



Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary

January 8, 2021



Deputy Secretary's Agenda



- Opening Remarks
- Deputy Secretary Update
- COVID-19 Regional Update

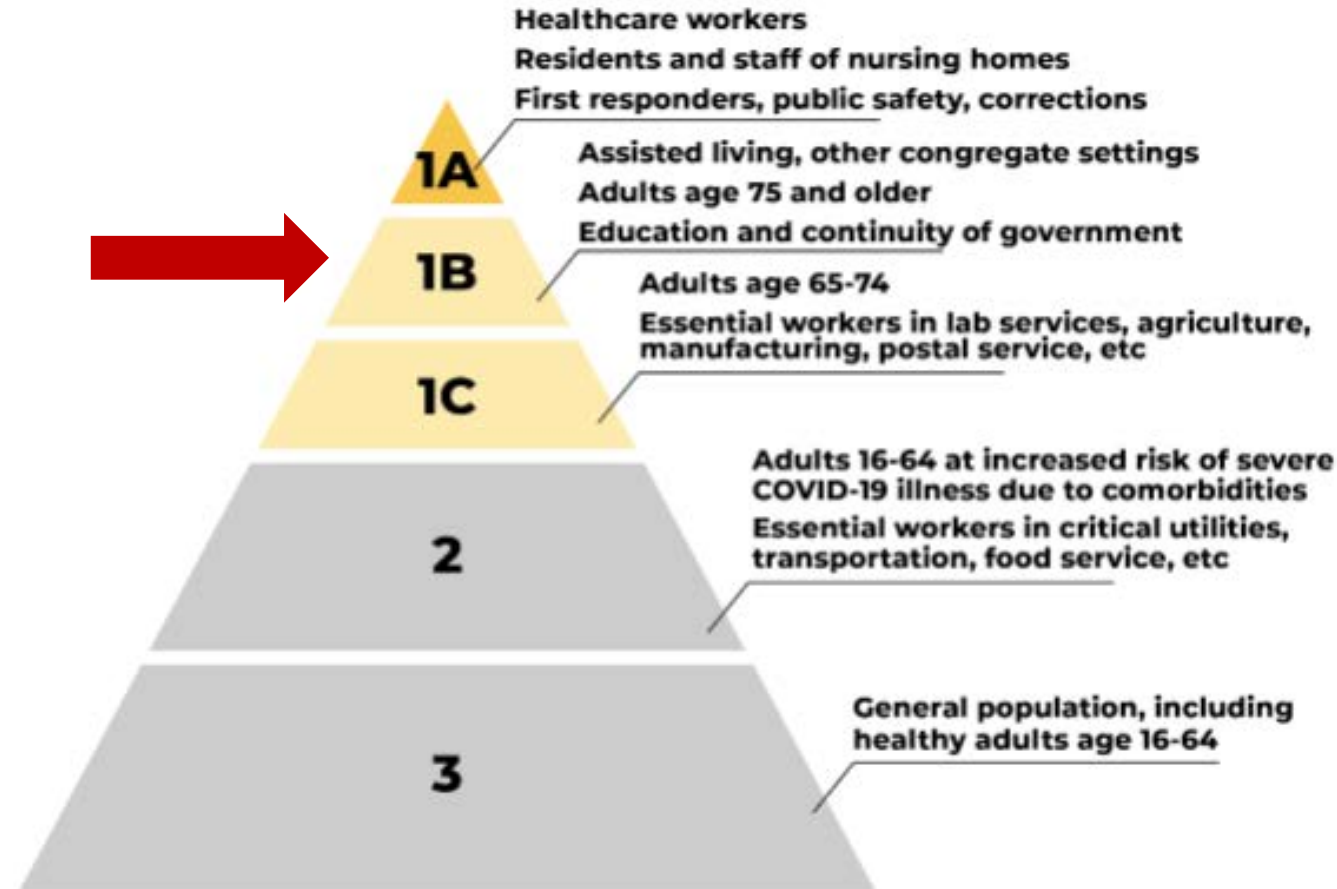
Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

