



# **Covid-19 and Vaccine Equity Update**

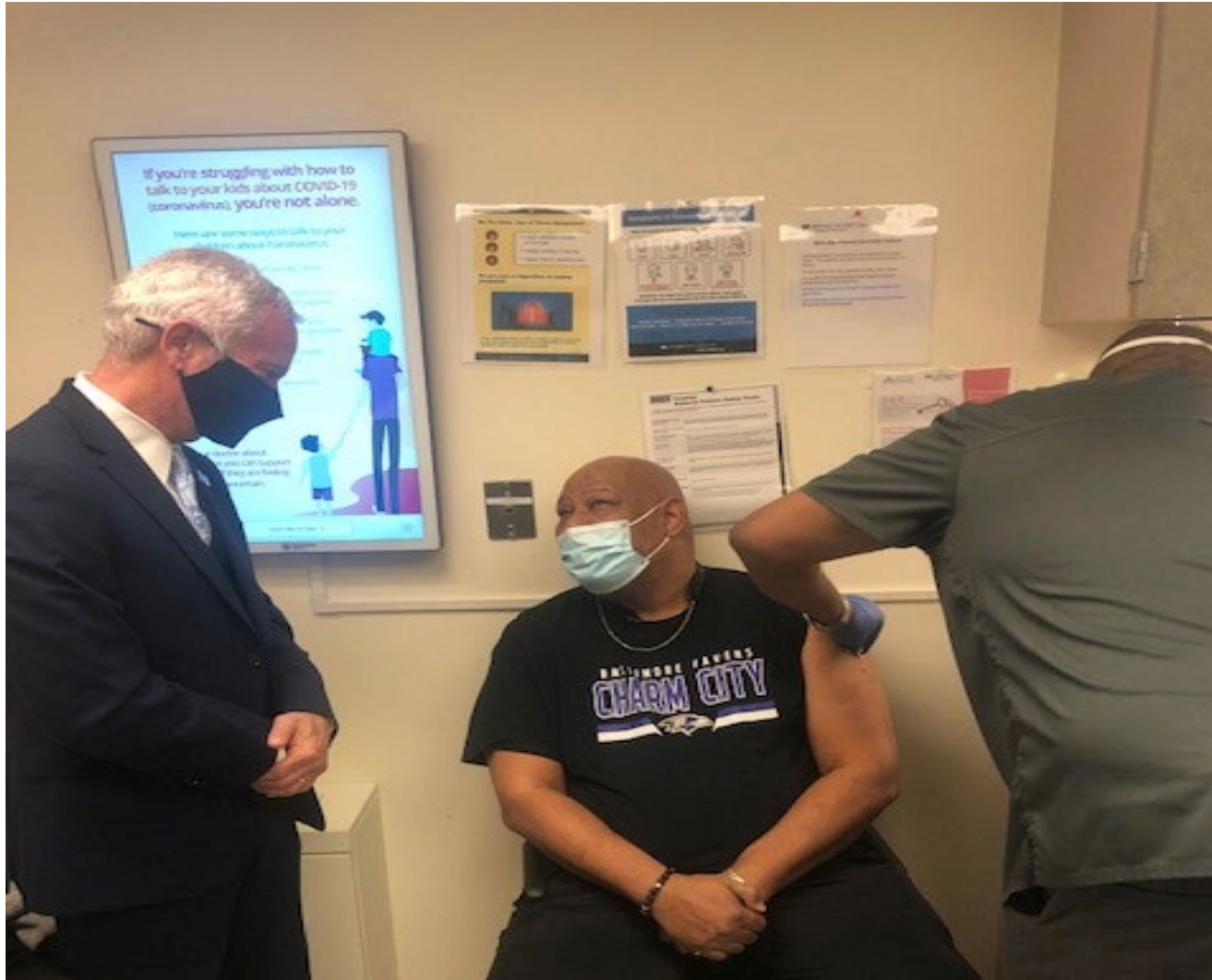
**Maryland Department of Health**  
**Maryland Primary Care Program**  
**Program Management Office**

24 March 2021

# Primary Care and Vaccine Equity

## Soldiers in the final battle against the coronavirus

### As we begin the second year of the war



# Daily COVID-19 Report

Data reported as of 3/24/2021 for data through 3/23/2021

**402,600**

cases cumulative

**8,550,257**

tests cumulative

**16.5**

7-day avg. case rate

**7,182**

total hospital adult census

**8,029**

deaths cumulative

**1,173**

cases reported yesterday

**25,310**

tests reported yesterday

**4.59%**

7-day avg. positivity

**290**

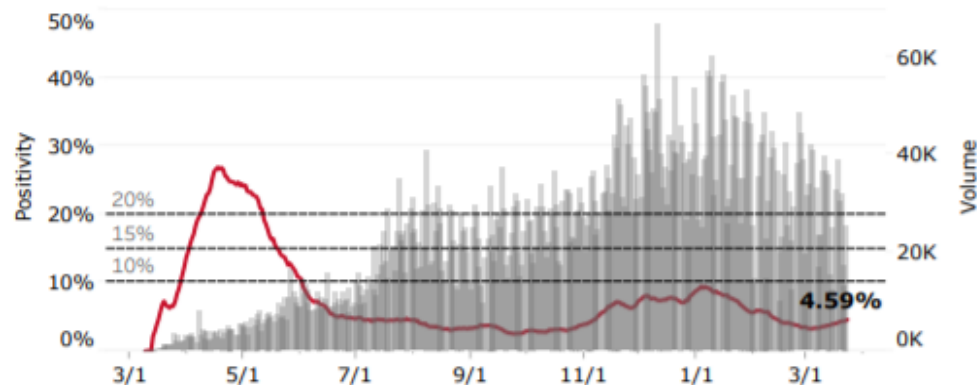
change in total hospital census

**19**

deaths reported yesterday

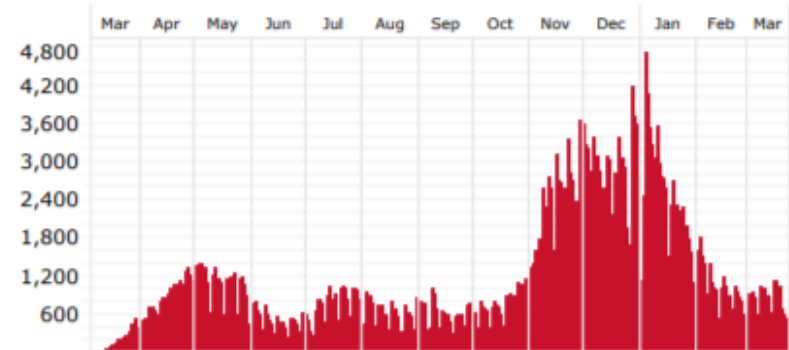
## 7-Day Avg. Percent Positivity and Total Testing Volume

Since 3/1/20

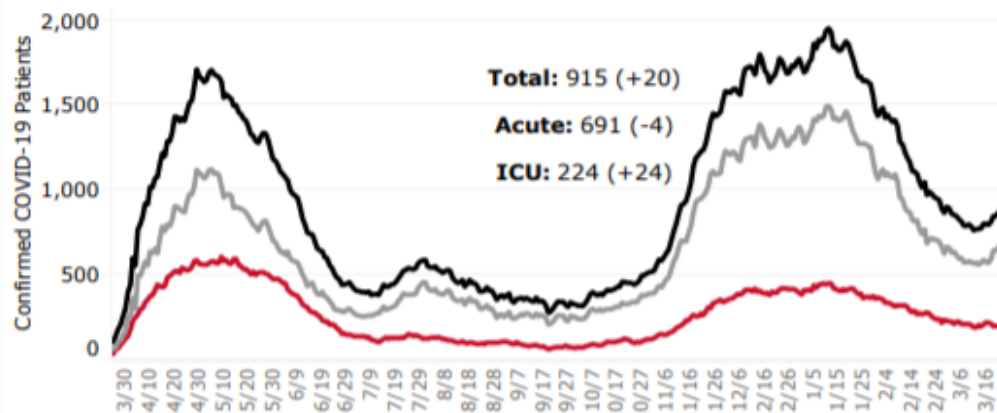


## Daily New Cases

by Specimen Collection Date



## Statewide Acute/ICU Beds Occupied by COVID Patients



## Daily Deaths

Confirmed and Probable



Case rate calculated as total confirmed cases per 100,000 population using the 2019 Maryland Population estimates from the Maryland Department of Planning, March 2020.

