



## Weekly Newsflash

December 22, 2022

### **VDOT: Northern Virginia Winter Weather Update**

#### Overview

Please continue to monitor forecasts closely as forecasts can improve or worsen quickly. The National Weather Service forecast shows winter weather will

impact the region from overnight Wednesday through Friday. The forecast shows the potential for periods of freezing rain and sleet, as well as below-freezing temperatures, heavy rain, and high winds. A Winter Weather Advisory has been issued for western Loudoun County starting at 4 a.m. Thursday.

**Drivers should expect roads to be impacted Thursday and Friday. Today will be the best day for holiday travel.** Adjust travel plans and avoid all nonessential travel during the height of the storm. This helps to avoid deteriorating conditions and to allow crews room to work.

**Crews have already begun pretreating and brining the roads** and will begin deploying trucks early Thursday morning to treat roads as needed.



**Treat anything that looks wet as if it could be icy**, especially bridges, ramps, overpasses, and elevated surfaces. If there is snow or ice on roadways, travel is hazardous.

## Timeline

### **Thursday Morning (Dec. 22)**

- Precipitation will begin from southwest to northeast during or just prior to rush hour.
- Areas along and west of the Blue Ridge (Western Loudoun and points west, extending southwest through Roanoke) will likely experience a start as a wintry mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain.
- Northern Virginia will see a chance for a wintry mix before a quick change to rain.
- Low temperatures will be around freezing during the early commute and will rise into the upper 30s into the mid-morning hours.
- Reduce your speeds and be especially careful on bridges, ramps and overpasses during this time.

### **Thursday Afternoon (Dec. 22)**

- Areas of rain are likely throughout Northern Virginia, with over an inch of rain possible.
- Areas farther west will see a changeover from wintry mix to rain into the mid-afternoon.
- Temperatures will gradually rise into the 40s for Northern Virginia but will likely hang in the mid 30s west of the Blue Ridge.
- Drivers should watch out for slick roads west and possible ponding.

### **Thursday Evening and Night (Dec. 22)**

- Areas of rain will linger after sunset but will taper off closer to midnight.
- Temperatures will range from the mid 30s west to closer to 50 degrees around DC.
- Winds will become breezy out of the east-southeast gusting to 25 mph at times.

### **Friday Morning (Dec. 23)**

- Areas of rain will develop early Friday morning (6-9 a.m.) ahead of the arctic cold front.
- Temperatures will range from the 30s west of the Blue Ridge to near 50 degrees closer to I-95.
- Temperatures will plummet into 20s around noon, so any residual moisture on the roadways will have the potential to turn icy.
- Confidence is low for iciness but it's high enough on a big travel day that we want you to be extra cautious and avoid travel or change travel plans if possible.
- Winds will also become an issue, gusting from 40-50 mph at times as the cold front moves through into the afternoon.
- Drivers should watch for possible downed trees and debris in the road, and be extra cautious on bridges and overpasses.

### **Friday Afternoon (Dec. 23)**

- Precipitation will exit into the afternoon and the wind and cold will be the main concern.
- Temperatures will likely be in the teens along the Blue Ridge and west and low 20s closer to I-95 into the afternoon.
- Factor in the winds which will continue to gust from 30-40+ mph and it will likely feel like the single digits closer to DC and possibly below zero for the I-81 corridor.
- If you're on the interstate and need assistance, please dial #77 and ask for a Safety Service Patroller.

### **Friday Evening and Night (Dec. 24)**

- Cold and breezy conditions will remain into Friday night with lows in the teens closer to DC and possibly single digits along and west of the Blue Ridge.
- Wind chills will likely be in the single digits with winds still gusting to 20-25 mph at times.

### **The Weekend (Dec. 24 - 25)**

- The holiday weekend will be partly cloudy to mostly sunny and cold both days with lows in the teens and highs in the upper 20s each day.
- Winds will be breezy at times Saturday but breezes should diminish into Sunday.

Follow VDOT on Twitter at [@vadotnova](https://twitter.com/vadotnova) for real-time updates, photos and videos.

## REMINDER: Loudoun County Hypothermia Prevention Shelter Is Open

### LOUDOUN COUNTY HYPOTHERMIA SHELTER

**Open Through March 31, 2023**

Loudoun Homeless Services Center  
19520 Meadowview Court, Leesburg

For adults age 18 or older

**Loudoun County**  
VIRGINIA



[loudoun.gov/HomelessServices](https://loudoun.gov/HomelessServices)

With brutally cold temperatures and wind chills in the forecast, Loudoun County reminds you that the Hypothermia Shelter is open for adults experiencing a housing crisis resulting in homelessness.

The shelter provides a warm indoor sleeping environment, meals, laundry and shower facilities, and will be open from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., seven nights a week through March 31, 2023. The shelter also provides information on other community resources, such as food, clothing, medical care, mental health care, public benefits, obtaining an ID and employment opportunities.

