## Loudoun County, Virginia



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## **COVID-19** Cases Increasing in Loudoun County; Health Officials Encourage Unvaccinated to Seek Vaccination ASAP

Health officials report that over the past month, the number of new cases of COVID-19 have increased significantly in Loudoun County, in Virginia and throughout the United States, fueled by the coronavirus Delta variant.

"The number of cases is clearly headed in the wrong direction," said Loudoun County Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend. "While we have made great progress in vaccinating our residents, the only way we will bring the pandemic to an end is for everyone who is eligible for the vaccine to get vaccinated as soon as possible."

Loudoun County is now averaging about 30 cases per day, up from about four cases per day in June. At the same time, Loudoun's percent positivity rate has increased from less than 1% to over 3% over the past few weeks. The vast majority of newly infected people are unvaccinated and include individuals in all age groups.

Health officials also have noted that among Loudoun residents who are vaccinated, the most likely risk factor for COVID-19 infection is another infected member of their household who is unvaccinated.

"The facts are the vaccine prevents infection and reduces symptoms of illness should a vaccinated person contract the virus, including against the delta variant," added Dr. Goodfriend. "The vaccine is the most effective tool we have in fighting this disease and finally helping our community get back to normal and our children back to school."

The Health Department strongly recommends that everyone age 12 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. Vaccine is free for everyone and widely available from many vaccine providers throughout Loudoun County. Visit <u>loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine</u> to find a vaccination site near you.

Health officials strongly encourage anyone who is not yet fully vaccinated to continue wearing a mask in all public settings and to continue social distancing to protect yourself and others in the community. Everyone who is sick for any reason should stay home and get tested for COVID-19 if you exhibit <u>symptoms</u> or may have come in contact with a person who has COVID-19. Learn more about how to protect yourself and others on the <u>CDC's website</u>.

Anyone with questions about the COVID-19 vaccine may call 703-737-8300 or send an email to <u>health@loudoun.gov</u>.