# **Now is the time** for Primary Care to take play a critical role in the battle against Covid-19

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- ❖ Primary Care in Phase 1 A, B, C - now
  - Focus on seniors and minority populations
- ❖ Primary Care in Phase 2A- now
  - Focus on underlying conditions
  - Primary care best positioned to know who qualifies
- ❖ Primary Care in Phase 2B - late March 2021
- ❖ Primary Care in Phase 2C - mid-April 2021
- ❖ Primary Care in Phase 3 - May 2021
  - The no wrong door phase

# Power of Primary Care

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- ❖ Broad distribution across the state
- ❖ Serves the vast majority of Marylanders every day
- ❖ Most patients prefer to go to their primary care for vaccines
- ❖ Trusted source of information for those who are hesitant
- ❖ Ability to identify and outreach to most vulnerable - avoiding the confusing registration systems
- ❖ Trained and ready workforce and offices

# Primary Care takes center stage in Vaccine Administration

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- ❖ Pilot began last week - 17 practices successful
- ❖ Pilot expansion this week additional 20 practices
- ❖ Continued rapid expansion to practices that are fully enrolled and willing
- ❖ Focus on improving equitable vaccination
- ❖ Leveraging existing relationships
- ❖ Filling the gaps in current vaccine administration

# MDPCP Covid Vaccine Pilot: Purpose

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1. Nationally and in Maryland there has been little emphasis on engaging primary care in the Covid vaccine campaign
2. Serve as proof of concept for successful Covid vaccination at primary care practices
3. Achieve more equitable vaccine distribution through targeted outreach to African American and Hispanic populations
4. Focus on underlying conditions in Phase 2

# MDPCP Covid Vaccine Allocation Process

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- ❖ If your practice is fully onboarded with ImmuNet and registered as a Covid vaccinator, you are eligible for vaccine allocation through MDPCP
- ❖ As vaccine supply is still limited, not all eligible practices will receive vaccine immediately
- ❖ If your practice is chosen for vaccine allocation, you will receive a survey on Monday asking if you are ready and willing to administer 100 doses the following week. The survey will come with additional information for your practice
- ❖ After the initial week, you will receive a survey every Monday asking your ideal capacity for doses for the following week



# MDPCP Practices - Current Status

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Group	# of MDPCP Practices
In current pilots	37
Potential expansion next week	48
Completed all ImmuNet requirements, not currently receiving vaccine	47
Enrolled and reporting to ImmuNet, <b>need to register to get a PIN</b>	222
<b>Need to set up EHR reporting and register to get a PIN</b>	89

# Governor's 3/23/2021 Announcements

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- ❖ All eligible Phase 1 and Phase 2A populations can now pre-register for an appointment at a mass vaccination site by visiting [covidvax.maryland.gov](https://covidvax.maryland.gov) or calling 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829)

**2A**

**WHO: Marylanders age 60 and older**

**WHEN: March 23**

**2B**

**WHO: Marylanders age 16 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 illness**

**WHEN: March 30**

**2C**

**WHO: Marylanders age 55 and older, as well as essential workers in critical industries**

**WHEN: April 13**

**3**

**WHO: All Marylanders age 16 and older**

**WHEN: April 27**

# Governor's 3/23/2021 Announcements

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- ❖ Six additional mass vaccination sites will open in Maryland in April
  - In early April
    - ✓ The Timonium Fairgrounds site in Baltimore County will be converted to a mass vaccination site
    - ✓ A mass vaccination site will open at Montgomery College in Germantown
  - In mid-April, mass vaccination sites will open in partnership with
    - ✓ Frederick County
    - ✓ Anne Arundel County
  - In late April, mass vaccination sites will open in partnership with
    - ✓ Howard County
    - ✓ Hartford County
- ❖ Mass vaccination site will open on 3/25/2021 at the Hagerstown Premium Outlets

# Governor's 3/23/2021 Announcements

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## ❖ Phase 2B updates

- Will include all Marylanders 16 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19 illness, as [defined by CDC guidelines](#), includes Marylanders 16 and older with disabilities who
  - ✓ Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits
  - ✓ Are Maryland Medicaid Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) individuals
  - ✓ Are Maryland Medicaid Rare and Expensive Case Management recipients
  - ✓ Are receiving Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP)
  - ✓ Are receiving long term services and supports through the state's Medicaid waiver and state plan services
- Marylanders in Phase 2B can now pre-register for an appointment at a mass vaccination site

# Refrigeration

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## Acceptable storage unit(s)

- ❖ Refrigerator (Stand Alone and/or Pharmaceutical grade)
- ❖ Freezer (Stand Alone and/or Pharmaceutical grade)
- ❖ Combination household unit (refrigerator and freezer in one unit with one compressor) using refrigerator or freezer compartment only for vaccines



## Unacceptable storage unit(s)

- ❖ Dorm style refrigerator
- ❖ Mini refrigerator
- ❖ Small under the counter refrigerator with a freezer/refrigerator combination



# Vaccine Toolkit

- ❖ Workflows
- ❖ Access
- ❖ Immunet registration
- ❖ Vaccine Storage and handling
- ❖ Billing and coding

Toolkit link  
[here!](#)

## Primary Care Practice Preparation for

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

- Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines boost your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.
- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will keep you and your patients from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

### STEPS

- 1 Complete ImmuNet requirements AND**  
*including site onboarding AND vaccinator registration (vaccination ordering not available currently)*  
**Complete MDH "New Entity COVID VAX Clinic Info" form**
- 2 Educate and encourage your team to get vaccinated**  
*as part of the Maryland Vaccination Priority Phase 1A*
- 3 Share with your patients how to locate a vaccination site**  
*and identify patients for each vaccination priority phase*
- 4 Prepare for vaccine\* administration**
  - *by developing workflows for storage, handling and administration*
  - *identifying patients to outreach based on risk and equity using CRISP*

Current  
Phase:

**1C**

as of 2/17/21

\*NOTE: Due to the ultra cold storage and allocation size requirements for the Pfizer vaccine, it is unlikely this vaccine will be used in many primary care offices.

mdh.pcmol@maryland.gov

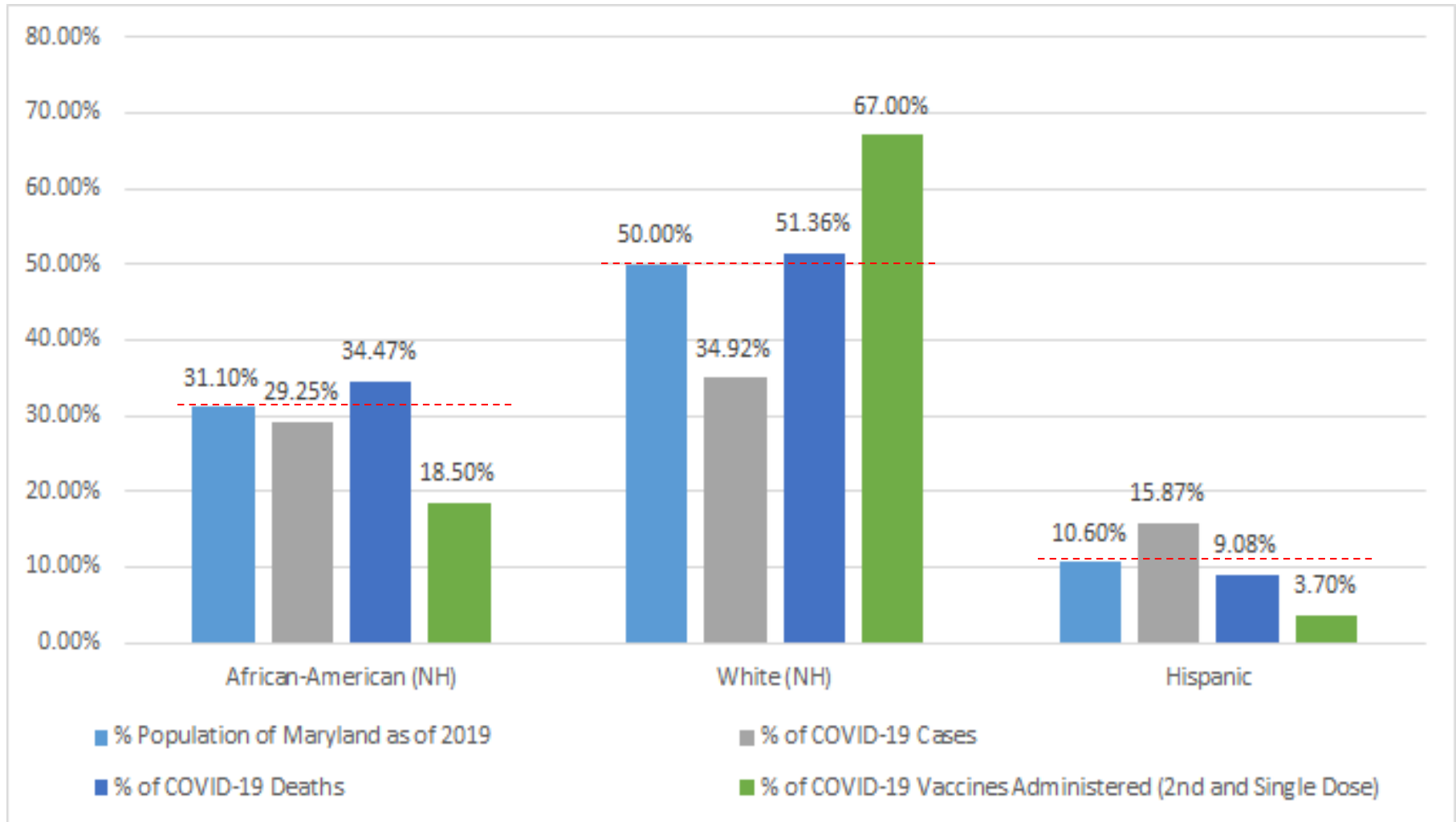
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# Lack of equity during Covid-19

