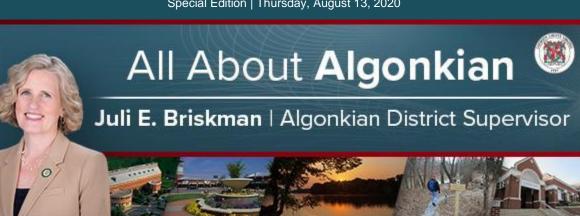
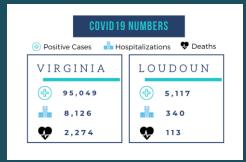
Special Edition | Thursday, August 13, 2020



COVID-19 Update



Local and State COVID-19 **Trends**

According to a model used by the Loudoun Health Department, cases are expected to increase an average of 29 cases per day over the next six days. After experiencing a sharp increase in cases, the eastern region of Virginia the 7-day moving average of

cases has steadily decreased since mid-July. The 7-day moving average for the entire state of Virginia mirrors this trend. For more information, visit VDH COVID-19 Daily Dashboard.

The Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association is reporting daily hospitalizations on the VHHA dashboard.



Loudoun Allocates CARES Act Funding to Nonprofits

Loudoun County has allocated \$2.3 million to 53 local nonprofit and faith-based organizations that provide services to the community and have been affected by

the COVID-19 pandemic. The allocation is part of the federal funding made

available to the county through the Commonwealth of Virginia from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Following approval of the funding program by the Board of Supervisors in May 2020, the county accepted requests in June from local organizations seeking funding for programs in one of four categories: emergency food assistance, expansion of services due to COVID-19, interruption of services due to the pandemic; and a combination of expanded services and emergency food assistance.

The awards are as follows:

Food Assistance (Total: \$166,650)

- Backpack Buddies at Galilee Church: \$4,250
- Capital Carina Health: \$12,750
- Salvation Army Loudoun Corp: \$115,600
- St. Moses Coptic Church: \$30,000
- The Humane Society of Loudoun County: \$4,050

Food Assistance and Service Expansion (Total: \$948,176)

- All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS): \$37,500
- BDesh Foundation: \$31,662.50
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington: \$298,248
- HOPE International Learning Center Leesburg: \$13,115
- Loudoun Hunger Relief: \$340,000
- Mobile Hope: \$135,000
- Seven Loaves Services, Inc.:\$38,250
- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church: \$54,400

Service Expansion (Total: \$845,737.16)

- A Place To Be: \$31,874.15
- BRAWS: \$21,250
- Destiny Church Inc.: \$42,500
- INMED Partnerships for Children: \$195,942
- Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice Inc./LAWS: \$244,712.23
- Loudoun Literacy Council: \$13,820.32
- Loudoun Cares: \$21,825
- Northern Virginia Family Service: \$7,663.26
- SCAN of Northern VA: \$90,210
- St Gabriel's Episcopal Church: \$73,055
- The Fenwick Foundation: \$6,375
- The New Ag School: \$1,456.40
- Tree of Life Ministries: \$64,303
- Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area: \$1,000
- Women Giving Back: \$29,750

Service Interruption (Total: \$350,728.37)

• All Ages Read Together: \$39,164.41

- American Turkish Friendship Association: \$18,067.50
- Artists in Middleburg: \$12,000
- Crossroads Jobs: \$1,395
- Embark Center for Self-Directed Education: \$3,714.80
- Equus CAN Educate: \$10,112Freedom Center: \$14,000
- Legal Services of Northern Virginia: \$25,000
- Loudoun Basketball Academy: \$2,000
- Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum: \$16,400
- Loudoun Symphony Association, Inc.: \$3,000
- Loudoun Therapeutic Riding: \$8,811.10
- Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy: \$2,962.40
- Northern Virginia Dental Clinic, Inc.: \$15,300
- Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources (OAR): \$25,782.50
- Project Horse Empowerment Center: \$33,711.85
- Ride-On Ranch Equine Assisted Therapies: \$28,013.45
- Sprout Therapeutic Riding and Education Center: \$4,391.86
- The Arc of Loudoun: \$37,232.20
- The Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc: \$16,839.38
- The Ryan Bartel Foundation: \$10,076.80
- Virginia Rides: \$3,600
- Waterford Foundation: \$5,153.12
- YMCA Loudoun County: \$10,000
- Zakaria Islamic Academy (ZIA): \$4,000

In addition to support for nonprofit and faith-based organizations, the county has allocated CARES Act funding to help support businesses and the incorporated towns to help offset expenses related to the coronavirus pandemic response and its economic impacts.



Absentee Voters Encouraged to Apply Online Now

Loudoun County election officials encourage voters to apply now to cast an absentee ballot by mail in the upcoming November general election. While some

third-party organizations, including the Center for Voter Information, are distributing vote-by-mail application forms, Loudoun County election officials encourage voters to apply online through the Virginia Department of Elections. Applications may also be downloaded from the Virginia Department of Elections and, once completed, mailed, faxed or emailed to the Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration. Officials say anyone who has difficult downloading the application may use the form they receive in the mail.

