

Buford Housing Authority

“The Interview”

February 2021, Newsletter



# “Interview”

A newsletter for the Residents of the  
Buford Housing Authority  
Calendar of Events for February 2021

**LAST DAY TO PAY RENT IS  
MONDAY, February 8, 2021**

**LOBBY CLOSED:** The Buford Housing Authority office is **CLOSED** except for tenants with recertification appointments. When you arrive for your appointment, please knock on the glass entrance doors and someone will open the door for you. Our doors are now automatic, and our staff can open them remotely from their desks. Everyone entering the lobby **MUST** wear a mask and all temperatures will be taken before the appointment begins.

Please be aware our lobby will remain **CLOSED** until further notice for any business other than recertification. Do not come to the office and expect to be admitted into the lobby. It is best to call and speak with BHA staff to resolve any issue.

**The Lobby will remain closed until further notice.** If you need to drop off any documentation including paystubs, tax returns, etc. please place your documents in an envelope with the head of household’s name written on the front. This envelope can then be placed in the drop box. Please check to make sure your envelope has dropped down and cleared the shaft before you leave.

We strongly encourage tenants to utilize the **ONLINE** payment system on the payment portal located on our website ([www.bufordhousing.com](http://www.bufordhousing.com)). The other option for rent payment is US Mail or placing payment in the drop box located in the brick wall to the right of our front door (*see picture below*). These payment options follow the current distancing regulations and reduce risk of exposing tenants and staff to COVID-19.

**Please call the office if you have any questions or if you need any assistance.**





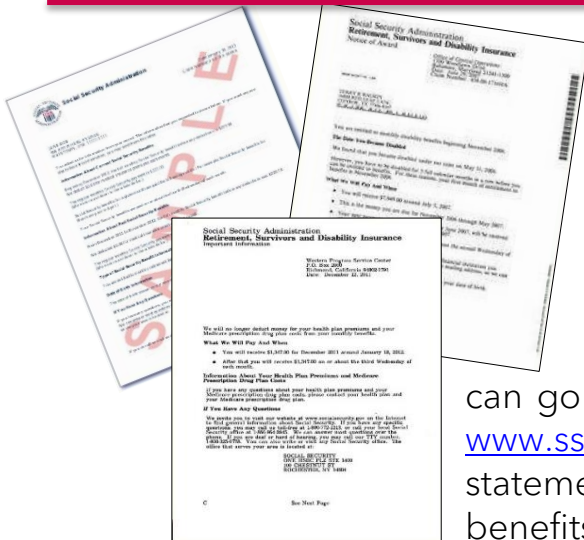
**RECERTIFICATION:** For your recertification again this year, you will sign all paperwork electronically. Only one family will be allowed in the lobby each hour and the area will be sanitized after each recertification. We ask that everyone entering the lobby wear a mask. There will be a plexiglass barrier between you and the BHA staff member conducting your recertification.

It is crucial that you bring in **ALL** required documentation to your scheduled appointment. When you receive your letter in this month, there will be a check list of required items that you must bring to your recertification appointment. **All adult tenants will also be expected to attend this appointment.** If you fail to bring all the required documentation or if all adult family members are not in attendance to sign, you will be turned away and a new appointment will be scheduled.

**LIVE-IN AIDES:** **NEW** All Live-In Aides are required to be recertified. They must bring a photo ID, sign the lease, a background release, and other forms.

**ID AND DOCUMENTATION:** **NEW** We are requiring that you bring Social Security cards, birth certificates, photo ID, and any citizenship documentation (Resident card or Citizenship certificates) for **EVERY HOUSEHOLD MEMBER.**

Recertification is a required part of your lease. **Failure to comply with recertification requirements will result in non-renewal of your lease and your lease will terminate April 1, 2021.** Please call the office if you have questions.



**SOCIAL SECURITY STATEMENTS:** All tenants who receive Social Security and/or SSI will need to bring in their 2021 award letter(s) to their recertification appointment in January. This statement should have been mailed to you by the end of December 2020. If you have not received your statement by the end of the year, you can get one by visiting a local Social Security office or you can go online and print one off yourself. The website is [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). On this website you can check your statement(s), change your address, and manage your benefits all online.

**MEDICAL DEDUCTIONS:** Recertification will begin in January. Those tenants who have medical deductions need to contact their physicians, pharmacies, health care providers etc. and get **PRINTOUTS** of their 2020 out-of-pocket amounts paid. **Please DO NOT BRING IN STACKS OF RECEIPTS** or copies of checks written to physician groups as proof of medical expenses. Your medical providers can easily produce a printout of your 2020 history which is easier to decipher and is often more complete and accurate than a stack of receipts. Please call the office if you have questions.



# When Can I Get Vaccinated?

## GEORGIA INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION STRATEGY

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends phases, or priority levels, for vaccination. These recommendations are used by the state to formulate its plan for vaccination.

