



Loudoun County, Virginia

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NEWS RELEASE

Office of the County Administrator, Public Affairs and Communications
1 Harrison Street SE, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000
703-777-0113 • Fax 703-771-5841

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Media Contact: Glen Barbour, Public Affairs and Communications Officer
703-771-5086, Glen.Barbour@loudoun.gov

Health Department Launches Online COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-Screening Survey; Adds Adults 65+ to Phase 1b

The Commonwealth of Virginia announced on January 14, 2021, that Virginia would follow federal guidelines issued earlier this week and move adults aged 65 and older from Phase 1c into Phase 1b. This change also moves people aged 16 through 64 years with a [high-risk medical condition](#) or disability that increases their risk of severe illness from COVID-19 into Phase 1b.

Today, the Loudoun County Health Department will begin requiring all requests for vaccine by individuals and organizations that are in the Phase 1a and Phase 1b priority groups **to submit an online pre-screening survey. Requests for vaccine will no longer be accepted by email**, as previously announced. Only those who do not have access to the internet may call the Health Department's COVID-19 hotline.

Currently, the Health Department continues to accept requests for vaccination from only people who are in the Phase 1a and Phase 1b vaccination priority groups. At this time, supplies of vaccine in Loudoun remain limited. There are significantly more requests for vaccine than there are vaccine doses available. As a result, the **Health Department cannot schedule additional appointments at this time**; however, the online pre-screening survey may be submitted by people in Phase 1a or Phase 1b and when additional vaccine supplies arrive in Loudoun, additional appointments can be offered.

Who is Eligible in Phase 1b as of January 15?

Phase 1b now includes front-line essential workers, persons aged 65 years and older, and people living in correctional facilities, homeless shelters and migrant labor camps, people aged 16 through 64 years with a high-risk medical condition or disability that increases their risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Please note that while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated that teens aged 16 to 18 who have underlying medical conditions are eligible, the Loudoun County Health Department is currently accepting pre-screening vaccination surveys from adults 18 and older because the Health Department's supply of vaccine—Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine—is approved for only those 18 and older.

In addition to those 65 and over and those age 18 to 64 with medical conditions, the Health Department will schedule appointments—when available—for members of the 1b front-line essential worker group in the following order, which is required by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH):

1. Police, fire and hazmat workers
2. Corrections and homeless shelter workers
3. Child care/K-12 teachers/staff

4. Food and agriculture workers
5. Manufacturing workers
6. Grocery store workers
7. Public transit workers
8. Mail carriers (USPS and private)
9. Officials needed to maintain continuity of government

Concurrently, people aged 65 and over and adults 18 and over with [high-risk medical conditions](#) are also included in Loudoun's Phase 1b. This population is prioritized to receive vaccine at the same time as the front-line workers listed above.

The Health Department is coordinating special vaccination events for law enforcement, fire and hazmat, corrections and homeless shelter workers, public schools employees, and local government workers. There is no need for individuals working in these sectors to contact the Health Department to schedule appointments.

- [Learn more about the vaccine priority groups on the VDH website.](#)

How to Sign Up for a COVID-19 Vaccine

Many members of the Phase 1a and 1b priority groups may be enrolled for vaccination by their employers; this is the most efficient way of getting signed up for vaccinations. Employers, members of the 1a and 1b groups who have not been contacted by their employers, residents over the age of 65, and adults with high risk medical conditions may begin the process for scheduling an appointment by contacting the Loudoun County Health Department in one of two ways:

1. **Complete this [online pre-screen survey](#).** The fastest and most efficient method to obtain an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine is to submit the online form. This form verifies your eligibility and provides your contact information. After submitting the form, it may take days to weeks before you receive a response because the Health Department is currently not scheduling appointments because vaccine supplies are limited. As more vaccine arrives in Loudoun, additional appointments will be made and those who have submitted the online pre-screening survey will be offered vaccination appointments in priority order. Please be patient; once you submit an online pre-screening survey, there is no need to call the Health Department.

Or

2. If you **do not have access to the internet**, you may call Loudoun County's COVID-19 information line at **703-737-8300** between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Due to significant call volume, there may be a delay in reaching an operator.

NOTE: The Health Department is **no longer accepting emails** to request vaccination appointments. Any email requests will not result in an appointment. Anyone who emails the Health Department will be re-directed to the online pre-screening survey.

Where Will I Get the Vaccine?

Right now, because supplies of COVID-19 vaccine are limited in Loudoun County, the Health Department has scheduled only a limited number of appointments. The Health Department is coordinating the expansion of vaccination opportunities to include other providers in the community, including employer-based clinics, doctors' offices and health care providers, and local pharmacies. As vaccine supplies in Loudoun increase and more and more providers offer vaccine, Loudoun County ultimately will not be the primary provider of COVID-19 vaccine.

Sign Up to Receive Alerts

Additional information about the ongoing vaccination efforts will be published as it becomes available. To stay informed about when it is your turn to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, residents should sign up to receive text or email updates about COVID-19 from Loudoun County:

- Text LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts in English.
 - Text LCCOVIDESP to 888777 to receive text alerts in Spanish.
- Sign up for email and text updates on COVID-19 in [Notify Me, Blogs category, "Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)."](#)
- Follow Loudoun County on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Visit the county's website, loudoun.gov/coronavirus.

Stay Vigilant in Slowing the Spread of COVID-19

Before and after Loudoun residents receive a COVID-19 vaccine, everyone is encouraged to continue taking the steps that help prevent the spread of the disease, including washing hands frequently, wearing face coverings, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings of people and staying home when sick. Learn more about [COVID-19 prevention and care](#) on the county's website.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Loudoun County, visit loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine.

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