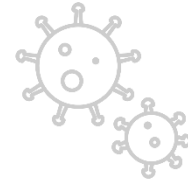




COVID-19 VACCINE EQUITY BRIEF

NOVEMBER 2021



Part 1: Current Context

In early November, cases in the Fairfax Health District (FHD) decreased following the Delta surge, reaching a low on November 8 at an average of 85 cases per day. Cases then rose through the middle of the month, peaking on November 22 at an average of 154 cases per day. The number of cases per day decreased slightly at the end of the month, likely due to the Thanksgiving holiday and reduced testing capacity. With sustained increases following the Thanksgiving holiday, the level of community transmission is now categorized as “high”.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended vaccination for all children 5 to 11 years old with the Pfizer vaccine on November 3. The Fairfax County Health Department began vaccinating this age group at that time through a combination of vaccine clinics at Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), vaccine clinics at Health Department District Offices and the Government Center, and pediatric vaccine equity clinics. As these efforts were underway, children between the ages of 5 and 9 continued as the age group with the highest rate of disease. Disparities in case rates by race and ethnicity decreased over the course of November, even as overall case rates rose.

Overall, the number of FHD residents who received a first vaccine dose in November (59,612) was higher than the number in October (n=19,867). This is largely due to the vaccination of residents ages 5 to 11, which made up 37,242 (62%) of those who received a first vaccine dose in November. However, the number of residents ages 12 and older who received a first dose in November (22,370) marked an increase compared to the previous month, as well. By November 30, 189,818 Fairfax Health District residents ages 5 and older were eligible for vaccination but remained unvaccinated.

On November 19, the CDC expanded booster dose recommendations to include all persons 18 years old and older. On December 29, the CDC strengthened this recommendation, communicating that all individuals 18 and older *should* receive their booster shot 6 months after completion of the two-dose mRNA series, and two months after initial Johnson & Johnson vaccine. As of December 15, 269,123 (29.8% of those ages 18 and older) FHD residents have received a third/booster dose.

Part 2: Vaccine Equity Goals, Strategy, and Implementation

FHD vaccine equity strategies continue to include vaccine equity clinics, outreach by vaccine navigators, focus on higher risk populations including those experiencing homelessness, and working with community-based organizations (CBOs) to expand outreach. In addition, we continue to use ZIP code, census tract, and property (e.g., apartment complex) level data to guide these activities.

Vaccine equity clinics remain an important approach to focus additional vaccination efforts toward populations and communities that have lower vaccination rates. In November, 28 equity clinics were held in a variety of venues including houses of worship (7), community centers (7), apartment complexes (4), commercial centers (3), partner clinic locations (2), government buildings (1), schools (1), non-governmental organizations (1), libraries (1), and schools (1). Vaccinations were provided by

Neighborhood Health, Healthworks, Safeway, and the Health Department's Field Vaccination Team. Additionally, the Field Vaccination Team vaccinated staff in closed vaccination events at one restaurant and one government building (the West Falls Church Metro Rail Yard). In November, 14 equity clinics were held for adult residents only, 10 were held for pediatric residents only, and 4 were held for both adult and pediatric residents.

Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) School Vaccine Clinics provided pediatric vaccinations at nine elementary school sites during November. The Health Department provided recommendations to FCPS for the locations of these school-based clinics. These recommendations were based on a census tract-level index that identified areas of concern defined by lower COVID-19 vaccination, higher social vulnerability, and higher number of residents ages 5-11. We also considered geographic balance and access to transportation in recommending sites.

The vaccination navigation team continues to provide educational outreach to community members and facilitate access to the vaccine for those who want it. In November and to date, navigators have focused on vaccination of 5-11 year old children given the new recommendation and the opportunity to vaccinate children who previously had not been eligible. Memoranda of Understanding have been completed with several community-based organizations to allow navigators increase their activities at CBO events and services. In addition to promoting vaccination for those who currently are unvaccinated, navigators are also having conversations with those who already have been vaccinated, sharing information about boosters. In aggregate, navigators have held over 20,000 conversations with county residents, and staffed over 400 events in addition to outreach in communities. Based on navigator reports following a systematic sample of conversations, discussions with over half of the unvaccinated clients resulted in either directing the client to a location where they could be vaccinated or scheduling a vaccination.

The **vaccination of homeless people** continues to be a challenge. At the end of November, 1,056 homeless individuals and shelter staff had been vaccinated at 94 on-site vaccination clinics. The proportion of the homeless population vaccinated was 48.1% on November 30. Fourteen homeless clients and 7 shelter staff members received vaccinations during November. Vaccination of homeless people in Fairfax County and several other jurisdictions around the US was highlighted in a December 3 CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* article ([Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness — Six U.S. Jurisdictions, December 2020–August 2021 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)).

