NEWSFLASH
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COVID–19 Updates & Important Information
~MARCH 11, 2021~

Loudoun County Announces Changes to Rent Assistance Program; More People May Be Eligible

Loudoun County Rent Assistance Program

For households financially impacted by COVID-19

LOUDOUN COUNTY loudoun.gov/limitedrentassistance

Loudoun County residents who are experiencing difficulty paying rent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible for rent payment assistance from two programs: the county's Limited Rent Assistance program (LRA) and the Commonwealth of Virginia's Rent Relief Program (RRP).

Recent changes in the Virginia RRP will be reflected in the county's LRA program. Residents may now be eligible for one or the other of these programs, based on their family size and income. More residents may now qualify for rent assistance as a result of these changes, which allow for a greater range of income eligibility.

[Learn More and Complete Your Application](#)

New Guidance for the Fully Vaccinated

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new guidelines on how people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

- If you have been fully vaccinated, some of the things the CDC says you can do include:
  - Gathering indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
  - Gathering indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
- The CDC says fully vaccinated people should continue to wear a mask in public and stay at least 6 feet apart from others, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.

[Read more detailed guidance from the CDC](#)

Getting a COVID Vaccine: Step-by-Step

Step 1: The first step is submitting a pre-registration

If you have not done so already you should submit a pre-registration form online or by calling 703-737-8300 if you do not have access to the internet.

Pre-registration forms create a database of names and contact info for those who have submitted. See where we are on the waitlist.

If you need to verify or edit your registration in the centralized, statewide system, you can do so here or by calling 877-829-4682.

Step 2: Scheduling an Appointment

When it is time to schedule an appointment, most will be notified through email, unless you requested to schedule by phone in your pre-registration.

If you will schedule online, expect to receive two emails: one from the Health Department with detailed instructions to complete the scheduling process, a second from the CDC to create a VAMS account.

- After creating your account, choose from the list of available appointment slots

Step 4: Your Appointment is Scheduled

You will receive an email confirmation with your appointment date, time and location. If you need to cancel or reschedule for any reason, you can log back into your VAMS account to change your appointment.

Step 5: Getting Your Vaccine

Go to your appointment as scheduled. When you arrive, you will check in and then be directed to the vaccination area.

Step 6: Follow Up

If the vaccine you receive requires two doses, you will need to schedule a second appointment. Those who scheduled online will be reminded to schedule their second appointment by logging back into VAMS and choosing a date and time for

a second dose that is at least 21 or 28 days later, depending on the type of vaccine you received.

Those who scheduled over the phone can schedule their second appointment before leaving the vaccination site.

Beware of Vaccine Scams

Protect yourself against COVID-19 vaccine scams!

Here are some scams to watch out for:

Asking for payment: COVID-19 vaccines are free. Someone is trying to scam you if they ask you to pay to put your name on a vaccine waiting list or to get the vaccine.

Non-governmental website: If you are asked to visit a website or give information online, make sure the website or email ends in "gov." Credible sources about the COVID-19 vaccine in Loudoun County and Virginia

Protect Yourself
AVOID COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

As COVID-19 vaccine distribution begins, here are signs of potential scams:

■ You are asked to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine.

■ You are asked to pay to put your name on a vaccine waiting list or to get early access.

■ Advertisements for vaccines through social media platforms, email, telephone calls, online, or from unsolicited/unknown sources.

■ Marketers offering to sell or ship doses of the vaccine for payment.

✓ Protect Yourself. Do not give out your personal information to unknown sources.

! If you believe you have been the victim of COVID-19 fraud, immediately report it to:

- HHS-OIG Hotline: 1-800-HHS-TIPS | tips.hhs.gov
- FBI Hotline: 1-800-CALL-FBI | ic3.gov
- CMS/Medicare Hotline: 1-800-MEDICARE

For accurate, up-to-date information about COVID-19, visit:

oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus
fbi.gov/coronavirus
justice.gov/coronavirus

HHS Office of Inspector General   Federal Bureau of Investigation   Department of Justice   CMS

include loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine and vaccinate.virginia.gov.

