

Covid-19 Update: The New Wave

Maryland Department of Health Maryland Primary Care Program Program Management Office

25 August 2021

Riding the Waves



Figure. 1918 Pandemic Waves³

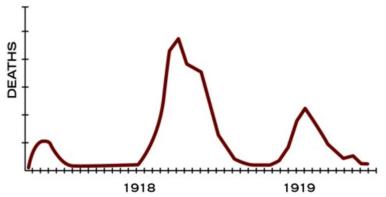


Table. 1918 Pandemic Waves			
Wave	1	2	3
Dates	Spring 1918	Fall 1918	Winter 1918–1919
Severity	Mild	Virulent	Less virulent
Deaths	50 million to 100 million, mainly young adults and pregnant women		
Mortality Rate	5%, up to 33% of isolated populations		

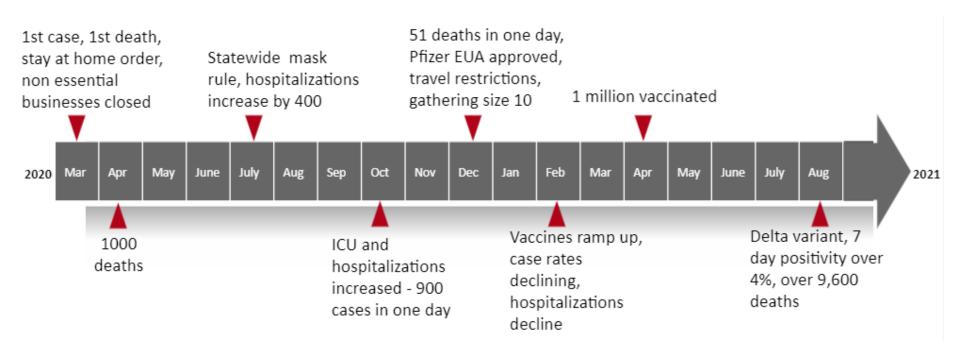


Agenda

- Current Pandemic data
- Vaccines
- Virus Variants
- Monoclonal antibodies and testing
- Long Covid
- Boosters and immunity
- Need to continue good public health practices
- Schools, mask mandates and controversy
- Avoiding burnout
- End games for pandemic
- **♦** Q&A



