



COVID-19 UPDATES
~MAY 15, 2020~

Loudoun County Initiates COVID-19 Impact Fund Project

On May 13, 2020, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved the COVID-19 Impact Fund program, which will provide funding for eligible nonprofit organizations to address the needs of low- to moderate-income households.

The county will be distributing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to support projects or activities that help families and individuals prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

The program will be funded using approximately \$310,000 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act CDBG allocation through an online competitive application process.



[Find Out More](#)

Virginia Department of Health Now Hiring Contact Tracers



The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is now recruiting 1,300 contractors for various positions to support COVID-19 efforts, including COVID-19 case investigator, COVID-19 contact tracer, COVID-19 testing coordinator, COVID-19 contact tracing supervisor, COVID-19 data manager, and COVID-19 analytics coordinator.

If you are interested in any of these positions, [visit this list of staffing agencies where you can apply](#).

You should indicate that you want to apply for a COVID-19 position through the [Virginia Department of Health](#).

How to Become a Certified Contact Tracer in a Matter of Hours

Johns Hopkins University has launched a new online course to make anyone a certified contact tracer in a matter of just hours. Contact tracing is a critical part to getting our economies back open safely and right now, state health departments are scrambling to hire.



Johns Hopkins University is offering this 5.5 hour course for free and it covers the basics of contact tracing: How to interview people who've been diagnosed, how to identify their close contacts and the public health knowledge you need to support these folks in often emotional phone conversations.

[Learn More](#)

New Mortgage and Housing Assistance Website for Americans Impacted by COVID



To ensure homeowners and renters have the most up-to-date and accurate housing assistance information during the COVID-19 national emergency, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launched the new mortgage and housing assistance website

at cfpb.gov/housing.

The joint website consolidates the CARES Act mortgage relief, protections for renters, resources for additional help, and information on how to avoid COVID-19 related scams. It also provides lookup tools for homeowners to determine if their mortgage is federally backed, and for renters to find out if their rental unit is financed by FHA, Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac.

[Find Out More](#)

Need Health Care Coverage?

If you got laid off and lost your employer-sponsored health care coverage, you may be qualified to apply for 2020 coverage during a Special Enrollment Period.

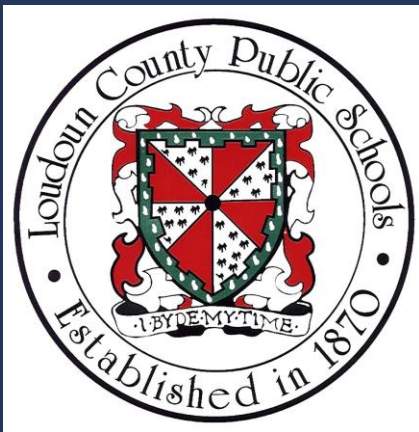
The deadline to get health insurance on the federal government's insurance marketplace in 60 days following the qualifying event. If you were laid off on March 17, for example, your deadline is May 16.



If you miss your 60-day deadline, you'll have to wait until November when you can apply for a 2021 health plan. Keep in mind the 60-day deadline from your layoff date.

[Learn More](#)

Federal Supplement for Students Who Receive Free or Reduced Lunch



Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals will be receiving additional help through a federal program for households affected by the current health emergency.

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program is a food-assistance plan approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a family is receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and is eligible for P-EBT, it will be added to their EBT

card during the next two weeks.

If a family is not receiving SNAP, they will receive a P-EBT card in the mail during the next four to six weeks.

[Learn More](#)

Face Coverings Will Be Required on Metro Trains, Buses, and in Stations

Face coverings or masks be required when traveling on Metro effective Monday, May 18. While the overwhelming majority of riders already comply voluntarily, the requirement is viewed as a necessary step as Metro plans for an eventual recovery with more riders using the system.

Per the CDC, face coverings may include bandanas, scarves, neck gaiters or homemade coverings easily made from t-shirts or other materials at minimal cost.

