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Broad Run Bulletin



COVID-19 Vaccine Update | Friday, January 15, 2021

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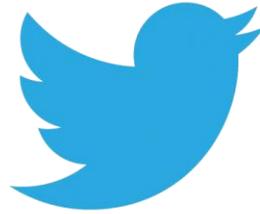
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Loudoun Health Department Launches Online Vaccine Pre-Screening Survey; Adds Adults 65+ to Phase 1b

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.

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.

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.](#)

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.

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

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.

RECEIVE TEXT UPDATES ON
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19):

Text **LCCOVID19**
to **888777**

Loudoun County
VIRGINIA

Additional COVID-19 Resources and Updates

How Will I Know When My Family or I Can Get a Vaccine?

The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as large enough quantities are available. Vaccine for the general population will likely become available in the first half of 2021. Stay informed to learn when vaccine is available in our area and sign up for updates at loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine: 8 Things to Know Now in Loudoun County

The creation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most critical steps toward protecting those at highest risk of the disease and eventually bringing an end to the pandemic. As vaccine first becomes available later this month to the priority groups, here are eight things all of us should know about preparations for vaccine distribution in Loudoun County over the coming months: [Continue Reading](#).

What You Should Do If You Test Positive for COVID-19

If you test positive for COVID-19 or are diagnosed with COVID-19, you need to stay home, away from others, and monitor your health for 14 days. Contact your health care provider for guidance on caring for yourself. If you experience serious symptoms of COVID-19, such as trouble breathing, pain or pressure in the chest, and confusion, seek medical attention right away. [Continue Reading](#).

Loudoun Health Officials Encourage Self-Notification of Contacts following COVID-19 Diagnosis

As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in Loudoun County and across the country, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) have provided updated guidance to local health departments regarding COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing prioritization strategies. [Continue Reading](#).

What You Need to Know about 'Close Contact' to COVID-19

The term “close contact” has become a buzz word in daily life. What you may not know is that the term carries an important definition to public health officials. Understanding close contact in the context of COVID-19 is crucial to the ongoing assessment and management of this disease and ultimately helps orient our collective actions.

As the pandemic continues to evolve, scientists are learning more and more about the virus that causes COVID-19. As a result, the approach to slowing the spread of the disease and the strategies used to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the community may also evolve. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the definition of what it means to have close contact with another person that has or may have COVID-19. [Continue Reading](#).

Virginia Launches COVID-19 Vaccine Data Dashboard

the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) added COVID-19 vaccine data to the [COVID-19 Daily Dashboard](#) on two new tabs, Vaccine Summary and Vaccine Demographics. This new information will keep the public informed about the numbers of COVID-19 vaccines distributed and administered in Virginia. It will be updated daily. [Continue Reading](#).

Information and Referral

Loudoun County's Information and Referral Line specialists help individuals and families better understand the range of options to assist them in making informed decisions. Information and Referral specialists assess the situation and together with the caller, help to identify options to meet the primary service/resource needs. Contact Information and Referral Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 703-777-0420 or [online](#).

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