Timeline of Pandemic Events





Daily COVID-19 Report

Data reported as of 8/23/2021 for data through 8/22/2021

487,893

11,791,829

17.0

6,739

9,726

7-day avg. case rate

cases reported yesterday

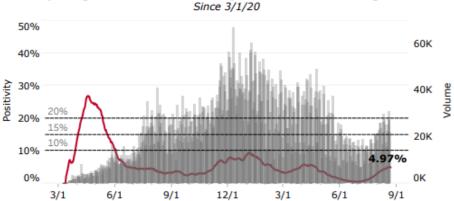
21,763 tests reported yesterday

4.97% 7-day avg. positivity

-130 change in total hospital census

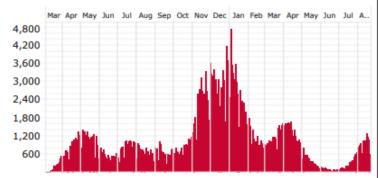
deaths reported yesterday

7-Day Avg. Percent Positivity and Total Testing Volume

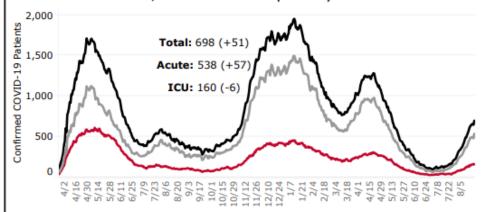


Daily New Cases

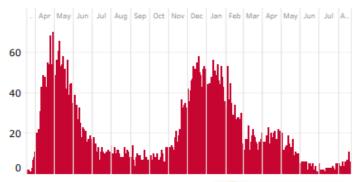
by Specimen Collection Date



Statewide Acute/ICU Beds Occupied by COVID Patients



Daily Deaths Confirmed and Probable

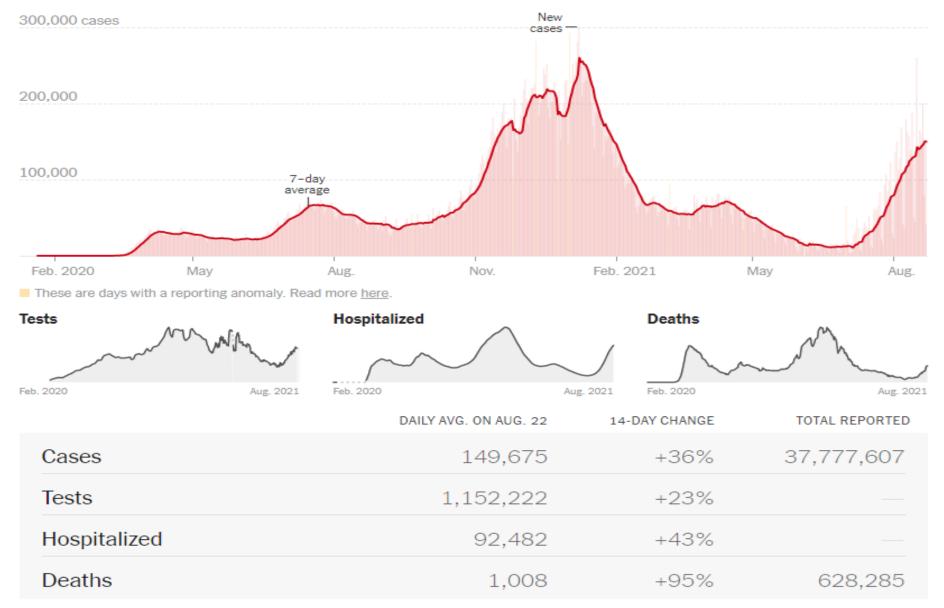


Case rate calculated as total confirmed cases per 100,000 population using the 2019 Maryland Population estimates from the Maryland Department of Planning, March 2020.