- The DDA's highest priority is the health, safety, and wellbeing of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, staff, and providers
- The DDA is committed to transparency with all of our stakeholders to ensure we are all working with the same information to support our shared missions
- Thank you for your continued support in joining me during these webcast so that we can stay in-touch and be able to provide you with the most current information

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

- During Tuesday's Governor Larry Hogan press conference, he announced Statewide Actions to accelerate COVID-19 Vaccination in Maryland. He mentioned that to date, the State has successfully allocated and deployed 270,150 doses of COVID-19 vaccines—representing 98.7% of all the doses that the federal government has allocated to the State of Maryland
- Governor Hogan announced a series of initial steps to help providers accelerate the rate of vaccinations as safely and quickly as possible

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks



Vaccine prioritization subject to change. Current as of January 5, 2021.

Based in part on the recommendations of the federal government's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the State is updating and expanding priority populations for vaccinations

<https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/vaccine/>

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

Maryland COVID-19 vaccine priority groups

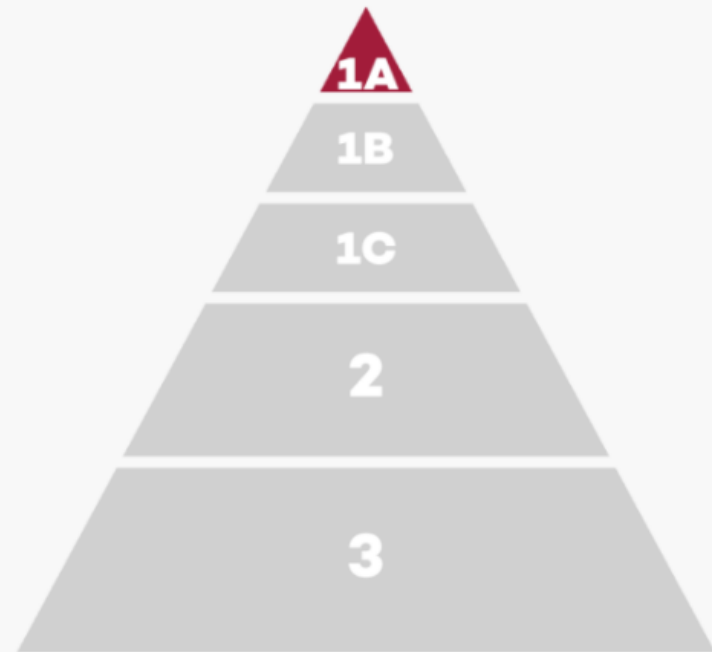
Maryland will distribute the vaccines to five different priority groups based on relative risk of exposure or developing serious illness.

WE ARE IN PHASE 1A:

