

Special Edition | Thursday, March 11, 2021

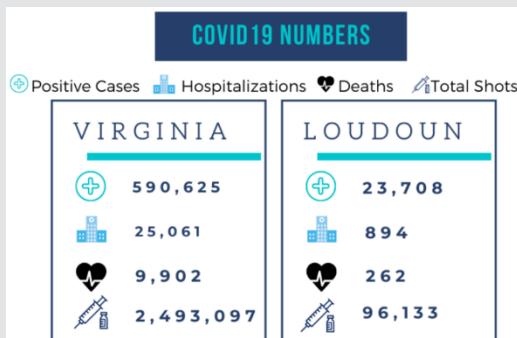
All About Algonkian



Juli E. Briskman | Algonkian District Supervisor



COVID-19 Update



State and Local COVID-19 Data Summary

Loudoun's seven-day positivity rate slightly declined to 6.6% for the latest seven-day average. [Loudoun's data dashboard](#) shows our seven-day average case count has increased to 60 daily cases as of March 10. At the state

level, Virginia's seven-day average of daily cases have also declined since March 4 where it stood at 1,149. By continuing to socially distance and registering for the vaccine when you are eligible, these numbers should continue to improve.

One of Loudoun County Public Schools' CDC [core indicators](#) remains at a high risk level (103.5 new cases per 100,000 in the last 14 days). The Department of Education and LCPS now are using secondary indicators to help inform decision-making, including the move back to hybrid learning. The local school indicators can be seen here: [Loudoun County Public Schools COVID-19 Case Data](#).

More data resources provided by Loudoun County can be accessed [here](#).

View Comprehensive Data on the Virginia Department of Health Website:

- [Cases, demographics, localities, outbreaks, testing, and more](#)
- [Virginia's Key COVID-19 Measures](#)
- [COVID-19 Data Insights](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccinations Summary](#)

Have questions? Call the VDH hotline 877-ASK-VDH3 (877-275-8343). Language translation services available. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta llámenos al 877-275-8343.



Loudoun County Announces Changes to Rent Assistance Program; More may be Eligible

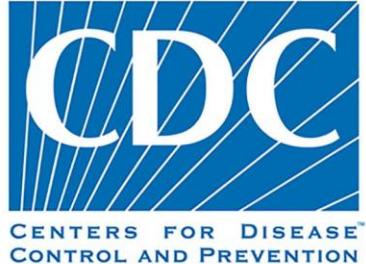
Loudoun County residents who are experiencing difficulty paying rent because of the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible for assistance from two programs: the county's Limited Rent Assistance program (LRA) and the Commonwealth of Virginia's Rent Relief Program (RRP).

Both programs include financial assistance for past due rent beginning April 1, 2020, and after, with opportunity for renewal based on the household's continued eligibility, need for additional rental assistance and availability of funding. The state program allows for up to 12 months of payments, while the county's program offers nine months.

Anyone who has received rent assistance from the county's LRA program in the past may now be referred to the Virginia program, depending on income and household size. The state's program applies to those at a lower income threshold (for example, those with an annual income of \$79,600 or below for a household of four) while the county's program is for those with higher income levels (for example, those with an annual income above \$79,600 for a household of four). Visit the county's Limited Rent Assistance webpage for more information.

Residents who were current in their rent payments as of March 31, 2020, and who now need help paying rent may submit an online application and upload required documentation, such as a current lease and paperwork that shows a job loss, reduced income or hardship due to COVID-19.

To view an application checklist and to complete an online application, visit loudoun.gov/limitedrentassistance. To request a paper copy of the application form and checklist, or for assistance in completing the application, contact the county's Information and Referral program at 703-777-0420.



New Guidance for the Fully Vaccinated

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidelines this week for those vaccinated against COVID19. People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their final shot, regardless of the type of vaccine received.

If you have been fully vaccinated, the CDC says you can:

- Gather indoors with other fully vaccinated people without a mask.
- Gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from the virus

Even if fully vaccinated, you should continue to wear a mask in public and stay at least six feet apart from others, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. [Read more detailed guidance from the CDC here.](#)



Beware of Vaccine Scams

If someone is asking for payment in exchange for the COVID-19 vaccine or to put your name on a waiting list, it is a scam. COVID-19 vaccines are free and registration is free.

If you are asked to visit a website or give information online, make sure the website or email ends in ".gov." Credible sources about the COVID-19 vaccine in Loudoun County and Virginia include: loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine and vaccinate.virginia.gov.

Lastly, state and local agencies will not ask for a Social Security number or immigration status. Health care providers may ask for your insurance information, but your vaccination will not be dependent on your insurance status. Do not trust an entity that is trying to solicit personal information.



Virtual Parent Support Group

Loudoun County is offering "Parenting Wisely," a virtual parent support program for parents of middle school- and high school-aged children. The program helps parents learn strategies and techniques to better support their children and manage difficult situations in the home. Parents

will learn constructive skills proven to decrease problem behaviors, reduce family conflict, and improve the family dynamic. The free, four-to-five-week program will be held on Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Find out more information at loudoun.gov/familysupportservices.



Governor's Updates

At a press conference earlier this week, Governor Ralph Northam provided an update to Virginia's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Northam stated that Virginia is now averaging 51,000 shots per day and ranks sixth in the number of doses used. 18 percent of residents have been given at least one dose. Furthermore, Northam reiterated the importance of Virginians answering phone calls as this is the primary

method used by health departments to schedule vaccine appointments. Regarding efforts to get children back into school, Northam's decision to prioritize teachers and child care employees has resulted in two-thirds of school division staff receiving at least one vaccine dose. Also, every school division throughout the state has submitted plans to offer some form of in-person learning.

Governor Northam stated that restrictions could be loosened if current trends continue. Please continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing to ensure that this becomes a reality.



How to Receive Updates or get Questions Answered

Loudoun County staff continues to coordinate answering your COVID-19 health related constituent questions. Please call the Health Department COVID-19 Information Hotline at 703-737-8300 for a quick response (Monday

through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or [Email the Health Department](#).

Please visit the [County's COVID-19 webpage](#). The [questions and answers](#) page is continually updated.

Please encourage your constituents to view and sign up for updates from Loudoun

- Text LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19
 - [Sign up for email and text updates on COVID-19 in Notify Me, Blogs category](#)
 - Follow the [Loudoun County Government Facebook Page](#) and Twitter [@LoudounCoGovt](#)
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If you are having trouble paying your utilities because of COVID-19, help is available. Visit the County's webpage on [COVID-19 Utilities](#) for 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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Have an interesting comment you'd like to share? Want to see someone you know from Algonkian featured? [Email Rey Cheatham-Banks](#)

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