Overview of Current Pandemic Trends in the United States

New reported cases

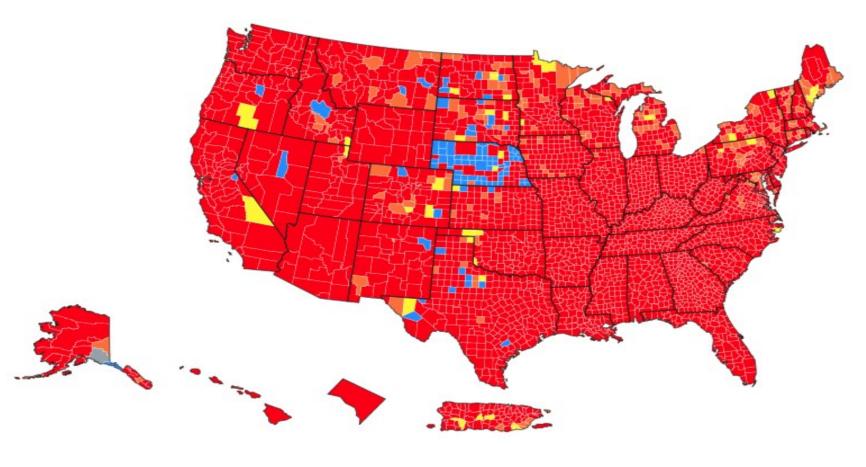


Source: New York Times Data Updated 8/23/2021

US Community Transmission

Substantial Moderate Low

Community Transmission in the United States, August 15 - August 21

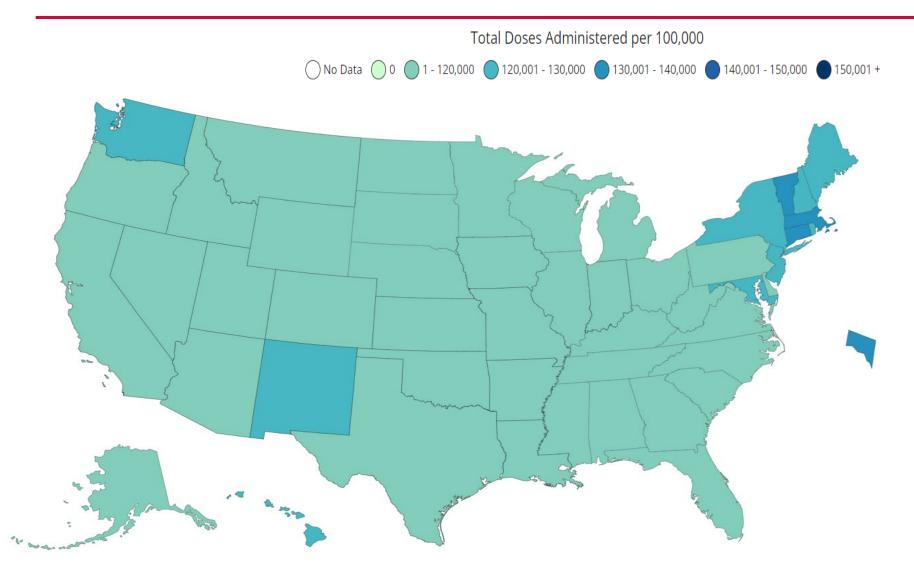


No Data

Source: CDC

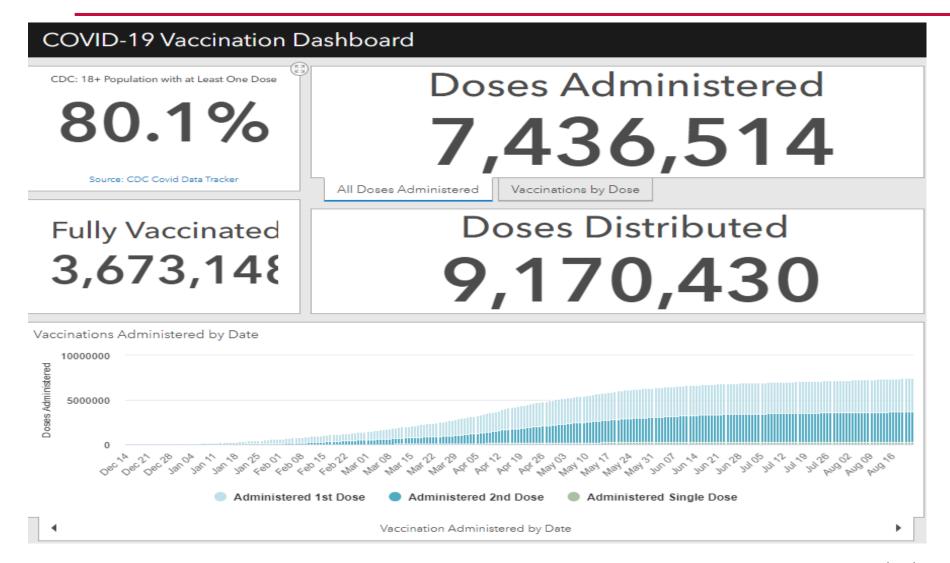
High

Total Doses Administered Reported to the CDC by State/Territory and for Select Federal Entities per 100,000 of the Total Population



Source: CDC Data Updated 8/23/2021

Statewide Vaccination Data





Report Date: 8/17/2021 4:52:16 AM

Cumulative Doses Ordered

260,773

141,117

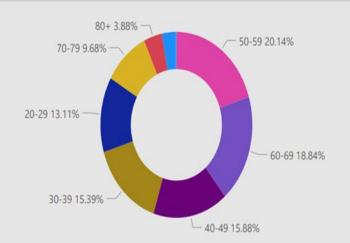
Cumulative Doses Administered

Breakdown by Race and Ethnicity

Race	PCP	Maryland Demographic	State Vaccination
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.68%	0.60%	0.77%
Asian	3.73%	6.70%	6.91%
Black or African American	28.78%	31.10%	25.24%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.21%	2.90%	0.26%
Unknown	13.23%	0.10%	10.86%
White	53.37%	58.50%	55.97%

Ethnicity	PCP	Maryland Demographic	State Vaccination
Hispanic	11.21%	10.60%	9.78%
Non Hispanic	83.15%	89.40%	85.75%
Unknown	5.64%	0.00%	4.47%

