



COVID- 19 Updates

Fairfax County vaccine equity strategies watch [Fairfax County vaccine equity strategies \(fox5dc.com\)](https://www.fox5dc.com) Karla Bruce, Fairfax County Chief Equity Officer discuss the County's interview on Fox 5

What You Need to Know About COVID-19 Variants

When it Comes to Encouraging Vaccination, It's All About Your Friends, Neighbors and Others You Trust

Clergy are now eligible to pre-register for vaccine in Fairfax County. As a House of Worship located in Fairfax County, you and your Apostles, Bishops, Cardinals, Clergy members, Imams, Ministers, Nuns, Pastors, Priests, Pujaris, and Rabbis may register at [COVID-19 Vaccination Registration | Health \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/COVID-19-vaccination-registration).

Governor Northam Announces Virginia to Expand Vaccine Eligibility to All Adults by April 18 .Read more on who is included in Phase 1c [here](#). As always, if you are eligible, you must register [here](#).

For the latest on the vaccine, information can be found on the websites of the [Center for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov), [the Virginia Department of Health](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov), and the [Fairfax County Health Department](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health).

An FAQ for the public can be found [here](#) and an FAQ for healthcare providers can be found [here](#).

Register for your vaccine through the Fairfax County Health Department [here](#). You will receive periodic updates that you are in the queue.

Update on COVID-19 Testing Sites Available in the Fairfax Health District

While COVID-19 cases are currently trending downward, **testing remains paramount in identifying who is infected in order to perform a case investigation and identify close contacts, which will ultimately help slow the spread of illness**. In addition, approximately 10% of all positive swabs collected by the Fairfax County Health Department are submitted to the state laboratory to test for variant strains of COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one circulating strain identified in the U.S., the U.K. variant, may be 50% more contagious. While still uncertain, scientists from the U.S. report that it may cause an increased risk of death, although more studies are needed to confirm these findings. *"We can't let our guard down," said Director of Epidemiology and Population Health Dr. Benjamin Schwartz. "People may see that COVID-19 cases in Fairfax County and elsewhere have decreased since mid-January or that many people have been vaccinated and figure they can relax. But with the increase of variants circulating, we may again see spikes of illness. We need to guard against this."* Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has focused on making COVID-19 testing readily available and equitable.

In addition to [the 80+ clinics and health care providers offering testing](#), the agency provides community testing in neighborhoods where socioeconomic factors and transportation make it difficult to access testing. The [Health Department's testing sites](#) are open Monday through Friday in locations based on epidemiology (disease) data and input from community leaders. No appointment is necessary and testing is free of charge.

The [Health Department's testing sites](#) are not intended for those who would like a COVID-19 test for travel, to return to work or school, or for documentation of a negative test for other purposes (e.g. hospital visits, employers or attending social events). If you need a test for any of these purposes, contact your health care provider or a testing site.

Are you looking for a COVID-19 test or do you have other questions about COVID-19? Call the Fairfax County Health Department call center at 703-267-3511 with Coronavirus questions; open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. The [Health Department's testing sites](#) serve both drive-up and walk-through clients and perform specimen collection outdoors. For [locations and hours of operation](#), visit the Health Department's testing page.

COUNTY INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

The Advertised Budget Plan is the annual budget proposed by the County Executive to the Board of Supervisors for the upcoming fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. The Advertised Budget Plan is based on estimates of projected expenditures for County programs, and it provides the means for paying for these expenditures through estimated revenues. The County's budget serves as the documentation of the financial, policy and service decisions for the fiscal year. This document contains some of the best sources of information on County governmental programs and services, as well as key financial information for policy makers and managers.

On February 23, County Executive Hill presented the FY2022 Advertised Budget and Countywide Strategic Plan [Advertised Budget Plan | Management and Budget \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#). To find FY2022 Budget Town Hall Meetings, use this link: [FY 2022 Budget Town Hall Meetings | Management and Budget \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#). To learn more about the budget process and how to be involved visit [Department Homepage | Management and Budget \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#).

COUNTYWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN: After pausing for a year due to COVID-19 in 2020 and following more than a year of work, engagement, development and refinement in 2019, County Executive Bryan Hill recently presented a first-ever countywide strategic plan to the Board of Supervisors. View the proposed countywide strategic plan for the next 10-20 years and take a survey: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan/> Whether you are new to Fairfax County, have lived here all your life or are somewhere in between, we want your thoughts to help shape the future of the county.

