



NEWSFLASH

Inside Sterling

Supervisor Koran T. Saines

Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



COVID-19 Updates & Important Information

~MARCH 23, 2021~

Updates from the Office of Governor Northam



Governor Northam Announces Limited Capacity Increases for Indoor and Outdoor Gatherings, Some Entertainment Venues as Vaccinations Rise

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

Virginia Individual Income Tax Filing and Payment Deadline Extended to May 17, 2021

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

Governor Announces New Service to Assist Virginia Students Applying for Financial Aid

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

Loudoun County Officials Recommend Against Spring Break Travel

The Loudoun County Health Department continues to discourage non-essential travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during spring break and upcoming holidays. By not traveling, Loudoun residents can help slow the spread of COVID-19 and limit the potential of bringing back variant forms of COVID-19 to the community.

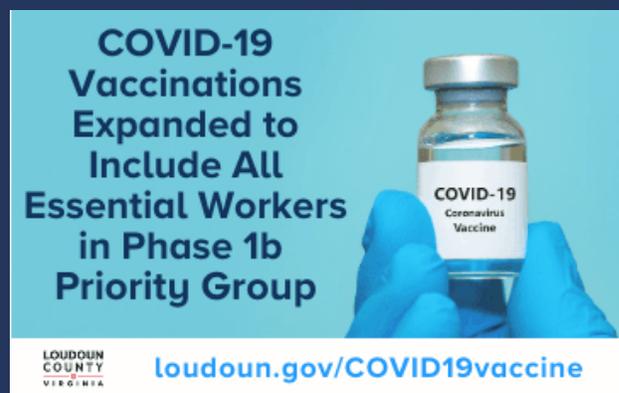


Health officials also discourage carpooling with members of different households and urge residents to continue to be vigilant and take prevention measures against COVID-19, including avoiding crowds, staying 6 feet away from others not in your household, wearing a face covering, washing hands frequently and getting a vaccine when it's your turn.

For those who must travel, the Health Department recommends reviewing and following the [CDC](#) and [Virginia Department of Health](#) guidance for travelers.

[Read More](#)

Loudoun Expands COVID-19 Vaccinations to Include All Essential Workers in Virginia's Phase 1b Group



Effective Friday, March 19, 2021, Loudoun County has expanded COVID-19 vaccination opportunities to all [Virginia Department of Health Phase 1b priority groups](#), which include people 65 years of age, people 16-64 years of age with high-risk medical conditions, and eleven categories of front-line essential workers. The first appointments

for people in the expanded 1b group will be for March 24.

The Phase 1b list of essential workers includes:

1. Police, fire and hazmat personnel
2. Corrections and homeless shelter workers
3. Childcare/PreK-12 teachers/staff (public and private)
4. Food and agriculture workers (including veterinarians)
5. Manufacturing workers
6. Grocery store workers
7. Public transit workers
8. Mail carriers (USPS and private)
9. Officials needed to maintain continuity of government (including judges and public-facing judicial workers)
10. Clergy/Faith leaders
11. Janitorial/Cleaning staff

As Loudoun County continues to invite people who have pre-registered and are on our waitlist to make vaccination appointments, invitations to make appointments will now be offered to anyone who meets the current Phase 1b priority group criteria. Appointments will continue to be offered in the order in which pre-registration forms were received.

[Get More Info](#)

Loudoun County Schedules Free COVID-19 Testing Events through April

Loudoun County has scheduled more free, drive thru COVID-19 testing events through April. Beginning March 30, 2021, testing events will be held on Tuesdays only, and end one hour earlier than the testing events held over the past two months. The new COVID-19 testing schedule is now **Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the following locations:

COVID-19 TESTING

Multiple
Locations

April 2021
Tuesdays
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Drive-thru only. Free & open to everyone.

loudoun.gov/COVID19testing

March 30: [Franklin Park, 17501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville](#)

April 6: [Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park, 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg](#) (Enter the park on Crosstrail Boulevard from Sycolin Road.)

April 13: [Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls](#) (Access the testing location in the back parking lot, near the senior center.)

April 20: [Dulles South Recreation & Community Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding](#)

April 27: [Ray Muth Sr. Memorial Park, 20971 Marblehead Drive, Ashburn](#)

[Get More Info on Testing Opportunities and Registration Forms](#)

How to Talk to Family and Friends about COVID-19 Vaccines



Vaccines are one of the critical elements in slowing the spread of COVID-19, but some people are reluctant to get vaccinated.

There's a lot of misinformation out there, so it's not surprising that some people have concerns that are keeping them from making an appointment. The Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention offers advice if you're trying to have a conversation with a friend or family member about their concerns. Things to remember to help open the discussion include:

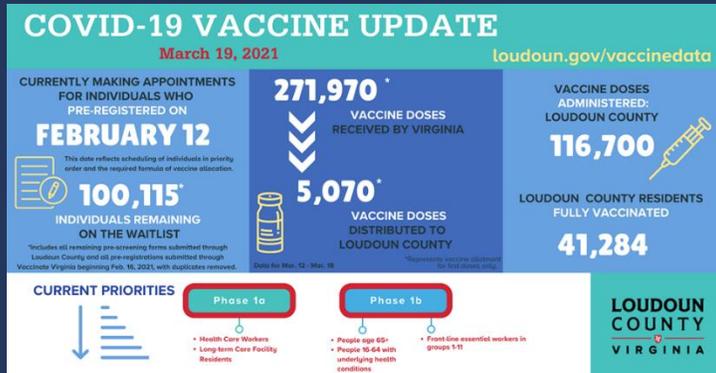
- Listen to questions with empathy.
- Ask open-ended questions to explore concerns.
- Ask permission to share information.
- Help them find their own reason to get vaccinated.
- Help make their vaccination happen.

