



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND CORONAVIRUS JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 29, 2022

ALLEGANY NOW AT HIGH COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL Maryland to begin offering new COVID vaccine Novavax next week for ages 18+

CUMBERLAND, MD – New COVID cases are again on the rise in Allegany County. The county is now one of only three Maryland jurisdictions (including Kent and Wicomico Counties in the eastern part of the state) classified by the CDC as having a high COVID-19 community level. The majority of the state is currently in the medium classification for COVID community level, with just five counties still considered low.

CDC recommendations for areas like Allegany County where COVID-19 community levels are high are as follows:

- Wear a mask indoors in public
- Remain up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Take additional precautions if you are at high risk for severe illness
- If you are feeling ill, stay home and away from others except to seek medical care

Health officials stress that vaccinations are still the best defense against severe illness from COVID-19, and on Friday the Maryland Department of Health announced that the newest COVID vaccine on the market – Novavax – will be available to those 18 or older beginning next week. The vaccine is a two-dose series, with the second dose given three weeks after the first. Currently, Novavax is only recommended as a primary vaccination series for individuals who have not had a COVID-19 vaccine. At this time, it has not been recommended as a booster for those who have been vaccinated with Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson.

Unlike other COVID vaccines on the market currently, Novavax is a protein-based vaccine. Protein-based vaccines have been used for decades to combat diseases including hepatitis B and influenza. In a 30,000-participant clinical trial, the two-dose Novavax vaccine was 90% effective at preventing illness from COVID-19.

“We welcome yet another vaccine for Maryland adults to protect themselves against severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19,” said MDH Secretary Dennis R. Schrader.

The Allegany County Health Department continues to offer COVID-19 vaccinations on Wednesdays on the first floor of its offices at 12501 Willowbrook Road, Cumberland. Vaccinations for ages 12 and older are available from 9 a.m. to noon. Vaccinations for children ages 5 to 11 are offered from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Parents of children under five should contact their child’s pediatric office to schedule a COVID vaccination.

Free drive-thru testing continues at the Allegany County Fairgrounds, 11400 Moss Avenue, Cumberland on Mondays from 2 to 7 p.m. and on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pre-registration is preferred for both testing and vaccinations. Information and registration links for health department COVID testing and vaccination clinics can be found at health.maryland.gov/allegany. Testing, vaccinations, and treatment for COVID-19 are also widely available through primary care providers, pharmacies, and other healthcare facilities. More information on additional COVID resources can be found at covidlink.maryland.gov.

ALLEGANY COUNTY COVID-19 DATA AS OF JULY 28:

- CDC COVID-19 Community Level: High
- Percent of Allegany County Population Fully Vaccinated (*based on CDC data*): 56.3%
- New COVID Cases This Week: 230 (cumulative total 18,586)
- Additional Deaths This Week: 0 (cumulative total 368)
- Cases Per 100,000 People: 46.66 (Maryland: 27.13)
- Positivity Rate: 17.33% (Maryland: 10.52%)

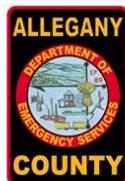
NEXT UPDATE: Friday, August 5, 2022

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Media Contacts:



Brenda K. Caldwell
Public Information Officer
Allegany County Health Department
(301) 759-5239
brenda.caldwell@maryland.gov



Mark Karalewitz
Public Information Officer
Allegany County Department of Emergency Services
(240) 609-6506
mkaralewitz@alleganygov.org