The Hypothermia Prevention Shelter is located at the Loudoun Homeless Services Center, 19520 Meadowview Court in Leesburg. Due to limited space, all guests will be asked to store personal belongings (outside of limited essential items) in secure storage on site. Note that the Loudoun County firearms ordinance prohibits firearms and ammunition in county facilities.

Free bus transportation will be provided daily at the times and locations listed below:

- Leesburg: The front of the Shenandoah Office Building, 102 Heritage Way, NE in Leesburg. Pickup time is 6:30 p.m.
- Sterling: Loudoun County Transit Bus Route 82 bus stop across the street from the William Watters House, 22365 Enterprise St. in Sterling. Pickup time is 5:30 p.m.
- For more information about transportation, call [703-771-5429](tel:703-771-5429).

The county will provide limited morning transportation from the shelter, if needed.

More information about services available to those experiencing homelessness in Loudoun County may be found at [loudoun.gov/homelesservices](https://loudoun.gov/homelesservices) or by calling [703-777-0420](tel:703-777-0420).

## Service Changes for Loudoun County Transit

### Christmas Holiday Bus Service - December 23 through 26, 2022

In observance of the Christmas Holiday, Loudoun County Transit has made the following bus service changes from December 23 through 26, 2022, as follows:



- On Friday, December 23, 2022, the [Loudoun County Courthouse Shuttle](#) from the Pennington Garage and Lot to the Courthouse will not run.
- On Saturday, December 24, 2022, there will be no changes to bus service.
- On Sunday, December 25, 2022, the [Safety Ride](#) will not run.
- On Monday, December 26, 2022:
  - Commuter Bus Service will not run.
  - Local Bus Service will operate [on a regular schedule](#).
  - The Loudoun County Courthouse Shuttle from the Pennington Garage and Lot to the Courthouse will not run.
  - Silver Line Connection Bus Service will operate [on a regular schedule](#).

### New Year Holiday Bus Service – December 30, 2021 through January 2, 2023

In observance of the New Year Holiday, Loudoun County Transit has made the following bus service changes from Saturday, December 31, 2022, through Monday, January 2, 2023, as follows:

- On Saturday, December 31, 2022, there will be no changes to bus service.
- On Sunday, January 1, 2023, the [Safety Ride](#) will not run.
- On Monday, January 2, 2023:
  - Commuter Bus Service will not run.
  - Local Bus Service will operate [on a regular schedule](#).
  - The [Loudoun County Courthouse Shuttle](#) from the Pennington Garage and Lot to the Courthouse will not run.
  - Silver Line Connection Bus Service will operate [on a regular schedule](#).

## Home Winterization Tips from Loudoun Water



As temperatures become cooler, it is time to think about home winterization. When temperatures get cold enough, the water can expand and freeze, which puts a great amount of stress on the pipes that contain it. This typically happens to outdoor hose bibs and water

supply pipes in unheated areas like basements and garages.

No one wants to come home to frozen pipes, which can be costly to fix. Check the tips below to help keep your pipes safe this winter. These tips are especially important for those who have experienced frozen pipes or meters in the past.

- **Faucets** - During very cold weather, keep a trickle of water running from faucets connected to pipes in unheated spaces. This includes any faucets located on the perimeter of your home.
- **Outdoor faucets** - If you haven't already, disconnect all garden hoses and drain the water that remains in your outdoor faucets. Looking for more information on disconnecting your outside

spigots? Visit our [blog post](#) about how to properly disconnect an outdoor spigot!

- **Thermostat** - Keep your home temperature set no lower than 55F. Travelers will often make the mistake of turning their thermostats off thinking it will save on their heating bill when in reality, they'll come home to frozen pipes and a giant headache.
- **Shut-off valve** - Know the location of your main shut-off valve. This valve is normally located where the water line enters your home through the foundation. It can be used to shut the water off in an emergency or when plumbing improvements are being made. It can also be turned off while the property is vacant to prevent water damage that unforeseen leaks might cause.
- **Indoor pipes** - Insulate pipes in unheated spaces like the garage and under cabinets along outside walls. Pipe insulation can be purchased at any home improvement store. During extreme cold spells, leave cabinet doors open so warm air can circulate better. If you do this, make sure to remove any hazardous materials so children and pets don't have access.
- **Irrigation** - If you have an irrigation system, make sure you've turned off and fully drained your system. Many companies recommend owners turn off the water from the inside, drain the water out of the system and release the air pressure. Need help? Contact an irrigation company to assist you.

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**The Federal Free At-Home COVID-19 Test Kit  
Program Has Returned**

The federal free at-home COVID-19 test kit program has returned. That means FREE COVID-19 antigen tests are back and ready to be delivered directly to your household!

Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests.

### About At-Home COVID Tests

The tests available for order:

- Are rapid antigen at-home tests, not PCR
- Can be taken anywhere
- Give results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required)
- Work whether or not you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Work whether or not you are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines
- Are also referred to as self-tests or over-the-counter (OTC) tests

[Read frequently asked questions](#)

### Take an at-home test:

- If you begin having COVID-19 symptoms like fever, sore throat, runny nose, or loss of taste or smell, or
- At least 5 days after you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19, or
- When you're going to gather with a group of people, especially those who are at risk of severe disease or may not be [up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines](#)

### Need a COVID-19 test right away?





## At-Home Tests at Retailers and Pharmacies

At-home tests are available for sale around the U.S. Check with local retailers and pharmacies to see where at-home tests are available.