Administered Vaccinations by Age Groups



Onboarding Progress Terminology

Status	Actions
1. Receiving Doses This Week	None
2. Ready to Receive Vaccine	None
3. Has COVID pin; ability to report administration data is being tested	CRISP working with providers and EHR vend
4. Currently reporting other vaccination types; in process for COVID pin	MDH working with providers to register
5. Does not currently vaccinate and does not have a COVID pin	MDH / EY working on outreach
6. Potential for outreach to engage in process	MDH / EY working on outreach

Legend	Description
Eligible to Order Vaccines Next Week	Providers are eligible to receive vaccines
Program Participants	Providers have been allocated or previously allocated vaccines

We are excited to acknowledge the top 5 MDPCP practices and CTOs for Covid-19 vaccination efforts!

Practices

- 1. Charlestown Medical Center (92.80%)
- 2. Linda M. Lang, M.D., LLC (92.06%)
- 3. Jeffrey D. Gaber & Associates, PA (92.05%)
- 4. Dorchester Family Medicine (91.90%)
- 5. Marshak Medical Group (91.85%)

CTOs

- 1. Holy Cross Health, Inc. (88.2%)
- 2. PHS Doctors CTO (85.08%)
- 3. Greater Baltimore Health Alliance Physicians, LLC (83.43%)
- 4. Ascension Saint Agnes Community Health Partners (83.39%)
- 5. University of Maryland Care Transformation Organization, LLC (82.24%)

Note: percentages represent percent of MDPCP beneficiaries fully vaccinated



Full FDA Approval of Covid-19 Pfizer Vaccine

- Announced on August 23
- Approved for administration to persons 16+
- Remains eligible under emergency use authorization, including
 - For individuals 12 through 15 years of age
 - For the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals
- More information available here





Source: FDA

Additional Reimbursement for Covid-19 Vaccines

- CMS will now pay to administer additional doses of Covid-19 vaccines consistent with the FDA EUAs (rate is \$40/dose)
 - CPT code 0003A for the Pfizer vaccine
 - CPT code 0013A for the Moderna vaccine





Messaging on Pregnancy, Fertility, and Covid-19 Vaccines

- CDC recommends Covid-19 vaccination for all people who are pregnant, breastfeeding or trying to get pregnant now or in the future.
- ❖ Data show that pregnant and recently pregnant people are more likely to get severely ill if infected with Covid-19, and the highly contagious delta variant makes it even more important for eligible people to get vaccinated.
- ❖ There is no evidence to show that getting a vaccine increases the risk of miscarriage. The CDC's recommendation is based on further evidence about the safety of Covid-19 vaccines and a new analysis of current data from the CDC's v-safe pregnancy registry.
- There is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including Covid-19 vaccines.

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Delta Variant (B.1.617.2)

- ❖ More highly transmissible (R₀ ~7)
- Not reliant on superspreader events for perpetuation; most people infected with the Delta variant create clusters of infection
- Now the predominant variant in the United States
- Higher threshold for "herd immunity" 85+%
- Sweeping through unvaccinated areas in the US
- Vaccines effective but less; breakthrough infections are infrequent
- Responsible for most hospitalizations and deaths



Monoclonal Antibodies Updates

- Regeneron available by direct order from Amerisource Bergen
- ❖ New EUA- <u>link</u>
 - Subcutaneous administration
 - > Expanded use clinical judgment
 - > Expanded use- post exposure prevention
 - Expanded use- monthly use for those at high risk and immunocompromised



CRISP eReferral Tool for Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Referrals

- Allows providers and their staff to refer patients to Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Sites
- Provides Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Sites with
 - > A comprehensive list of referred patients
 - The ability to update the referring physician and/or staff member all within one easy to navigate environment
- Supports practices in their identification of non-medical patient needs and allows for those patients to be connected to the appropriate community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Automates communication channels between CBOs and referring parties within the same platform and workflow

