

Shenandoah County Administrator's Weekly Memorandum



Weekly Message to the Members of the Board of Supervisors for July 2, 2021

Office Closure in Observance of the Holiday: The County Government Center will be closed on Monday, 7/5 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Bird Mortality Event: Please see the attached press release from Extension Wildlife Specialist, Dr. Jim Parkhurst, regarding a significant bird mortality situation.

Virginia Department of Health / Valley Health Update: Please see the attached update on COVID-19 and other matters from Dr. Greene with the Lord Fairfax Health District that was provided earlier this week.

Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Assistance Grant: The Shenandoah County IDA held a meeting on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 where it extended the deadline for the 5th round of the Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Assistance Grant program. In total, the IDA has awarded 19 businesses since January 2021 and a total of 114 businesses since the program began last July. A total of \$160,078 in grant funding remains available, which can be used for rent/mortgage assistance and reopening expenses or PPE. In addition to lost revenue, businesses can demonstrate a negative impact as a result of the pandemic through increased costs.

From: Richardson, Teresa <trichard@vt.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 1:13 PM
To: vce-shenco-agmediareleases-g@vt.edu
Subject: PSA

Please find attached a press release from Extension Wildlife Specialist Dr. Jim Parkhurst regarding a significant bird mortality situation.

Robert A. Clark

Dr. Jim Parkhurst
Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(540) 231-9283

Bird Mortality Event

Virginia is one of a growing number of states in the mid-Atlantic and greater Ohio River Valley regions currently experiencing a situation where large numbers of birds have become sick, incapacitated, or died. Although extensive investigation and testing is underway, a causative agent has not yet been identified. Not all bird species appear to be affected; those most affected so far have been Common Grackles, Blue Jays, European Starlings, American Robins, and various finch species. At this time, there does not appear to be any indication of transmission to or impact for humans, but residents are urged to not come into direct contact with nor handle any birds until such time as a causative factor has been determined.

At this time, residents are being asked to immediately do the following:

- Take down all bird feeders, empty and properly dispose of any unused contents, clean and disinfect (with 10% bleach solution) the feeders, and let air dry before putting them into temporary storage. Do not refill or replace feeders until directed that conditions are safe to resume feeding. Although there is no evidence to suggest that hummingbirds currently are being impacted by this

event, it is recommended that all hummingbird feeders also should be a part of this sanitation effort.

- Empty, clean, and disinfect (with 10% bleach solution) any bird baths or other receptacle used to provide birds with water for drinking or bathing; do not refill until directed.
- Keep companion animals away from sick or dead birds.
- Do not touch or handle sick or dead birds unless necessary for safety reasons; where contact is necessary, wear disposable gloves that then can be disposed safely without exposing others to potential hazard.
- If sick and/or dying birds are encountered, please complete and submit a reporting form (<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/bird-mortality-reporting-form/>) to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Because of the volume of birds involved in this event, many of our local wildlife rehabilitators are being overwhelmed with requests to provide care. Before thinking about transporting any birds to a rehabilitator, call ahead and make sure the facility is willing and capable of accepting additional patients and to obtain instructions on how to legally and safely transport an animal in need of care.

Additional information about this mortality event can be obtained at the website of the U.S. National Wildlife Health Center (<https://www.usgs.gov/news/interagency-statement-usgs-and-partners-investigating-dc-area-bird-mortality-event>).

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COVID-19 Update for the Lord Fairfax Community

