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Blue Ridge District
NewsFlash



COVID-19 Updates

Phase Two - Tomorrow, Non-Profit Opportunities, Water Safety, & More...

Sent: June 11, 2020

Good Morning!

I hope you and your families are healthy and safe. I have a number of updates to share with you to make sure you have the latest on COVID-19. I know there's been a lot of information in recent months so I've included a short recap of helpful items and other ways you can get help or help your local community if you are looking for ways to get involved. I've been blown away by the Acts of Kindness seen throughout our county during the pandemic - THANK YOU FOR THAT!

If you're a Veteran - Loudoun's Veterans Services Coordinator, Tom Grant, wants to make sure he is connected with you. Please email him at LoudounVets@loudoun.gov

Additionally, if you were a small business who applied for a Loudoun's Round Three Grant by the June 6th deadline, the random **drawing will be Friday June 19th at 2pm.** [More about the latest round can be found here.](#)

What you'll find below:

- Loudoun Enters Phase Two tomorrow (June 12)
- Loudoun Nonprofits & Faith-Based Organizations Encouraged to Apply for CARES Act Funding by Friday, June 19, at 5 p.m.
- What the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act Means for Your Business
- Recap of Previous Updates and Helpful Information
- How to Stay Informed on COVID-19

Coronavirus - We're in it together, we'll get through it together - Tony

Loudoun Enters Phase Two, Tomorrow (June 12)

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced Tuesday that Northern Virginia, including Loudoun County, will enter Phase Two of the "Forward Virginia" reopening plan Friday, June 12, 2020. Phase Two is the next step in gradually easing public health restrictions that are designed to slow the spread of COVID-19. Governor Northam indicated Virginia's health metrics overall are "looking positive," citing the downward trend in the percent of positive tests and hospitalizations due to COVID-19 over 14 days, sufficient hospital capacity and personal protection equipment (PPE) and increasing testing capacity. The governor's temporary stay-at-home order expired on June 4, 2020.

Phase Two of the plan:

- Increases the number of people allowed to gather in groups from **10 to 50 people**; the restrictions do not apply to people performing functions of their employment.
- Allows **restaurants, breweries, wineries**, etc., to offer **indoor service** in accordance with a number of guidelines, including seating patrons six feet apart, not exceeding 50%

- capacity of the establishment, and limiting total number of patrons to 50.
- Allows **fitness centers, gymnasiums**, etc., to reopen in accordance with a number of guidelines, including keeping patrons at least ten feet apart and limiting the total number of attendees to 30% of the facility's occupancy capacity.
 - Allows brick and mortar **retail stores and personal grooming** businesses to continue to operate in accordance with a number of guidelines, including limiting the total number of patrons to 50% of the facility's occupancy capacity.
 - Allows outdoor and indoor **swimming pools** to open for lap swimming, diving, exercise, and instruction only and must be limited to no more than three persons per lane with ten feet of physical distance per swimmer.
 - Allows people to attend **religious services** in accordance with a number of guidelines, including limiting the total number of attendees to 50% of the facility's occupancy capacity, seating attendees six feet apart (except for family members), and disinfecting frequently-contacted surfaces before and after religious services.

The Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) has announced the opening of many facilities, programs and services beginning Monday, June 15, 2020.

- [Read the PRCS news release for details.](#)
- [View other impacts to Loudoun County operations.](#)

Some recreational businesses must remain closed in Phase Two, including indoor theaters, performing arts centers, and concert venues, as well as businesses and events, such as bowling alleys, amusement parks and fairs/carnivals.

- [Read the Phase Two Guidelines for All Business Sectors](#)
- [Read the Amended Executive Order 65](#)

“It is important to recognize that while the steps Loudoun residents have taken over the past two months to reduce the spread of infection have caused the health metrics to head in the right direction and allowed us to move to Phase Two of the reopening plan, the potential for exposure to COVID-19 remains present in our community,” **said Loudoun County Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend.** “So, I continue to recommend that older adults and people with underlying health conditions use extra caution in public, and ask that all of us remain vigilant in practicing infection control measures that include washing hands frequently, staying home when sick, maintaining six foot distances when possible and wearing face coverings in public, to help keep us headed in the right direction.”