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Monoclonal Antibody Sites

Region and Site	How to Refer
Region 1: UPMC Western Maryland	Email form to WMD-Covidantibody@upmc.edu
Region 1: Garrett Medical Center	Fax form to 301-533-4198
Region 2: Meritus Medical Center	Fax form to 301-790-9229
Region 3: Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital	Visit <u>umms.org/ICReferral</u> to submit a form via secure, HIPAAcompliant upload.
Region 3: UM Upper Chesapeake Health	Fax referral form to 443-643-1545; or use <u>CRISP Referral System</u>
Region 3: Anne Arundel Medical Center	Fax form to 442-481-5744
Region 3: MedStar Harbor Infusion Center	Fax form to 443-583-0651; or visit <u>MedStar Harbor Infusion Center Referral Form</u> via secure link
Region 3: Hatzalah of Baltimore	Submit to Hatzalah Infusion Center Referral Form via secure link or email Covidtherapy@hatzalahbaltimore.org
Region 3: Odenton Volunteer Fire Department	Call 443-459-1095
Region 3: City of Praise Family Ministries	Call 443-459-1095
Region 4: Atlantic General Hospital	Fax form to 410-641-9708
Region 4: TidalHealth	Email form to CovidTX@Tidalhealth.org; or Fax form to 410- 912-4959
Region 5: Adventist Takoma Park	Fax form to 301-891-6120
Region 5: Doctor's Community Hospital	Fax referral form to 240-542-3451
Region 5: Charles Regional Medical Center	Fax referral form to 301-934-1798; or use <u>CRISP Referral System</u>
Region 5: UMMS Capital Regional Health: Laurel 3-4-5	Call to schedule at 301-256-9234; Fax referral form to 301-256- 9224; or use CRISP Referral System

Monoclonal Activity in Maryland



Testing \(\) Future

Expanding Laboratory Capacity Grant: the next phase in Primary Care - Public Health Integration

- **ELC** cooperative grant from CDC to states
- MDPCP funds to provide POC platforms for primary care providers with digital connections to MDH through CRISP
- Reporting on current and future conditions of epidemiologic importance
 - Covid-19
 - > Influenza
 - > RSV
 - > others

Long Covid

- Emerging medical condition
- Wide variety of symptoms
- Unknown duration
- No known treatment
- Not related to severity of illness
- Prominent features include
 - "Brain fog" or cognitive impairment
 - Post-exertional malaise and/or poor endurance
 - Mood changes



Boosters and Immunocompromise

- ❖ 3rd immunizations for immunocompromised currently (CDC fact sheet available here and MDPCP fact sheet available here)
 - For individuals with moderate to severe immunocompromise; providers should develop own procedures to determine patient eligibility
 - At least 28 days after fully vaccinated
 - mRNA vaccines only- there has been no approval for Johnson and Johnson vaccines
 - Preference to vaccine type fidelity
 - Helps increase vaccine effectiveness
 - Continue to emphasize other prevention measures
 - Patients do not need a referral from their provider to receive a 3rd dose
 - CDC advice for talking with immunocompromised patients available here

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Boosters for General Population

- 3rd immunizations for others
 - Due to the possible waning effectiveness of vaccines
 - Will begin to be offered to previous mRNA vaccine recipients starting September 20
 - √ HHS anticipates booster shots will be needed for Johnson and Johnson vaccine recipients and expects more data about this vaccine in the next couple of weeks
 - 8 months after fully vaccinated
 - Priority similar to initial rollout
 - √ HCWs
 - √ SNFs
 - √ Seniors
 - √ Chronic illness
 - MDH is preparing for booster vaccination administration, asks all providers to prepare
- Maryland clinician letter available here



Johnson & Johnson Recommends Booster for Its Covid-19 Vaccine

- ❖ Johnson & Johnson announced data supports the use of its Covid-19 vaccine as a booster shot for previous recipients of the vaccine
 - Antibody levels in individuals who received a booster shot after six months were nine times higher than they were 28 days after they first received the vaccine
 - Significant increases in binding antibody responses were observed in individuals
 - ✓ Between the ages of 18 and 65
 - ✓ 65+ who received a lower booster dose
- ❖ Johnson & Johnson has indicated it will submit the study results to the FDA to argue for authorization of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as a booster shot for individuals who previously received it
- Johnson & Johnson believes the data supports the use of its vaccine as a booster for previous Johnson & Johnson vaccine recipients eight months after the initial vaccination

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Marylanders Should Continue to Use Good Public Health Practices