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- ❖ Testing - less
- ❖ Cases - more
- ❖ Hospitalization - more
- ❖ Deaths - higher rates
- ❖ Monoclonal antibody therapy - less
- ❖ Vaccination - lower rates - *this is where primary care will make a big difference*

# Vaccine Distribution by Race/Ethnicity

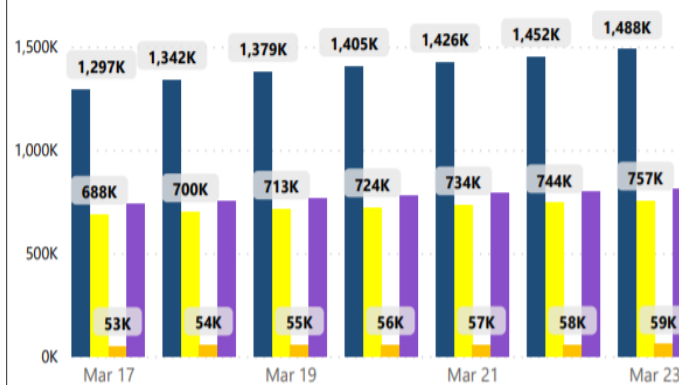




# Vaccine Administration

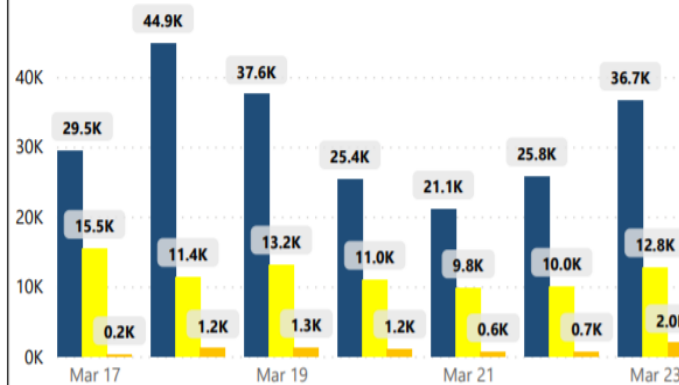
Cumulative Vaccines Administered

1st Dose 2nd Dose Single Dose Fully Vaccinated

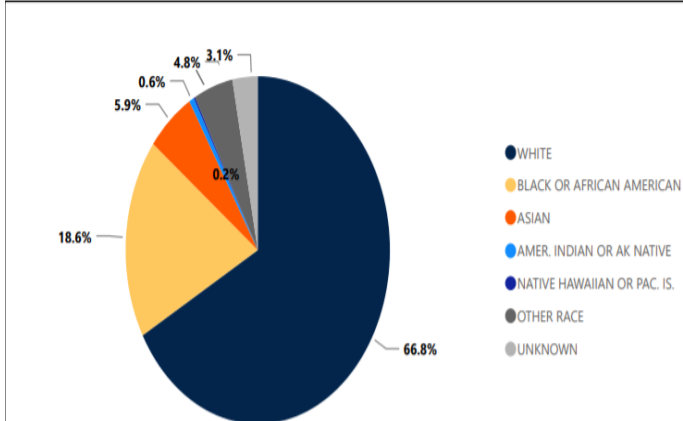


Daily Vaccines Administered

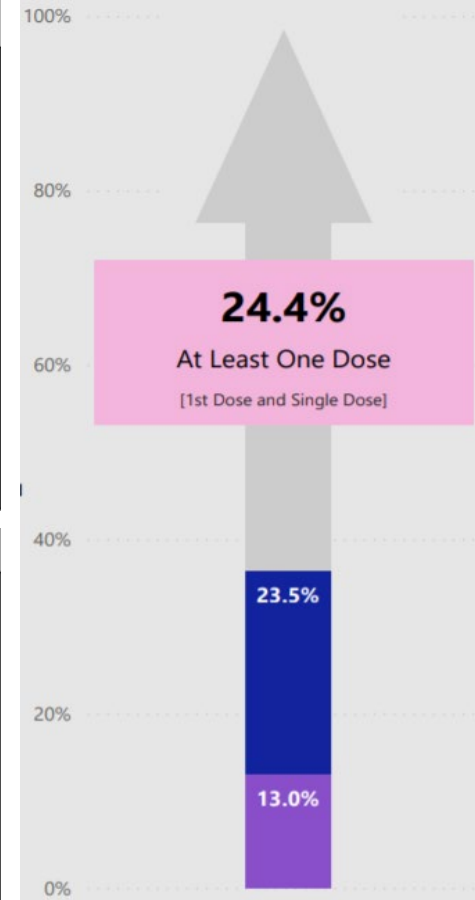
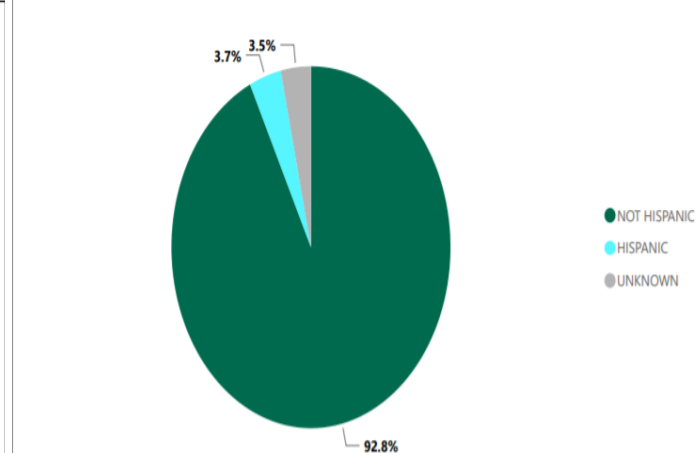
1st Dose 2nd Dose Single Dose



Share of Vaccines Administered (2nd and Single Dose) by Race



Share of Vaccines Administered (2nd and Single Dose) by Ethnicity



Not Vaccinated  
1st Dose Only  
Fully Vaccinated

Updated 3/24

# Three Vaccines

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## ❖ Moderna

- First to be used for primary care
- Two doses
- Standard freezer / refrigeration
- 100 dose boxes

## ❖ Pfizer

- 2 doses
- More stringent storage requirements
- 1000+ dose boxes

## ❖ Johnson and Johnson

- One dose
- Standard storage requirements
- 50 dose boxes

# Next Potential Vaccines

AstraZeneca 

NOVAVAX

<i><b>Vaccine Type</b></i>	Viral Vector	Protein-Based
<i><b>Schedule</b></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two dose regimen</li><li>• 4 weeks apart</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two dose regimen</li><li>• 3 weeks apart</li></ul>
<i><b>Efficacy</b></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 62% to 90%, depending on dosage</li><li>• NIAID has expressed concern recently announced results of 79% efficacy are based on faulty information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 89.3%, UK trial</li></ul>
<i><b>Storage</b></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stable in refrigerator for at least 6 months</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stable in refrigerator</li></ul>

# Current Vaccine Providers

## No wrong door approach

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- ❖ Local Health Departments
- ❖ Hospitals
- ❖ National Pharmacy Chains
- ❖ Local Pharmacies
- ❖ FQHCs
- ❖ State Mass vax sites
- ❖ **Primary care pilot - week of 15 March**
- ❖ **Primary care expansion – occurring now**

