



## COVID-19 Updates & Important Information ~DECEMBER 22, 2021~

### Loudoun County Observes Christmas Holiday



Loudoun County government administrative offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday, Thursday, December 23, and Friday, December 24, 2021.

County officials encourage residents to celebrate the holiday safely. Learn more at [loudoun.gov/safeholiday](https://loudoun.gov/safeholiday).

View the county government holiday schedule at [loudoun.gov/holidayschedule](https://loudoun.gov/holidayschedule).

### Christmas Tree Recycling

## Curbside Recycling

Residents who receive curbside recycling services should contact their homeowners association, town office, or private waste collector for Christmas tree curbside recycling information. See Residential Recycling tab for more information.



## Christmas Tree

### Recycling Locations & Fees

From late December through mid-January residents may take their Christmas trees to the locations listed below for recycling. Christmas trees will be processed into [mulch available for free to Loudoun residents at the Landfill](#).

Tree vendors operating in Loudoun County who have leftover trees may recycle them at the Loudoun County landfill for \$68 a ton. Netting, rope, wire, tags and other items must be removed prior to recycling. The drop off locations listed here are for residential use only, no tree vendors.

#### **Sterling**

Claude Moore Park  
(use Loudoun Park Lane entrance, go to ball fields)  
46150 Loudoun Park Lane  
Sterling, 20164

Open daily, 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Recycling Guidelines

- Christmas trees should not be placed in bags.
- All decorations, light strands, tree stand, and bag should be removed before setting the trees out for recycling or taking them to any of the county's collection locations.
- The Christmas tree drop-off program is for residential use only.
- Tree vendors are welcome to use the [Loudoun County Landfill](#).

## Contact

For more information, please call [703-771-5514](tel:703-771-5514).

[Learn More](#)

## **REMINDER: Christmas Holiday Service Changes for Loudoun County Transit**



### **Christmas Holiday Bus Service - Thursday, December 23, 2021**

- Commuter, Local Fixed Route, and Metro Connection Bus services will operate on regular schedules Thursday, December 23, 2021.
- The Loudoun County Courthouse Shuttle from the Pennington Garage and Lot to the Courthouse will not

run Thursday, December 23, 2021.

### **Christmas Holiday Bus Service – Friday, December 24, 2021**

#### **Commuter Bus Services**

- Commuter Bus service will not run on Friday, December 24, 2021.

#### **Local Fixed Route Bus Services**

- Local Fixed Route Bus service will operate on regular schedules Friday, December 24, 2021.

#### **Loudoun County Courthouse Shuttle**

- The Loudoun County Courthouse Shuttle from the Pennington Garage and Lot to the Courthouse will not run Friday, December 24, 2021.

#### **Metro Connection Bus Services**

- Metro Connection Bus service will not run Friday, December 24, 2021, including stops at the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail station provided by Routes 87X, 88X, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 931, 932, 990 and 992 and stops at the West Falls Church Metrorail station provided by Routes 901 and 902.
- As an alternative to Metro Connection Bus service, the Local Fixed Route Bus will operate on Friday, December 24 and provide service to the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station on Route 72 from Ashburn North, Route 84 from the Dulles Town Center Park & Ride Lot, and Route 985 from Sterling. Schedules for these routes can be found at [www.loudoun.gov/localbus](http://www.loudoun.gov/localbus).