- Marylanders should continue to get tested if they experience Covid-19 symptoms
- Marylanders should isolate if they have tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 10 days or if they are symptomatic
- ❖ Marylanders should continue wearing masks indoors even if they are fully masked in areas where the Covid-19 transmission level is "substantial risk" (areas where there are 50+ cases per 100,000 residents) or "high risk" (areas where there are 100+ cases per 100,000 residents). Every county in Maryland is "substantial risk" or "high risk"



Schools, masks and other Controversies

- No mask mandate for schools in Marylandjurisdiction mandates only
- Several school districts employing testing protocols
 - Screening
 - > symptomatic
- Contact tracing is variable



Let's Pause

Over the past 16 months, you and your staff have been working nonstop to be present and deliver care to your patients:

- Covid-19 testing
- Mitigating risk
- Regular non-Covid care provision
- Covid-19 vaccines

Working through this pandemic has led to increased anxiety, stress, and higher demands which have led to an increase in burnout.



Self Reflection

- → Why did you pursue a career in healthcare?
- → What is your favorite thing about working in your practice?
- → How do you, in your role, help push forward the goals of public health?
- → How do you and your practice help meet patients where they are at?



Tips for Combatting Staff Burnout

- Conduct huddles, check-ins, and conversations with other staff members that acknowledge what is important to them in that moment both professionally and personally
- Empathize with staff when they encounter change and acknowledge the difficulty with adapting to new policies
- Invite staff to participate in decision-making capacities where appropriate
- Share what you know and don't know with all staff members along the way
- Connect daily work back to the mission of your organization
 - How does the daily work fulfill your mission?
 - Even when tasks seem menial, how do they contribute to the bigger picture?
- ❖ Behavioral Health Administration webinar series: <u>Helping the Helpers</u> and Those They Serve

Will it ever be truly "over"?

- Do we find how to cohabitate with the virus, or
- Find closure to the pandemic
 - Cases rates are at or near zero consistently
 - > Hospitalizations are at or near zero consistently
 - > Deaths are at or near zero consistently



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

John Lennon

CME Accreditation and Designation

- 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



CME Disclosures and Evaluation

- 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

Thank you to all of our providers and their staff who were true healthcare heroes throughout the pandemic

Regular Wednesday Covid-19 Updates will resume every other week beginning in September

- ❖ September 8, 2021 (5:00 pm − 6:30 pm)
 - Registration link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5457730946292655373
- ❖ September 22, 2021 (5:00 pm − 6:30 pm)
 - Registration link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3673167499319295501

Appendix

Resources and Links



General Vaccine Resources

- * <u>CDC Covid-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit</u> ready made materials, how to build vaccine confidence, social media messages
- New York Times Vaccine Tracker information on every Covid-19 vaccine in development
- New York Times Vaccine Distribution Tracker information on the distribution of Covid-19 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



Covid-19 mAb Treatment Criteria

Patient Criteria

- Use clinical judgment
- Have BMI >= 35
- ➤ Have chronic kidney disease
- Have diabetes
- Are currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment
- > Are >= 65 years old
- ➤ Are >=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 >= 85^{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**



Scheduling In-Office Appointments

- Patient calls in for an appointment
 - > Reception screens patient on the phone using the <u>pre-visit screening template</u>
 - > 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-19 testing and triage, separate from patients who arrive for non-Covid-19 related and elective procedures
 - ✓ Ensure patients and staff do not cross between Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 areas
 - ✓ Set aside a specific area for patients who come in for testing to wait and be triaged



Scheduling In-Office Appointments

- 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-19 Patient Management

- 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

- 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

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



Provider/Patient Mental Health Resources

Providers

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

Patients

- Ask Suicide-Screening Questions toolkit
- > CDC <u>list of resources</u> for coping with stress



Health Equity Resources

- Maryland Department of Health Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD)
- Maryland Department of Health Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance Program <u>overview</u>
- 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" – <u>discussion draft</u> for public comment by Committee on Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus, The National Academies of Science, Engineering, Medicine

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Telehealth Resources

- 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

- 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



Food Resources

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

➤ Maryland Summer Meals Howard County

➤ Montgomery County Anne Arundel County

Prince Georges County
St. Mary's County

➤ Charles County Harford County

Frederick 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

- 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

- 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/)

