



COVID- 19 Updates

[Watch](#) Heath Department COVID-19 Update to Board of Supervisors ([Click on Feb 2nd Health and Human Services](#)) [View the Presentation Slides \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

[COVID-19 Super Bowl Guidance: Enjoy the Game at Home With Immediate Household Members](#)

[Fairfax Connector Passengers Reminded of Federal Face Mask Mandate on Buses, at Transit Hubs](#)

The Health Department is currently registering people for the vaccine in the following groups: healthcare workers, 65+, and people of any age with chronic medical conditions. You can register here for a [vaccination appointment](#).

Do you want to share your vaccine story? We are looking for people who are interested in talking about what the vaccine means to them: why they chose to be vaccinated, and why it is important. Opportunities are available to share on video, audio or our blog. If you are interested in discussing your vaccine story, contact Health Department communications liaison Allyson Pearce (Allyson.pearce@fairfaxcounty.gov). Watch (and share!) [our Vaccine Stories playlist](#) with your community. We have videos in English and Spanish!

All About Vaccines—from Dr. Rimola's experience to vaccine facts. Join the county's Facebook live every Friday at @12:30 pm for a broadcast in Spanish to address COVID-19 concerns use this link :[El Gobierno del Condado Fairfax - Posts | Facebook](#)

Help Spread the Word

The Health Department is making information about COVID-19 safety, efficacy, availability and accessibility as widespread as possible. We hope to engage all parts of our community. In order to help you to help us in this endeavor we have established regular times and a registration page for people to sign up to host a conversation for their communities. **We would like for you to host an event within your networks, community partners and stakeholders.**

1. The goal is to promote word of mouth "surround sound" in our community about the vaccine by engaging trusted voices across the county.
 2. Presentations are 1 hour long and available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Amharic, Vietnamese, Korean and Arabic.
 3. We are looking to present to groups of people from communities experiencing vulnerability.
 4. Ideally, we would like to share to a minimum of 20 people at each presentation.
- We can present to an already established meeting of the group or can meet them for this purpose alone.

To learn more or schedule a presentation click this [link](#).

Thank you for your continued support in this effort.

Celebrating Black History Month

Fairfax County and Cox Communications present: A Virtual Black History Program

Explore Black History in Fairfax County and honor Black perseverance and resiliency

Friday, February 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

on Fairfax County Government Channel 16. LIVE STREAM [Fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/live-video-stream](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/live-video-stream) (see flyer for more information)

Participate in [Black History Events across Virginia](#)

Watch Black History is Virginia's history [HERE](#)

Health and Wellness

[The CSB is accepting applications for youth-led projects](#) to reduce stigma around mental illness and promote help-seeking behaviors. Applications are due February 8.

[The Partners in Prevention Fund Capacity Building Grant Program is now accepting proposals](#). Get funding, training, and technical assistance to implement prevention programs for children, youth, and families in the community. Proposals are due February 19.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day event which will take place virtually on Monday February 8th from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please register for the event [here](#). For more information or registration assistance, contact: Nechelle.Terrell@vdh.virginia.gov

The CSB Wellness, Health Promotion and Prevention team focuses on ways to strengthen our community's emotional health and ability to handle challenges related to mental health concerns and substance misuse. See the [February Wellness Activities Calendar](#) with links all recordings and resources from the five virtual community events along with upcoming open enrollment trainings for REVIVE!, Mental Health First Aid, and QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer). More information and full calendar: [February Wellness Activities Calendar](#).

Ask a Question, Save A Life. Three steps anyone can take to help prevent suicide. You can be a resource for someone who might be struggling. Let's make sure everyone in our community knows how much they matter. Thursday, February 11, 2021 6 to 7 p.m. Register [here](#).

COVID-19 and the Latinx Community: Skills to reduce stress, stigma, and substance use/COVID-19 y la comunidad Latina: Técnicas para reducir el estrés, el estigma, y el uso de sustancias ilícitas, by the National Hispanic and Latino ATTC [English Session](#), Wednesday, February 10, 2-3:30; [Sesión en Español](#), Wednesday, February 17, 2-3:30

[Coping with Grief and Loss](#), Monday, February 22, 6-7:30 pm, by the Suicide Prevention Alliance of Northern Virginia (SPAN)

[Fairfax County DV Network Tier One Training](#) Tier One is a training on the dynamics of domestic violence, the systems that respond to those experiencing violence, and available resources in our community. The next round of Tier One trainings will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm-6pm, starting March 9th and ending April 1st. Trainings will be conducted virtually on GoToWebinar. **All attendees must register at this [link](#).**



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To request reasonable ADA accommodations, please contact 703-324-4600, TTY 711.

Faith Communities in Action is supported by the
[Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services](#)



Transition in the Community Impact Unit

We have experienced some changes within the Community Impact Unit (CIU). On December 19th, Renee Edwards joined the CIU team as the new Community Capacity Builder. In her previous role, Renee was the Program and Educational Services Director with Fairfax County Public Library. Renee brings to us a strong background in partnerships, programming, training and FCPS connections. In addition to Renee joining the team, Katie Strotman has retired and I have accepted her old position as the Community Impact Unity Program Manager and I started in this new position on Monday February 1st. In this new role oversee the work of the Community Capacity Builder, Interfaith Coordinator, Impact Analyst and the Human Services Resource Guide (HSRG).

I ask for your patience and understanding as we transition. Until we are able to hire a new Interfaith Coordinator, I will continue to keep the work moving forward. In an effort to balance the work we will continue to have FCIA/CLC combined meetings and offer trainings that would be of benefit to all in the faith community. We will also continue to have the Common Ground Newsletter to keep you abreast of important information and partnership opportunities. Fairfax County is very fortunate to have you all as part of the fabric of this community. I am grateful that I was able to serve as the Interfaith Coordinator for the past 3 ½ years.

