pandemic Metrics Dashboard](#)

Stay Informed!



The county continues to encourage everyone in the community to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19, which include:

**LOUDOUN
COUNTY**
—  —
VIRGINIA

Loudoun County encourages residents to stay informed about COVID-19

- To receive email updates on COVID-19, visit loudoun.gov/coronavirus.

- Wear a mask/face covering ([see requirements](#))
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid non-essential travel.

- Text **LCCOVID19** to **888777** to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19.
- Envíe un mensaje de texto con **LCCOVIDESP** al **888777** para actualizaciones diaras relacionadas con el coronavirus (COVID-19) en el condado de Loudoun.

Residents with questions about COVID-19 may call the Loudoun County Health Department's information line, 703-737-8300, or email health@loudoun.gov.

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