



COVID-19 Updates & Important Information ~AUGUST 12, 2021~

Six Things to Know About the Delta Variant and Why Masks Are So Important Now



Over the past few weeks, public health experts and the news media have published a lot of information about the Delta variant of the virus that causes COVID-19.

The most recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the

Loudoun County Health Department is based on the latest scientific studies and trends observed as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. Below are six things that all of us should know about the Delta variant and current mask requirements and recommendations.

1. The Delta Variant is More Contagious.
2. Vaccinated People Can Still Spread the Virus and Test Positive for COVID-19.
3. Unvaccinated People Remain at the Greatest Risk.

4. Face Masks Remain an Important Tool in Preventing the Spread of COVID-19.
5. Wearing Masks is Very Important for People with Weakened Immune Systems.
6. What You Can Do to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19.

Given what we know about the Delta variant and the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine and masks, Loudoun County is applying all prevention strategies available to slow the spread of the disease. It will take each of us doing our part to reverse the current trend in new infections and help bring an end to the pandemic as quickly as possible.

[Learn More](#)

Dangerously Hot Weather, Storms Possible in Loudoun; Officials Offer Advice on Staying Safe

With extreme heat and humidity in the forecast over the next few days and an excessive heat watch in effect Thursday, August 12, 2021, Loudoun County officials advise residents to be prepared and take precautions against the dangerously hot conditions, which could include heat indices up to 110 degrees. In addition, isolated severe storms and flash flooding are possible.



Protect Yourself Against the Heat

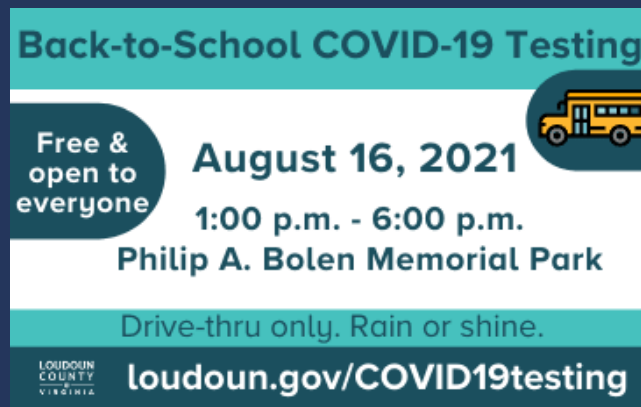
- Spend as much time in air-conditioned locations as possible.
- Hydrate: Drink plenty of water.
- If you have to go outside, avoid strenuous activities. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Do not leave children or pets in cars.
- Monitor your animals frequently to ensure that they are not suffering.
- Check on your neighbors.

Be Prepared for Storms

- Know the forecast.
- Secure any loose objects outside in your yard or on your deck.
- Keep trees and branches trimmed, especially near your house.
- Turn around. Don't drown. Do not drive through flooded roadways.

[Learn More](#)

Loudoun Hosts Back-to-School Free COVID-19 Testing Event August 16



The flyer features a teal header with the text "Back-to-School COVID-19 Testing". Below this, a white box contains the text "Free & open to everyone" in a dark teal circle, followed by "August 16, 2021" and "1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m." in bold. Below the time is "Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park". A teal bar at the bottom of the white box says "Drive-thru only. Rain or shine." and "loudoun.gov/COVID19testing". A small icon of a yellow school bus is in the top right corner of the white box. The Loudoun County Virginia logo is in the bottom left corner.

The Loudoun County Health Department will host a special COVID-19 testing event to provide parents and students who are returning from summer vacations and preparing to head back to school in the coming weeks with an opportunity to receive a free test for the virus before entering classrooms.

COVID-19 Testing Event Date and Location

The free, drive-thru COVID-19 testing event is scheduled on **Monday, August 16, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.** at [Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park, 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg](#). (Enter the park on Crosstrail Boulevard from Sycolin Road.)

The August 16 testing event is open to all. There are no age or residency requirements. No identification is required. No prescriptions or appointments are necessary. No COVID-19 vaccine will be available at this event.