Below is the announcement of my new position:

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Ramona Carroll as the Community Impact Unit Program Manager. For over 22 years Ramona has been a dedicated and vital employee to Fairfax County. During her career she has worked as a Social Worker in the Department of Family Services, a CSP Social Work Supervisor and as the Region 1 Community Developer. Since 2017, she has served as the Community Interfaith Coordinator in the Community Impact Unit. In this position she led and facilitated the county's network of faith communities, community-based organizations, and government agencies working together to foster interfaith communication and cooperation to build and strengthen human service resources throughout Fairfax County. Ramona will begin her new position on February 1st.

I look forward to working with you all to strengthen relationships and meet the needs of the residents of Fairfax County. Continue to be safe and well.

Warm Regards, Ramona

UPCOMING FCIA/CLC MEETINGS

Fairfax County Community Chaplain Corp is hosting 90-minute webinars for clergy that offer an overview of crisis spiritual care and mental health best practices, including general crisis spiritual care principles and interventions, disaster mental health, & caregiver self-care. This series is hosted by Fairfax County Emergency Management and co-sponsored by National Disaster Interfaiths Network (NDIN) & New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS).

This training is open to chaplains and members of the larger faith community. Share this training with in your networks.

Please see the attached flyer for dates and to register.

Leadership Development

Halcyon Incubator 2021 Opportunity Intensive: Applications for the 2021 Opportunity Intensive Fellowship are due on February 11th at 5pm EST. Halcyon provides businesses that aim to also have a social impact with a lifelong community and crucial support to grow and scale their ventures. This support includes pro-bono legal support, a \$5,000 stipend, mentoring, leadership coaching, and access to potential investors. You can learn more about the program benefits, eligibility, and selection criteria [here](#). You can start an application [here](#). This intensive is designed for entrepreneurs whose businesses operate in or primarily serve economically distressed areas defined as Opportunity Zones in the DMV region. Fairfax County was proud to support Halcyon's successful U.S. Department of Commerce grant to make this program possible.

Virginia Management Fellows Program: The Commonwealth of Virginia's Management Fellows (VMF) program seeks emerging leaders with the desire to serve the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a willingness to commit to a 2-year fellowship of state-level service and learning. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in public service and volunteerism, and the capacity to work as both a leader and a participant in team efforts. Critical thinking is a sought-after skill. Applications due February 24, 2021. More information [here](#).

FBI Washington Citizens Academy: The Citizens Academy is an engaging six-to-eight-week program that gives business, religious, civic, and community leaders an inside look at the FBI. Candidates can either self-nominate or be nominated. Nominations due March 31, 2021. More information [here](#).

Common Ground

A Newsletter for the Interfaith Community

Community Bulletin Board

The following public announcements are for interfaith meetings and activities sponsored by organizations within the community and are not specifically endorsed or sponsored by Fairfax County. These announcements are provided as a public service in the interest of expanding interfaith dialogue and goodwill. If you have an announcement you would like to share, please contact NCsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Student to Student has created a structure that brings together teens from different faiths for conversation. This unique peer education opportunity for high school students focuses on increasing mutual respect, understanding, and reducing bigotry. Each 1.5 hour session will include 30 minutes of group presentations including questions and answers, followed by small teen facilitated breakout groups for discussion. At a time of increased polarization, it is critical that we bring together young people to share and learn from one another. **Participation is free and requires minimal staff time to implement. Partnering organizations will need to provide: 10-20 High School teens to participate in one live virtual 1.5 hour session. Preparation of a peer led presentation about life as a teen in your faith community. For more information please reach out to Sara Winkelman, JCRC Director of Education, Programs, & Services at swinkelman@jcouncil.org or her cell 314.583.4398.**

Interfaith Communities for Dialogue (ICD) is presenting a series of 4 virtual workshops on Racism and Systemic Bias, two of which were held in recent months. Save the date for the 4th workshop on March 7, 2021: Building Bridges to Racial Equity. For questions or more information: Email: interfaithcd@gmail.com

Fairfax County Public Library hosted a Faith and Friends discussion, you can [watch it here](#).

The Climate Action Group/UUCF will present **Climate Conversations #2** Sunday, February 21, 2 – 3 pm. The Theme is “**What Does Environmental Justice Look Like**” and speakers are Allison Archambault and Aaron Tolson. Allison is President of EarthSpark International, an organization empowering vulnerable communities with high-quality energy services, their work is focused in Haiti. Aaron is Director of Prince William Food Rescue, a program of ACTS. He is the current President of the Greater Prince William Food Council. **Join the meeting at [Zoom link](#):**

Fairfax County Public Schools created a religious diversity taskforce to develop recommendations for the 2021-2022 school calendar which were adopted by the calendar committee and presented to the school board in June 2020. Two calendars were offered, both of which feature school closures on days coinciding with the Muslim holidays Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha when they occur during the school year, the Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah (first day only) and the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), and Diwali, a major holiday in the Hindu and Sikh community. School closures on these days would represent a significant step towards achieving equity and inclusivity for FCPS students and teachers of diverse religious backgrounds and identities. At the February 2nd working meeting of the Fairfax County School Board, a third calendar, calendar C was presented with no holidays off coinciding with Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Diwali, and Eid. You can view the meeting [here](#). This recommendation is a dramatic and unexpected shift and is a complete disregard for the work of the interfaith community and the religious diversity task force. Members of the task force are preparing a response for the March meeting. If you would like to be involved or learn more please email Rabbi Abbi Sharofsky at ASharofsky@jcouncil.org.