POLICE CHIEF SEARCH: Join Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Lusk on **April 6th at 7pm** for a virtual public input session on the selection of Fairfax County's next Chief of Police. This is your chance to share the qualities that you would like to see in our next Police Chief, as well as suggest questions that you would like Board Members to ask of candidates during the interview process. The program can be viewed on Facebook Live @SupervisorLusk, TV Channel 16 or live stream at: [HERE](#)

The County's 5-Year Consolidated Plan identifies the needs and describes the goals and strategies for the use of federal funds in meeting those needs during a 5-year time period. Each year's 1-Year Action Plan outlines specific activities for which the annual federal funding will be applied to meet the established strategies and goals. We're looking for your comments on our overall goals and our proposed actions for FY 2022. Copies of the 5-Year Consolidated Plan and the FY 2022 Action Plan can be found at [Consolidated Plan | Housing and Community Development \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

FAIR HOUSING

MOVING FORWARD IN THE AGE OF THE PANDEMIC: LEGAL CHALLENGES, NEW GUIDANCE AND EMERGING ISSUES

The Fairfax County Office of Human Rights & Equity Programs (OHREP), in collaboration with the Equal Rights Center, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, and the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors®, will host a virtual fair housing presentation and training session on **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET**. Staff from the Equal Rights Center and Legal Services of Northern Virginia will conduct the training. The webinar is FREE and there is no charge to attend.

In addition to general fair housing protections, topics covered will include: Information and examples of fair housing and associated legal issues that have emerged in relation to COVID-19, Proposed/new guidance on "source of income" protections, developments concerning "sexual orientation" and "gender identity," and a Q&A.

A brief overview of the importance of the area's Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (RAI), the process involved and the opportunity for community involvement. (*CLE Credit Pending* for attorneys licensed in VA. Fairfax County employees are eligible for *Fair Housing Credit* through Employee U.)

Register [here](#). Following registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar including the password. Captioning will be provided. For additional reasonable accommodation requests, please contact communications@equalrightscenter.org by April 13th. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/humanrights/2021-fair-housing-training>



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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](#)



Health and Wellness

April is Child Abuse and Awareness Month and SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center participates in the national "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign and plants "pinwheel gardens" at locations throughout the county to raise awareness about the issue of child abuse. As they spin in the wind, pinwheels are a whimsical symbol of the fight against child abuse. They are a reflection of hope, health and safety and bring smiles to all children! Beyond that, our prevention campaign is an opportunity to encourage everyone to **SPEAK UP** for a child if they suspect abuse. The problem with child abuse is that it is often a secret and shameful issue that no one wants to discuss. But we want to break the silence and hopefully, the cycle of abuse. We want to encourage children to **SPEAK UP** if they are being abused and for adults to report any abuse they may suspect to the Fairfax County CPS Hotline **703-324-7400**. Although deciding to report suspected child abuse can be a difficult, it is an important first step toward protecting a child who might be in danger. During April, look for the pinwheel gardens at schools, churches, businesses and even home gardens. We also have pinwheel pots to display inside on desks or tables.

If you would like to plant a pinwheel garden or if you know a church or business willing to display the pinwheels, please contact Bootsie Humenansky at 703-965-5463 or bootsieh@aol.com. Please visit the SafeSpot website for more information www.safespotfairfax.org.

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 4-6 p.m., starting March 9 and ending April 1. Trainings will be conducted virtually on GoToWebinar. **All attendees must register at this [link](#).**

Register now for the spring meeting of the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax, Thursday, April 29, 10-11:45. The discussion will be [Reflect. Renew. Reset. Looking at Our New Normal in a Post COVID-19 Pandemic World](#).

Please help promote [Drug Takeback Day](#). It'll be on Saturday, April 24 from 10-2, at 8 locations across the county.

Fairfax County is sponsoring a [Think Tank Challenge](#) to design a strategy or program that will help address social isolation for older adults and people with disabilities who have little or no technology, or to create a technical assistance toolkit addressing older adult social isolation during COVID-19. Proposals are due April 18.