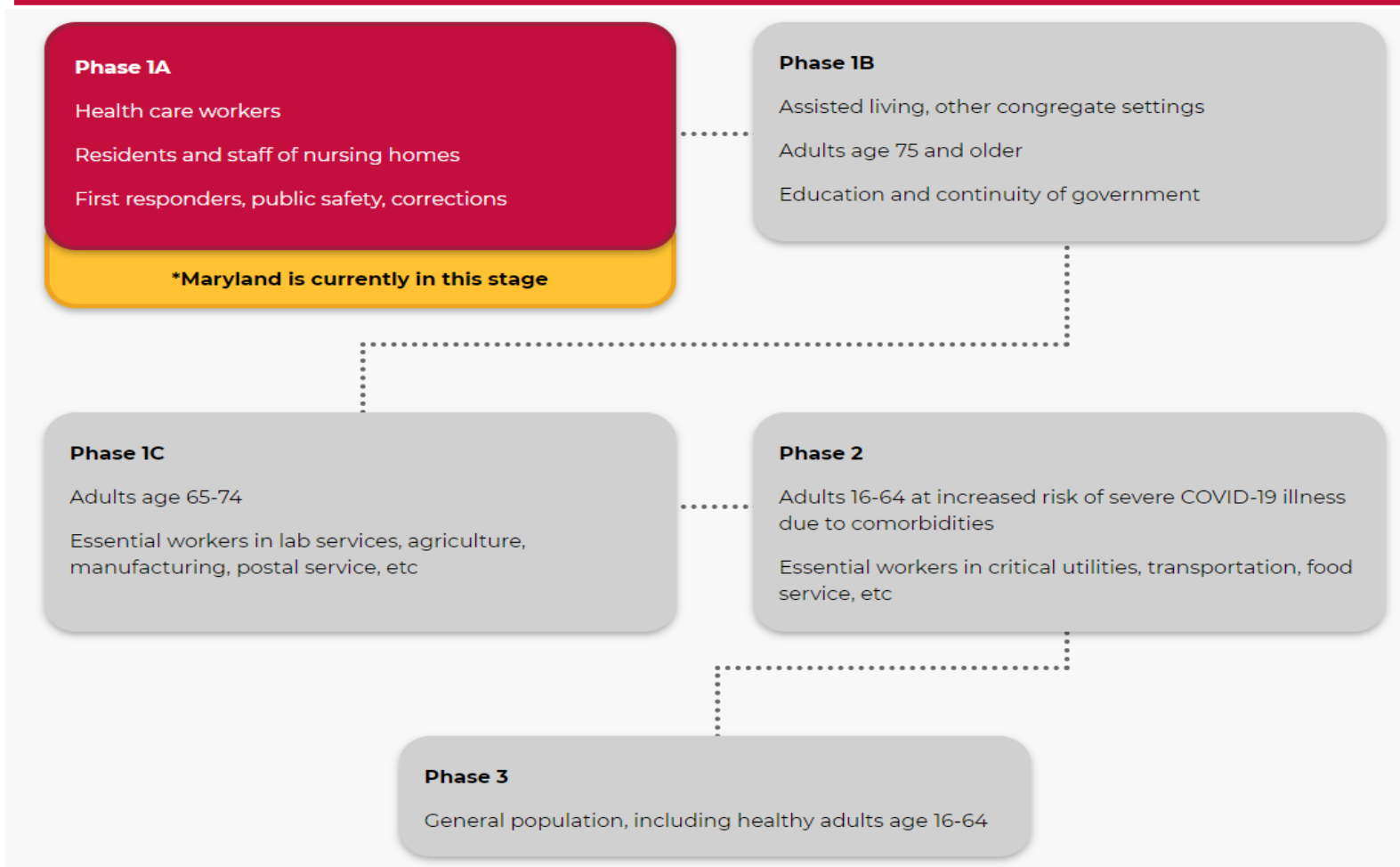
- Front line hospital staff and healthcare workers
- Nursing home residents and staff
- Law enforcement and firefighters, EMS
- **All** licensed, registered and certified health care providers
- Correctional health care staff and officers
- Front line judiciary staff

TIMELINE: ONGOING

TOTAL: 500,000+




Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks



Vaccine prioritization may be subject to change. The state has adopted a rolling vaccine allocation model, meaning it may not wait for every member of a particular group to get vaccinated before moving ahead; individuals will still have the opportunity to be vaccinated in subsequent phases

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
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COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs




WHAT IS COVID-19?
COVID-19 is also known as Coronavirus. It is a virus that spreads quickly. People around the world are sick from this disease.

