

COVID-19 Updates & Important Information ~AUGUST 26, 2021~

# **Loudoun County to Open New COVID-19 Vaccination Site in Sterling September 4**



loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine

The Loudoun County Health Department will begin operating a COVID-19 vaccination site at Sterling Elementary School on Saturday, September 4, 2021.

The new vaccination site is located at 200 West Church Road in Sterling. The county's COVID-19 vaccination clinic at

Sterling Elementary School will be open every Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by appointment only until further notice. Vaccinations at this location are free and open to everyone age 12 years and over.

The new location replaces the vaccination site at the Dulles Town Center, which will close permanently on Friday, September 3.

COVID-19 vaccine is now widely available throughout Loudoun County from many providers, such as medical offices and pharmacies including, but not limited to,

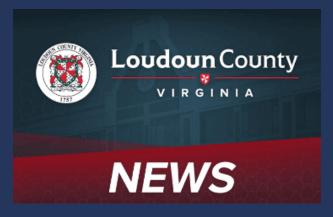
CVS, Giant Food, Harris Teeter, Safeway, Walgreens, Walmart and Wegmans. The Health Department encourages everyone 12 and older who has not yet been vaccinated to visit <u>vaccines.gov</u> to find the vaccination site nearest to you, particularly if getting vaccine on a weekday is more convenient.

Learn More

# Loudoun County Census Data Released, Marking Milestone in Local Redistricting Process

The U.S. Census Bureau's recent release of data from the 2020 census marks an important milestone as Loudoun County moves forward with its local redistricting process.

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of districts that elect representatives who serve specific geographic



areas. This process occurs every 10 years following the United States decennial census. Loudoun County underwent its last local redistricting process in 2011.

This data will allow the county to prepare a detailed analysis, including the population growth in election districts and precincts from 2010 to 2020. County staff can now begin to develop possible local redistricting scenarios, which will be brought to the board for consideration at its October 19, 2021, business meeting.

A public submission period is scheduled to take place in November 2021. Members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on scenarios developed by county staff or use them as a starting point to develop and submit their own plans for consideration. The county will provide an online tool through which individuals can view information and propose local redistricting plans.

Learn More

# **Important LCPS Back to School Information**



Loudoun County Public Schools students began classes today, August 26th. LCPS will return to five-day-a-week instruction for the first time since classes were suspended in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Online Verification**

An important reminder to parents, guardians, and family members that families must sign into <u>ParentVUE</u> to complete the Online Verification process as part of the LCPS First Day of School Information Initiative. This Online Verification process enables LCPS to better

Information Initiative. This Online Verification process enables LCPS to better manage, gather, track and maintain the most accurate student data effectively.

## Mental Health Support Available as Students Return to School

Transitioning back to in-person instruction may be challenging for some students. LCPS has a well-established, comprehensive mental health program to support students as they return to five days of in-person instruction this fall.

Students will learn strategies for advocating for themselves when they need support. School staff will begin the process of connecting with families when trends are observed in absences or behavior.

For a full list of resources, please visit the <u>Mental Health Services page</u>.

# **LCPS Meals Will Continue to Be Free**

Breakfast, lunch, snack and supper meals will be served free of charge to all students during the 2021-22 school year. Funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) makes this possible.

Applying for Free and Reduced-Price Meals Still Necessary. Children from households that meet federal income guidelines for either free or reduced-price

meals should still apply for these programs so that students may receive other benefits.

Get More Important Back-to-School Info

# Loudoun Workforce Resource Center Offers Career Assistance During Workforce Development Month

During September --Workforce Development Month -- the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will feature special virtual and in-person events at no cost for job seekers and people who are considering changing careers.



Visit <u>loudoun.gov/workforcemont</u>h for detailed information about each event and how to register. Events will include:

- Ride Confidently: Tapping into TransitApp and SmarTrip® on Loudoun County Transit (Two sessions): Wednesday, September 1, 6:00 7:00 p.m.; Friday, September 10, 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Community Connections: Drop In & Discover: Tuesday, September 7, 9:00 11:30 a.m.
- Childcare Options for Working Families: Wednesday, September 8, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Remote Work in the New Normal: Thursday, September 9, 10:00
   11:15 a.m.

