

Loudoun County, Virginia

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NEWS RELEASE

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Health Department Encourages All Loudoun Residents 16 and Older to Pre-Register Now for COVID-19 Vaccine

The Loudoun County Health Department encourages all Loudoun County residents who are 16 years and older and who have not yet pre-registered for a COVID-19 vaccine online or by phone to do so now in preparation for Phase 2 of the county's vaccination efforts. Everyone age 16 years and older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 16 years and older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 18 receiving the vaccine must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at their vaccination appointment.

"We have made significant progress in offering appointments to people in the Phase 1c priority group that opened up earlier this week and as a result, we will be ready to advance to Phase 2 soon," said Loudoun County Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend. "When we're able to offer vaccination appointments to everyone, we will offer appointments to people in Phase 2 in the order in which pre-registration forms were received while also continuing to prioritize people in groups who are at greater risk of illness and for spreading the virus."

Loudoun County will join all health districts in Virginia in advancing to Phase 2 of the vaccination plan no later than April 18, 2021.

This week, the county began vaccinating more than 4,000 people each day at the county's COVID-19 vaccination site at the Dulles Town Center. As vaccine supplies continue to increase, the county has the capacity to vaccinate even more people each day. Currently, for people in the Phase 1a, 1b and 1c priority groups, the time between pre-registration and receiving an invitation to make a vaccination appointment has been shortened to a few days.

"The waitlist of people in the Phase 1 priority groups is nearly exhausted, which is why we're encouraging everyone else to get in line for a vaccine now by submitting a pre-registration form," added Dr. Goodfriend. "We also encourage people in Phase 1 priority groups to continue to pre-register and will prioritize them for appointments."

How to Pre-Register

Anyone who lives or works in Virginia can pre-register for a COVID-19 vaccine in one of two ways:

- Online: Visit <u>vaccinate.virginia.gov</u>. The fastest method for receiving a vaccination appointment is to include a unique email address in separate pre-registration forms for each individual who will receive a vaccine.
- **Phone:** Individuals who do not have access to the internet can pre-register by calling 1-877-829-4682.

In addition to receiving a vaccine from Loudoun County, people can also look for available appointment slots at pharmacies and other locations near them by visiting <u>vaccinefinder.org</u>. These entities do not coordinate their registrations with the Health Department.

Already Pre-Registered, But Have Not Heard from the County?

The Health Department encourages anyone who has already pre-registered for a vaccine and is in the Phase 1a, 1b or 1c priority groups, but has not yet been contacted by the county for a vaccination appointment, to take two actions:

- First, check your spam or junk email folder for an email from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), which is used to pre-register, to ensure the invitation for an appointment was not sent there.
- Second, if you have not received an email, contact the county by calling 703-737-8300, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Stay Vigilant in Slowing the Spread of COVID-19

The CDC has published guidance for fully vaccinated people; however, the CDC also recommends that even people who are fully vaccinated keep taking precautions in public places. The Loudoun County Health Department encourages Loudoun residents who received a COVID-19 vaccine to continue taking the steps that help prevent the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Avoid crowds of people.
- Stay 6 feet away from others who do not live in your household at all times.
- Wear a face covering when in public to protect yourself and others.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Avoid non-essential travel, particularly carpooling with people who do not live in your household.
- Avoid visiting unvaccinated people who are at <u>increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19.</u>

Learn more about how to protect yourself and others on the CDC's website.

COVID-19 Testing

Loudoun County continues to offer free COVID-19 testing weekly. More information about COVID-19 testing opportunities is posted online at loudoun.gov/covid19testing.

Stay Informed

Loudoun County encourages residents to stay informed about COVID-19.

• Sign up for email and text updates about Loudoun's response to COVID-19 at loudoun.gov/coronavirus.

- Opt in to receive text message updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - o English: Text LCCOVID19 to 888777
 - o Spanish: Text LCCOVIDESP to 888777
- Follow the Loudoun County Government <u>Facebook page</u> and <u>@LoudounCoGovt</u> on Twitter.

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