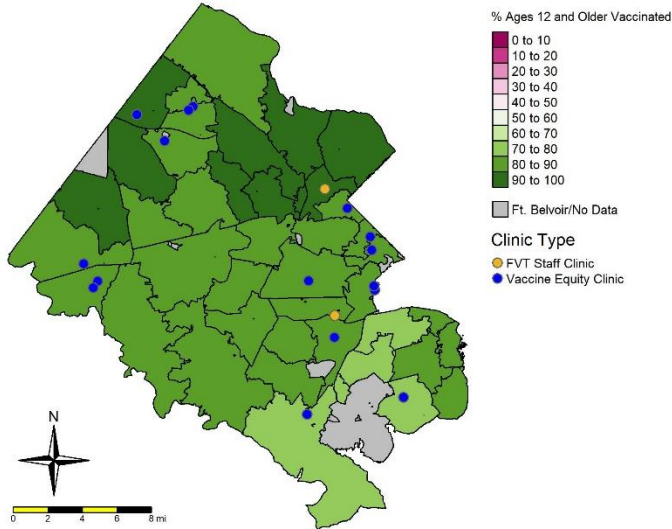
Collaboration with community-based organizations is ongoing, as partners for vaccine navigation activities and equity clinics, and associated with the health literacy grant received by the HD, which was highlighted in the June report.

Part 3: Fairfax County Vaccination Overview

As of December 15, a total of 1,960,515 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Fairfax Health District, and 917,259 people had received at least one vaccine dose. This represents 87.4% of the adult (≥ 18 -year-old) population, and 87.6% of those ages 12 and older. The proportion vaccinated in the Fairfax Health District includes more than 98% of persons ages 65 and older. Additionally, 39.1% of children ages 5 to 11 have been vaccinated with at least one dose.

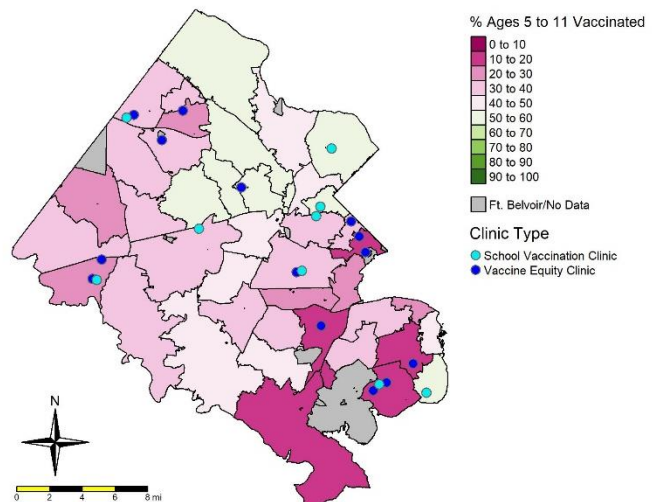
As of December 15, 269,748 booster or additional doses have been administered to Fairfax Health District residents. This represents 29.8% of the population ages 18 and older. Booster dose rates among persons aged 18 years and older vary by race and ethnicity. 32.2% of White residents, 31.3% of Asian or Pacific Islander residents, 16.8% of Black/African American residents, and 16.7% of Hispanic residents ages 18 and older have received a booster dose.

Percent ages 12 and older vaccinated with at least one dose by 11/30/21
 Adult Vaccine Equity Clinic Sites in November 2021
 Fairfax Health District



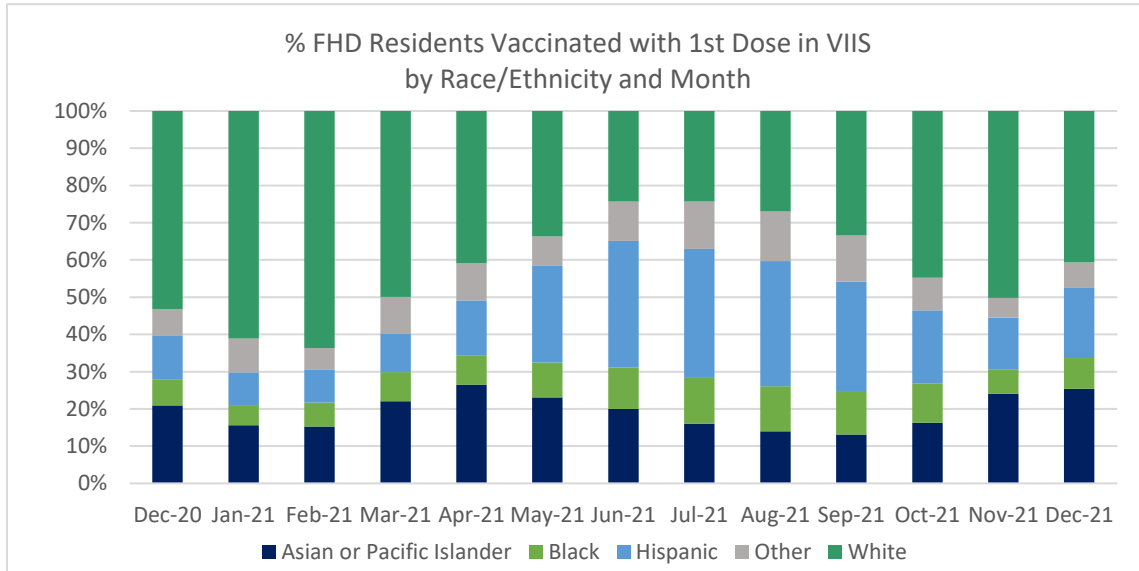
To the left are results from vaccinations throughout the Health District. The first map below shows the locations of adult vaccine equity clinics overlaid on the percent of the vaccine eligible population ≥ 12 years old vaccinated with at least one dose by ZIP code. Vaccination rates by ZIP code can also be viewed in Table 1. Overall, 86.6% of those ages 12 and older had been vaccinated as of November 30th – up from 84.5% on November 1st.

