



**Bulletin:** Updates on Maryland's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan: Phase 1C on Monday, January 25 (Week 7 Allocation).

**To:** All COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Registered in ImmuNet (Including But Not Limited To Hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and Local Health Departments)

**From:** Bryan Mroz, Assistant Secretary (Act.), Maryland Department of Health

**Date:** January 21, 2021

Please review the latest [Vaccination Matters Order \(01/21/2021\)](#). We encourage every provider to make use of every resource to ensure a successful vaccination campaign. **All COVID-19 vaccine providers are required to administer COVID-19 vaccine according to the following updated guidance.**

**Updates:**

- This document updates the COVID-19 vaccine bulletin, dated January 14, 2021.
- **All individuals in Phase 1A and 1B remain eligible for COVID-19 vaccine.**
- **Effective Monday, January 25, Maryland will move to Phase 1C and all priority groups identified below.** All individuals in Phases 1A and 1B remain eligible for COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Phase 1C includes:**
  - All Marylanders over 65.
  - All other public safety (not in Phase 1A)
  - All other healthcare (not in Phase 1A), including, but not limited to Lab Services, Public Health, Vaccine Manufacturing, other healthcare professions).
  - Food and Agriculture Production
  - Critical Manufacturing
  - U.S. Postal Service
  - Public Mass Transit
  - Grocery Stores
  - Veterinarians and Support Staff

- Clergy and other essential support for houses of worship
- Note: for more information on the groups defined in Phase 1C above, please see [the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Critical Infrastructure Workers' Advisory Memorandum \(December 16, 2020\)](#).
- **Expansion of COVID-19 Vaccine Providers:** Maryland welcomes our new retail pharmacy providers beginning in Week 7:
  - Starting on Jan. 25: Giant (Martins), Walmart.
  - Starting on Feb. 1: Rite Aid, and Safeway.
  - As a result, doses to existing providers will be decreased in Week 7.
- Allocation numbers will be communicated to each provider separately from this bulletin on Friday, January 22, 2021 as soon as we have received confirmation from the federal government of our order.
  - We emphasize that requests from providers who have not administered at least 75 percent of all of their total dose allocation received to date will not be prioritized in the subsequent week's allocation.
  - All allocation requests are due to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) by 2pm on Tuesday each week at [mdh.covidvax@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.covidvax@maryland.gov).

**Directives to COVID-19 Vaccine Providers:**

**1. All COVID-19 Vaccine Providers, except for CVS/Walgreens as part of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, shall:**

- Register in ImmuNet in order to potentially be allocated vaccine at: [https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Pages/quick\\_ref\\_guides.aspx](https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Pages/quick_ref_guides.aspx)
- **Prioritize Marylanders who are 75 and older in Phase 1B, and Marylanders who are 65 and older over all other groups in Phase 1C. Failure to do so may result in reallocation to other providers within the same jurisdiction.**
- Local health departments, FQHCs, and hospitals are directed to schedule vaccination clinics using their available vaccine supply for Marylanders ages 75 and over. The clinics must have begun no later than Wednesday, January 20, 2021. These clinics should expand to Marylanders age 65 and over on Monday, January 25, 2021.

**2. CovidVax.Maryland.gov**

- All providers shall submit their vaccination site details (vaccine appointment registration webpage and a phone number that directs callers to staff accepting appointment registrations) to [john.watson@maryland.gov](mailto:john.watson@maryland.gov) using the attached form.
- All registered COVID-19 vaccine providers in ImmuNet that are offering vaccination clinics will be listed on this page.

- All COVID-19 vaccinations are by appointment only.