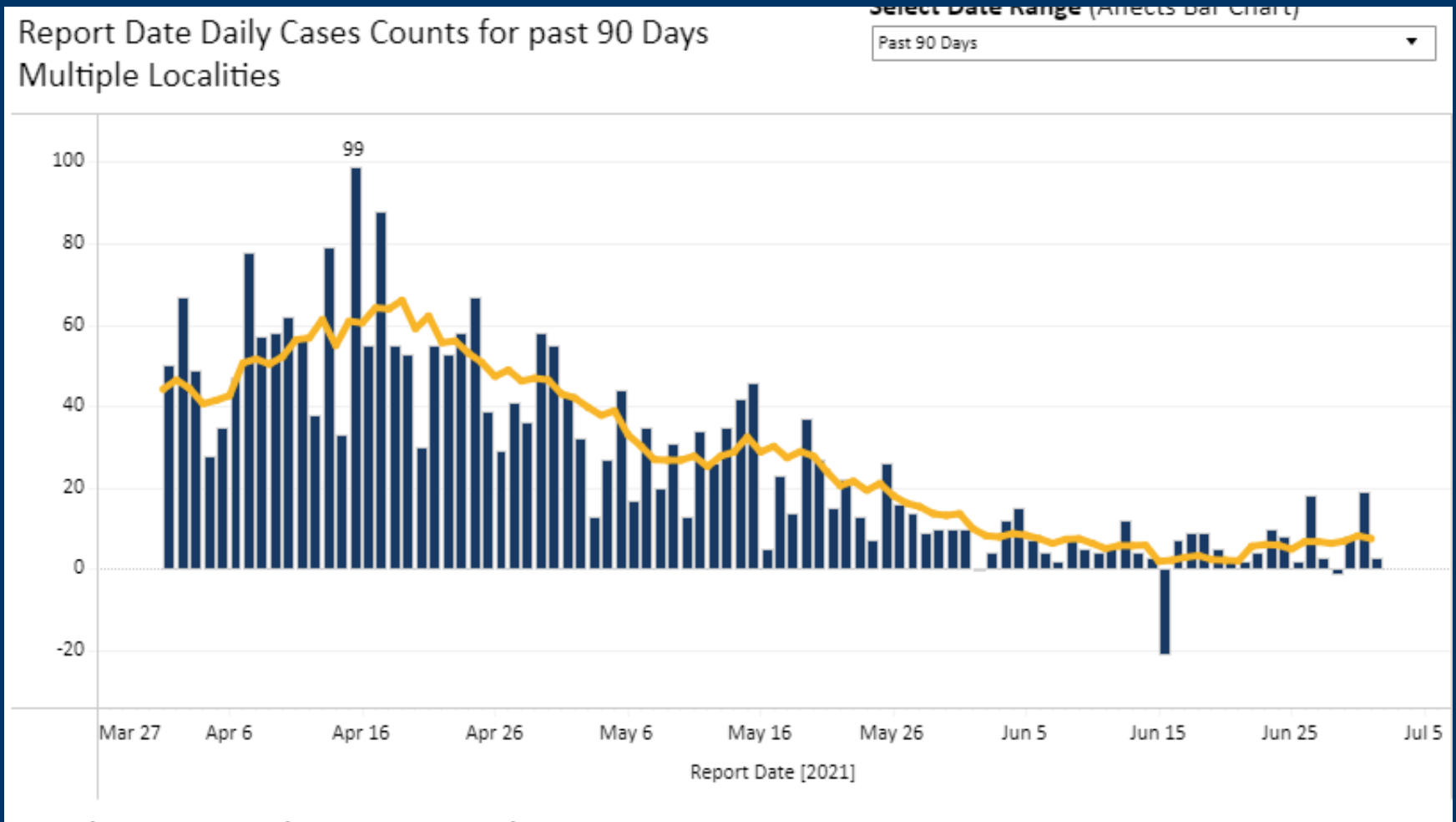
Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH
Health Director, Lord Fairfax Health District
Virginia Department of Health
1 July 2021



Agenda

- State of Emergency Expiration
- Stats/vaccination access
- Delta Variant
- VAERS