[Get More Info](#)

Free School Physicals for Uninsured Children

The Inova Cares Clinic for Families (ICCF) is offering free school and sports physicals for uninsured children in grades Pre-K through sixth throughout the month of August.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling [703-698-2550](tel:703-698-2550).

ICCF provides comprehensive primary care services to patients of all ages who qualify for Medicaid, FAMIS, Inova's Financial Assistance Program, or are uninsured.

ICCF children's services are offered at the Sterling and Manassas locations only:



FREE SCHOOL PHYSICALS FOR UNINSURED CHILDREN
*for newly enrolled children, pre-kindergarten through 6th grade in Virginia

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED CALL TODAY!

 **703-698-2550** 

 To ensure social distancing, just the child and one parent should attend.

 Masks are required for all participants.

1 July Sterling - Inova Cares Clinic for Families
46440 Benedict Dr. Suite 208
Sterling VA 20164 **31 August**



Sterling

46440 Benedict Drive, #208, Sterling, VA 20164

Manassas

8051 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 20109

Masks are required for all participants and to ensure social distancing, only the child and one parent are encouraged to attend appointments.

[More Information on ICCF](#)

Delta Variant Increases Significantly In Virginia



Variants of Concern

State health officials say the Delta variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 is now the most common variant in Virginia and is hitting unvaccinated people in the state very hard.

On Friday, [VDH announced a significant increase in the Delta variant throughout Virginia.](#)

The Delta variant is different from the original “strain” of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in that it spreads much faster. Studies show people infected with Delta have a higher viral load than those infected with the original strain.

Officials say because community immunity levels are not high enough to contain the spread of the Delta variant, cases are surging and additional public health mitigation efforts, such as masking, distancing and frequent hand washing are needed, and that vaccination is the only strategy that will safely bring an end to the pandemic.

REMINDER: Virginians Can Enroll in 2021 Health Insurance Marketplace Through August 15

Virginians who buy health insurance through the [Healthcare Marketplace](#) may now qualify for financial help with those premiums. Virginians who already receive financial help could be eligible for additional savings on health insurance coverage following Congress’ passage of the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP).

Approximately 77,000 uninsured Virginians are newly eligible for tax credits that reduce the cost of their health insurance premiums. An estimated four out of five enrollees may be able to find a plan for \$10 or less per month with these tax credits. A family of four with household income of \$90,000 could see premiums reduced by approximately \$200 per month.

Following a Special Enrollment Period that began earlier this year, enrollment is now open through August 15 – no qualifying life event is necessary. If you already are covered through the [Marketplace](#), you will need to re-enroll to take advantage of the new savings.

The logo for Health Care.gov, featuring the words "Health" and "Care" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, with ".gov" in a smaller, grey sans-serif font below "Care".

[Learn More](#)

DONATE TODAY: Sterling District Back-to-School Supply Drive



August is here and that means students will be back in school in just a few weeks!

A new school year involves back-to-school costs, which can be challenging for so many families.

During the month of August, My office is hosting another Back-to-School Supply Drive to assist students, families, and educators in the Sterling District alleviate the burden of back-to-school shopping as much as possible.

High-need items include:

- Dry erase markers
- Cleaning and COVID supplies (masks, hand sanitizer, tissues, sanitizing wipes, etc.)
- Colored folders with pockets and prongs
- Backpacks and lunch boxes
- Ear buds and headphones
- Hard pencil boxes/cases
- Writing utensils (pre-sharpened #2 pencils, multicolor highlighters, markers, crayons, etc.)
- Glue, glue sticks, and tape
- Paper items (packs of loose-leaf paper, spiral & composition notebooks, index cards, etc.)
- Three-ring binders (between 1"-3")

Collection boxes for community members to donate school supply items are currently available at:

Sterling Library

22330 S. Sterling Blvd., Suite A117, Sterling, VA 20164

Daybreak Kitchen & Biscuit Company/Nectar Cocktail Bar

22455 Davis Dr., Suite 133, Sterling, VA 20164

Joe's Pizzeria

22360 S. Sterling Blvd., #103, Sterling, VA 20164

If businesses are interested in hosting an in-house donation drive among staff in support of the Back-to-School Supply Drive or serving as a donation drop-off location, please contact my office at Tianni.Ivey@loudoun.gov or by phone at [703-777-0204](tel:703-777-0204).