- Making Work, Work for You An Introduction to Social Security Disability Work Incentives: Thursday, September 9, 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
- Youth WIOA (Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act) Information Session: Monday, September 13, 1:00 2:00 p.m.
- Is WIOA (Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act) Right for You? (Two sessions): Thursday, September 16, 10:00 11:00 a.m.; Thursday, September 23, 10:00 11:00 a.m.
- Transition to Work: Re-engaging with Co-workers and Customers: Friday, September 17, 1:00 2:00 p.m.
- Career Conversations: A Panel Discussion & Networking Reception: Monday, September 27, 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Managing Your Money Budgeting & Savings Strategies (Two sessions): Tuesday, September 28, 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. (English); Wednesday, September 29, 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. (Spanish)

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center provides no-cost resources and equipment to job seekers and businesses to help them achieve their employment goals.

More information about the center can be found at loudoun.gov/wrc.

# Metro to Expand Service and Reduce Fares Starting September 5



Beginning Sunday, September 5th, Metro will add more trains and buses, extend train service on the weekends, and lower fares to make riding easier and more convenient as people return to school and work.

#### Changes will include:

- Add more buses on the busiest lines to better serve customers throughout the day.
- Reduce average wait times for buses during the day.
- Restore more service that had been suspended due to the pandemic.
- Provide free bus transfers between rail and discounted passes.

On Metrorail, more trains will run during off-peak hours, as well as run longer on weekends and open earlier on Sundays. The Metro system will remain open an hour later — until 1:00 am — on Fridays and Saturdays and open an hour earlier — at 7:00 am — on Sundays.

### **Fall Pass Sale**

Metro will also offer up to a 50% discount on select unlimited pass products between Thursday, September 16 and Friday, October 15.

More Information on the Changes

REMINDER: Loudoun County Offers Financing Opportunities for First-Time Homebuyers Loudoun County announces the availability of \$10 million provided by Virginia Housing (VH) to help firsthomebuyers. time of allocation funding through VH's **Sponsoring** Partnerships and Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) program provide lower interest rates on home loans in Loudoun County for qualifying buyers.



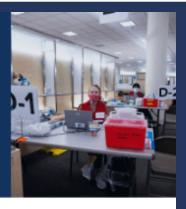
In addition, Loudoun County offers two other homeownership loan programs to help moderate-income, first-time homebuyers purchase a home in the county:

- **Down Payment/Closing Costs Assistance Program**: Loans are used for down payment and closing costs.
- Public Employee Homeownership Grant Program: Forgivable loans of \$10,000 are used for a purchase of a home located within Loudoun County.

More Info on Eligibility Criteria and How to Apply

REMINDER: Loudoun County to Extend Dulles
Town Center Vaccination Site Operations by
One Week

COVID-19
Vaccine Clinic
Extends
Operations
through
September 3



loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine

Loudoun County will continue providing COVID-19 vaccinations to anyone 12 years and older at the Dulles Town Center clinic for an additional week beyond the previously scheduled closure of the facility.

The vaccination site is now scheduled to close permanently at 12:00

#### p.m. on Friday, September 3, 2021.

This brief extension of services at the Dulles Town Center will bridge the county's vaccination operations to the planned opening of an alternate, smaller vaccination clinic in early September. The details about the opening of a new vaccination site will be provided as soon as possible.

The extension of vaccination operations adds the following vaccination opportunities to the county's existing schedule:

- Friday, August 27: 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 28: 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 31: 4:00 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, September 3: 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

The county's vaccination site is closed on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The complete schedule is posted on the county's website at <a href="loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine">loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine</a>. No appointment is necessary; however, residents make may an appointment on the county's website.

