NEWSFLASH

Inside Sterling

Supervisor Koran T. Saines

Loudoun County
VIRGINIA

STERLING LIBRARY

COVID–19 UPDATES
~DECEMBER 8, 2020~

COVID-19 Vaccine: 8 Things to Know

COVID-19 Vaccine:
8 Things to Know Now

LOUDOUN
COUNTY
VIRGINIA

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has announced vaccination priorities for the Commonwealth as well as plans to begin distributing and administering COVID-19 vaccine before the end of the year.

The creation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most critical steps toward protecting those at highest risk of the disease and eventually bringing an end to the pandemic. As vaccine first becomes available later this month to the priority groups, click the link below for eight things all of us should know about preparations for vaccine distribution in Loudoun County over the coming months.

Learn More

Virginia's COVID-19 Vaccination Priorities Announced

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Virginia, implementing a successful vaccination program is critical to flattening the curve and stopping the spread of this virus. Based on new information provided on December 3 by the federal government's Operation Warp Speed, Virginia is now preparing to receive an estimated total of 480,000 doses of vaccine from two manufacturers (Pfizer and Moderna) by the end of December 2020.

This initial distribution will ensure 480,000 health care personnel (HCP) and long-term care facility (LTCF) residents receive a first dose of the vaccine, beginning the inoculation process for nearly all members of Virginia's two top-priority groups, if we receive this expected allotment. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) estimates that there are up to 500,000 HCP and LTCF residents in Virginia.

The actual amount of vaccine received in Virginia is a moving target and dependent on when and how quickly vaccination doses are manufactured. VDH is coordinating future prioritization based on federal guidance.

Get More Information

Catch A Meal, Kids Toys, and More This Weekend

Former NFL Seattle Seahawks legend player Darrell Jackson founder of The Sterling Youth Foundation is hosting another Catch a Meal Event at Bill Allen Field **this Saturday, December 12th from 10:00 am-12:00 pm** while supplies last. The Catch a Meal Program was created to support those in need with the support of athletes like Mr. Jackson who wants everyone to feel supported during this difficult time and no ID will be required.

The fresh produce boxes will include over 25lbs of an array of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy. In addition, we will be providing household supplies, kids toys, and school supplies.

The event will take place in the heart of Sterling, VA at the home of The Lower Loudoun Boy's Football League: 22281 S. Sterling Blvd.

In accordance with local CDC guidelines, all items will be available to people in vehicles via a drive-through system that allows for social distancing. People will need to remain in their vehicles as volunteers load the boxes into vehicles.

For Media and Partnering with The Catch A Meal Program contact April Taylor at thesvefirm@gmail.com.

COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversations

Learn more about how Virginia is preparing for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Join the Virginia Department of Health's

Office of Health Equity for a series of COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversations starting this week.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Conversation

- Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 6:00PM

LatinX Community Conversation
- Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 6:00PM

LGBTQIA+ Community Conversation
- Thursday, December 10, 2020, 6:00PM

African American Community Conversation
- Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 6:00PM

People with Disabilities Community Conversation
- Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 6:00PM

Rural Community Conversation
- Thursday, December 17, 2020, 6:00PM

Learn More and Register Here

Loudoun County Will Hosts Free COVID-19 Testing on Dec. 13

COVID-19 TESTING

Tuesday, December 8	Sunday, December 13
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Philip A. Bolen Park	Potomac Falls High School
42405 Claudia Drive	46400 Algonkian Parkway
Leesburg 20175	Potomac Falls 20165

Drive-thru only. Free & open to everyone.

loudoun.gov/COVID19testing

Loudoun County has scheduled another free drive-thru COVID-19 testing event:

Sunday, December 13, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Potomac Falls High School, 46400 Algonkian Parkway, Potomac Falls.

The testing event is open to all. There are no age or residency requirements. No prescriptions or appointments are necessary. A person does not have to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 in order to be tested. A PCR test (nasal swab) will be administered, which tests for the novel coronavirus. No antibody or rapid tests will be offered.

Pre-Register Today

How Long Should You Quarantine if Exposed to COVID-19?

