

June Community Message from Chairman Jeff McKay

As we head into the summer, we are in a very different place than we were in June 2020. Between March 1 and May 1, COVID-19 cases in Fairfax County have dropped 57%. As of June 1, over 1.16 million doses have been administered in the County and over 75.7% of people 18 and older living in Fairfax County have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. Mitigation measures across the Commonwealth have been lifted and those who are vaccinated are able to be mask-free for a majority of activities. You can see the data here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus/vaccine/data>

Part of our success has been in our equity efforts. The Health Department's goal is to have vaccination rates of at least 70% in each neighborhood across the County. As a result, the Health Department has carried out significant work with community leaders to sign people up for appointments, share accurate information, set up equity clinics in neighborhood, and bring vaccines to people through mobile clinics. As a result, as of April, we have held 94 vaccine equity events and administered 18,430 doses at those events.

I am so proud of the work of our community, our Health Department, and our partners, for getting us this far. This could only happen because we all worked together.

Of course, however, even with this great progress, there was significant loss along the way. In the Fairfax Health District we had over 78,000 COVID-19 cases and at least 1,130 related deaths. In the counties and cities across northern Virginia, those deaths totaled over 2,000 people. By the time you read this, I will have likely joined my colleagues from across the region at the Fairfax County Government Center to commemorate the lives lost and honor our frontline workers who protected our community day in and day out.

Now that I am fully vaccinated, I am truly looking forward to spending time with family and friends and even holding Board meetings again in our Board room side by side with my colleagues. In addition, I have worked hard with my colleagues on the Fairfax County School Board to be sure they have the resources they need to support a five-day in person return to school next fall.

That said, for those of you who are not yet vaccinated or know someone who is not yet vaccinated, appointments are available across the County for those 12 and up. Returning to normal and ensuring the protection of yourself and those around you can only happen when you get vaccinated. All three vaccines are safe and effective. You may find an appointment now at www.vaccines.gov.

Have a fun and safe summer!