WHAT IS A VACCINE?
A vaccine is medicine that usually comes in a shot. A vaccine protects you from getting sick. Scientists worked hard to create a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. Many companies created different vaccines that will protect us from the virus. Most vaccines require 2 shots. You get the second shot 3 to 4 weeks after the first one. It is important to take both shots for the vaccine to work. **The vaccine is free.**

WHO CAN GET THE VACCINE IN MARYLAND NOW?
It takes time to make enough vaccine for everybody. Governor Larry Hogan worked with the Maryland Department of Health to create a plan for vaccine distribution. Health care workers, first responders, and long-term care facility residents and workers will receive the COVID-19 vaccine first.

Those at highest risk for getting COVID-19 will get the vaccine in the first phase of Maryland's vaccine distribution plan. Many people are advocating to include people with developmental disabilities and direct support professionals in Phase 1.

Learn more about the plan here:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/10/20/governor-hogan-announces-marylands-covid-19-vaccination-plan/>

WHY SHOULD I GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?  The vaccine is important to help stop the spread of COVID-19.	 It is a safe way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.	AFTER I GET THE VACCINE WILL I STILL HAVE TO WEAR A MASK?  YES! You will still need to wear a mask and social distance. The vaccine takes time to protect you, and it will take time for most people to get the vaccine.
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This project was supported, in part by grant number CFDA 95.630, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

[Plain Language COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

https://www.md-council.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Maryland-COVID-19-Vaccine-FAQs_FINAL.pdf

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

[Governor's Order Requiring Reporting of COVID-19 Vaccine Administration - January 5, 2021](#)

- Vaccination providers shall report to MDH within 24 hours
- Providers may be disciplined, or they may be suspended or terminated from the COVID-19 vaccine plan

[MDH Order – Amended Directive and Order Regarding Vaccination Matters – January 1, 2021](#)

- Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines
 - Personnel Who May Administer Vaccines
 - Personnel Who May Prepare Vaccines for Administration
 - Vaccine Allocation Priority
 - Penalties

Deputy Secretary's Update

Amendment #3 Update

- Responses to CMS initial questions were sent to CMS on December 22nd
- On January 6th, CMS responded instructing the State to incorporate answers into the waiver portal and advised that virtual supports were still under review
- DDA will work with Medicaid for updates in the waiver portal
- DDA will share information and guidance on amendments implementation and timelines

Deputy Secretary's Update

Appendix K

- On December 22, 2020, Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) issued updates for Appendix K terminations dates along with other information related to unwinding emergency authorities
- For Appendix K, states may request the end date up to six months after the expiration of the Public Health Emergency (PHE)

Reference: CMS Letter “[Planning for the Resumption of Normal State Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\), and Basic Health Program \(BHP\) Operations Upon Conclusion of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)”

Deputy Secretary's Update

Appendix K

- DDA is working with Medicaid to revise the DDA Appendix K to extend the termination date to six months following the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- This extension is in recognition of the uncertainties associated with the period of time in which the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency will be in effect

Deputy Secretary's Update

Appendix K

- On January 7, 2021, CMS approved DDA's request to:
 - Provide up to 60 days total for Community Living - Group Home services retainer payments
 - Remove "consecutive billing" language associated with retainer payments
- Meaningful Day services remain at up to 30 retainer days
- Personal Support services remain at up to 120 retainer hours
- Next steps:
 - Update Appendix K Memos and Guidance
 - Update Retainer Days - PCIS2 Error Updates Guidance

Deputy Secretary's Update

- Governor Hogan announced on December 17th that he was accelerating the July 2021 provider rate increase to January 1, 2021
- PCIS2
 - DDA is working on updating the rates in the system to include the 4% provider rate increase
 - Adjustments will be made to Cost Detail Sheet and to the invoices
- LTSS – Rates were updated with the 4% provider rate increase on December 31, 2020
 - The foundation of the Brick™ is the wage, therefore the 4% was added to the wage for each service and the cost components recalculated to update the overall rate.