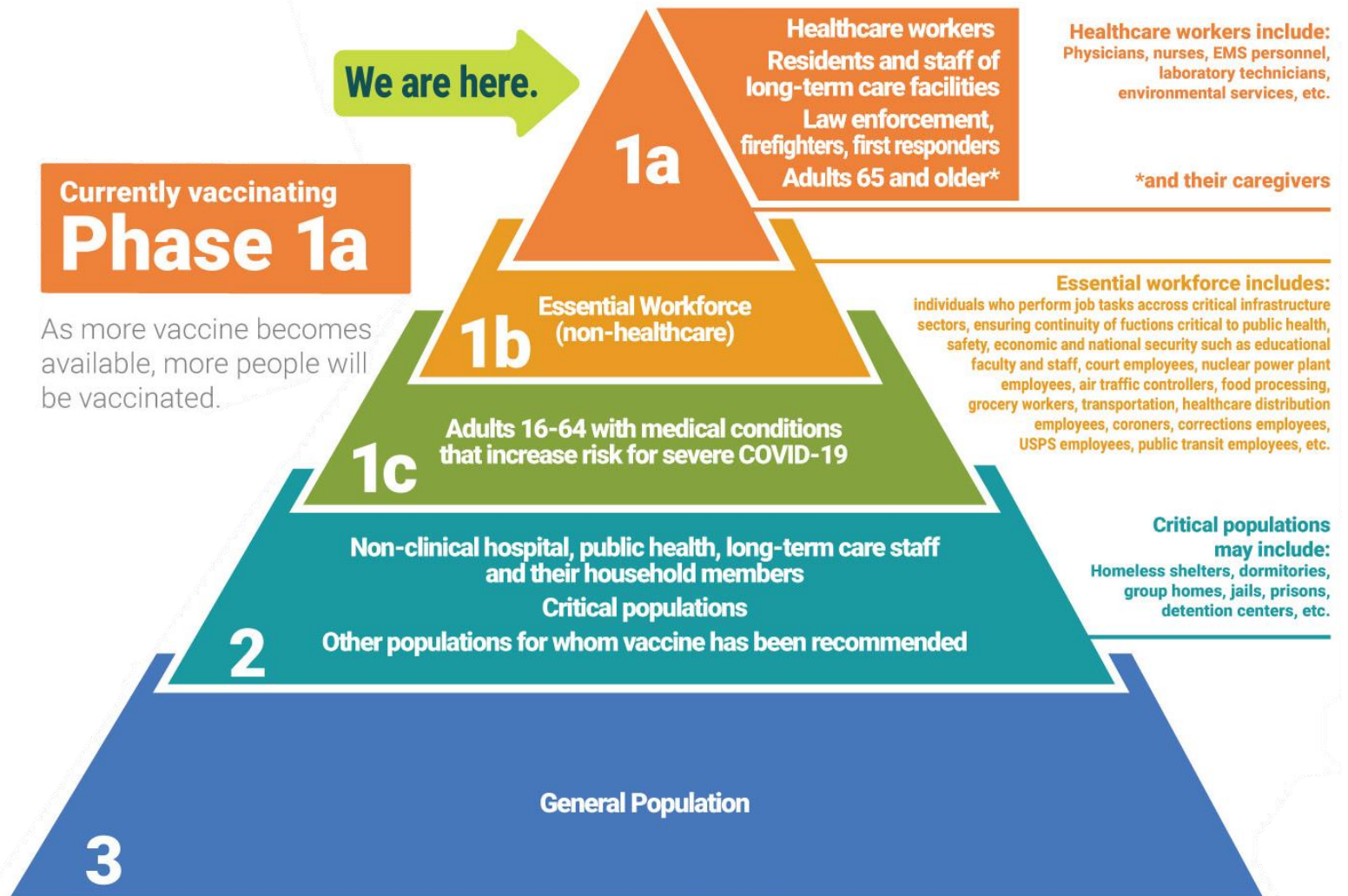


COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

We are here.