While Northern Virginia will move into Phase Two, Governor Northam’s [Executive Order 63](#), which **requires the use of face coverings in most public indoor locations**, remains in effect until amended or rescinded by further executive order.

- [View Frequently Asked Questions regarding Executive Order 63](#)

Governor Northam also [announced Tuesday that all public and private schools in Virginia will be able to reopen this fall](#). The reopening plan for schools is a phased approach that allows Virginia school districts to slowly resume in-person classes for summer school and the coming academic year.

Loudoun Nonprofits & Faith-Based Organizations Encouraged to APPLY for CARES Act Funding



CARES ACT
NONPROFIT
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE JUNE 15, 2020
APPLY BY JUNE 19, 2020 | 5:00 P.M.

Applications will be available online Monday, June 15, 2020, at loudoun.gov/GrantOpportunities. The deadline to apply is Friday, June 19, at 5 p.m.

Loudoun County is allocating \$2 million for eligible nonprofit and faith-based organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The allocation is part of the federal funding made available to the county through the Commonwealth of Virginia from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

These funds will be available to Loudoun nonprofits and faith-based organizations who meet this criteria:

1. Are in good standing with the Virginia State Corporation Commission.
2. Can provide proof of nonprofit status.
3. Can provide copies of IRS Form 990 for the past three years.
4. Can demonstrate their services have been affected by COVID-19.

The county will accept funding requests for three programs:

1. **Emergency Food Assistance Program:** This program is an extension of the Food Assistance Program that began in April. Organizations may request funding for the purchase of food and food delivery expenses.
2. **COVID-19 Service Expansion Program:** This program will provide funds to organizations that demonstrate they have significantly expanded their services due to COVID-19.
3. **Nonprofit Service Interruption Program:** This program will provide funds to organizations that can demonstrate they have had to interrupt their services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Loudoun County has scheduled a webinar for 9:00 a.m., Friday, June 12, 2020, designed to help organizations understand the funding opportunities and explain the application process. Anyone interested in participating in the webinar should send an email with their contact information to nonprofits@loudoun.gov



Loudoun County plans to distribute funds to organizations by the first week of July 2020.

In addition to support for nonprofit and faith-based organizations, the county's \$36 million in CARES Act funding is being used to help support businesses and the incorporated towns to help offset expenses related to the coronavirus pandemic response and its economic impacts.

Water Safety Reminders



The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the opening of public pools and as a result, many residents may seek relief from the summer weather and recreation in naturally occurring waters, such as the Potomac River

and area creeks and lakes. Loudoun County officials urge residents to use caution while swimming in naturally occurring waterways, human-made bodies of water and private pools as they can pose a variety of health and safety risks, especially to children.

“With pools still closed after Memorial Day, a time when residents would normally already be enjoying them, more children are swimming in local waterways,” noted Loudoun County Health Director Dr. David Goodfriend. “The Health Department wants to remind parents to monitor children who may go into Loudoun’s creeks, ponds and other nearby waters and to encourage all families to take the necessary precautions around water this summer.”

Many communities in Loudoun County strictly prohibit swimming in ponds. Residents should observe all posted signs and follow the directions on the signs.

“If you live near a waterway, we ask that you remain watchful for children attempting to venture into the water to swim,” said Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman. “These waters can be treacherous.” In addition, parents and anyone [swimming in natural waters](#) should be aware of [recreational water illnesses](#), which are caused by germs and chemicals found in the water. Natural waters can be susceptible to pollution that can cause health risks to people. Bacteria and algae can be dangerous and cause illness in people and pets.