Deputy Secretary's Update

- The DDA will be hosting informational Self-Directed Services (SDS) webinars regarding the Person-Centered Plan (PCP) Process and Rate Increase as referenced in this link [HERE](#) to SDS participants and family as well as for Coordinators of Community Services and Providers

**SDS participant and family informational webinar
Wednesday, January 20 at 1 a.m.**

[REGISTER for January](#)

For CCSs and Providers:

Central Date: Thursday, January 21 at 1 a.m.

[REGISTER For Central](#)

For CCSs and Providers:

Southern Date: Friday, January 22 at 11 a.m.

[REGISTER for Southern](#)

For CCSs and Providers:

Eastern Date: Tuesday, January 26 at 10 a.m.

[REGISTER for Eastern](#)

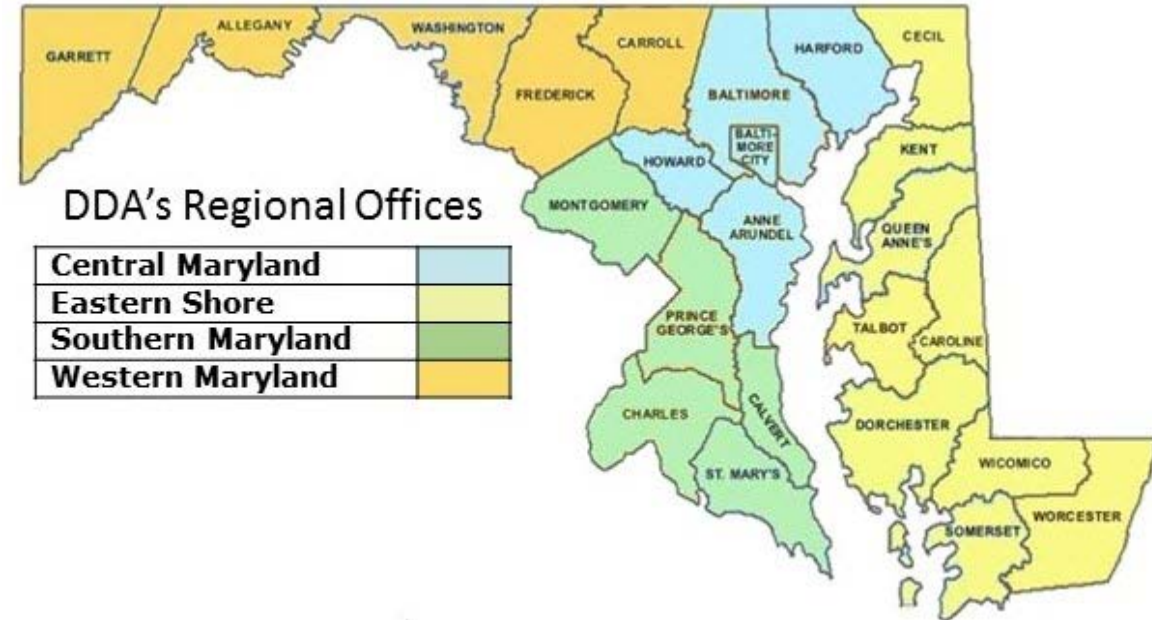
For CCSs and Providers:

Western Date: Wednesday, January 27 at 10 a.m.

