



COVID-19 UPDATES ~NOVEMBER 24, 2020~

Celebrating the Holidays Safely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A graphic with a white background and autumn-themed leaf illustrations. At the top left is the Loudoun County Virginia logo. The main text reads 'Celebrate the Holidays Safely during COVID-19'. Below this is a green box with white text: 'STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Stay home and have small gatherings with only members of your household.' At the bottom is a red box with white text: 'loudoun.gov/safeholiday'.

Fall and winter holidays are a time of year when many people get together with extended family and friends outside their household. However, much like our day-to-day activities over the last several months, holidays are going to be a bit different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

When thinking about the holidays, it's wise to assess health risks before you make plans.

The Loudoun County Health Department encourages residents to plan their holiday celebrations and travel carefully to lower the risk of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. Those who choose to gather and travel over the holiday season should avoid high-risk activities.

[Learn More](#)

Apply for the New 'Loudoun Is Ready Outdoor Seating Grant'

As part of Loudoun County's efforts to help our business community through the pandemic, we have created a \$250,000 fund to support restaurants, wineries, breweries, distilleries and others who are permitted for outdoor seating.

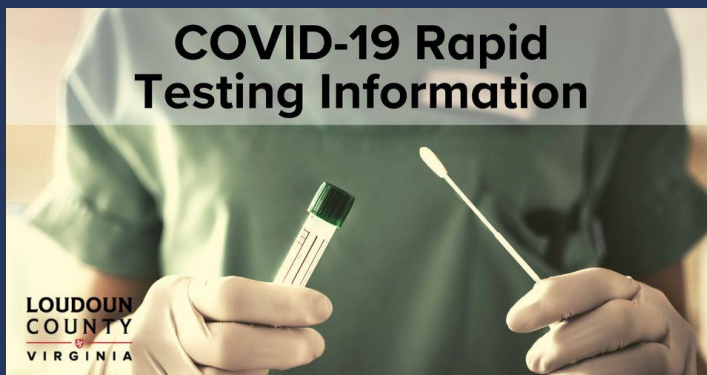


The new Loudoun Is Ready Outdoor Seating Grant program, which opened this morning at 10 a.m. is designed to provide up to \$5,000 in funding to approximately 50 businesses.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and the application window will close once it becomes apparent that the funds have been awarded.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Antigen (Rapid) Test for COVID-19 Explained



The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requires testing in order to identify who is infected and prevent the further spread of the disease in our community. There are currently several testing methods to detect the virus that causes COVID-19 and many

people have wondered which tests are best and which tests they should seek.

In particular, many have asked about the value of the so-called “rapid” test that is designed to quickly diagnose a case of COVID-19. The rapid test is also called an antigen test. The antigen test provides results in approximately 15 minutes. It is also easy to run and affordable to administer. So, why isn’t the rapid test recommended more frequently? The answer is simple: the rapid COVID-19 test is not as accurate as the more widely available polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, also called a molecular test.

[Read More](#)

Loudoun Fire and Rescue 2020 Toys for Tots Campaign

As the holiday season approaches, the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System (LC- CFRS) will once again participate in the National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments’ Toys for Tots Campaign.



Due to COVID-19 and the ongoing pandemic requiring self-distancing, wearing masks, keeping hands washed/disinfected and avoiding large crowds, the Loudoun County Toys for Tots has come up with a plan for the 2020 season that would make it safe for all involved and still provide toys to children in need.

This year, rather than collecting toys, the Loudoun County Toys for Tots will be purchasing them, thus minimizing handling the toys. Therefore, the best way to support the program, will be through monetary donations.

To allow enough time to order and have the toys shipped out, it would be ideal for the donations to be received by early December 2020.

To donate online:

Visit the local Loudoun County Toys for Tots [website](#) and click on the “Donate Local” red button on the top right of the home page.