### **Christmas Day Holiday Bus Service - Saturday, December 25, 2021**

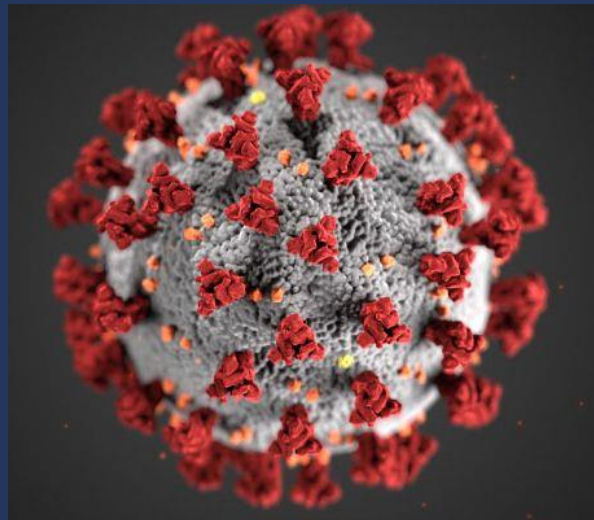
- Local Fixed Route and Metro Connection Bus services will not run Saturday, December 25, 2021.

[Get More Details](#)

## **Health Officials Urge Worshipers to Take Steps to Protect Themselves, Others**

As the number of new cases of COVID-19 continues to surge in Virginia, public health officials strongly encourage everyone who plans to attend indoor worship services and holiday gatherings in the coming days and weeks to take steps to slow the spread of the virus, regardless of your vaccination status.

Dr. Goodfriend asks that residents voluntarily take these steps as they gather to worship this Christmas even when there are no requirements to do so:



- Wear masks while indoors. Mask usage has been shown to reduce COVID-19 transmission and is particularly important when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Get tested before going to church or holiday gatherings. Home tests are available at local pharmacies. (Find testing locations on the [Virginia Department of Health website](#).)
- Attend virtual services. If your church offers a virtual option for Christmas services, consider staying home and watching the service online.
- Stay home when sick. Consider worshipping at home if you are sick for any reason, at increased risk of a severe infection due to age or medical status, or if you are otherwise uncomfortable attending a large-scale event during the COVID-19 winter surge.

Public health officials continue to recommend wearing a mask in public indoor spaces, in part, because breakthrough cases of COVID-19 are possible. Breakthrough cases are those that occur in fully vaccinated people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveillance data shows that the [Omicron variant](#) of the virus that causes COVID-19 now represents more than 70 percent of all cases in the United States. The Virginia Department of Health [urges everyone](#) who has not yet been vaccinated or received a booster dose to do so as soon as they are eligible, along with continuing other [disease mitigation measures](#) that slow the rapid spread of the virus. The vast majority of individuals who are hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated.

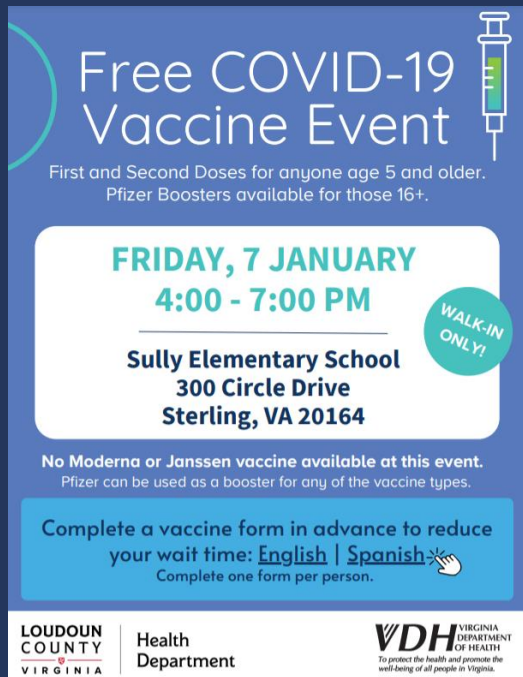
Anyone 5 and older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and anyone 16 and older is eligible for a booster. Find vaccination opportunities near you at [vaccines.gov](#). Loudoun County also offers vaccination appointments at its Dulles Town Center clinic; visit [loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine](#) for more information.

For additional information about COVID-19 and to sign up for COVID-19 text and email updates from Loudoun County, visit [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](#).

Anyone with questions about COVID-19 vaccine may call the Health Department's information line at [703-737-8300](#) or [send an email to the Health Department](#).

