



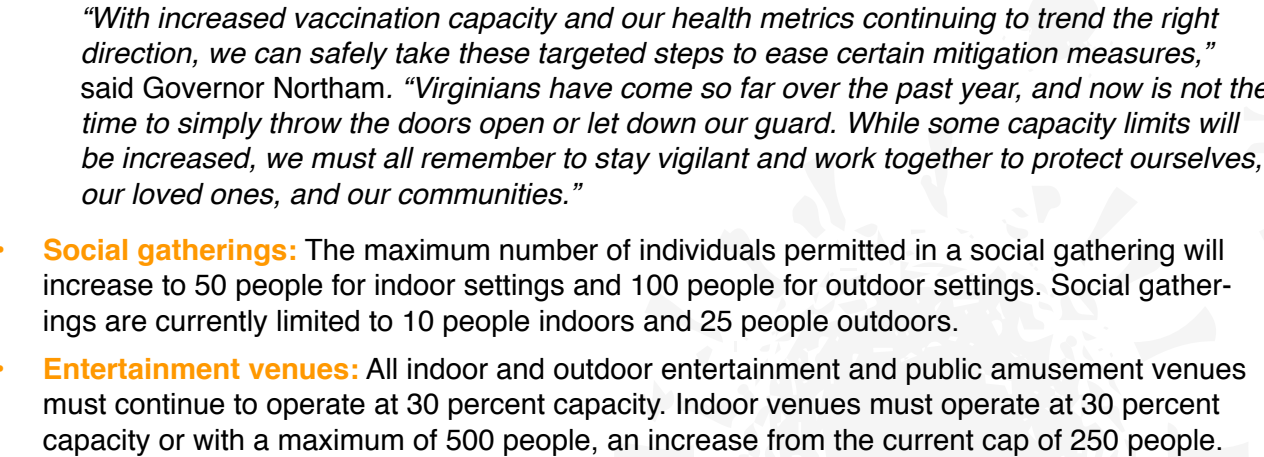
BPSOS Falls Church NEWSLETTER

April 2021

NEW COVID-19 CASES in VIRGINIA

in February and March 2021

LOCATION	FEB – MAR	MAR – APR
Fairfax County	7092	4700
Prince William County	4088	2468
Arlington County	1460	1021
Loudoun County	2692	2072



Governor Ralph Northam announced that as COVID-19 vaccinations continue to rise in Virginia, certain sports and entertainment venues may begin to operate with additional capacity and indoor and outdoor gathering limits will increase starting Thursday, April 1st. **More than two million Virginians, or approximately one in four people, have now received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.**

"With increased vaccination capacity and our health metrics continuing to trend the right direction, we can safely take these targeted steps to ease certain mitigation measures," said Governor Northam. "Virginians have come so far over the past year, and now is not the time to simply throw the doors open or let down our guard. While some capacity limits will be increased, we must all remember to stay vigilant and work together to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities."

- Social gatherings:** The maximum number of individuals permitted in a social gathering will increase to 50 people for indoor settings and 100 people for outdoor settings. Social gatherings are currently limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
- Entertainment venues:** All indoor and outdoor entertainment and public amusement venues must continue to operate at 30 percent capacity. Indoor venues must operate at 30 percent capacity or with a maximum of 500 people, an increase from the current cap of 250 people. Outdoor venues must operate at 30 percent capacity, with no specific cap on the number of attendees. These venues were previously limited to 30 percent capacity or up to 1,000 attendees, whichever was fewer.
- Recreational sporting events:** The number of spectators allowed at recreational sporting events will increase from 25 to 100 people per field or 30 percent capacity, whichever is less for indoor settings, and from 250 to 500 people per field or 30 percent capacity, whichever is less for outdoor settings.
- In-person graduation and commencement events:** Last week, Governor Northam issued preliminary guidance on safe in-person graduations and commencements, which included a cap of 5,000 people or 30 percent of the venue capacity for outdoor events, whichever is less. Events held indoors may have up to 500 people, or 30 percent of the venue capacity, whichever is less. Attendees must wear masks and follow other guidelines and safety protocols to ensure proper distancing.

Visit <https://www.governor.virginia.gov> for more information.



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Good news! **The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)** was signed into law on March 11th, 2021.