Currently vaccinating  
**Phase 1a**

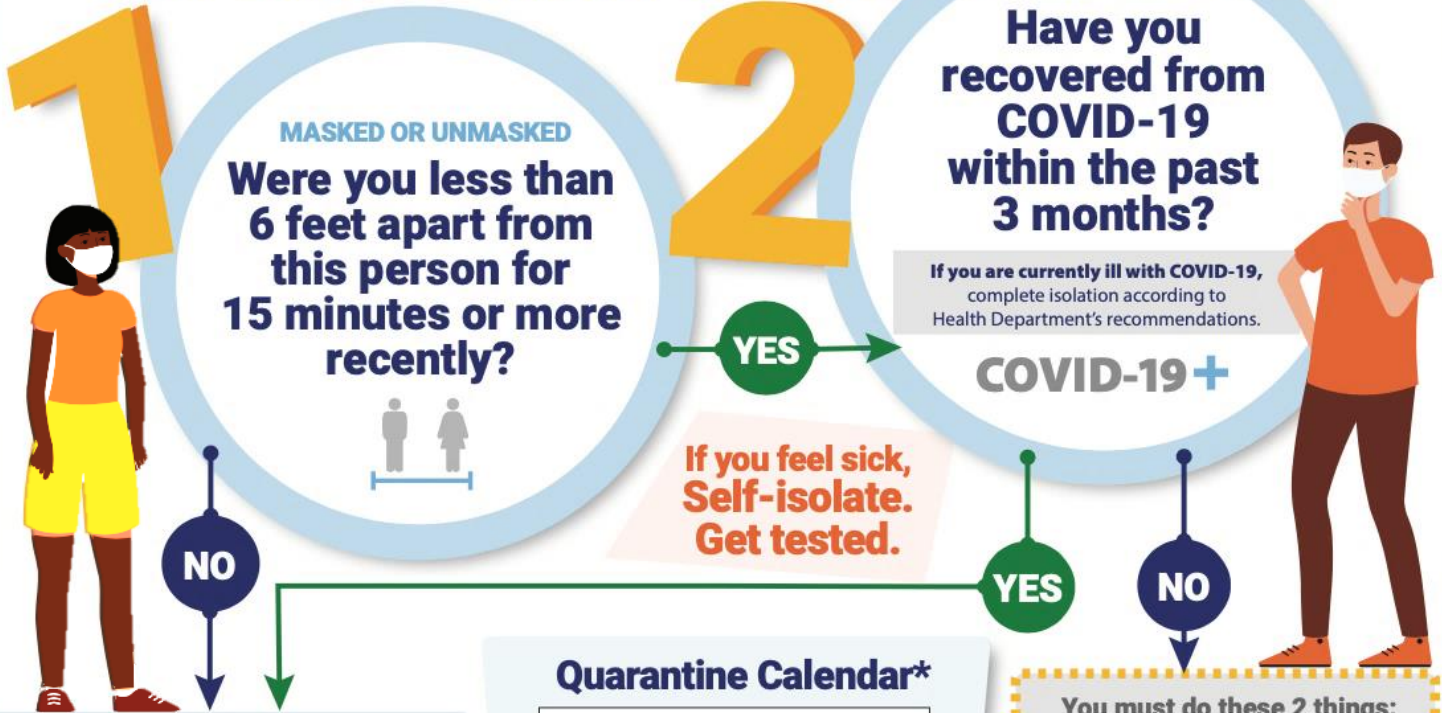
As more vaccine becomes available, more people will be vaccinated.



# GEORGIA DRAFT VACCINATION PHASES

Phase information is based on GEORGIA Interim COVID-19 Vaccination Plan | Georgia Department of Public Health | 1 JANUARY 2021 | 4

# Exposed to COVID-19? Ask 2 Questions to know what to do.



**MASKED OR UNMASKED**  
Were you less than 6 feet apart from this person for 15 minutes or more recently?

Have you recovered from COVID-19 within the past 3 months?

If you are currently ill with COVID-19, complete isolation according to Health Department's recommendations.

**COVID-19+**

If you feel sick, Self-isolate. Get tested.

## Business as usual!

Continue to practice illness prevention:

- Wear a mask in public
- Stay 6 feet from others
- Wash your hands frequently
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Stay home when sick



## Quarantine Calendar\*

LAST SAW COVID-19+ PERSON	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
START	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31

Mark the day you were last in contact with the COVID-19 positive person.

Starting with the following day, count forward 14 days. These are the dates of CDC recommended 14 day quarantine.

Mark day 5 of your quarantine. This is the earliest day you can get tested for COVID-19.

Mark day 7 of your quarantine. If you test negative for COVID-19 and have not experienced symptoms, this is the last day of shortened quarantine.

Mark day 10 of your quarantine. If you do not get tested for COVID-19 and have not experienced symptoms, this is the last day of shortened quarantine.

Mark day 14 of your quarantine. If you did not experience symptoms, this is the last day of CDC recommended quarantine.

You must do these 2 things:

**Quarantine**  
minimum 7 days with negative test and no symptoms.\*

**Get Tested**  
at the correct time!

Are you **FEELING ILL?**



**GET TESTED ON OR AFTER DAY 5 OF QUARANTINE.**



**NOTICE:** This will inform you that Maintenance personnel will be going door to door during the month of **April on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup>** to replace furnace filters. Maintenance will be going into each room to check every vent. This is your NOTICE that Maintenance personnel will be coming into your apartment. **Please make sure your maintenance closet is not blocked with furniture or other personal belongings.**

# LEASE CHANGES



**OPEN FLAME DEVICES:** Because open flame devices constitute a significant risk to the health and safety not only to your household but also to other resident in the building, there is a new resolution and change to the lease banning such items.