To help prevent illness:

- Avoid swimming in natural waters for a few days after a heavy rain event.
- Avoid swallowing water when swimming.
- Avoid getting water shot up your nose when swimming, especially in warm shallow water.
- Avoid swimming or wading in with open wounds or cuts.
- Don’t swim in areas where there are dead fish present.
- Don’t swim if you are ill.
- Shower with soap and clean water after swimming.
- Avoid swimming in muddy water of lakes, ponds and rivers.

“Bodies of water such as lakes, rivers and ponds have many hidden dangers, such as underwater debris, sudden drop-offs, vegetation and unpredictable currents,” said Loudoun County Combined Fire and

Rescue System Chief Keith H. Johnson. "Before you get in the water, survey the area and be aware of the potential dangers."

It is also important to be aware of local weather conditions prior to recreational activities in the water. Residents should use extra caution following heavy rainfall because additional debris may be in the water and the strength of currents may increase. To help prevent injury or drowning:

- Avoid swimming in unfamiliar ponds, streams, creeks, ditches and canals.
- Avoid consuming drugs, alcohol and any substances that can impact alertness, judgment, coordination and reaction time.
- Ensure that children wear life jackets in and around natural bodies of water even if they know how to swim.
- Children should only swim when they are being actively supervised at all times by adults, without distractions.
- Never swim alone; always have a buddy.
- Get out of the water right away if you hear thunder or see lightning.
- Have the means to call for help, such as a cell phone, if necessary, and be aware of your location so you can provide that information to emergency personnel.

The [Virginia Department of Health](#) and Loudoun County also remind the owners of private pools to take measures to ensure safe swimming for all who may use them. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommends](#):

- Take steps to prevent drowning, which is the leading cause of injury-related death in children 1 to 4 years old.
- Ensure adult supervision of children and that pool users have basic swim skills.
- Ensure proper fencing around private pools.
- Handle pool chemicals safety and ensure proper disinfection procedures.
- Do not swim when sick with diarrhea.

- Know how to recognize a swimmer in distress and learn CPR.

The CDC also recommends that you take steps to [protect yourself from the sun](#) during all outdoor activity, including putting on broad spectrum sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher before going outside.

What the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act Means for Your Business

An update from Loudoun Economic Development:



Any business that received or is pursuing funding from the federal Paycheck Protection Program in response to COVID-19 got further clarification last week after Congress passed and the President signed the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act. The Paycheck Protection Program has had notable success in saving businesses from closure during the long periods of quarantine this spring, distributing a reported 4.42 million loans worth close to \$511 billion to American businesses.

The trouble is that many of the rules surrounding the forgivable loans were too restrictive to save businesses with not income. **With the new flexibility act, the following changes are now available to businesses in the program:**

- PPP loan borrowers can choose to extend the eight-week period in which to spend the money to 24 weeks. This flexibility helps borrowers reach full or close to full forgiveness. There were concerns that the eight-week period was not enough time due to business closures/restrictions from the stay-at-home orders.
- Borrowers must spend at least 60% of the loan on payroll expenses for the loan to be fully forgiven. Under the new flexibility act, this percentage was dropped from 75%. The

remaining 40% of funding can go towards overhead such as rent and utilities. Additionally, there is no "cliff," meaning that if businesses do not reach the 60% threshold, they will still be eligible for some forgiveness on the loan.

- Borrowers can use the 24-week period to restore their workforce and wages to the pre-pandemic levels. This must be done by Dec. 31st, 2020. It was originally June 30th, 2020.
- If a business does not meet the benchmarks to make the loan forgivable, there is a minimum maturity date of five years instead of two years and the interest rate remains at 1%.