### Current State Mass Vax Sites

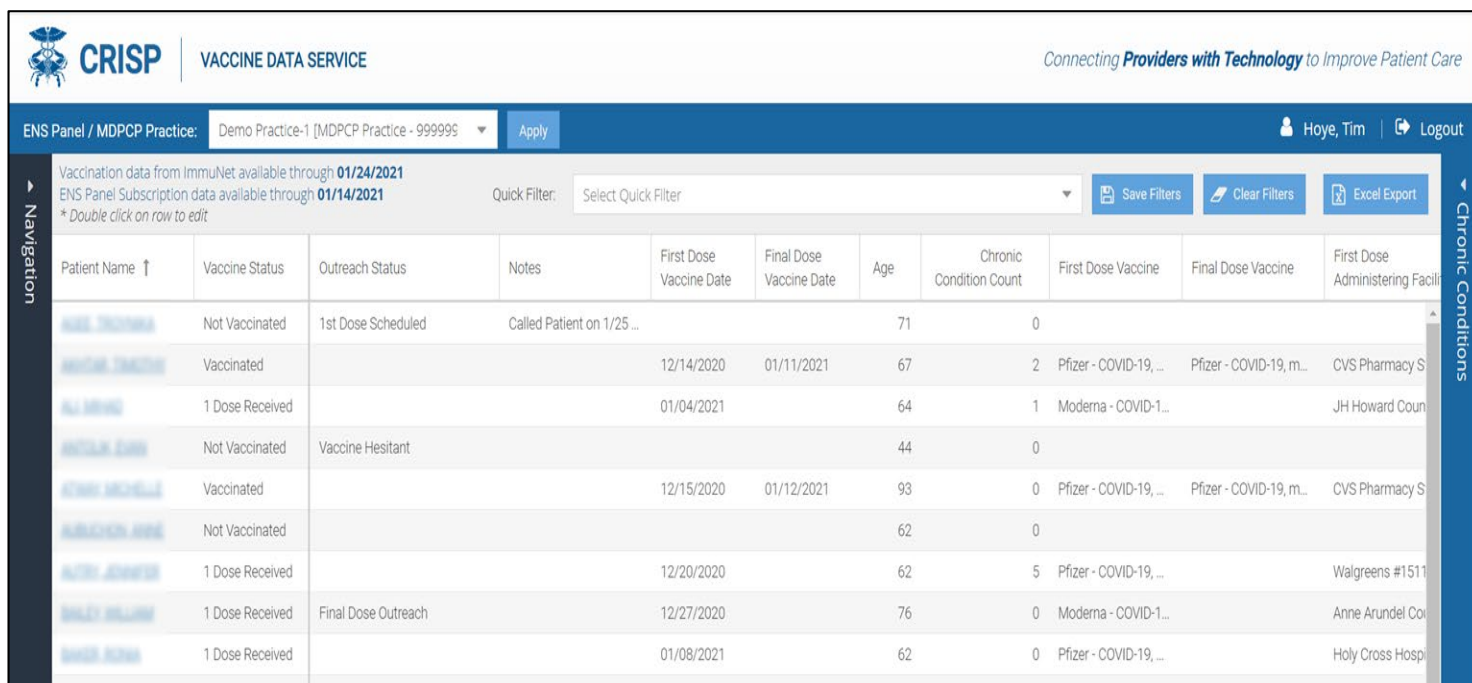
- Baltimore Convention Center
- M/T Stadium
- Six Flags
- Regency stadium
- Wicomico Civic Center
- Hagerstown Premium outlets:  
*opens 3/25*

# CRISP Vaccine Tracker Tool

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- ❖ Powerful tool unique to Maryland providers
- ❖ Visibility on patients vaccine status
- ❖ Ability to sort by age, race, ethnicity, medical conditions to facilitate process and equitable outreach
- ❖ Crisp Reporting Services (CRS) tool
- ❖ Uses Medicare attribution

# CRISP Vaccine Tracking Tool



CRISP VACCINE DATA SERVICE

Connecting Providers with Technology to Improve Patient Care

ENS Panel / MDCPC Practice: Demo Practice-1 [MDCPC Practice - 999995] Apply

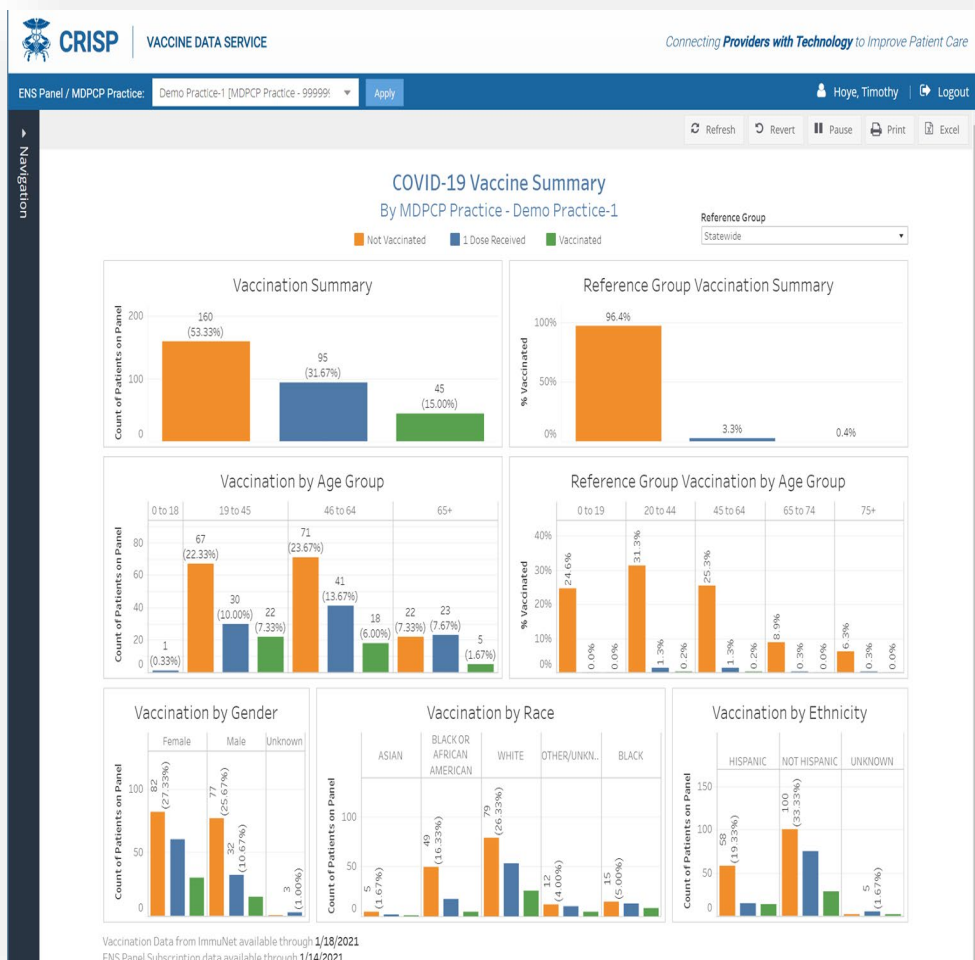
Vaccination data from ImmuNet available through 01/24/2021  
 ENS Panel Subscription data available through 01/14/2021  
 \* Double click on row to edit

Quick Filter: Select Quick Filter Save Filters Clear Filters Excel Export

Patient Name ↑	Vaccine Status	Outreach Status	Notes	First Dose Vaccine Date	Final Dose Vaccine Date	Age	Chronic Condition Count	First Dose Vaccine	Final Dose Vaccine	First Dose Administering Facility
ALICE THOMAS	Not Vaccinated	1st Dose Scheduled	Called Patient on 1/25 ...			71	0			
AMANDA THOMAS	Vaccinated			12/14/2020	01/11/2021	67	2	Pfizer - COVID-19, ...	Pfizer - COVID-19, m...	CVS Pharmacy S...
AL ARNE	1 Dose Received			01/04/2021		64	1	Moderna - COVID-1...		JH Howard Coun...
AMANDA JUNE	Not Vaccinated	Vaccine Hesitant				44	0			
ETHEL MICHELLE	Vaccinated			12/15/2020	01/12/2021	93	0	Pfizer - COVID-19, ...	Pfizer - COVID-19, m...	CVS Pharmacy S...
AMANDA JUNE	Not Vaccinated					62	0			
ALICE JENNIFER	1 Dose Received			12/20/2020		62	5	Pfizer - COVID-19, ...		Walgreens #1511
AMANDA JUNE	1 Dose Received	Final Dose Outreach		12/27/2020		76	0	Moderna - COVID-1...		Anne Arundel Co...
AMANDA JUNE	1 Dose Received			01/08/2021		62	0	Pfizer - COVID-19, ...		Holy Cross Hosp...

