Loudoun County, Virginia



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Loudoun County Adds Free COVID-19 Testing Event This Week

Loudoun County will hold two free COVID-19 testing events this week, on Tuesday, December 28 and Thursday, December 30. The addition of the Thursday event is intended to help address recent demand for testing stemming from holiday travel and gatherings, as well as increased interest in testing due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of the virus as the county continues to experience a high level of community transmission of COVID-19.

"If you are returning home from travel over the holiday, gathered with family friends over the holiday, or think you may have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, I urge you to get tested," said Loudoun County Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend. "We can see breakthrough cases in people who are fully vaccinated, so knowing whether you are positive for COVID-19 will help you know when you need to isolate to avoid spreading the virus to others."

Testing Location

The drive-thru COVID-19 testing events are scheduled this week on **Tuesday, December** 28 and Thursday, December 30 between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at <u>Philip A. Bolen Memorial</u> <u>Park, 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg</u> (enter the park on Crosstrail Boulevard from Sycolin Road). The county and its testing contractor intend to test as many people as possible during the allotted timeframe.

The testing events are free and open to all. There are no age or residency requirements. No prescriptions or appointments are necessary. A person does not have to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 to be tested. A PCR test (nasal swab) will be administered, which tests for the novel coronavirus. No antibody or rapid tests will be offered. No COVID-19 vaccine will be available at these events.

Registration Form

To help reduce wait times, people who plan to attend the testing event are strongly encouraged to complete a registration form for each person who will be receiving a test prior to arriving at the testing site. The registration form is required and asks for general demographics and contact information, including name, date of birth, address, phone number and current symptoms, if any. Questions about insurance may be ignored.

• Registration Form: English | Spanish

The fillable form may be downloaded, filled out and printed. Completed forms should be brought with you to the testing site. Forms will also be available at the testing site for individuals who do not have access to a printer or otherwise are unable to complete the forms in advance. The forms are also available at <u>loudoun.gov/COVID19testing</u>.

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When to Get Tested

Public health officials encourage anyone, regardless of vaccination status, who thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19 to get tested as well as anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue and a new loss of taste or smell. Learn more about COVID-19 testing on the <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website</u>.

Other Testing Sites

In addition to the COVID-19 testing events hosted by Loudoun County, there are other testing locations and providers in Loudoun and the region. Visit the <u>Virginia Department of Health</u> <u>COVID-19 testing sites webpage</u> to find locations near you.

COVID-19 Vaccine

The Loudoun County Health Department encourages everyone age 5 and older who is not fully vaccinated to get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible. Anyone who is eligible is encouraged to get a booster dose. Vaccine is widely available from many providers in Loudoun, such as medical offices and pharmacies including, but not limited to, CVS, Giant Food, Harris Teeter, Safeway, Walgreens, Walmart and Wegmans. These locations have the benefit of being able to also provide flu vaccine at the same time, which is recommended by the Health Department. Visit <u>vaccines.gov</u> to find the vaccination site nearest to you.

To make an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine at the county's Dulles Town Center site, visit <u>loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine</u>.

Protect Yourself and Others

In addition to vaccination, to help curb the increase in COVID-19 cases that Loudoun County has been experiencing and to help prevent the <u>Omicron variant</u> or other new COVID-19 variants from impacting Loudoun County, the Health Department recommends everyone:

- Wear a mask in indoor public settings.
- Stay 6 feet away from people who do not live in your household.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Stay home when sick.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Know the <u>signs and symptoms of COVID-19</u> and remember to get tested if you're symptomatic, or if potentially exposed to COVID-19, regardless of your vaccination status.

Learn more about protecting yourself and your family on the <u>Virginia Department of Health</u> <u>website</u>.

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More Information

Anyone with questions about COVID-19, including the upcoming testing events, may call the Loudoun County Health Department's information line Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., at 703-737-8300, or send an email anytime to <u>health@loudoun.gov</u>.

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