Cases by Date of Report, LFHD

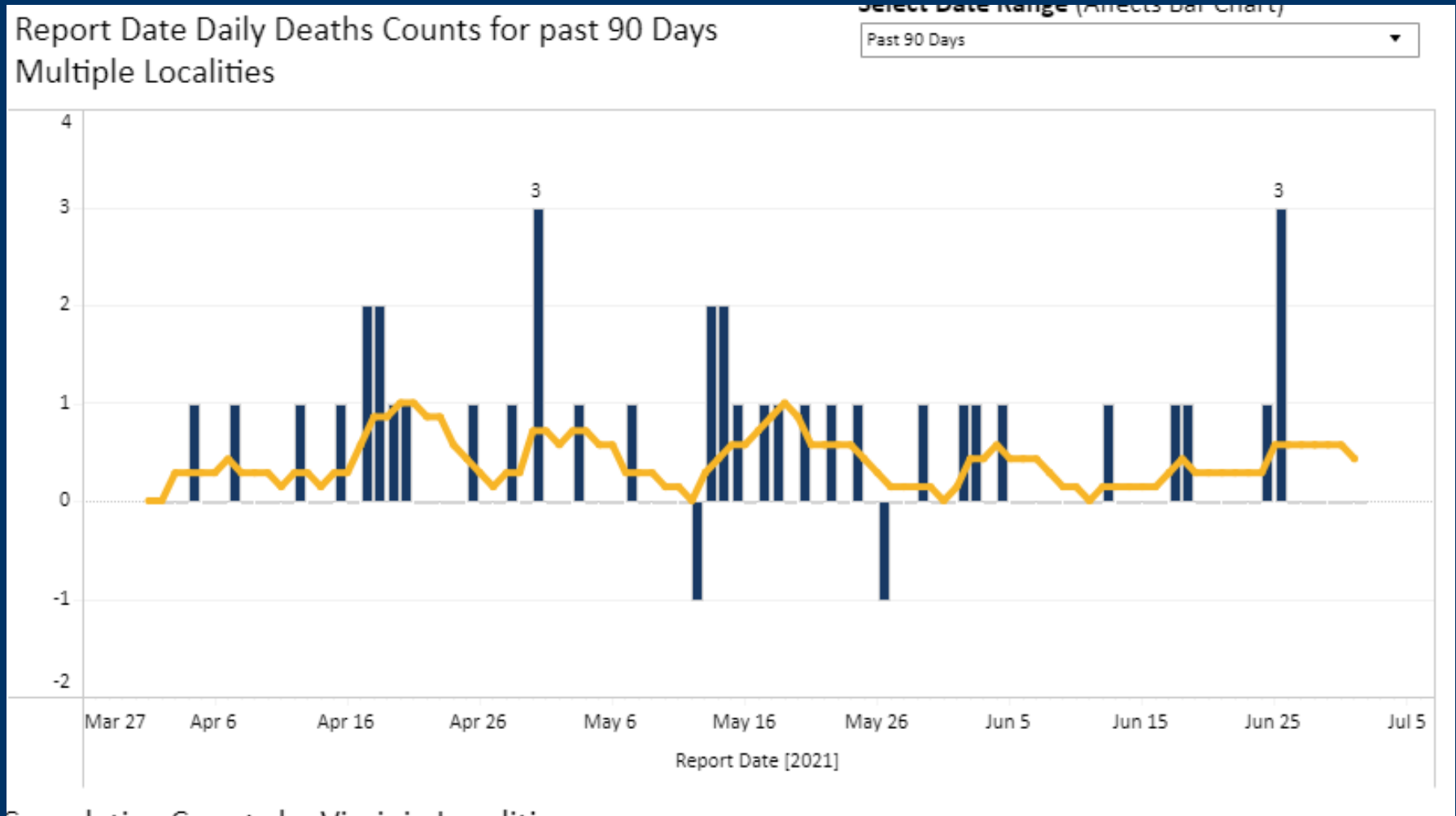


Source:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia-cases/>



Deaths by Date of Report, LFHD



Source:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia-cases/>



Ongoing Vaccination Plan

Mission: to protect as many people against COVID as possible through vaccination

Vision: rate of COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths is zero

Vaccines: LFHD

At least one shot: 111,369 (46%)

Over 18, at least one shot: 56%

Over 65, at least one shot: 79%

Fully vaccinated: 94,494 (39%)

Not counted in these totals:

Shots from VHA, DoD;

About 1 out of 8 other shots statewide

Ongoing Vaccination Plan: Access

- Primary Care Practices (contact your physician)
- Pharmacies (vaccines.gov)
- Apple Blossom Mall (**Wed, Sat 12-7**)
- All 5 Health Dept Clinics: Mondays, 9-11, 1-3, walk-in
 - Will offer COVID shots during other visits
 - Need a special group vaccine clinic? To schedule call 540.771.3712 or contact leea.shirley@vdh.virginia.gov
 - <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/lord-fairfax/covid-19-vaccine-clinics/>
 - Call local HD office