- ❖ User Guide Link: <https://vacctrac.crisphealth.org/#help/User%20Guide>
- ❖ Vaccination data updated daily from ImmuNet (IIS)
- ❖ User editable status to track outreach efforts

# CRISP Vaccine Tracking Tool



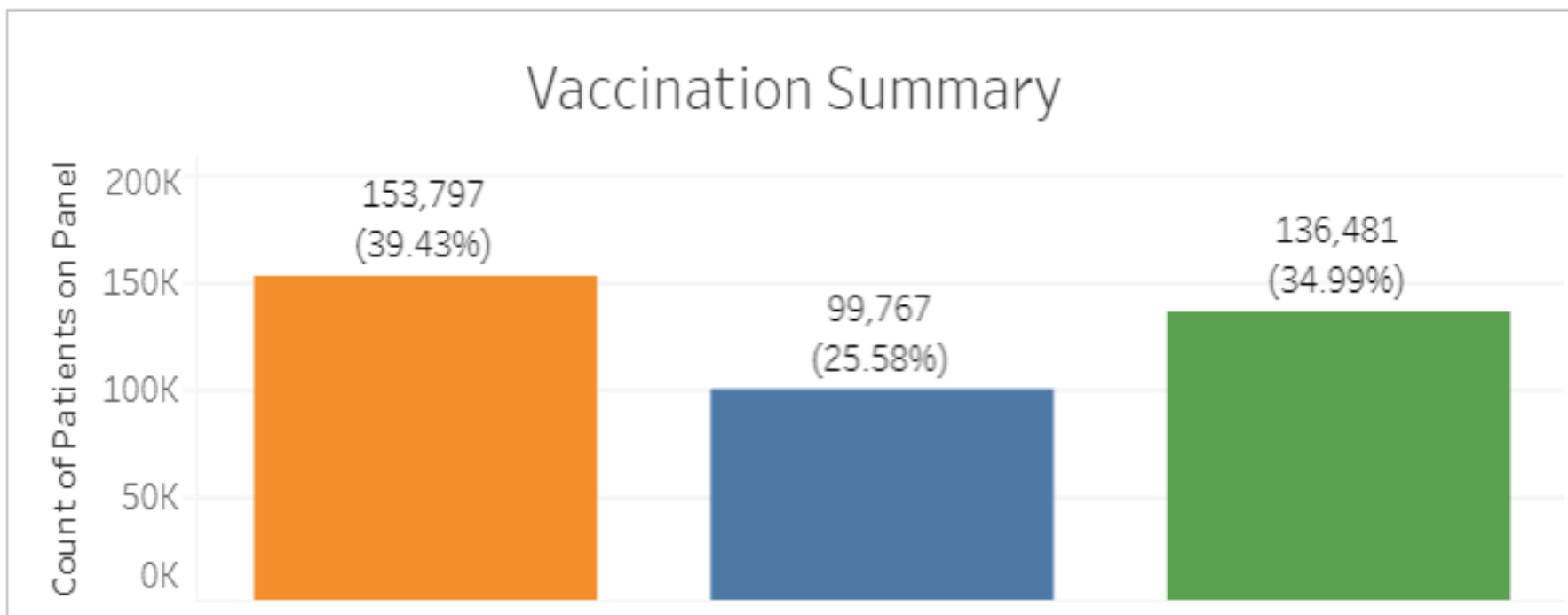
## Summary Reports

- ❖ Compare your Practice to MD Statewide population or relevant Peer Groups
- ❖ Compare by demographic fields
- ❖ Track a practice's patient vaccination status over time

# MDPCP Only - Vaccination Summary

*Medicare Fee-For-Service Attributed Beneficiaries Only*

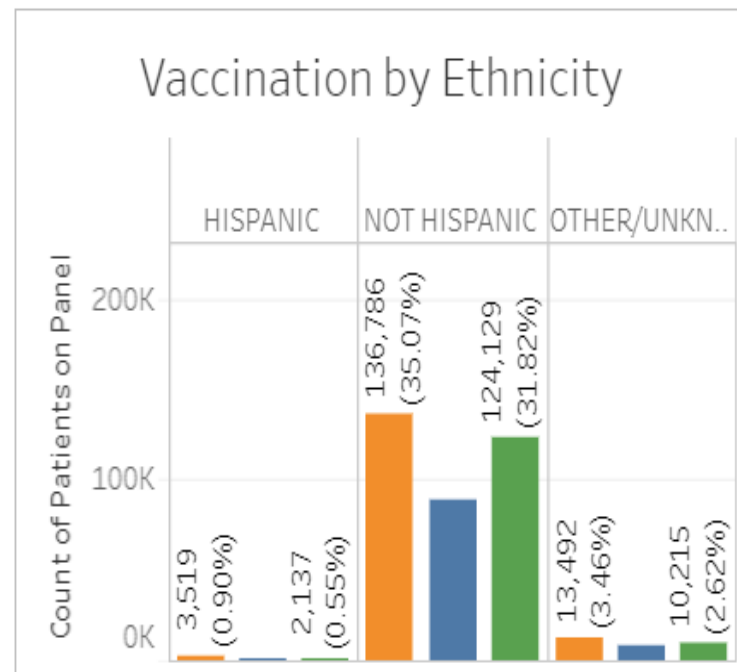
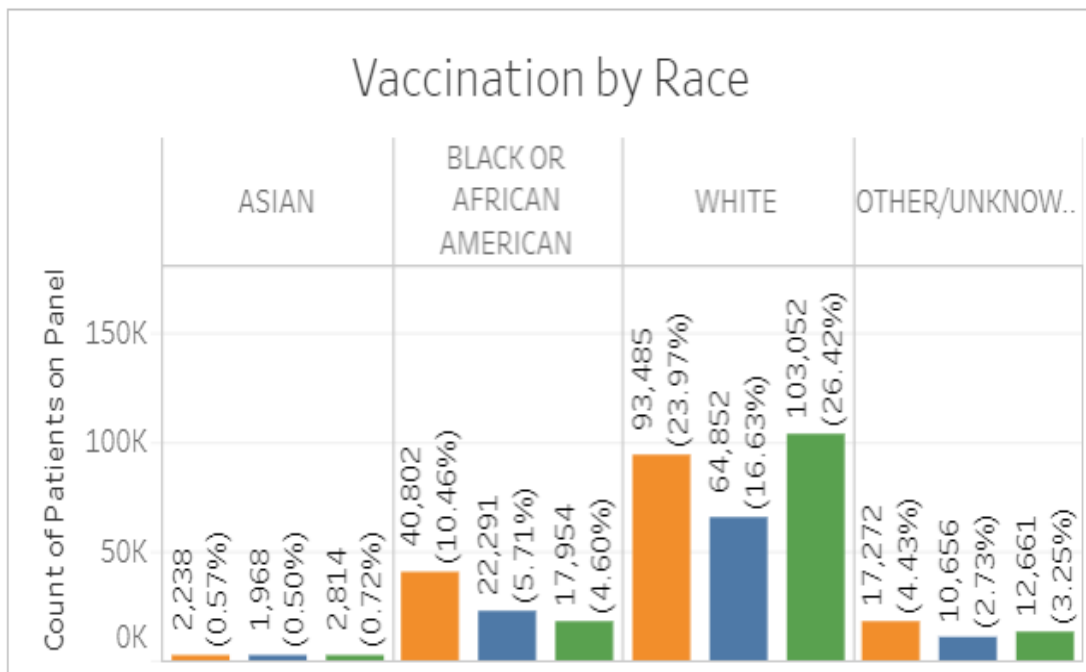
Not Vaccinated    1 Dose Received    Vaccinated





# MDPCP Only - Vaccination by Race & Ethnicity

*Medicare Fee-For-Service Attributed Beneficiaries Only*



■ Not Vaccinated
 ■ 1 Dose Received
 ■ Vaccinated

# COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center

## Patients have options beyond primary care

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- ❖ Maryland Departments of Health and Aging collaboration
- ❖ Designed to assist those without internet access to support Covid vaccination appointments
  - Available to all Marylanders who are eligible for a vaccine
- ❖ Open seven days a week, 7am-10pm
- ❖ Also targeting outgoing calls to segmented groups of seniors



**1-855-MDGOVAX  
(1-855-634-6829)**

# ImmuNet onboarding is a multistep process

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1. [Enrolling](#) in ImmuNet
    - a. Most have completed this step
  2. Assuring your system can [exchange information](#) (EHR or CSV file)
    - a. Bi-directional capacity preferred
  3. ImmuNet [registration as Covid vaccinator](#)
    - a. You will receive a PIN and an approval email
- Reach out to your MDPCP Practice Coach if you do not know where you are in the process

# Increase in Vaccine Payments

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- ❖ Medicare reimbursement for Covid vaccine administration has increased as of 3/15:

Single Dose	Two Dose Regimen
\$40	\$80 (\$40 for each dose)

- ❖ [CMS website link](#)
- ❖ [Overview of other payers](#)

# CDC Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

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- ❖ Fully vaccinated = 2 weeks after last dose
- ❖ Fully vaccinated people can
  - Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
  - Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
  - Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic

# Please do not forget

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## ❖ Testing

- Point of Care Testing in office - interested practices should fill out this [Google Form](#) as soon as possible

## ❖ Monoclonal antibody therapy for ambulatory patients

- CRISP online referral system

## ❖ Virus variants - [reporting](#)

# What you have done and what is left to be done

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1. You have **identified all your high risk patients**
2. You have **provided vulnerable patients with expanded care**
3. You have **offered testing for all patients, as much as every visit – POC for those eligible for mAb therapy**
4. You have **stayed current and stayed safe**
5. **Now is the time to be a vaccinator - address vaccine hesitancy with patients, register as a Covid vaccinator in ImmuNet and plan for administration**

**Now is the time for Primary Care to demonstrate the enormous value you bring to the health and well being of all Marylanders**

# How do we know when it is over?

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- ❖ Now is the time for you to make this a reality
- ❖ It is over when
  - Cases rates are at or near zero
  - Hospitalizations are at or near zero
  - Deaths are at or near zero
- ❖ Until then- facial coverings, social distancing, hand hygiene, avoid crowds- with increasing exceptions among vaccinated persons



“Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end.”