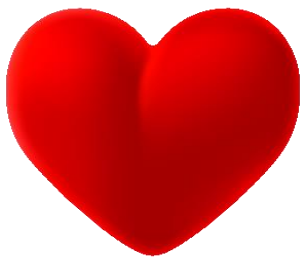
The new addition to the lease states:

**MM.** “I understand that if any candles or other open flame devices (i.e. incense sticks or incense burners) are found in my apartment it will be immediately confiscated and a single warning will be issued. If a second violation occurs, I will be given 30 days to vacate my apartment. If a candle or open flame device(s) (i.e. incense sticks, incense burner or gas stove lite) is discovered burning and no one is found to be home at the time it is discovered, no warning will be given and I understand that I will be given a 30-day notice to vacate my apartment due to endangering the property and health and safety of other residence.”

Tenants have until February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to comply with this lease change. To make it clear, **any open flame device found in your apartment will be removed by BHA staff.** **And if an open flame device is found burning in your apartment while you are not at home, you will receive a 30-day lease termination notice to vacate your unit.**

**EAST PARK and FOREST STREET DUMPSTERS:** BHA has been informed by the City of Buford, that tenants are not permitted to place large bulky items such as furniture, tires, carpets, mattresses, or appliances in the dumpsters. Additional items that are prohibited are hazardous chemicals, oil, flammable materials, or paint cans. If you have any of these things you wish to throw away, please call the office and we will direct you to a proper disposal location. **Tenants are also asked to break down any boxes so that they are flat and will fit in the dumpster in a compact manner.**





# BUFORD-SUGAR HILL BRANCH February Virtual Programs

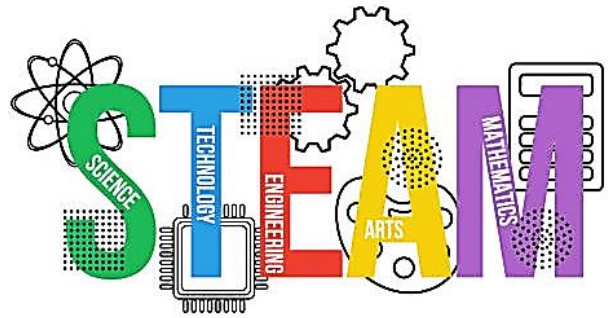
## STEAM Squad

Monday - February 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm

Join us in a Google Hangout as we delve into some STEAM at home activities and explore different fields of science. For Grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>.

February 8<sup>th</sup> Topic - Robotics

February 22<sup>nd</sup> Topic - Engineering



## Arduino 101

Wednesday - February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

Join us in a Google Hangout and learn to code and build fun circuits with Arduino online. For Teens and Adults.

## Bilingual Book Club

Tuesday - February 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am

Read the book of the month and come discuss it with us on Google Hangout / Lea el libro del mes en inglés o español y venga a discutirlo con nosotros en inglés o español. For Teens and Adults.

February's Book: The stranger in the House/ Un Extranño en Casa by Shari Lapena



## Free Meal Distribution

Free drive through meal distribution provided by Lettun Eat!



Buford - Sugar Hill Branch

**Wednesdays from 11 AM - 1 PM**



## Book Concierge

Looking for something new to read but not sure where to start? Let our knowledgeable staff help you with your next great read. Scan the code or see our staff for more details.



GWINNETT COUNTY  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

BUFORD-SUGAR HILL BRANCH  
2100 Buford Highway. Buford, GA 30518

Find links to these events at: <https://gwinnettpl.libnet.info/events>



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## Afternoon Storytime LIVE!

Wednesdays at 1PM

Join us for a new Storytime experience every Wednesday! These events have a limit of 15 kids and their caregivers, **\*register** as soon as possible on our website. For Kids of All Ages.



## NEW STAFF MEMBER



NEW MAINTENANCE STAFF: We are very excited to introduce our new maintenance staff member, Elio Rivera.

Mr. Rivera has worked for some large companies as a Maintenance Mechanic including Invitation Homes and Wesley Apartment homes. Mr. Rivera has over 15 years of residential HVAC experience and is EPA Certified. In addition to his HVAC skill sets, Mr. Rivera also has solid plumbing and electrical background and is experienced in responding to work orders as well as turning over units from one tenant to another. Mr. Rivera is married and lives here in Buford with his wife and two children. He is also

bi-lingual and able to speak English and Spanish fluently which will be a great asset to the BHA team as well as our Spanish speaking tenants.

We are very fortunate to have this outstanding addition to our team and the skills he brings to the maintenance department!