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## Upcoming Community-Based Vaccination Clinics



**Free COVID-19 Vaccine Event**

First and Second Doses for anyone age 5 and older.  
Pfizer Boosters available for those 16+.

**FRIDAY, 7 JANUARY**  
**4:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Sully Elementary School**  
**300 Circle Drive**  
**Sterling, VA 20164**

**WALK-IN ONLY!**

No Moderna or Janssen vaccine available at this event.  
Pfizer can be used as a booster for any of the vaccine types.

Complete a vaccine form in advance to reduce your wait time: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Complete one form per person.

**LOUDOUN COUNTY VIRGINIA** | Health Department

**VDH** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
To protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.

The Loudoun Health Department, in partnership with Loudoun County Public Schools and Giant Pharmacy, has scheduled free community-based walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all residents, particularly those who may have challenges getting to the County's vaccination site at Dulles Town Center or other locations offering COVID-19 vaccine.

Children ages 5 to 17 can receive their first or second dose if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Individuals aged 18 and over can receive their first dose, second dose, or their booster shot as needed. Upcoming vaccination clinics include:

**Monday, January 3, 2022**

Leesburg Elementary School

[English Flyer](#)

[Spanish Flyer](#)

**Friday, January 7, 2022**

Sully Elementary School

[English Flyer](#)

[Spanish Flyer](#)

**Monday, January 10, 2022**

Sterling Elementary School

[English Flyer](#)

[Spanish Flyer](#)

**Monday January 10, 2022**

Sugarland Elementary School

[English Flyer](#)

[Spanish Flyer](#)

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

Hutchison Farm Elementary School (South Riding)

[English Flyer](#)

[Spanish Flyer](#)

## Loudoun Website Mobile App to Sunset; Website User Experience Not Affected

Loudoun County's website provider has announced the sunsetting of the county's mobile app, Link2Loudoun. The discontinuation of the legacy app, which was launched in 2013 will not adversely affect anyone who accesses

[loudoun.gov](http://loudoun.gov) through a mobile device. The

Loudoun County website is

built with a responsive design, which enables the site to automatically render content optimally on any device, including smartphones and tablets as well as laptops and desktop computers. There were more than 249,000 visits to [loudoun.gov](http://loudoun.gov) in November 2021 alone via a smartphone.

The current mobile app will sunset December 31, 2021, due, in part, to mandated restrictions and changes from Apple and the ending of support and updates by the website provider.

Whatever device is used, the Loudoun County website provides access to information about county services and programs and allows users to complete a broad range of online business transactions and information searches through self-service methods including:

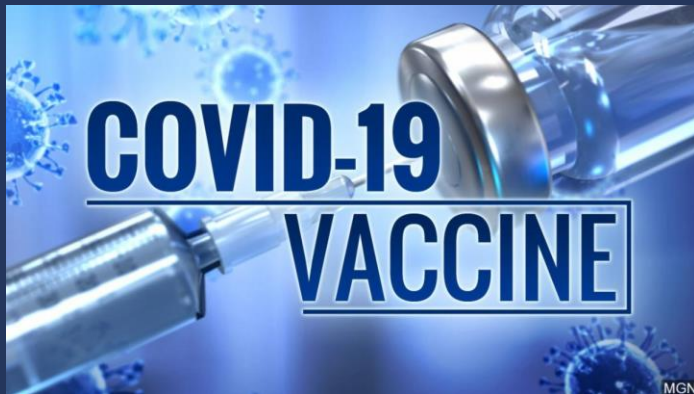
- Applying for a wide variety of permits and licenses: [loudoun.gov/permitsandlicenses](http://loudoun.gov/permitsandlicenses).
- Making appointments for in-person service at several county departments: [loudoun.gov/getinline](http://loudoun.gov/getinline).
- Paying taxes: [loudoun.gov/paytaxes](http://loudoun.gov/paytaxes).