— John Lennon



# General Vaccine Resources

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- ❖ [CDC Covid-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit](#) - ready made materials, how to build vaccine confidence, social media messages
- ❖ [New York Times Vaccine Tracker](#) - information on every Covid vaccine in development
- ❖ [New York Times Vaccine Distribution Tracker](#) – information on the distribution of Covid vaccines in the United States
- ❖ [MDH Covidlink Vaccine Page](#) - information on vaccine priority groups in Maryland
- ❖ [CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#)
- ❖ [Project ECHO Webinar](#) - webinar on vaccines and Long Term Care Facilities, relevant for primary care
  - ❖ CDC [Moderna vaccine storage](#)

# CME Accreditation and Designation

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- ❖ This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, and The Maryland Department of Health. MedChi is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.
- ❖ MedChi designates this live webinar educational activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Contact Frank Berry at [fberry@medchi.org](mailto:fberry@medchi.org)

# CME Disclosures and Evaluation

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- ❖ Presenters and Planners: Howard Haft, MD, has reported no relevant financial relationships to disclose.
- ❖ MedChi CME Reviewers: The reviewers from the MedChi Committee On Scientific Activities (COSA) for this activity have reported no relevant financial relationships to disclose.
- ❖ *Attendees can receive CME credit by completing [this evaluation](#) after each webinar. MedChi will then be in contact with the certificate*

# Announcements

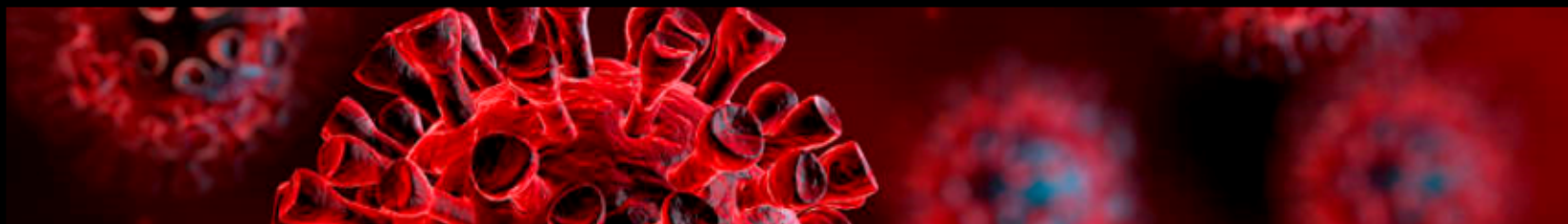
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- ❖ Learn from:
  - Our [FAQs page](#) (last updated November 2020)
  - [MDH FAQs](#)
- ❖ Wednesday Covid-19 Updates (will move to biweekly after March)
  - [Wednesday, 3/31/21 \(5-6:30pm\)](#)
  - [Wednesday, 4/14/21 \(5-6:30pm\)](#)
  - [Wednesday, 4/28/21 \(5-6:30pm\)](#)
- ❖ State and Regional Approaches to Equitable COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts – webinar from the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement and the Duke-Margolis Health Policy Center
  - [Thursday, 3/25/2021 \(3-4pm\)](#)
- ❖ Guest Speaker
  - Today - Dr. Gregory Branch, Health Officer for Baltimore County



**Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D.,  
MBA, CPE, FACP**

Director, Baltimore County  
Department of Health and  
Human Services  
Baltimore County Health  
Officer



# Addressing Health Disparities During COVID-19

**Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE, FACP**

Director, Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services

Baltimore County Health Officer

**March 24, 2021**





# Overview

## Baltimore County Demographics

- Baltimore County has 830K residents
  - Urban
  - Suburban
  - Rural
- Third-most populous county in MD (24 local jurisdictions)
- Third-largest area in MD (~682 square miles)
  - ~598 square miles of land
  - ~83 square miles of water



# Overview

## Baltimore County Demographics

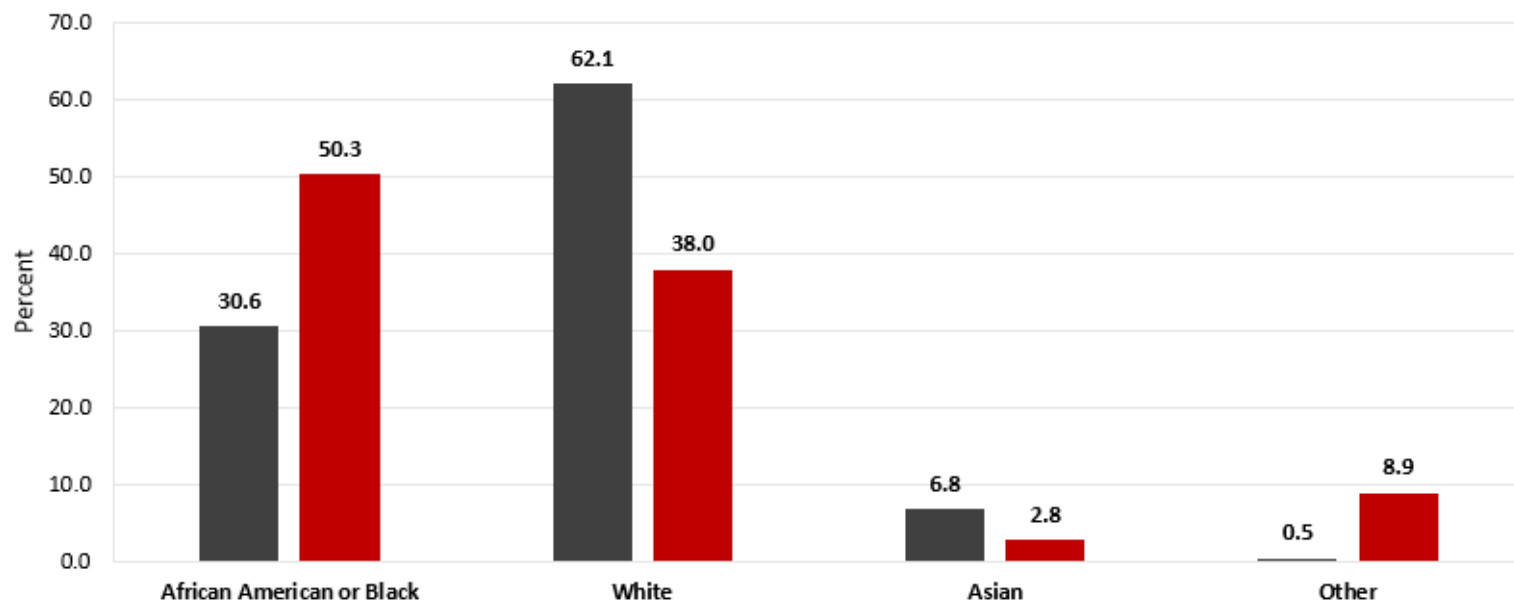
- Population by race:
  - 60% White
  - 30% Black
  - 6% Hispanic
- Population by age:
  - 32%: 22 to 44 YO
  - 27%: 45 to 64 YO
  - 17%: 65 and Older

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/baltimorecountymaryland>



# Early Disparity Data

Baltimore County COVID-19 Cases by Race; Percent Distribution of the Census of the Population vs COVID-19 Cases, N=1408  
4/19/2020