All registered voters are eligible to vote absentee in the November 3, 2020, election. The ballots will not be available to be mailed to voters until September 18, 2020, but voters may apply now for an absentee ballot. Voters who have already applied for an absentee ballot do not need to submit a new application.

Stay Informed

- Text LCVOTES to 888777 to receive text alerts from the Loudoun County Office
 of Elections and Voter Registration or sign up for the Election Update
 category through <u>Alert Loudoun</u>, the county's email and text notification
 system.
- Follow the Office of Elections and Voter Registration on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. Loudoun County Government also posts general information on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.
- Visit <u>loudoun.gov/novemberelection</u> for more information about voting in the November general election in Loudoun.



loudoun.gov/census

Census Door-to-Door Operations Underway

Operations for the 2020 census continue in Loudoun County, where more than 78% of households have responded. Census employees have begun visiting households that have not

yet responded to the census. According to <u>U.S. Census Bureau guidelines</u>, the workers going door to door will take measures to protect residents' health and information, including:

- Wearing a face covering, keeping 6 feet of distance from respondents and making all efforts to complete the survey outside of the home.
- Carrying identification, including a bag with the U.S. Census Bureau logo, a Census-Bureau-issued phone, and an ID badge with a photograph and Department of Commerce logo. Residents may verify the identity of a census employee by calling 844-330-2020.

Census employees will make multiple attempts to collect a response, and will leave information notifying the resident of the visit. The Census Bureau will end its field data collection efforts by September 30, 2020.

Loudoun County residents who have not yet responded to the census are encouraged to complete it online at <u>2020Census.gov</u>. All interviews are

confidential and responses cannot be shared with anyone outside of the U.S. Census Bureau. The census is available in 13 languages.

An accurate count of Loudoun County residents is important to the community in many ways. The count affects the allocation of federal funding to the county and affects how legislative districts are drawn, which can impact the number of seats Virginia is allocated in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as state and local representation. Federal funding based on the census affects a variety of services in Loudoun, including Head Start, free/reduced-cost lunches for school children, food stamps, affordable housing and health care services that serve as critical resources for residents in times of need.



Governor's Update

Governor Ralph Northam announced an interstate compact to expand the use of rapid antigen testing in Virginia. Governor Northam joined Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine in this bipartisan agreement with the Rockefeller Foundation, which represents the first interstate testing compact of its

kind among governors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These six states are entering formal discussions with Becton Dickinson and Quidel, the U.S. manufacturers of antigen tests that have already been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration, to purchase 500,000 rapid antigen tests per state. By joining together, states are demonstrating to private manufacturers that there is significant demand to scale up the production of these tests, which deliver results in 15 to 20 minutes. Additional states, cities, and local governments may join the compact in the coming weeks. The letter of intent to the Rockefeller Foundation is available here.

Governor Northam also announced that the Commonwealth will distribute \$644.6 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding to local governments in its second and final round of allocations. These payments represent the remaining 50 percent of local allocations and do not include \$200.2 million that Fairfax County received directly from the federal government. The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to provide funding to states and eligible units of local government navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virginia received approximately \$3.1 billion as its share of the \$150 billion CRF. While the CARES Act does not require that states distribute funding to local governments

with populations less than 500,000, the Governor recognizes that cities and counties of all sizes have expenses related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and directed these federal dollars to localities.

Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne sent a <u>memorandum</u> to cities and counties in Virginia on May 12, 2020 outlining the distribution of the first round of allocations to local governments, totaling \$644.6 million. Once the second and final round of payments are disbursed, the Governor will have distributed 100 percent of the local allocations the Commonwealth received under the CARES Act, providing a total of \$1.3 billion to localities.

Similar to the first round, the second round of funding will be allotted proportionally based on population. Consequently, the second round of allocations will be equivalent to the amount each locality received in the first round on June 1, 2020. The Secretary of Finance issued an updated memorandum to cities and counties regarding the second and final allocation of federal CRF dollars. The updated memorandum, which includes the distributions by locality, is available here.

To receive the second allocation, localities must submit a new certification form and complete an online survey regarding the use of their CRF dollars. After these two documents are completed and submitted, the Department of Accounts will initiate the transfer of funds to the local Treasurer. Localities can expect to receive the transfer from the State Comptroller within five business days following confirmation of receipt of the completed documents.

The CARES Act requires that CRF dollars only be used to cover costs that (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the state or government; and (3) were incurred during the period of March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

Current federal rules prohibit state and local governments from using the CRF to replace lost revenues and address significant budget shortfalls. State and local government officials have requested that this restriction be lifted in future stimulus packages, or that additional federal funds are provided to address the loss of state and local revenue.