## Insurance Reimbursement for At-Home Tests

If you have health insurance through an employer, the Marketplace, Medicare, or Medicaid, your insurance will pay for 8 at-home tests each month for each person on your plan.

[Learn more about insurance reimbursement](#)

## 15,000+ Free Testing Sites

No-cost antigen and PCR COVID-19 tests are available to everyone in the U.S., including the uninsured, at more than 15,000 sites nationwide.

[Find resources near you](#)

[Learn More](#)

## Opportunities to Serve: Members Sought for Loudoun Board of Zoning Appeals, Other Boards



*Opportunity to Serve Your Community*

Loudoun County seeks applicants for:

- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Advisory Boards, Commissions & Committees

**LOUDOUN COUNTY VIRGINIA** [loudoun.gov/advisoryvacancies](https://loudoun.gov/advisoryvacancies)

Loudoun County offers residents an opportunity to get involved in local government.

### **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Loudoun County is seeking applicants to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). There is one

opening for a member whose term would begin on February 20, 2023.

The duties of the BZA include hearing and deciding:

- Appeals of administrative decisions and notices of violations made in accordance with the zoning ordinance;
- Applications for variances as authorized by the zoning ordinance;
- Appeals from the decisions of the Loudoun County Zoning Administrator regarding interpretation of the zoning map where there is uncertainty as to the location of a zoning district boundary; and
- Applications for special exceptions when buildings or structures have inadvertently encroached into a setback.

The BZA has five members and two alternates who are appointed by the chief judge of the Loudoun County Circuit Court for staggered terms of five years. BZA members must be residents of Loudoun County.

The BZA meets approximately once a month for a public hearing.

*The deadline to apply for a seat on the BZA is January 23, 2023.* More information, including a link to the online application form, is available at [loudoun.gov/bza](https://loudoun.gov/bza).

### **Advisory Boards, Commissions & Committees**

There are also opportunities to serve on boards, commissions and committees that advise the Board of Supervisors on a wide variety of topics. Find out more at [loudoun.gov/advisoryvacancies](https://loudoun.gov/advisoryvacancies).

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**REMINDER: Loudoun County Invites Public  
Input on American Rescue Plan Act Funding  
Priorities**

Loudoun County is asking residents and employers to provide input on how the county should spend \$7.5 million of the \$80 million it will receive from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which financially supports local communities as they address the negative impacts of COVID-19 and lay the foundation for recovery.



#### American Rescue Plan Act Survey

**Loudoun County seeks input from the community as to how the county should spend \$7.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding.**

**Take the survey:  
[loudoun.gov/arpa](https://loudoun.gov/arpa)**

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The survey seeks information regarding five topics:

- Business reinvestment and recovery.
- Child care.
- Economic development for small businesses.
- Nonprofit funding.
- Transportation.

Members of the public are asked to rank three topics in priority order, and then note specific areas within those topics that are most important. Residents can also add other items not already on the list. Responses to the survey will be presented to the Board of Supervisors as the Board makes decisions regarding the allocation of the remaining ARPA funds.

- [Take the survey in English.](#)
- [Take the survey in Spanish.](#)

The survey can be completed in less than 15 minutes. Responses are anonymous. *The survey will remain open through December 23, 2022.*

[Learn More](#)

**VCE Loudoun Master Gardeners Present: Hard to See, but the Spotted Lanternfly is Still Here**



The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is still a threat, even despite the chill of winter. Knowing the SLF life cycle and understanding 200 Growing Degree Days (GDD) helps us determine how to proactively target the SLF.

At this virtual event, we will train our eyes to spot SLF egg masses in the wild! Learn how to identify the Spotted Lanternfly's egg masses and discover steps you can take to reduce SLF's impact in Loudoun County.

## **Hard to See, but the Spotted Lanternfly is Still Here**

Part of VCE Loudoun Master Gardener's Free Virtual Lecture Series

- January 12, 2023
- 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Hosted by Loudoun County Public Library
- [Sign Up for Event Reminders](#)

Event Details:

- To View the Event: [Event Link](#)
- Password: LCPL

### **Speaker Bio:**

Beth Sastre has served Loudoun County growers as VCE Loudoun's Commercial Horticulturalist for more than ten years. Her work experience includes horticulture, propagation, entomology, fungi microbiology, postharvest physiology, Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), lab research, extension, and educational programs. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy from the Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro (UAAAN-UL), and a Master's Degree in Nutrition and Postharvest Physiology at the Food & Development Research Center (CIAD) in Hermosillo, MX.

- [Hard to See, but the Spotted Lanternfly is Still Here: Check Out The Event Flyer! \(PDF\)](#)

## Supervisor Koran T. Saines

Sterling District Supervisor  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
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