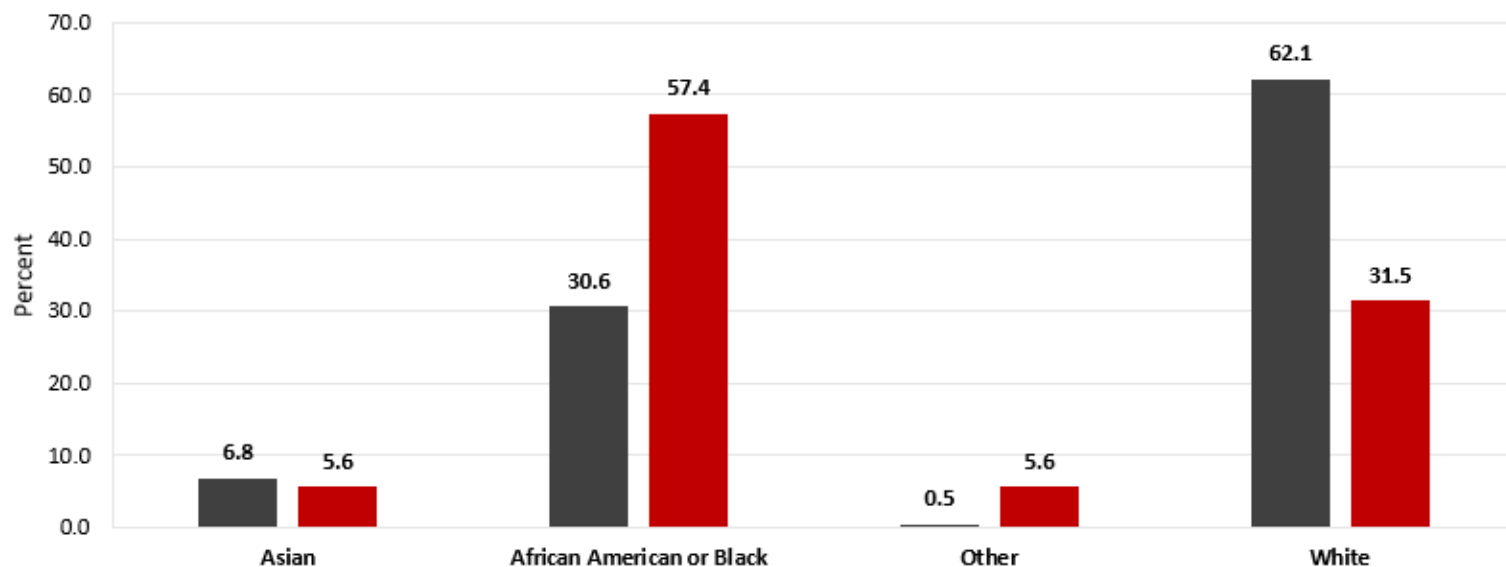


\*1731 total cases in Baltimore County. For race, 323 cases were marked data not available, unknown or left blank.

■ 2018 Census Population1 ■ Case Percent

# Early Disparity Data

Baltimore County COVID-19 Deaths by Race;  
Percent Distribution of the Census of the Population vs COVID-19 Deaths, N=54  
4/19/2020



\*58 total Covid deaths in Baltimore County. For race, 4 cases were marked data not available, so N=54 was used.

■ 2018 Census Population1 ■ Deaths



# Successful Vaccine Campaign

A successful COVID-19 vaccine campaign is seen in and measured by, not the number of vaccine administered, but specifically the number of vaccine administered in black and brown arms.

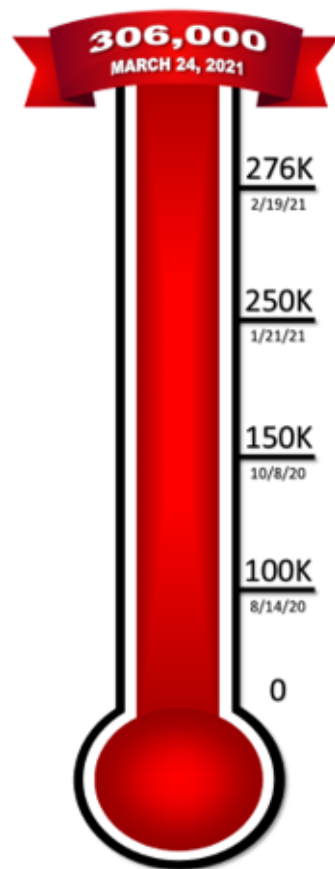


# Go Where The Need Is

## Strategies:

- Coordinate or participate in executing educational and/or media campaigns to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Secure supplies and equipment for community. Issue safety kits containing “civilian grade” PPE (mask, gloves, hand sanitizer) and COVID-19 safety information
  - Distribute safety kits at meal sites, community venues, faith-based organizations in ZIP Codes with the most cases

# Go Where The Need Is



The Baltimore County Department of Health provides safety kits to help decrease the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

More than **306,000** have been distributed as of **March 24, 2021**



# Go Where The Need Is

## Mobile Testing:

- Launched 8/12/20
- Focus: Latinx Community
- Mobile site (*RV rented originally for isolation of homeless*)
- Non-traditional hours (3-6pm)



# Go Where The Need Is

- Run **Efficient** Vaccination Clinics in the community
  - Do aggressive outreach to targeted populations
  - Sites must be inviting, convenient, and run with precision





# Efficient Vaccine Roll Out

- Timonium site: We are averaging 500 to 700\* immunizations per hour, with the potential of 1,000 per hour
- We have a thru-put time of less than 15 minutes\* (not including the observation time)
- 12-16 injectors with a total of 150 staff for a 4 hour clinic
- Injectors serve 30 to 40 patients per hour
- All second dose appointments, V-Safe registration and BC evaluation are completed during the 15 min. waiting period at first dose appointment



# Kudos

## Governor Larry Hogan tours Baltimore County Vaccination Clinic on Feb. 8, 2021

*"I have not seen [a site] as well organized or as well thought out as the one we walked through today."*

**Gov. Larry Hogan**

**On March 23, Gov. announced that this would become Mass Statewide Vax site.**



# Reduce Barriers to Vaccination

- Run multiple Vaccination sites
  - Timonium Fairgrounds
  - Randallstown Community Center
  - Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC)
- Two newest sites are located in the heart of Black and Brown communities
  - Sollers Point Community Center
  - Sisters Academy of Baltimore

# Reduce Barriers to Vaccination



- Currently providing:
  - Transportation to/from vaccine clinics to (Uber)
  - Delivery of vaccine to Homebound residents
- Will use mobile units to reach hard to serve populations
  - Pop Up Clinics



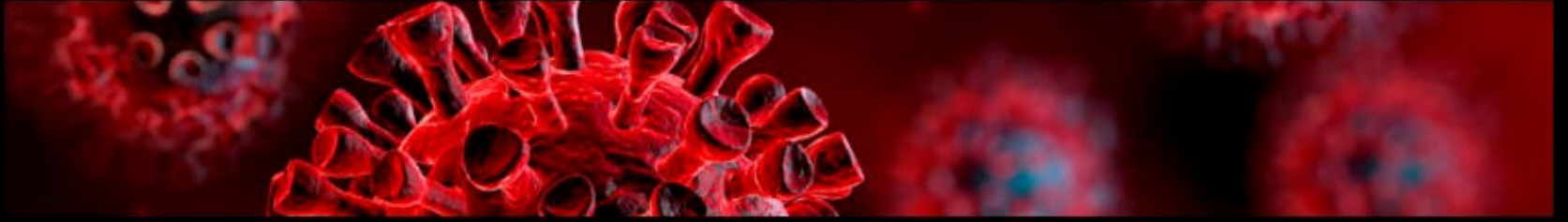
# Use consistent messaging

We now have the vaccine. But we still need to practice the **3 W's**:

- **W**ash your hands
- **W**atch your distance
- **W**ear your face covering

And follow an additional **W**:

- **W**elcome whatever vaccine you are offered



# QUESTIONS

# Appendix

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## Resources and Links



# Contact Tracing

## Methods


- ❖ Contact tracer calls
- ❖ MD Covid Alert – cell phone
- ❖ Provider alerting

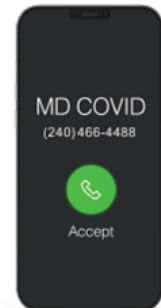
### Thank You for Getting Tested for COVID-19

Follow directions from your testing facility on when and how you will receive your test results.



#### What Happens Next

- ▶ **Stop the spread.** Stay at home and separate from others if you were tested because you have symptoms or were exposed.
- ▶ **Identify the people you might have exposed.** Make a list of everyone you came in close contact with starting two days before your symptoms started or two days before your test date (if you don't have symptoms). Close contact means within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more. If you test positive, a contact tracer will provide guidance to the people on the list.
- ▶ **Scan the QR code** and opt-in or download the MD COVID Alert app. 
- ▶ **Add MD COVID**, (240) 466-4488, to your contacts.
- ▶ **Answer the call** when you see "MD COVID" or (240) 466-4488 on your caller ID. If you test positive, a contact tracer will call you. Your participation helps slow the spread of COVID-19. Any information you share is **CONFIDENTIAL**.
- ▶ **Learn more** at [covidlink.maryland.gov](https://covidlink.maryland.gov)



**ADD YOUR PHONE. FIGHT COVID-19.**  
**GET COVID-19 EXPOSURE ALERTS**

**MDCOVID ALERT**

Learn more about how contact tracing can fight COVID-19 at [covidlink.maryland.gov](https://covidlink.maryland.gov)