Lastly, Governor Northam announced a temporary statewide moratorium on eviction proceedings in Virginia. The moratorium, which will remain in effect through Monday, September 7, halts all eviction proceedings related to failure to pay rent. Governor Northam requested this moratorium in a letter to Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Donald Lemons on July 24. On June 29, Governor Northam launched the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP), which provides an initial \$50 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding for Virginia households facing eviction and foreclosure due to COVID-19. Eligibility and application information for the RMRP is available here.

Tenants are encouraged to know their rights and responsibilities and pay their rent on time if they are able. Please visit <u>StayHomeVirginia.com</u> for additional information and resources on tenant rights. Governor Northam's letter to Chief Justice Lemons requesting this moratorium is available <u>here</u>. The order from the Virginia Supreme Court can be found here.



Virginia Launches COVIDWISE App

Virginia has launched the launch of COVIDWISE, an innovative exposure notification app that will alert users if they have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive

for COVID-19. Virginia is the first state in the country to design a COVID-19 app using Bluetooth Low Energy technology developed by Apple and Google, which does not rely on personal information or location data. Users opt-in to download and utilize the free app.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) developed COVIDWISE in partnership with Spring ML using funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. The free app is available to download through the App Store and the Google Play Store. COVIDWISE is the only app in Virginia allowed to use the exposure notifications system (ENS) application programming interface (API) jointly created by Apple and Google. Other countries, including Ireland and Germany, have successfully used this technology in similar apps.

COVIDWISE works by using random Bluetooth keys that change every 10 to 20 minutes. iOS and Android devices that have the app installed will anonymously share these random keys if they are within close proximity for at least 15 minutes. Each day, the device downloads a list of all random keys associated with positive COVID-19 results submitted by other app users and checks them against the list of random keys it has encountered in the last 14 days. If there is a match, COVIDWISE may notify the individual, taking into account the date and duration of exposure, and the Bluetooth signal strength which is used to estimate proximity.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be notified by a VDH case investigator and will be given a unique numeric code. This code is entered into the app by the user and serves as verification of a positive report. Others who have downloaded COVIDWISE and have been in close proximity to the individual who reported as being positive will receive a notice which reads, "You have likely been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19." This is your alert to get tested.

The notice includes the estimated number of days since the exposure and provides several options for taking further action, including contacting a primary care physician or local health department, monitoring symptoms, and finding nearby test locations. The Virtual VDH tab within the app also provides links to online resources and relevant phone numbers.

Anyone who downloads the app has the option to choose to receive exposure notifications, and if a person is diagnosed with COVID-19, it is up to them whether or not to share their result anonymously through COVIDWISE. No location data or personal information is ever collected, stored, tracked, or transmitted to VDH as part of the app. Users have the ability to delete the app or turn off exposure notifications at any time.

Widespread use is critical to the success of this effort, and VDH is launching a robust, statewide public information campaign to make sure Virginians are aware of the COVIDWISE app, its privacy protection features, and how it can be used to support public health and help reduce the spread of the virus. To learn more about COVIDWISE and the download the app, visit this webpage.



Considerations for Wearing Masks

The CDC has updated guidance on wearing masks:

- CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other <u>social</u> <u>distancing measures</u> are difficult to maintain.
- Masks may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
- Masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.
- Masks should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents should NOT be worn to help prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others (source control).
- Review the detailed guidance on the CDC website.



Workforce Resource Center to Host Virtual Job Fair August 19

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center will host a Loudoun Virtual Job Fair on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, with online

sessions running from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. The Virtual Job Fair will feature local employers with full-time, part-time and temporary job openings in Loudoun County and the region. Employers attending include: Amazon, Hertz, Inova Health System, Northwest Federal Credit Union, Potomac Falls Health & Rehab Center, Premier Staffing Source, Remedy Staffing, and Robert Half. Some of the open positions include accounting clerk, bus mechanic, car transporter, caregiver (certified nursing assistant/personal care assistant), collateral clerk, companion caregiver, housekeeping aide, registered nurse, sales associates and stockers, and staff accountant. Those planning to attend the job fair are encouraged to preregister to receive reminders and updates.

To help job seekers get the most out of the virtual career fair, the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center is also hosting a preparatory workshop entitled 'The Competitive Edge – Attending Virtual Career Fairs' on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Register online at <u>loudoun.gov/wrcworkshops</u>. Anyone who requires a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability in order to participate in either event may call 703-737-8081. Three days' notice is requested.

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center, a Virginia Career Works affiliate, helps businesses identify well-qualified applicants and helps those looking for work find the right fit. For more information, contact the center at 703-777-0150 or visit loudoun.gov/wrc.

Please share any messages of hope you see. Submissions may be sent to Zachary Harris at ______ and we'll share them in our updates and newsletter.

If you are having trouble paying your utilities because of COVID-19, visit the County's webpage on <u>COVID-19 Utilities</u>. You will find program information on:

Columbia Gas Dominion Power Loudoun Water NOVEC

Washington Gas Wi-fi Connectivity

For More Current COVID-19 Information

Visit: www.loudoun.gov/CoronaVirus
Call: (703) 737-8300
Email: Health@Loudoun.gov

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