[Read more from the CDC about how to talk about the COVID-19 vaccines](#)

Loudoun COVID-19 Vaccine Data Update

Since last Friday's update, Loudoun County has made significant progress in vaccinations, administering more than 17,000 additional vaccines. Other key indicators:

- The date of pre-registration for which the Health Department is currently scheduling appointments is **February 12**, advanced from February 2 in last Friday's report.
- Total COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in Loudoun is **116,700**, which is up 20,567 since last Friday. More than **41,284** Loudoun County residents are fully vaccinated, up more than 7,000 from last week's report.
- The waitlist has significantly increased from 10,665 to **100,115**. The increase is due to the inclusion of pre-registrations submitted through the statewide system, which allows anyone to submit a pre-registration form, regardless of phase or priority group. We were not able to report accurate waitlist totals previously due to glitches in the statewide system.



Updates from Inova



Key Statistics Related to Inova's COVID-19 Response as of March 22, 2021

- COVID-19 Patient Summary
- Currently hospitalized: 78
- Total Hospitalized Patients Since March, 2020: 7,421

- Community and Patient Vaccinations
 - Total vaccine doses provided: 245,743
 - To date, Inova has delivered more than one-third of all vaccine doses in Northern Virginia and one-fourth of all vaccine doses delivered by hospitals across the Commonwealth.
- COVID-19 Testing
 - Total patients tested: 227,148

Inova to Open New Mass Vaccination Facility with Capacity for 6,000-12,000 Shots Per Day

The Inova-Stonebridge COVID-19 Vaccination Center will significantly expand capacity and options to vaccinate more people.

Opening March 29, this new 50,000 square foot facility will serve Northern Virginia residents so long as vaccine is available and shared with Inova. The new site will operate Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Once the new site is open, Inova will continue to operate its vaccine clinic at the Inova Center for Personalized Health in Falls Church on Saturdays only from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Improving the Inova Online Scheduling Experience

Inova continues to work to improve communication and support for the MyChart online scheduling tool. While more than 90% of vaccine appointments are scheduled successfully through MyChart, there have been concerns expressed and feedback is appreciated from those who have been frustrated by their experience.

Additional information on the MyChart tool:

- MyChart is a secure electronic health record system utilized by more than 400 hospitals and health systems nationwide, three fourths of which, like Inova, are using it to schedule vaccine appoints. It offers a more reliable registration system and allows us to better manage appointments.
- The majority of residents, roughly 9 out of 10, are able to schedule their appointments without issue. Inova is expanding call center capabilities to better handle the volume of requests for assistance. Inova is also working to better communicate with residents on the front end, both through our web site and e-mail communications about what to expect as part of the registration process.

Here are some facts around the most common issues or concerns:

- You are ***NOT*** required to provide your Social Security number. While a user may see a field asking to provide the last four digits of a Social Security number, it is clearly marked “not required.”
- Inova ***does not*** ask about citizenship or immigration status.
- Scheduling through MyChart ***does not*** include a credit check and does not affect your credit report or rating.
- There is ***no out-of-pocket cost*** to any patient.
- ***Insurance is not required***. Lack of insurance will not prevent you from scheduling a vaccine appointment.
 - As part of the electronic check-in process prior to your appointment, you will be asked to provide insurance information. Inova will be collecting insurance information from those who have insurance and will work with insurance plans to cover allowed charges for vaccine administration. If an insurance plan does not cover charges, Inova will not pursue payment from the patient.

Spring Caregiver Support Series Begins April 6

The Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is offering a new spring series of virtual education and support sessions for caregivers.

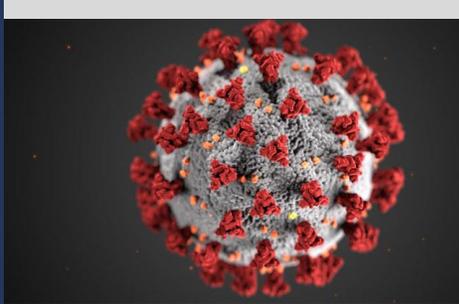
These four free, virtual sessions will take place throughout April and May.



To sign up for these free, virtual sessions, please email aaasupport@loudoun.gov. To learn more about AAA programs and community resources, visit loudoun.gov/aaa or call [703-777-0257](tel:703-777-0257) to speak with a specialist. The Area Agency on Aging is a division of the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

[Learn More About the Sessions](#)

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

**LOUDOUN
COUNTY**
—  —
VIRGINIA

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.

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.

Supervisor Koran T. Saines

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[Loudoun County Government](#)

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STAY CONNECTED



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[Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

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