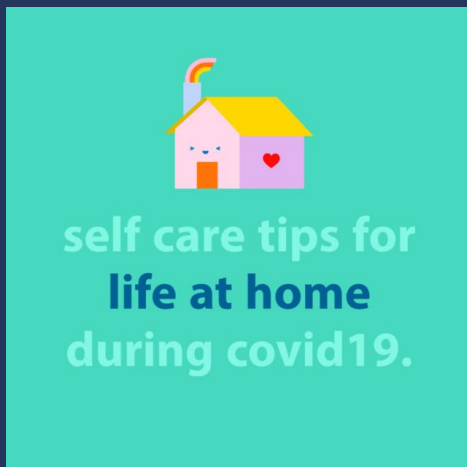
[Click here](#) for guidance on how to make and wear cloth face coverings.

As a reminder, Metro is open for "essential travel only," and the public is encouraged to stay at home whenever possible, in accordance with current executive orders and guidance in effect throughout the region.

[Read More](#)



Self Care Information



May is mental health awareness month, and with the fear and uncertainty about COVID-19, there is never a better time to focus on your mental health. Fear and uncertainty can cause strong emotions in children and adults and can manifest in more ways than you might think. [Read More on Coping with COVID-19 Fear and Uncertainty](#)

Determining when to go to the hospital or seek medical care can be a challenge, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, it is important to keep yourself healthy. Keeping yourself healthy means addressing health problems as they arise. [Read More on Not Putting Off Urgent Medical Care.](#)

The outbreak of COVID-19 may be stressful and overwhelming for some. Consider these resources for information for yourself and your family:

- Info on [Coping with Stress During COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

- Info on [Helping Children Cope with Stress During COVID-19](#)
- If you are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, Emergency Services are available 24 hours daily, seven days per week at [703-777-0320](tel:703-777-0320).
- For general information questions, [email](#) Mental Health Services or call [703-771-5155](tel:703-771-5155).

MADD Loudoun Virtual Walk & On-Line Auction May 16, 2020

Loudoun's annual 5K non-competitive Walk and Silent Auction Fundraiser (Walk Like MADD) will have some new twists this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's auction will be done on-line. There is a reason that this year's event is being modified rather than being cancelled. While the pandemic has caused a curtailing of many activities, even during it the crime of impaired driving is proving to be an ongoing threat to our community.



Saturday May 16 at 9:00 am: Opening Ceremony (including the Star-Spangled Banner, loosening-up exercises, etc) (via Zoom)

- Following the Opening Ceremony, at approximately 10am, the virtual walk will start in all participants' respective neighborhoods. In light of the virtual nature of the event, should the weather on Sat May 16 be undesirable for walking, feel free to then do it on Sun May 17!

Sunday May 17 at 4:00 pm: Closing Ceremony (including the recognition of Victims, event teams, funds raised and awards (via Zoom)

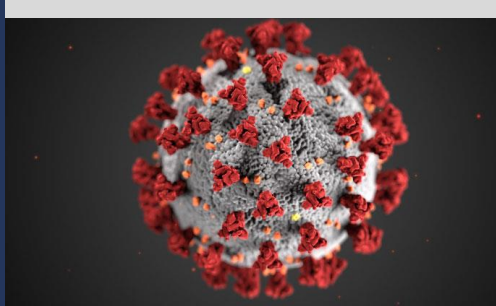
The on-line auction is already in progress. Register to take part in Walk Like MADD 2020 and you will receive an invitation to be a part of it!

[On-line registration](#) is open until 8:30 am on Sat., May 16th

Please contact Susan Cleveland ([703-470-1053](tel:703-470-1053) or maddloudoun@aol.com) with any questions.

Stay Informed!

Keeping with the Board of Supervisors' policy, regularly scheduled meetings of the Board's [advisory boards, commissions and committees](#) are canceled while Loudoun County Public Schools are closed. The county will provide updated information on meeting status as this rapidly evolving situation continues. For the most current schedule, please visit loudoun.gov/calendar.



The county continues to encourage everyone in the community to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19, which include:

- 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 tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



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.

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid non-essential travel.

Supervisor Koran T. Saines

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STAY CONNECTED



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Sent by koran.saines@loudoun.gov in collaboration with



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