Percent ages 5 to 11 vaccinated with at least one dose by 11/30/21
 Pediatric Vaccine Clinic Sites in November 2021
 Fairfax Health District



The map to the right demonstrates the locations of pediatric vaccine equity clinics overlaid on the percent of the vaccine eligible population 5 to 11 years old vaccinated with at least one dose by ZIP code. Pediatric vaccination rates by ZIP code can also be viewed in Table 2. 34.5% of those ages 5 to 11 had been vaccinated as of November 30th.

Of the 917,259 Fairfax Health District residents who have been vaccinated as of December 15, 848,996 (93%) have race and ethnicity included in the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS). Overall, from December 2020 through December 2021 to-date, Hispanics comprised 16.6% of Fairfax Health District residents vaccinated, Black or African Americans comprised 8.1%, Asian or Pacific Islanders comprised 21.7%, non-Hispanic Whites comprised 44.5%, with 9.2% reporting another race and ethnicity.



*Data for December 2021 are through 12/15/21.

Based on VIIS data, there were 59,612 Fairfax Health District residents who received a first vaccine dose in November at any location, with 54,488 (91%) reporting race and ethnicity. Overall, 24.1% identified as Asian or Pacific Islander, 6.5% identified as Black/African American, 13.9% identified as Hispanic, and 50.2% identified as non-Hispanic White.

37,251 (62%) of the 59,612 Fairfax Health District residents who received a first vaccine dose in November were children ages 5 to 11. 33,572 (90%) of these children reported race and ethnicity. Among this newly eligible age group, 26.1% identified as Asian or Pacific Islander, 5.2% identified as Black/African American, 12.5% identified as Hispanic, and 51.9% identified as non-Hispanic White.

The proportions of Black/African American residents and Hispanic residents who received vaccinations in November were lower than the proportions of these groups in the Fairfax Health District population overall. Compared with previous months, an increased proportion of White residents and Asian American/Pacific Islander residents were vaccinated during November, driven by the vaccination of children ages 5 to 11 years.

Table 1. Percent Ages 12 and Older Vaccinated by ZIP Code as of November 30, 2021			
ZIP Code	Percent of 12+ Vaccinated	ZIP Code	Percent of 12+ Vaccinated
22027	100.0%	22124	86.7%
22180	98.8%	22308	86.6%
22101	96.1%	22153	86.2%
22182	96.1%	22039	85.5%
20170	93.6%	20191	85.0%
20171	93.0%	22066	84.6%
22102	91.5%	20190	84.4%
22043	91.3%	22015	83.9%
22181	90.7%	22312	83.8%
20151	90.5%	20124	83.6%
20120	89.9%	22307	82.8%
22151	89.9%	22152	82.3%
22150	89.3%	22032	80.8%
22003	89.2%	22030	80.3%
22031	89.2%	22306	80.3%
22033	89.2%	22303	80.0%
22042	89.0%	22079	76.8%
22044	88.6%	22315	76.8%
20194	88.3%	22309	75.6%
22041	88.1%	22310	73.8%
20121	87.5%	Total	87.6%
22046	87.3%		

Table 2. Percent Ages 5 to 11 Vaccinated by ZIP Code as of November 30, 2021			
ZIP Code	Percent 5 to 11 Vaccinated	ZIP Code	Percent 5 to 11 Vaccinated
22182	59.0%	22315	35.6%
22124	58.1%	22152	35.5%
22181	55.3%	22030	33.4%
22180	54.4%	22310	32.5%
22046	53.8%	22042	32.1%
22066	53.6%	20120	31.0%
22308	52.2%	20170	30.8%
22101	51.7%	22003	30.8%
22027	50.0%	22044	30.1%
22043	48.1%	22151	29.3%
22032	47.8%	22303	27.9%
22039	44.9%	20121	24.1%
22307	44.8%	20151	23.9%
22031	43.2%	20190	22.1%
22153	40.5%	22312	20.9%
22102	40.3%	22150	20.0%
20171	38.5%	22079	19.1%
20124	38.3%	22041	17.8%
20194	38.2%	22306	14.4%
22033	36.2%	22309	13.4%
22015	35.9%	Total	34.5%
20191	35.8%		

Population totals per ZIP code are defined using population estimates from the American Community Survey (2019).