 @MDHealthDept  
Updated 1/7/2021

# Multiple COVID-19 variants are circulating globally

B.1.1.7	B.1.351	P.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Variant name is a reference to its lineage</li><li>• Appears to have originated in the UK with an unusually large number of mutations</li><li>• Was first detected in 9/2020</li><li>• Spreads more quickly and easily than other variants</li><li>• Some evidence it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death</li><li>• Highly prevalent in London and southeast England</li><li>• Doubling every 10 days in the United States</li><li>• Vaccines appear to work well against it</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Variant name is a reference to its lineage Has emerged in South Africa, is independent of B.1.1.7</li><li>• Originally detected in 8/2020</li><li>• Shares some mutations with B.1.1.7</li><li>• Clinical trials of vaccines show they offer less protection against this variant than other variants</li><li>• The FDA is preparing a plan to update vaccines if B.1.351 surges in the United States</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Variant name is a reference to its lineage</li><li>• Emerged in Brazil</li><li>• Was identified in four travelers from Brazil, who were tested during routine screening at Haneda airport outside Tokyo, Japan</li><li>• Contains a set of additional mutations that may affect its ability to be recognized by antibodies</li><li>• Is a close relative of B.1.351</li><li>• May be able to overcome the immunity developed after infection by other variants</li></ul>



# New Variant Reporting to MDH

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As part of these MDH surveillance efforts, MDH requests that clinicians report, via an online portal, COVID-19 cases among any of the following groups:

- ❖ **Individuals who first test positive for COVID-19 after receiving COVID-19 vaccination** (either one or two doses)
- ❖ **Severely immunocompromised individuals with prolonged COVID-19 infection**
- ❖ **Individuals suspected of reinfection** – specifically, symptomatic individuals who test PCR positive for SARS-CoV-2 more than 90 days after an initial infection from which they clinically recovered
- ❖ **Individuals with recent international travel** (travel in the 14 days prior to symptom onset)
- ❖ **Any other individuals for whom you have clinical suspicion of infection with a possible variant** (e.g., unusual clinical manifestation, etc.)

[Clinician Letter Link](#)

# Covid-19 mAb Treatment Criteria

## ❖ Patient Criteria

- Have BMI  $\geq 35$
- Have chronic kidney disease
- Have diabetes
- Are currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment
- Are  $\geq 65$  years old
- Are  $\geq 55$  years old and have
  - ✓ Cardiovascular disease, or
  - ✓ Hypertension, or
  - ✓ Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/other chronic respiratory disease
- Are 12 – 17 years old AND have
  - ✓ BMI  $\geq 85^{\text{th}}$  percentile for their age and gender based on CDC growth charts, or
  - ✓ Sickle cell disease, or
  - ✓ Congenital or acquired heart disease, or
  - ✓ Neurodevelopmental disorders, or
  - ✓ A medical-related technological dependence, or
  - ✓ Asthma

# Covid-19 Testing Information

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- ❖ [Maryland Department of Health testing announcements and accessibility information and resources](#)
- ❖ [CDC Covid-19 testing overview](#)
- ❖ [MDPCP Roadmap to Recovery – Covid-19 testing guidelines](#)
- ❖ [Maryland Department of Health guidance regarding point of Care rapid antigen Covid testing](#)
- ❖ [myLAB Box - Covid-19 testing program for Maryland clinicians](#)
- ❖ [FDA letter to clinical laboratory staff and health care providers about the potential for false positive results with rapid antigen tests for Covid-19](#)

# Scheduling In-Office Appointments

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- ❖ Patient calls in for an appointment
  - Reception screens patient on the phone using the [pre-visit screening template](#)
  - Schedule in-office visits for different groups: At-risk and vulnerable patients on certain days, healthier patients on other days
  - Schedule telehealth and non-office-based care for other patients including follow-ups and patients uncomfortable with office visits
- ❖ Check In
  - Practice remote check in and limited front-desk contact
  - Consider using a triage zone outside of office or main area;
  - Or use a barrier at the front desk
  - Design your office to accommodate patients who come in specifically for Covid testing and triage, separate from patients who arrive for non-Covid related and elective procedures
    - ✓ Ensure patients and staff do not cross between Covid and non-Covid areas
    - ✓ Set aside a specific area for patients who come in for testing to wait and be triaged

# Scheduling In-Office Appointments

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- ❖ Checking out
  - Practice remote check out, limit front desk exposure;
  - Or use a barrier at the front desk
- ❖ If patient is paying co-pays, etc., set up credit card reader outside of the barrier
- ❖ Other workflow resources
  - [Care management workflows](#)
  - [BMJ telemedicine workflow graphics](#)
  - [CDC flowchart to identify and assess 2019 novel Coronavirus](#)
  - [CDC telephone evaluation flow chart for flu](#)
  - [CDC guidance for potential Covid-19 exposure associated with international or domestic travel](#)

# CDC Guidelines for Covid Patient Management

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- ❖ Healthy people can be monitored, self-isolated at home
- ❖ People at higher risk should contact healthcare providers early, even if illness is mild
- ❖ Older adults and people with severe underlying chronic medical conditions are at higher risk, need closer contact
- ❖ Emergency Department and Hospitals only when needed - not for screening or low risk/minimal disease
- ❖ **Guidelines are important and powerful tools, but remember providers' clinical experience and judgment are key to care**

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Sources and Requests

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- ❖ Practices should initially request PPE through their usual vendors
- ❖ Practices should make their PPE requests through their local health departments
- ❖ Maryland PPE Manufacturers List – next slide
- ❖ [National and international PPE supplier list](#)
- ❖ [PPE request form](#)

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Sources and Requests

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- ❖ Increasing Maryland's supply of PPE – one of the 4 building blocks on the Road to Recovery
- ❖ Maryland has launched the [Maryland Manufacturing Network Supplier Portal](#), an online platform that helps connect Maryland suppliers with buyers in need of critical resources
- ❖ For additional business resources during Covid-19, visit [businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus](https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus)
- ❖ Providers may also request PPE from the non-profit [‘Get Us PPE’](#)



# Provider/Patient Mental Health Resources

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## ❖ Providers

- “Helping the Helpers and Those They Serve,” a [webinar series](#) from the Maryland Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration and MedChi (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of every month starting 11/12/2020)
- [Heroes Health Initiative](#)

## ❖ Patients

- [Ask Suicide-Screening Questions toolkit](#)
- CDC [list of resources](#) for coping with stress

# Health Equity Resources

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- ❖ [Maryland Department of Health Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities](#) (MHHD)
- ❖ Maryland Department of Health Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance Program [overview](#)
- ❖ MHHD fiscal year 2020 minority outreach and technical assistance [program information](#)
- ❖ [Description](#) of the term “health disparity”
- ❖ [Implicit bias test](#)
- ❖ “Hundreds of Days of Action as a Start to Address Hundreds of Years of Inequality” – New England Journal of Medicine [article](#) by Maulik Joshi, DrPH
- ❖ “Discussion Draft of the Preliminary Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine” – [discussion draft](#) for public comment by Committee on Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus, The National Academies of Science, Engineering, Medicine

# Telehealth Resources

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- ❖ [Maryland Health Care Commission Telehealth](#)
- ❖ [Maryland Health Care Commission Telehealth Readiness Assessment Tool](#)
- ❖ [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPAA\) for Professionals](#)
- ❖ [American Telehealth Association](#)
- ❖ [Maryland Telehealth Alliance](#)
- ❖ [National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers](#)

# Support for Patients at Home

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## ❖ Food

- Meals on Wheels

## ❖ Caregivers

- Visiting nurses and caregivers

## ❖ Emotional support

- Support from family
- Phone calls and videochat to fight loneliness
- MD Department of Aging [Senior Call Check Program](#)

# Staying Current - Sources

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- ❖ [CDC](#)
- ❖ [MDH Covid-19 information page](#)
- ❖ [MDPCP Covid-19 webpage](#)
- ❖ Local Health Departments
- ❖ [CONNECT](#)
- ❖ Clinician Letters
- ❖ Multiple Resource Links in Appendix

# Food Resources

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❖ Nutrition: Inform patients that children can receive three free meals/day at sites listed on:

➤ [Maryland Summer Meals](#)

➤ [Montgomery County](#)

➤ [Prince Georges County](#)

➤ [Charles County](#)

➤ [Frederick County](#)

[Howard County](#)

[Anne Arundel County](#)

[St. Mary's County](#)

[Harford County](#)

[Calvert County](#)

❖ Free meals available from 42 rec centers in Baltimore

➤ Call 311 for locations and to schedule pickup time

# Resources for Specific Groups

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- ❖ Community- and Faith-Based Organizations  
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>)
- ❖ Mass Gatherings and Large Community Events  
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>)
- ❖ Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions for Specific Groups  
(<https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/index.html>)

# Resources and References

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- ❖ Maryland Department of Health Coronavirus Website (<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov>)
- ❖ CDC Coronavirus Website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>)
- ❖ CDC National data on Covid-19 infection and mortality (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>)
- ❖ CDC Interim Guidance for Homes and Communities (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>)
- ❖ CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>)
- ❖ CDC Interim Guidance for Childcare and Schools (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>)
- ❖ CDC Travel Website (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>)