Fairfax County Public Schools

[FCPS Parent Resource Center webinars](#) (links to register and additional webinars listed on website):

- SIBSHOPS: An Exciting, Virtual Workshop for Brothers and Sisters of Children with Special Needs, Monday April 5, 10-11:30am and 1-2:30pm
- Construyendo y manteniendo familias fuertes Un seminario web presentado en español (Building and Keeping Strong Families: A Webinar *Presented in Spanish*), Tuesday April 6, 6:30-8pm
- Skill, Not Will: The Collaborative Problem-Solving Approach Webinar for Families, Friday April 9, 10-11am
- COVID-19 Vaccines and the Vaccination Process in Fairfax County: A Webinar for Families, sessions in both multiple languages on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm
 - Tuesday, April 13: [Session in Spanish – Register here](#)
 - Tuesday, April 20: [Session in English – Register here](#)
 - Tuesday, May 4: [Session in Vietnamese – Register here](#)
 - Tuesday, May 11: [Session in Korean – Register here](#)
 - Tuesday, May 18: [Session in Arabic – Register here](#)
- FCPS Special Education Conference 2021, Saturday April 17, 9am-2pm
- Encouraging Positive Behaviors at Home Series: Minimizing Prompts and Maximizing Your Child's Independence, Thursday April 22 10-11:30am and 6:30-8pm

FCPS is hiring Classroom Monitor that will provide in-person classroom assistance to a school or center, assisting a virtual teacher with conducting classroom activities; work with individual and small groups of students; operate technology to include cameras, learning platforms and learning tools; help maintain order and discipline and assist in managing the behavior of students; provide supervision throughout the school day including in the classroom, halls, lunch, recess, and specials; perform administrative and noninstructional duties, such as keeping daily attendance; and ensure all CDC/safety protocols and procedures (e.g., fire drills) are implemented and followed. You can apply using this link: [Classroom Monitor | Fairfax County Public Schools \(brassring.com\)](#).

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

Please see the attached letter of support from the ICD for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community

During the month of Ramadan, The American Turkish Friends Association (ATFA) is inviting members of the interfaith community to participate in their Friendship Dinners. The dinners aim:

- to provide a message of peace – we stand stronger when united
- to celebrate the diversity of our neighbors and friends
- to increase understanding, acceptance, and positive regard among our communities
- to avoid possible misunderstandings and misperceptions against each other
- to translate this first-time meeting of participants into opportunities for long-term friendships through continued contact.

All dinners will be held following Covid precautions and in a socially distanced manner with limited crowd size. You can register HERE [Atfa: Ramadan Dinner \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/Atfa:RamadanDinner)

[Pride in the Pews](#) (PIP). PIP is a nationwide campaign aimed at celebrating stories of resilient queer faith in the Black Church. The goal is to interview 66 people, and use the findings to create a toolkit and facilitate conversations around how these sacred spaces can be more equitable and inclusive for the LGBTQ+ community. If you are or know anyone that identifies as a Black queer Christian, and would like to share their experiences, please forward this [link](#). People will be compensated for their time. To learn more about this organization, their work and resources visit the website.

Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington This year's MLK Multifaith program will focus on **healing and bridging the racial divide within faith communities**. We are honored that **Imam Talib Shareef, IFC board member** and Imam of [The Nation's Mosque](#), will be our keynote speaker. The event will also feature a multifaith children's choir, a conversation with distinguished panelists, and a small group dialogue around the question of how to create welcoming faith spaces for all who worship there. We look forward to having you join us! **Sunday, April 11th, 3-5 pm ET Register HERE [2021 IFCMW Multi-faith MLK Program \(givebutter.com\)](#)**

April 22 is Earth Day! The [Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions](#) (FACS) encourages faith communities to [benchmark their carbon footprint with free assistance](#) and consider using FACS' [#ZerosAreHeroes graphics](#) in newsletters and social media to help spread the word about faith-based environmental stewardship. Happy Earth Day!

NEW Tysons Interfaith website <https://tysonsinterfaith.org/>. We designed this platform as a community service for people who live and work in Tysons. The website also provides information about interfaith events, opportunities for worship, volunteerism, and assistance resources. It also features a map, a blog, advocacy and educational materials we hope will foster constructive community dialogue and advance the principles of diversity, mutual respect, compassion, and ethical engagement.



Faith Communities
in Action