



Bulletin: Updates on Maryland's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan: Phase 1B on Monday, January 18; Phase 1C on Monday, January 25 (Week 6).

To: All COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Registered in ImmuNet (Including But Not Limited To Hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Local Health Departments)

From: Bryan Mroz, Assistant Secretary (Act.), Maryland Department of Health

Date: January 14, 2021

Please review the latest Vaccination Matters Order (01/14/2021), which permits out-of-state health care providers to assist in Maryland's vaccination efforts. We encourage every provider to make use of every resource to ensure a successful vaccination campaign. All COVID-19 vaccine providers are required to administer COVID-19 vaccine according to the following updated guidance.

- Effective Monday, January 18, Maryland will move to Phase 1B and all priority groups identified below. All individuals in Phase 1A remain eligible for COVID-19 vaccine.
- Effective Monday, January 25, Maryland will move to Phase 1C and all priority groups identified below. All individuals in Phases 1A and 1B remain eligible for COVID-19 vaccine.

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has created a public web page for vaccination site listings at CovidVAX.Maryland.gov.

- All registered COVID-19 providers in ImmuNet that are offering vaccination clinics will be listed on this page.
- All COVID-19 vaccinations are by appointment only.
- We encourage providers to list their vaccine appointment registration web pages and a phone line that directs callers to staff accepting appointment registrations.
- Please submit your vaccination site's details to MDH at john.watson@maryland.gov using the attached form.

Phase 1B Requirements:

- Due to the limited supply of doses available, Marylanders ages 75 and over must be given priority for COVID-19 vaccine over all other groups in Phase 1B (below).
 - **Note:** These requirements do not apply to CVS/Walgreens, administrators of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program.
 - **Note:** CVS/Walgreens should begin scheduling facilities identified in Part B of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program as soon as possible.
- Local health departments, federally qualified health centers, and hospitals are directed to schedule vaccination clinics using their available vaccine supply for Marylanders age 75 and over. The clinics should begin no later than Wednesday, January 20, 2021.
 - **Note:** All hospitals and local health departments shall utilize their remaining doses through these clinics, at assisted living facilities, or to vaccinate Phase 1A populations.
- Allocation numbers will be communicated to each provider separately from this bulletin on Friday, January 15, 2021.
 - **Note for local health departments:** The state will work with the federal government to seek reimbursement for vaccine administration costs incurred by local jurisdictions.
- Local jurisdictions have the flexibility to move to subsequent priority groups; however, elderly and most vulnerable must be prioritized.
- **Phase 1B includes:**
 - **All Marylanders age 75 and over.**
 - All Marylanders of any age in assisted living, independent living, behavioral health and developmentally disabled group homes, and other congregate facilities through Part B of the Federal Long-Term Care Pharmacy Partnership Program.
 - **Note:** Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can begin receiving vaccines as part of Phase 1B. Those who reside in congregate-living facilities will be prioritized. Direct support professionals will be able to receive vaccines in Phase 1C.
 - **Note:** Local jurisdictions that do not wish to utilize this federal program must notify MDH of their intent by Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

- **Education** (K-12 teachers and support staff, childcare providers)
 - K-12 includes public school systems and nonpublic schools. Additional information to follow in the coming weeks as more doses become available.
 - We are working with higher education institutions to implement a tiered priority system for their populations in the coming weeks.
- **Continuity of Government**
 - Elected officials should be prioritized as extra doses become available by the relevant local health departments.
 - We will work in the coming weeks with federal, state, and local agencies to determine continuity of government operations plans and will release additional guidance.
- We emphasize that requests from providers who have not administered at least 75 percent of all of their total dose allocation received to date will not be prioritized in the subsequent week's allocation.
- All allocation requests are due to MDH by 2pm on Tuesday each week.

Phase 1C Requirements

- Due to the limited doses available, Marylanders age 65 and over must be given priority for COVID-19 vaccine over all other groups in Phase 1C (below).
 - **Note:** These requirements do not apply to CVS/Walgreens, administrators of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program.
- Additional guidance will be released in the coming weeks for these groups in 1C:
 - All other public safety (not in Phase 1A)
 - All other healthcare (not in Phase 1A), including, but not limited to Lab Services, Public Health, Vaccine Manufacturing, other healthcare professions).
 - Food/Agriculture Production
 - Manufacturing
 - U.S. Postal Service
 - Public Transit
 - Grocery Stores
 - Veterinarians and Support Staff

- All COVID-19 vaccine providers shall take reasonable steps to determine if an individual qualifies for the above groups. A COVID-19 vaccine provider may require additional documentation, employee identification, or that organizations submit institutional plans with identified individuals.

Note: As a matter of clarification, all individuals identified in the attached Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission notice are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine.

Further information will be provided as it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Owen, MDH Public Information Officer, at andy.owen@maryland.gov.



January 11, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination Matters

Notice

On January 1, 2021, the Maryland Department of Health issued *Amended Directive and Order Regarding Vaccination Matters* ([MDH 2021-01-01-01](#)). This amended directive clarifies that the “COVID-19 vaccine shall be administered to individuals according to the State’s prioritization requirements, as laid out and updated in its vaccine prioritization guidance or bulletins.”

Maryland will distribute the vaccines to five different priority groups based on relative risk of exposure or developing serious illness. The State is currently in Phase 1A, which includes the following priority groups:

- Front line hospital staff and healthcare workers
- Nursing home residents and staff
- Law enforcement and firefighters, EMS
- **All licensed, registered and certified health care providers**
- Correctional health care staff and officers
- Front line judiciary staff

Medical cannabis agents who hold active registrations with the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission pursuant to Health-General Article §13-3306 (grower), 13-3308 (dispensary), 13-3310 (processor) or 13-3311 (independent testing laboratory) constitute registered health care providers in the State of Maryland and are included in Phase 1A.

The administration of the COVID-19 vaccine is subject to (1) the supply of the vaccine and (2) any additional appointment requirements or other restrictions established by a COVID-19 vaccine administration site. For more information please visit the Maryland Department of Health COVID-19 vaccine website [here](#).