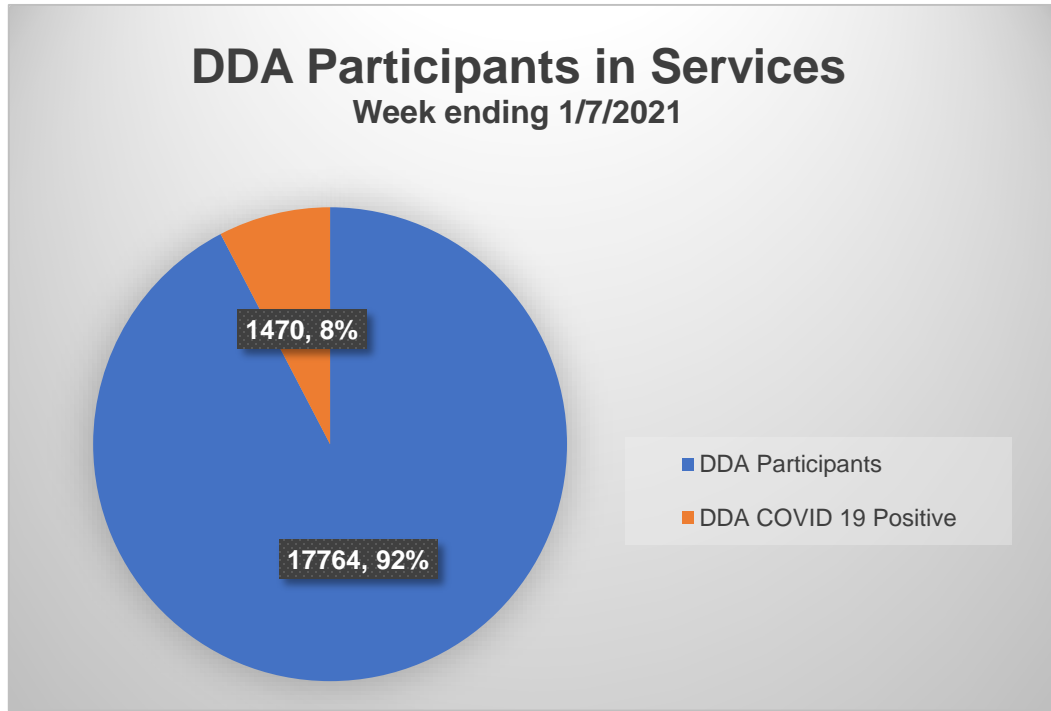
[REGISTER for Western](#)

COVID-19 Regional Updates

- **SMRO**- Onesta Duke
onestaduke@maryland.gov
- **ESRO**- Kim Gscheidle
kimberlygscheidle@maryland.gov
- **CMRO**- Nicholas Burton
nicholasburton@maryland.gov
- **WMRO**- Cathy Marshall
cathymarshall@maryland.gov

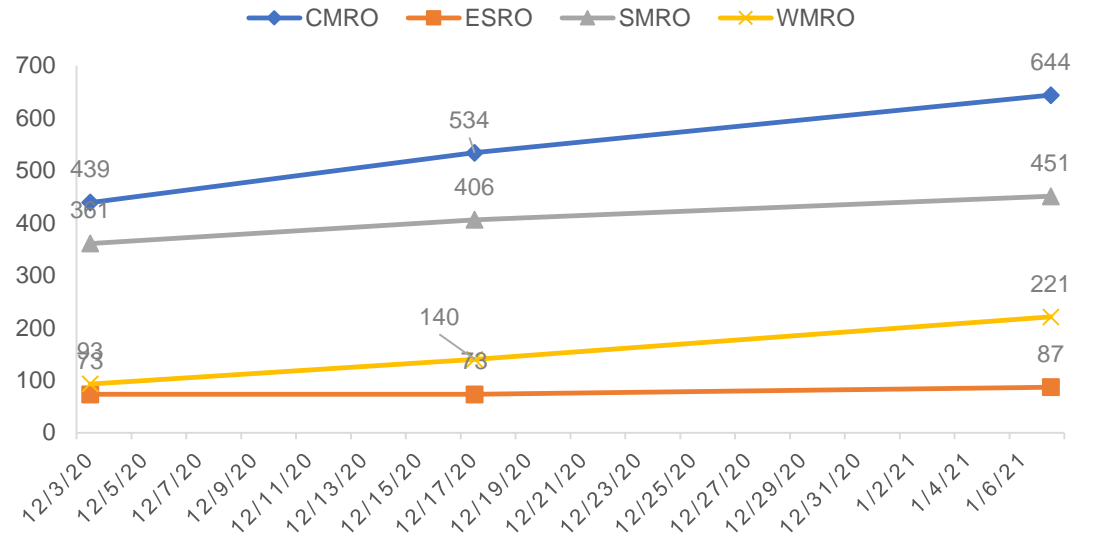


DDA Tracking



There are 17,764 people supported in services by the DDA of which 8% (1,470) have tested positive for COVID-19.