To donate by check:

Make check payable to "Toys for Tots" and mail to:

Toys for Tots
c/o Loudoun County Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 162 Purcellville, VA 20134

'Tis The Season To Take Loudoun Home For The Holidays



Whether it's a freshly-cut tree or wreath, artisan gift or locally-sourced food, supporting Loudoun's farms and Main Street businesses keeps your shopping dollars in the local economy, reduces environmental impact, and provides the special people in your life with a unique holiday

experience.

Loudoun Economic Development is partnering with Visit Loudoun and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce to support small businesses across all industries with a refreshed version of the [Take Loudoun Home for the Holidays guide](#).

In addition to the in-store experience, shoppers can support businesses through gift cards, curbside and delivery options, outdoor dining, virtual events, the [Loudoun Made Loudoun Grown Marketplace](#), and more.

Cooking Safely During the Holiday Season

Thanksgiving and the holidays are full of excitement, good food and fun times with family. As preparations for the busy holiday season are underway, the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System encourages residents to follow safe cooking practices. Cooking is the leading cause of residential fires during the Thanksgiving holiday and throughout the year. Take a few moments to review these safety tips and ensure your holiday is memorable for all the right reasons.



- Stay in the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop. If you leave the kitchen, even briefly, turn off the stove. If baking, roasting, or broiling, set timers to remind you food is cooking.
- Keep combustibles, such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains, away from your stovetop.
- Maintain a three-foot safety zone for kids and pets around stove and hot appliances. Turn pot handles away so young children are less likely to get burned.
- Fried turkey fan? We recommend buying one from a grocery store or restaurant, or consider an oil-less turkey fryer. Hot oil from a turkey fryer can cause serious burns and destroy property.

If you do have a fire:

- On the stovetop, slide a lid on the pan to smother the flames and turn off the burner. Do not remove the lid until the pan is completely cooled. Never pour water on a grease fire!
- For an oven fire, immediately turn off the heat and close the oven door.
- When in doubt, get out then call 9-1-1! Close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

Remember, working smoke alarms save lives! Never disconnect the smoke alarms in your home, especially while cooking. For additional fire prevention information visit loudoun.gov/firemarshal or contact Lisa Braun, Public Education Manager, at [571-258-3222](tel:571-258-3222).

Loudoun Second Half Real Property Tax Deadline is December 7, 2020



The graphic features a dark blue banner at the top with the text "Real Estate Tax Deadline" in white. Below the banner is a white background with a "TAX" document icon and a clock icon. A yellow banner with the text "December 7" is positioned to the right of the clock. Below the icons, the text "For payment options, visit: loudoun.gov/taxes" is displayed. At the bottom left, the Loudoun County Virginia logo is visible.

Loudoun County Treasurer H. Roger Zurn Jr. reminds taxpayers that the deadline for payment of the second half real property tax is Monday, December 7, 2020.

Payments postmarked after December 7, 2020, will incur a 10 percent late payment penalty. Additional interest at the

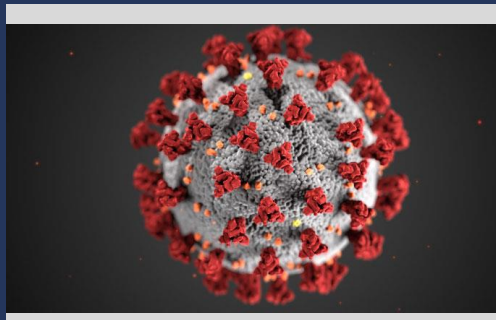
rate of 10 percent per annum will be assessed. The due date will not be extended for bills where assessment questions have been filed with the Board of Equalization.

Taxpayers who are having financial difficulties should contact the Office of the Treasurer's Collections Team at [703-771-5656](tel:703-771-5656) for assistance.

Anyone who has not received a tax bill or who has questions should contact the Loudoun County Treasurer's Office at [703-777-0280](tel:703-777-0280) or by [email](#).

[Get More Detailed Information](#)

Stay Informed!



**LOUDOUN
COUNTY**

VIRGINIA

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

- 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.

Loudoun County encourages residents to stay informed about COVID-19

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

Supervisor Koran T. Saines

Sterling District Supervisor
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
[703-777-0204](tel:703-777-0204)

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STAY CONNECTED



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