Recent reports indicate that \$130 billion may still be available as part of the Paycheck Protection Program, for any businesses that have yet to apply. This week, the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Treasury Department clarified that the deadline for all PPP applications is June 30, 2020. [more here](#)

Recap of Previous Updates and Helpful Information

Find Out How to Get Assistance with Basic Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic: The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been widespread and is likely to continue for some time. The financial fallout from the pandemic is affecting many Loudoun families, who find themselves in need of help. [Read this blog post for details.](#)

Process for Temporary Permit for Loudoun Food & Beverage Establishments to Add Outdoor Seating: As the region prepares for easing restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Loudoun County is outlining the process for temporary approval for restaurants and other food and beverage establishments that want to add or expand their outdoor seating. [Read the news release.](#)

Helping Neighbors During COVID-19: In a time like this, helping your neighbors is a great way to keep our community strong. It's especially important for those that may live alone or don't have family nearby. [Get tips and resources from the blog post.](#)

Blood Donation: LCPS has partnered with the American Red Cross to host blood drives at LCPS schools. The schools' space accommodation permits the required social distancing during the collection events at this extremely critical time. No drop-in donations are allowed. To schedule an appointment, please visit redcross.org/give-blood. Blood Drives will be held at:

- John Champe High School / June 15, 2020
- Loudoun County High School / June 26, 2020
- Loudoun County High School / July 11, 2020
- Stone Bridge High School / July 22, 2020
- Loudoun County High School / July 29, 2020
- Loudoun County High School / August 1, 2020

How You Can Help Our Community During COVID-19: During this time of community need, residents, businesses and government are joining together to respond. We've pulled together some suggestions for what you can do to help. [Check out this blog post for details.](#)

Loudoun is Ready Campaign: To aid Loudoun businesses with the reopening process, the Loudoun Department of Economic Development, Visit Loudoun, and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce have partnered together to create the "Loudoun is Ready" campaign. Designed to promote healthy practices among local business owners, the "Loudoun is Ready" campaign encourages businesses to meet the latest guidelines outlined by the Virginia Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Businesses can take a pledge to signify that they are ready to meet these criteria and customers can find Loudoun businesses that have taken the pledge. Learn more at LoudounIsReady.com

Protect Older Adults from COVID-19: Many families in our community have older adults living in their home or family members with medical conditions. It is important to take precautions to protect the most vulnerable individuals in our community from serious illness due to COVID-19. Even if you don't have older adults living in your home, you could unknowingly come in contact with someone who does or someone that works in a long-term care facility, and that person could potentially take the infection to a large number of high-risk individuals. [Read the blog post to learn the steps you can take to protect others from possible infection.](#)

The **Loudoun Made Loudoun Grown Marketplace** is an online marketplace connecting consumers with local products and open to all Loudoun farms and rural businesses. Please visit LoudounFarms.org/Marketplace.

PPE: Loudoun County is renewing its call for monetary donations to be used to purchase personal protective equipment that can be distributed to long-term care facilities and other health care providers facing a critical need for PPE. Monetary donations allow the county to use its buying power to purchase PPE in bulk to create a sustainable supply that can be provided to Loudoun-based agencies, including those caring for people who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, such as the elderly. [Read the news release for details.](#)

Self Care: Determining when to go to the hospital or seek medical care can be a challenge, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. You may find yourself afraid to go, even when it's necessary. Now more than ever, it is important to keep yourself healthy. Keeping yourself healthy means addressing health problems as they arise. [Read the blog post: Don't Put Off Urgent Medical Care.](#)

Loudoun Stay Informed

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

- Visit loudoun.gov/coronavirus for more information about how to protect yourself and your family and to sign up for email and text updates on COVID-19.
- Text LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19.
- Text LCCOVIDESP to 888777 to receive text messages in Spanish from Loudoun County about COVID-19.

Residents with questions about COVID-19 may call the Loudoun County Health Department's information line, 703-737-8300, or send an [email](mailto:health@loudoun.gov) to health@loudoun.gov.

Coronavirus - We're in it together, we'll get through it together - Tony

Be safe!



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