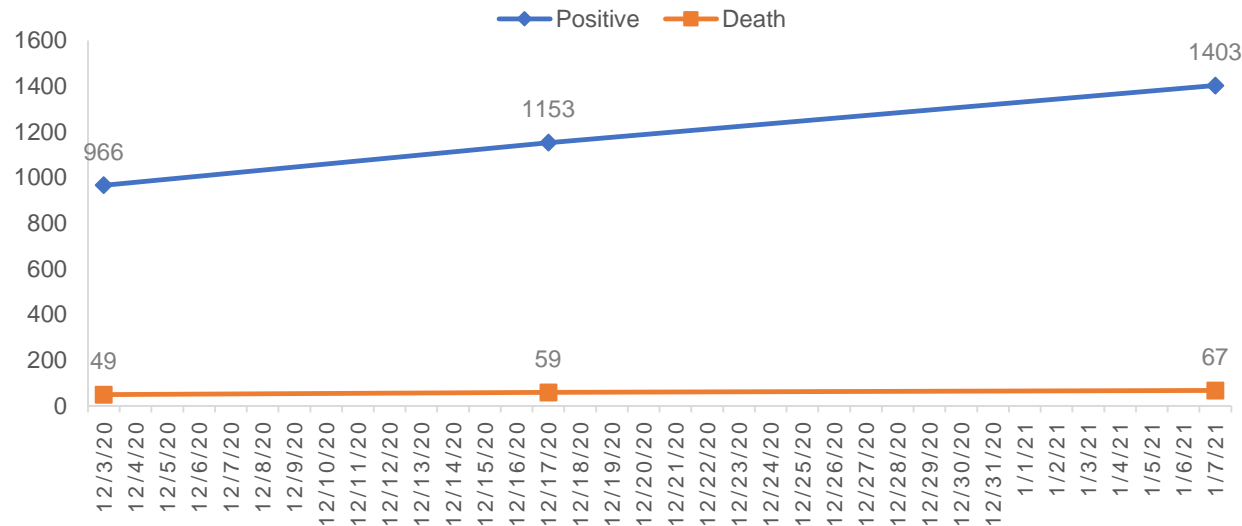
POSITIVE PARTICIPANTS BY REGION WEEK ENDING 1/7/2021



CMRO	644	Positive;	Increase of	110
ESRO	87	Positive;	Increase of	14
SMRO	451	Positive;	Increase of	45
WMRO	221	Positive;	Increase of	81

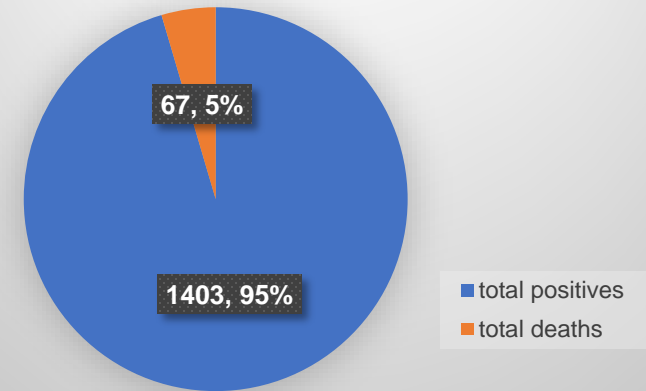
DDA Tracking

POSITIVE PARTICIPANTS STATEWIDE
WEEK ENDING 01/7/2021



There have been 1403 participants reported as having tested positive for COVID-19 of which there have been 67 deaths. This is an increase of 8 from the last report