- Signing up for county news and alerts at [loudoun.gov/notifyme](https://loudoun.gov/notifyme) and [loudoun.gov/alerts](https://loudoun.gov/alerts).
- Submitting requests for service and reporting concerns to the county government: [loudoun.gov/LEx](https://loudoun.gov/LEx).
- Viewing Board of Supervisors agendas and watching meeting video: [loudoun.gov/meetings](https://loudoun.gov/meetings).

Loudoun County is committed to continually improving [loudoun.gov](https://loudoun.gov) to meet the needs of the public. The website includes a link to a [website feedback survey](#) on every page for users to provide input.

## Update on Johnson & Johnson Vaccine



The Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine is still available at Loudoun County's vaccination clinic at Dulles Town Center, although health experts advise that either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is preferred over J&J for an initial series and a booster.

The [Virginia Department of Health](#) is following the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\)](#) recommendation which favors an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna) over J&J.

In addition, the CDC says that getting any vaccine is better than being unvaccinated, so individuals 18 and older who are unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA vaccine will continue to have access to J&J's vaccine.

## Loudoun County Family Services Career Fair



Please join the Loudoun County Department of Family Services (DFS) during their Family Services Career Fair on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022 from 3:00 pm-7:00 pm.**

The Career Fair will be an opportunity to meet the Child Protective Services program staff within Loudoun County's Department of Family Services and to learn more about becoming a Child Protective Services Specialist with the Department.

- Meet staff from the Loudoun County Child Protective Services team.
- Hear about a 'Day in the Life' from skilled Child Protective Services specialists.
- Learn from front line staff and supervisors about their rewarding experiences.

Preview the job announcement (#22-123-0048) and complete your employment application in advance for an opportunity to meet DFS hiring managers on-site: [bit.ly/37QMice](https://bit.ly/37QMice)

Have the potential to meet hiring managers on the day of the event by completing your employment application before the event at: <https://www.loudoun.gov/112/Human-Resources>.

Loudoun County Government is an employer of choice, offering fantastic benefits such as healthcare, dental, vision, Virginia State Retirement and other benefits here: <https://www.loudoun.gov/5010/Employee-Benefits>.

If you have any questions about the employment process, please contact Loudoun County Human Resources at [hr@loudoun.gov](mailto:hr@loudoun.gov).

[Register Today](#)



**January Mental Health First Aid Classes**



MENTAL  
HEALTH  
FIRST AID®

Anyone interested in having a better understanding of mental illness is encouraged to sign up for the next virtual Mental Health First Aid trainings offered by Loudoun County.

Mental Health First Aid is a public education, certification program offered by the Loudoun

County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis.

There are two versions of the program, a general adult program and a program for adults who interact with youth. These courses are offered free of charge to anyone in the Loudoun community.

### **Class Dates & How to Register**

#### **Adult Mental Health First Aid**

- Wednesday-Thursday, January 5-6, 2022
- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. each day
- Registration closes December 31, 2021

[Register here](#)

#### **Youth Mental Health First Aid**

- Tuesday-Wednesday, January 25-26, 2022
- 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. each day
- Registration closes January 18, 2022

[Register here](#)

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**REMINDER: Apply Before New Year: \$100 Billion in SBA EIDL Loans Still Available**

Looking for some extra holiday cheer for your business? Consider applying for a Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), which reportedly still has \$100 billion available. The only

catch is that **applications are due by December 31, 2021.**



“The COVID-19 EIDL and EIDL Advance programs still have billions of dollars available to help small businesses hard hit by the pandemic. More than 3.8 million businesses employing more than 20 million people have found financial relief through SBA’s loans,” Associate Administrator for SBA’s Office of Capital Access Patrick Kelley said. “Key enhancements have been made to the loan program that will help our nation’s businesses recover and get back on track.”

Sign Up For Notification of Future Loudoun Business Funding.