Asking for personal information: State and local agencies will not ask for a Social Security number or immigration status. Health care providers may ask for your insurance information, but your vaccination will not be dependent on your insurance status.

LCPS Vaccination POD Closes After More Than 21,000 Shots

Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) closed its Point of Distribution (POD) for COVID-19 vaccination at Brambleton Middle School on Friday, March 5, after successfully delivering more than 21,000 shots.

The POD, which first opened on January 15, delivered both Moderna and Pfizer vaccines during a seven-week period through a partnership with the Loudoun County Health Department and the County Office of Emergency Management. The operations of the LCPS Vaccination POD have moved from Brambleton Middle School to the County of Loudoun POD located at the Dulles Town Center Mall.

Read the Full Article

Updates from the Sterling Playmakers

Rising Stars Summer Theater Camp

The Sterling Playmakers will host their Rising Stars Summer Theatre Camp between July 12-23, 2021. The camp is planned for in-person attendance, and the Playmakers have published a detailed COVID-19 safety plan on their website.

The curriculum will include acting, musical theatre, and technical theatre classes, with a general focus of all disciplines during the first week and track breakdowns in the second week, culminating in a final performance on July 23. Registration is limited to rising 3rd graders through rising 9th graders.

Learn More and Register Your Child Today

Auditions: The Laramie Project

This will be the first live production staged by the Playmakers in over a year since the advent of COVID and hopefully the first step in the slow return to normalcy. The Laramie Project is a transitional project, with a smaller cast production and minimal set and technical requirements, to prepare for full reopening.

Auditions will be held **March 18-20** with options for both online and in-person auditions.

Learn more about the Laramie Project and auditions

Virtual Parent Support Group

Loudoun County is offering "Parenting Wisely," a virtual parent support program for parents of middle school- and high school-aged children.

The program helps parents learn strategies and techniques to better support their children and manage difficult situations in the home. Parents will learn constructive skills proven to decrease problem behaviors, reduce family conflict, and improve the family dynamic.

The free, four-to-five-week program will be held on Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Find out more information at loudoun.gov/familysupportservices.

Virtual Opioid Overdose Reversal Training

Health officials say while drug overdose deaths were already increasing in the months preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, studies suggest an acceleration of overdose deaths during the pandemic, led by synthetic opioids.

Anyone who uses opioids or knows someone who does is encouraged to sign up for Loudoun County's Revive! training on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose.

The free, virtual training lasts about one hour. Upcoming classes are scheduled for March 11, 15 and 18.

Find out more information and register at loudoun.gov/revive.

Arbor Day Photo Contest 2021: 'Trees That Make Me Feel Happy'

The annual Loudoun County Arbor Day tree photo contest is underway. The theme of this year's contest is "Trees That Make Me Feel Happy." Entries are being accepted through Friday April 9, 2021, in advance of this year's virtual Loudoun County Arbor Day Celebration, which will be posted on the Loudoun County website at loudoun.gov/trees to coincide with Virginia's Arbor Day April 30.
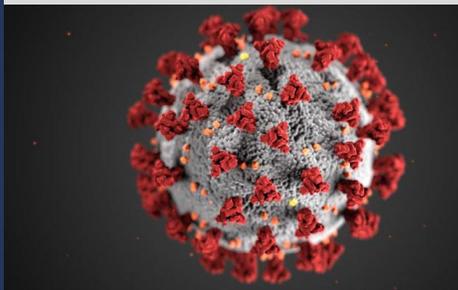
Awards will be distributed to the top three photos. The winners will be notified the week of April 12. Photos will not be returned and will become the property of the Loudoun County Arbor Day Committee.

For more information about the Arbor Day photo contest or the virtual Arbor Day celebration, contact Kyle Dingus at 571-252-0678 or by email.

Get More Details

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

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 **8887 77** 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.

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.

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