- Makes Marketplace insurance more affordable:** Starting April 1st, consumers with household income above 400% of Federal Poverty Level may be eligible for Advance Tax Credit (ATC). Consumers who are submitting a new Marketplace application or resubmitting an existing application will get a new eligibility results which indicate the additional ATC. ARP can also essentially reduce current monthly premium for existing consumers.
- Subsidizes COBRA premium:** COBRA is an act that allows employees to keep their workplace health insurance even after they left that job, although at a higher premium. Under ARP, individuals who are eligible for COBRA coverage because of their own or a family member's reduction in hours or an involuntary termination from employment may be eligible for a full premium subsidy that covers the entire cost of COBRA. This premium subsidy lasts from April 1st to September 30th, 2021. Consumers who once declined COBRA may have another opportunity to reapply COBRA from their previous employer.
- Expands Medicaid state coverage option to include coverage for women up to one year post-partum:** Pregnant women who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP on the basis of their pregnancy were covered from when they were pregnant to 60 days after childbirth. Under ARP, states have the option to extend pregnancy-related Medicaid and CHIP eligibility to 12 months.

Additionally, **Virginia Medicaid abolished the 40-quarter-rule starting April 1st.** Virginians who have very low income and have been US residents for more than 5 years may be eligible for Medicaid.

During March 2021, our team managed to enroll and helped more than 130 individuals and families. Here at BPSOS—Falls Church, we understand the complex American health insurance systems are a challenge to most of our community, which is why everyday, we try to make a difference by explaining and educating clients about the best way to obtain health coverage.

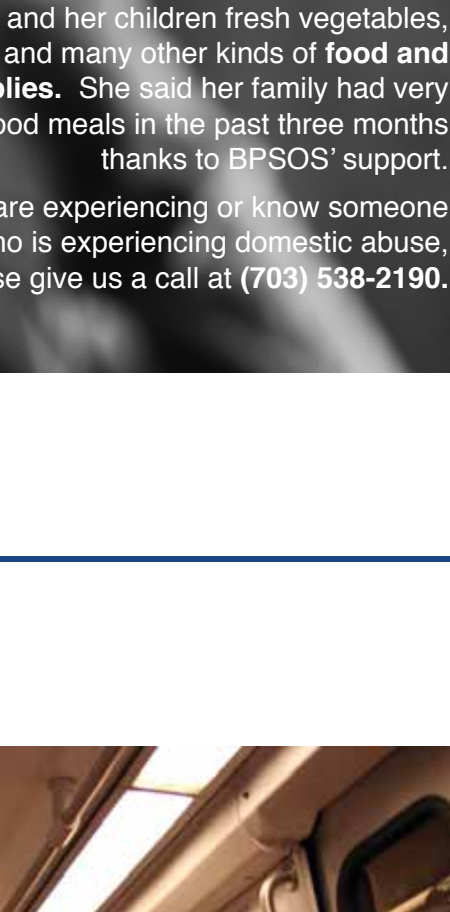
Call us at **(703) 538-2190** to see if you qualify for lower premium and better coverage plan.



COMMUNITY AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In March 2021, BPSOS CADV case managers served **3 new clients to apply for US green cards**. They were also supported to **file divorce agreements** from their spouse. Another client stated with gratitude that BPSOS had given her and her children fresh vegetables, meat, and many other kinds of **food and supplies**. She said her family had very good meals in the past three months thanks to BPSOS' support.

If you are experiencing or know someone who is experiencing domestic abuse, please give us a call at **(703) 538-2190**.



SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

In March 2021, with the rapid distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, our HAPP-CCFC project coordinator collaborated with our partners to **assist 40 seniors with registering online so that they can get access to the vaccine as soon as possible**.

In addition, BPSOS program coordinator also assisted **7 elders for HAPP-TRAN program**. They used our services to go to their doctor appointments, pharmacies and other health-related issues. In addition, we also served **7 people in HAPP-RISE program**, where we helped them apply for taxi voucher, install and instruct them how to use the Uber app. Our seniors' main concern was COVID-19 and hopefully, after the vaccine distribution, more seniors will feel safe going outdoors.

For more information and how to register for vaccination please call **(703) 538-2190**.



CACOS: SAFETY AT WORK

As an effort to improve community health, BPSOS launched the CACOS program last year, where participants were instructed on how to prevent chemical harm in the workplace. Given the great number of Vietnamese nail salon workers who are in contact with harmful chemicals daily, this program has gathered many interests and participants.

On March 3rd, 23rd and 30th, BPSOS conducted CACOS training workshops with a total of **37 participants, all of them were nail salon workers of all ages**. We discussed about preventing chemical harm, correctly using protective equipments and keeping the salon well ventilated.

Throughout March, BPSOS also conducted **10 COVID-19 training workshops**, where participants learned in detail about how the virus infects employees in a workplace setting. In total, there have been **more than 150 participants** and all of them expressed their appreciation.



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