To receive up to a \$2 million loan, businesses must have fewer than 500 employees and prove damages resulting from COVID-19. Business owners are eligible for EIDL even if they received funds through the Paycheck Protection Program, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund or the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant. Small businesses, nonprofits, and agricultural businesses in all U.S. states and territories can apply.

[Get More Info](#)

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**REMINDER: Consider Applying for These 7 Sources of Small Business Funding Today**



The end of the calendar year is in sight and the holidays are upon us. For some Loudoun County businesses, that means one of the busiest times of the year, while others may be winding down to partake in the festivities. No matter what your

calendar looks like, there are funding opportunities for your business that may not wait until the new year.

### **USDA's Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement**

The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. The funds may be used for renewable energy systems, such as biomass, geothermal, hydropower, hydrogen, wind, solar and tidal energy generation. [Apply before March 31, 2022.](#)

### **Invoice2Go for Women or BIPOC-Owned Businesses**

Invoice2Go is giving away \$200,000 to help small business owners from minority communities take their next steps. Receive up to \$15,000 to grow your company, gain access to exclusive workshops to help win more work, build deeper customer relationships, simplify your operations, and more.

The business must be less than 5 years old, have no more than 10 employees, and have annual revenue equal to or less than \$1 million. [Apply today.](#)

### **CISCO Global Problem Solver Challenge**

In 2022, the annual Cisco Global Problem Solver Challenge will offer a prize pool of \$1 million, spread across 15 different awards. These prizes are intended to recognize new business ideas that leverage technology for social impact from early-stage entrepreneurs around the world.

For 2022, CISCO is also offering \$350,000 in special prizes to support important solutions in climate impact and regeneration and a startup from an HBCU. [Apply before 8 p.m. on February 11, 2022.](#)

### **WomensNet Amber Grants for Women-Owned Businesses**

WomensNet carries on the memory of aspiring entrepreneur Amber Wigdahl by giving away at least \$10,000 every month in Amber Grant money. The organization has also expanded its grant-giving to include other grants such as our Annual \$25,000 Amber Grant.

Applications are accepted and considered on a rolling basis each month. [The next deadline is December 31, 2021.](#)

### **Reimagine Mainstreet's Back Black Business Small Business Grant**

Black women are starting new businesses at record rates, even as established business owners expect a long road to recovery. Backing Black Business is a project of Reimagine Main Street and its network partners with support from Meta.

Backing Black Business will award Black women-owned businesses cash grants and other valuable resources. [Apply today.](#)

### **SoGal Black Founder Startup Grant**

SoGal Foundation is making a small step towards progress by providing several cash grants to Black women or nonbinary entrepreneurs. Awardees will also receive tactical help navigating the fundraising environment at large so that they will have a more equitable opportunity at scaling the next billion-dollar idea.

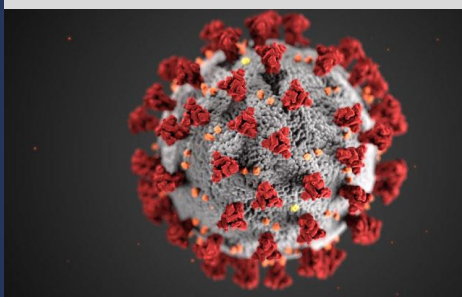
They will also receive lifetime "ask-me-anything" access to the SoGal Foundation and SoGal Ventures teams. [Apply today.](#)

### **IFundWomen Universal Grant**

IFundWomen is the go-to funding marketplace for women-owned businesses and the people who want to support them with access to capital, coaching, and connections. This grant is part of a pool of \$8 million in corporate grants that IFundWomen looks to disburse. [Apply today.](#)

[Get More Info](#)

## 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
- 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.

**LOUDOUN  
COUNTY**  
—  —  
**VIRGINIA**

Loudoun County encourages residents to stay informed about COVID-19

- To receive email updates on COVID-19, visit [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](https://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](mailto:health@loudoun.gov).

- 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.

**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**



Sent by koran.saines@loudoun.gov powered by