On December 2, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reiterated its endorsement of 14 days of quarantine for close contacts of a person with COVID-19, but provided options to localities to consider shorter quarantine periods based on local circumstances and resources. You may have heard about this as this topic was widely reported in the news, which may cause some confusion over just how long you should quarantine if you are exposed to a person who has COVID-19.
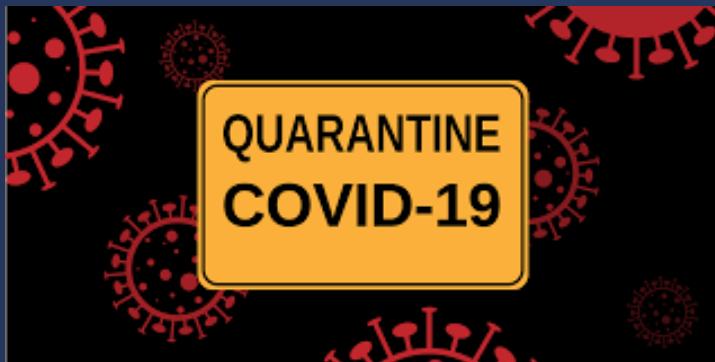
At this time, there are no change to the quarantine guidelines in our community. Consistent with the CDC's and Virginia Department of Health's current guidelines, the Loudoun County Health Department continues to recommend that people who have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 stay home and away from others for 14 days after the last contact with the person who has COVID-19. Close contact is defined as being within six feet of a COVID-19 positive person for a cumulative period of at least 15 minutes over a 24 hour period.

[Learn More About When to Quarantine](#)

Dulles Toll Road to Go Cashless

In response to customers' preference for electronic toll payments, the Dulles Toll Road will be going permanently cashless on January 1, 2021. Manual toll collecting was ended on April 6, as part of the Virginia Department of Transportation's response to COVID-19. This change will now become permanent with the road moving to all electronic tolling.

In addition, loose change will no longer be accepted and tollbooth change baskets will be removed.

All lanes on the Dulles Toll Road are equipped with electronic tolling, which accept the following forms of payment:

- Any lane can be used with a valid E-ZPass account or other form of electronic tolling. Customers can visit E-ZPass Virginia for information on how to obtain an E-ZPass. If toll-lane cameras identify a license plate associated with an E-ZPass account, that account will be charged for the transaction even if an E-ZPass is not present in the vehicle. To make it easier to get an E-ZPass, the minimum opening account balance has been temporarily reduced to $20.00 per transponder (from $35.00) for online and phone applications. E-Z Pass also offers a reloadable Virginia E-Z Pass Card, these can be purchased your local CVS Pharmacy and 7-11 Convenience Stores.

- The GoToll, Slora and Peasey Drive On smartphone apps are also accepted as payment.

- Motorists passing through all toll plaza lanes without electronic payment will be sent a payment notice by mail. Missed tolls which are paid within **six days of the violation** will not be charged an administrative fee. Customers are encouraged to visit the Virginia Department of Transportation's online toll violation payment website for information on proactively paying missed tolls.

Customers should contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Customer Service Center at 1-888-860-9361 for additional information on toll roads in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Learn About Northern Virginia Transportation Initiatives and Projects

The public is invited to a joint virtual meeting TODAY, Dec. 8, 2020 with representatives from the Commonwealth Transportation Board,

Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and Virginia Railway Express, to learn more about the regional collaboration that keeps travelers in Northern Virginia moving.

The meeting will include an opportunity to receive public comments following agency presentations on transportation initiatives, including:

- Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- VTrans Draft Mid-term Transportation Needs
- NVTA's FY2020-2025 Six Year Program; TransAction; COVID-19 analysis; and the Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P) in partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia
- NVTC's Commuter Choice program
- VRE project updates

The meeting will be streamed live from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the DRPT YouTube channel, and following the presentations, public comment can be made by calling 1-415-655-0001, followed by meeting number/access code 126 518 6536# and attendee ID/meeting password 35433735#.

Learn More About the Agencies

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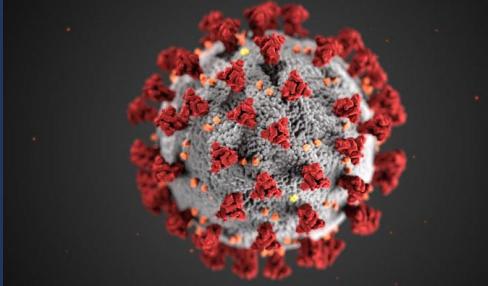
The county continues to encourage everyone in the community to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19, which include:

- 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.

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