

Maura J. Rossman, M.D., Health Officer

December 21, 2020

Dear Howard County Healthcare Provider:

This letter is to confirm that we received your interest and information regarding vaccination of you and your staff during Phase 1a of COVID-19 vaccine administration in Howard County.

Currently two vaccines have received Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA, both require 2 doses with intervals of 3 weeks and 4 weeks respectively:

- Pfizer Vaccine (age 16 years and older)
- Moderna Vaccine (age 18 years and older)

Information about these vaccines can be found at: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

Vaccine remains in very short supply. Currently in Phase 1a in Maryland, hospital workers are being vaccinated. Over the next few weeks nursing home and assisted living staff/residents will begin vaccination. When vaccine becomes more available, Local Health Departments will receive shipments to vaccinate First Responders and nonhospital based health care workers who provide direct in-person patient care.

We do not know when we will receive vaccine, but we are prepared when that time comes. You will be alerted via email when you and your staff can register for vaccination. Registration at these clinics will be required and will occur via PrepMod, (<https://www.marylandvax.org/>). Please be on the look out for an email from Howard County Health Department as registration for these clinics will be time limited.

We anticipate the initial supply of vaccine will be insufficient to vaccinate all who expressed interested. Therefore, with guidance from MDH and HC Board of Health, HCHD will develop a strategy to tier HCW's so that vaccine is offered in a rational and progressive approach. In time and with patience, everyone will be vaccinated.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met this weekend to recommend allocation of initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine during Phase 1b and 1c. These groups include persons over 75 years of age, essential workers and persons with chronic health conditions. Maryland will decide how to align with the ACIP recommendations over the next few weeks. Once vaccine is widely available (Phase 2), Marylanders will be able to receive vaccinations through their health care provider or at a pharmacy. Providers who want to receive vaccine directly to immunize patients must register with ImmuNet, (www.mdimmunet.org).

Plans and recommendations change based upon new research and information. Updated vaccine information will be posted at: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health/MM-Alerts-and-Recalls/COVID-19-Vaccine>

Thank you and best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday week.



Maura J. Rossman, M.D.
Health Officer