Learn More

Use Your SNAP EBT Card at Your Local Farmers
Market

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Family Nutrition Program, "Eat Smart, Move More," empowers you to take charge of your health by eating healthy and living an active lifestyle. Our nutrition educators work



with Virginians to teach essential life skills like cooking, managing a food budget, using SNAP/EBT, being physically active, handling food safely, and planning meals.

### Using your EBT card at a farmers market:

- 1. Find the market manager's information table.
- 2. He or she will swipe your EBT card for the amount you request. You will receive \$1 wooden tokens. These tokens act like cash in the market.
- 3. Use your tokens to buy fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs, baked goods, herbs, and more!

## What you can buy with your SNAP benefits at the market:

- Meat
- Honey
- Vegetables
- Fruit
- Eggs
- Wrapped baked goods to be consumed at home
- Herbs
- Jams and Preserves
- Cheese
- Plants that produce fruit

You cannot buy hot prepared foods, alcohol, or non-food items, the same rules as at the grocery store.

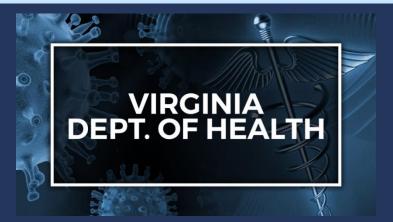
# Buy fresh, local foods with SNAP

Many farmers markets are now able to accept your SNAP benefits. Some will double your SNAP dollars for free! Food from the farmers market is locally grown, healthy, and tasty. Visit your local farmers market and experience the difference

yourself. To find the farmers market nearest you and which ones double SNAP dollars, visit the <u>Eat Smart, Move More VA website</u>.

#### Learn More

# Virginia Department of Health Reinstates COVID-19 Outbreaks Dashboard



On Wednesday, August 25, 2021, Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is reinstating the Outbreaks by Selected Exposure Settings Dashboard in the VDH COVID-19 Data

The dashboard includes

Insights dashboards.

information on outbreaks that occurred in medical care facilities, residential or day programs licensed by VDH, Department of Social Services (DSS) or Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), summer camps, K-12 schools, colleges and universities and long-term care facilities.

The dashboard is being reinstated because of the rapid increase in transmission of COVID-19 across the state spurred by the Delta variant. This has resulted in an increase in cases and outbreaks in congregate and communal settings. The publicly posted data will include all outbreaks reported to VDH since August 1, 2021, as these are the most relevant to implementing mitigation strategies and informing the public.

This dashboard will be updated weekly to accommodate ongoing data collection, quality assurance and communications. Be aware that there are inherent delays in public reporting of real-time COVID-19 data and it may take time for each outbreak to be investigated and reported.

Learn More

# LCSO to Conduct Back to School Enforcement Campaign, Offers Tips for Students & Parents

As Summer break comes to an end Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman is asking drivers to watch for children walking to and from school as they may forget to watch for you.

Over the next few weeks, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Deputies will be conducting speed and traffic safety enforcement



around local schools as part of the agency's Back-to-School enforcement and public education campaign. LCSO Deputies will be utilizing speed measurement devices, "Smart Trailers", variable message boards to display safety messages, marked and unmarked cruisers, as well as the agency's motor unit.

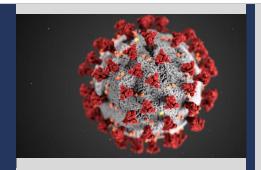
In his annual video safety message, Sheriff Chapman is reminding drivers to "slow down and stay alert and help make this a great school year." Please click <u>here</u> to view the safety message from Sheriff Chapman.

The Loudoun Sheriff's Office is also offering tips from the National Safety Council for:

- Walkers
- Bike Riders
- Bus Riders
- Drivers

**Learn More and Get Important Tips** 

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 alcoholbased 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



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 <a href="mailto:health@loudoun.gov">health@loudoun.gov</a>.

coughing or sneezing.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid nonessential travel.

# **Supervisor Koran T. Saines**

Sterling District Supervisor Loudoun County Board of Supervisors 703-777-0204

Loudoun County Government

Sterling District Supervisor Page Email Koran T. Saines

#### **STAY CONNECTED**



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