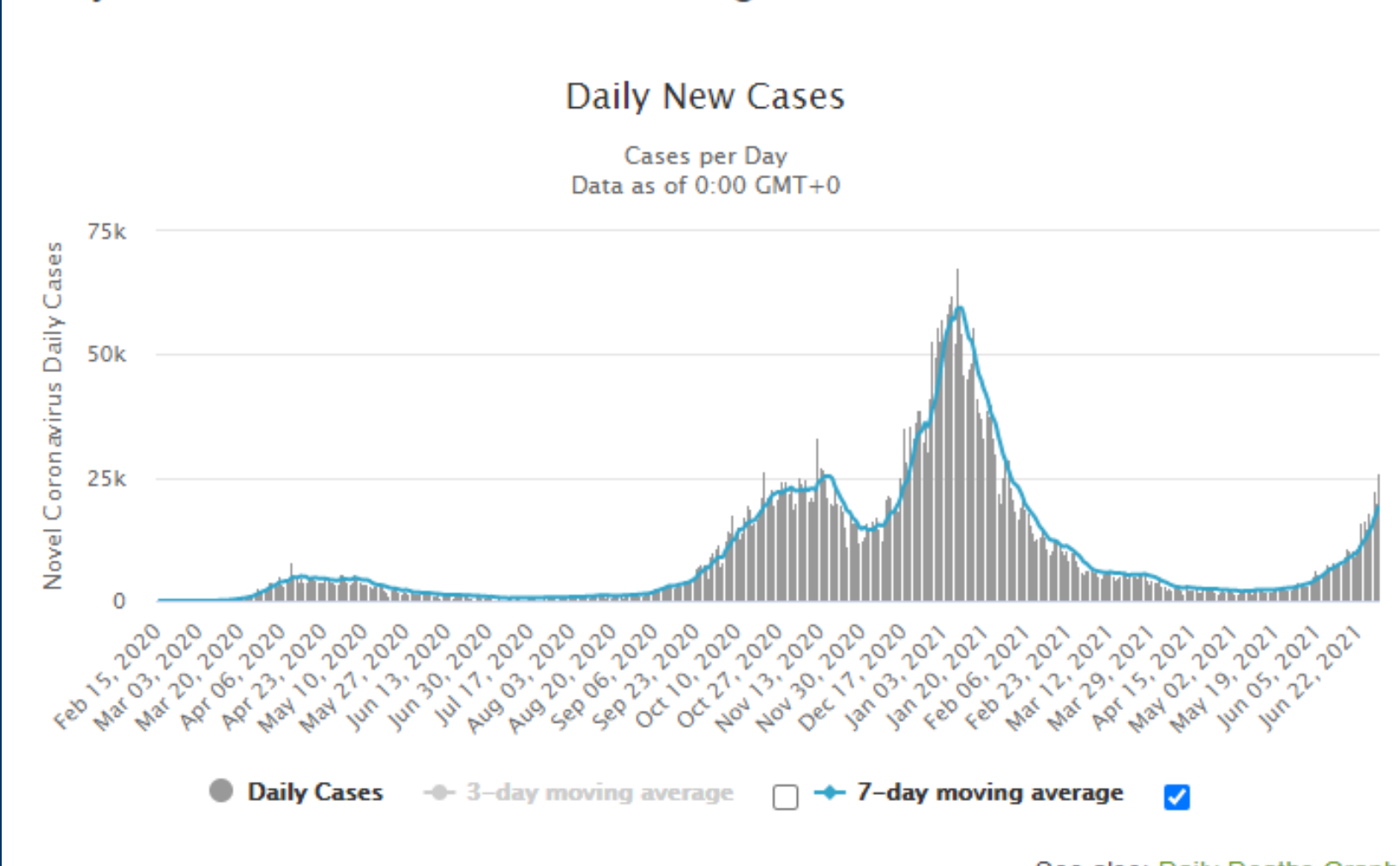
The Delta Variant



- Caused by small changes in viral RNA
- Appears to be more rapidly contagious
 - Rapid rises in cases in India, UK, others
 - About 25% of new cases in US
- Vaccines still appear to be protective
- Could cause a spike in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in the unvaccinated
- These are avoidable, via vaccination

Delta Variant

Daily New Cases in the United Kingdom



The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

- Purpose is to catch bad outcomes associated with vaccines
- Capable of catching very rare events
- Open reporting
- Only shows a time association
- Presence of a bad outcome on VAERS does not mean the vaccine caused it

Happy Independence Day!

*Declare independence from COVID:
get the vaccine!*