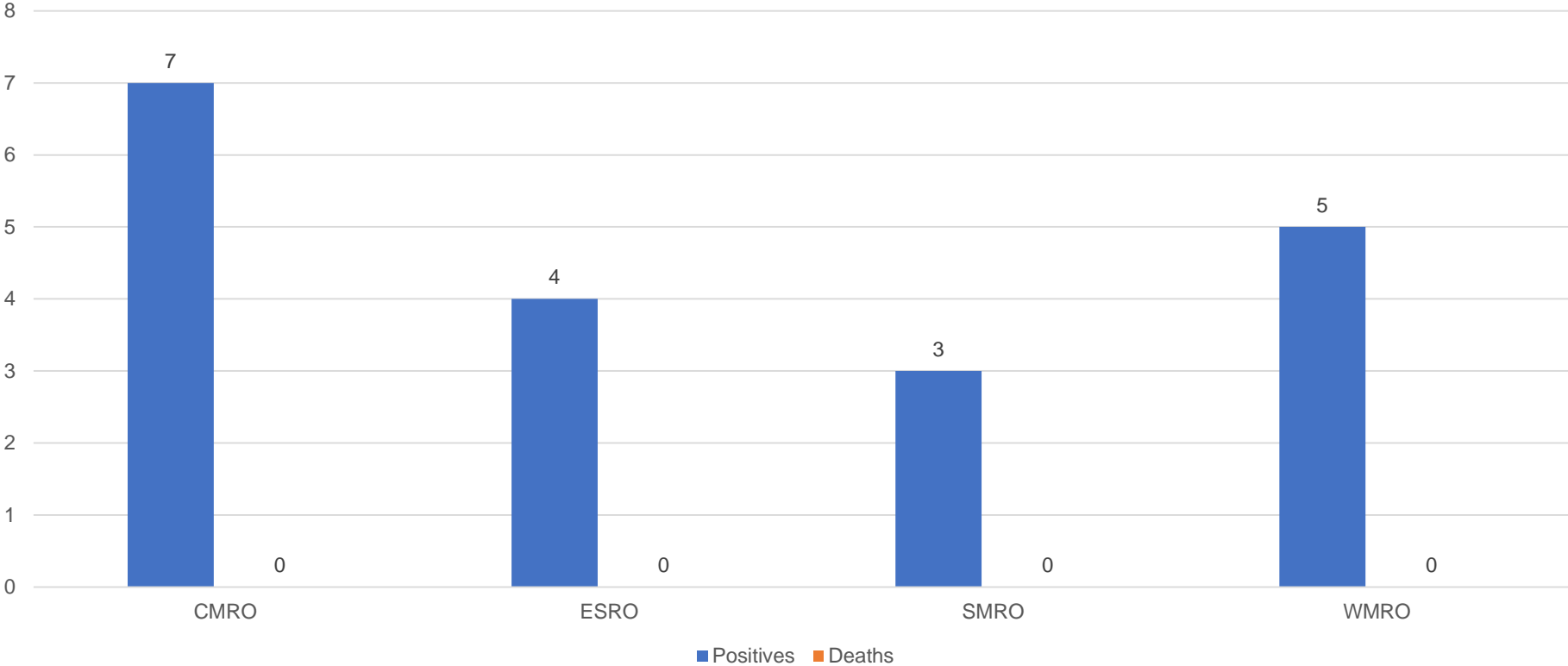
DDA COVID-19
Positives and Deaths
Week ending 1/7/2021



The 67 deaths represents approximately 5% of all (1403) participants that tested positive.

DDA Tracking

PARTICIPANTS IN SELF-DIRECTION
WEEK ENDING 01/7/2021



Questions



Please join us for our 2021 Webinar Series:

- January 22 at 1pm
- February 5 and 19 at 1pm
- March 5 and 19 at 1pm
- April 2, 16, and 30 at 1pm
- May 14 and 28 at 1pm