Loudoun Is Ready: How Businesses Can Continue to Protect Customers and Employees

The Loudoun County Health Department and the Department of Economic Development (DED) are reaching out to local businesses to help stem the spread of COVID-19.



The Health Department has created a COVID-19 Business and Workplace team that can work directly with businesses to offer training on best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Businesses are invited to participate in an upcoming virtual workshop to learn about the services that the Health Department can provide.

It takes a united effort to prevent exposure to variants and prepare Loudoun for cold and flu season this fall and winter. If there's any way that the Health Department can help your business, please do not hesitate to ask.

[Read the guest post on the DED blog by District Epidemiologist Kevin Embrey of the Loudoun County Health Department.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: Tee off for WGB!

Tee off for WGB!



Thank you to our
Presenting Sponsor



Ready to get your swing on at Top Golf this year?

Join Women Giving Back on **Wednesday, October 13th from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm** at Top Golf Loudoun for their biggest annual fundraiser event.

One-hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit WGB, which supports women and children in crisis on a first step to stability by providing quality clothing at no cost, assisted by a caring and

committed community.

Open bar, appetizers, silent auction, single or team tickets and private bays. Bring your family, friends, and colleagues and enjoy an evening at Top Golf Loudoun Rooftop Terrace!

[Get Information on Registration and Sponsorship Packages](#)

DEADLINE: Novel Expressions Teen Art Contest

Take part in an epic virtual summer reading art contest for rising sixth- through 12th-graders.

Entering the contest is simple: Select a book from your summer reading and create a piece of artwork that expresses your feelings about any part of the story. For example, it could be a character that you feel a



connection to or a scene that inspires you. The art can be a sketch or drawing, a painting, or mixed media.

The top three artists in both middle and high school divisions will be awarded gift cards and art supplies.

Submissions are accepted through 5:00 pm on Monday, August 16, 2021 by emailing it to artcontest@library.loudoun.gov.

[Get More Information](#)

Loudoun County to Require Face Masks Inside County Facilities

Face Masks Required Inside Loudoun County Facilities, Effective August 9, 2021



Face Masks:

- **Required: In Loudoun County facilities, regardless of vaccination status**
- **Recommended: In all public indoor settings**

loudoun.gov/coronavirus

LOUDOUN
COUNTY
VIRGINIA

Loudoun County Government is requiring all employees and visitors to county facilities, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face masks while inside all county facilities in a renewed effort to reduce levels of community transmission of COVID-19.

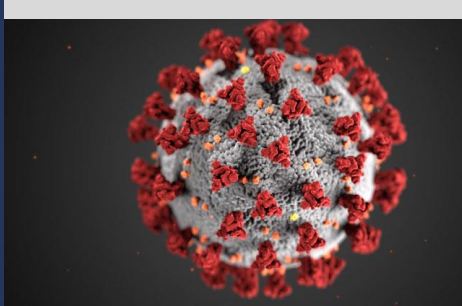
Officials say until more people are vaccinated, wearing

masks is a key step in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Loudoun County is currently experiencing a [substantial level of community transmission](#). With the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Loudoun, as well as the increase in the Delta variant of the virus, the Loudoun County Health Department recommends all individuals (ages 2 and up) wear a mask in all public indoor settings.

For those who are fully vaccinated, wearing a mask reduces the risk of being infected with the Delta variant and reduces the risk of unknowingly spreading the virus to others. While infections happen in only a small proportion of people who are fully vaccinated, it is still possible for fully vaccinated people to spread the virus to others.

[Read the county's news release on the face mask requirement](#)

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**
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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

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

[Loudoun County Government](#)

[Sterling District Supervisor Page](#)

[Email Koran T. Saines](#)

STAY CONNECTED



Sterling District | 1 Harrison Street, S.E., 5th Floor, Leesburg, VA 20177

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by koran.saines@loudoun.gov powered by



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