### 3. **Second Doses**

- Maryland will automatically provide the equivalent number of second doses to all providers receiving first doses at the appropriate intervals (3 weeks for Pfizer, 4 weeks for Moderna).
- A COVID-19 vaccine provider may not use its second dose allocation as first doses. They will not be provided with additional doses if the second doses are used.
- A provider shall schedule an individual's second dose, to the extent possible, at the time of the first dose administration. This dose should be at the same location from the same provider and communicated to the individual. **An individual does not need to create a new appointment on their own for the second dose.** For more information, please see the [CDC second dose clinical considerations here](#).
- Providers that have already administered first doses shall make every effort to ensure that individuals have the opportunity to make second dose appointments at the appropriate time interval from the first dose.
- If individuals do not attend their second dose appointments and vaccine doses would otherwise be wasted, providers may use only those second doses as first doses.
- Any second doses used as first doses must be promptly reported to the State through ImmuNet to ensure data is reported accurately and the appropriate second doses may be ordered.

### 4. **Wastage/At-risk Vaccines**

- At-risk vaccines are doses of COVID-19 vaccine that are at risk of being wasted due to expiration or spoilage.
- Pursuant to Paragraph 4B of the [January 21, 2021 Amended Vaccination Matters Order](#), reasonable efforts should be made to reallocate at-risk vaccines in accordance with the prioritization framework outlined in this guidance; if this is not practicable, at-risk vaccines shall be administered to any unvaccinated person.
- Providers shall report all COVID vaccine wastage and vaccine storage unit temperature excursions to [www.marylandvfc.org](http://www.marylandvfc.org). Please review the guidance before disposing of any COVID vaccine doses.
- MDH may reduce the COVID-19 vaccine allocation to any provider or facility that commits or allows wastage of COVID-19 vaccines
- Local Health Departments: Please see Paragraph 6 below for specific directives on wastage.

## **5. Transfer of Doses from the Original Provider**

- A provider who has been allocated doses from Maryland may transfer doses to another vaccine provider. The receiving vaccine provider must have completed the CDC provider agreement and the CDC redistribution agreement.
- Providers must keep records of what doses have been transferred and send the request to transfer doses by emailing [mdh.covidvax@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.covidvax@maryland.gov). The request should include the number of doses to transfer and the name/contact information of the receiving vaccine provider.
- If a provider transfers doses, the original provider must ensure the reporting of the doses administered by the receiving provider in ImmuNet.
- We will give the exact same second dose amount to the original provider at the appropriate time interval and they must ensure that the doses are administered to the same people and that those doses are reported.

## **6. Additional Local Health Departments Guidance**

- **Local health departments** should set aside at least 100 doses per week from their overall allocation for Phase 1B educators in their jurisdiction until they have vaccinated their educators. For more information, please see Section 8 (below), Education.
- Pursuant to Paragraph 4C of the January 21, 2021 Amended Vaccination Matters Order, each local health department shall develop and enforce a plan for minimizing wastage of at-risk vaccines for all providers and facilities located in their jurisdiction, consistent with the guidance in section 4 above (an “anti-wastage plan”).
- In the absence of any anti-wastage plan, providers and facilities shall comply with the State’s general policy in section 4 above.
- MDH may reduce the COVID-19 vaccine allocation to any local health department that fails to develop and/or enforce an anti-wastage plan.

## **7. Residency and Priority Group Eligibility Determinations**

- All COVID-19 vaccine providers shall take reasonable steps to determine if an individual qualifies for the above groups. A COVID-19 vaccine provider may require additional documentation, employee identification, or that organizations submit institutional plans with identified individuals.
- A COVID-19 vaccine provider may not refuse an individual a vaccine based on their citizenship or immigration status.
- We prefer that Marylanders are prioritized for getting a vaccine allocated to us by the federal government; however, Maryland will not turn away a person from out of state who needs a vaccine. We ask that non-Maryland residents attempt to obtain their vaccine from their home state in order to maximize the doses available to Marylanders.

**8. Phase 1B Includes:**

- **All Marylanders age 75 and over.**
- All Marylanders of any age in assisted living, independent living, behavioral health and developmentally disabled group homes, and other congregate facilities through Part B of the Federal Long-Term Care Pharmacy Partnership Program.
  - **Note:** Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can begin receiving vaccines as part of Phase 1B. Those who reside in congregate-living facilities will be prioritized. Direct support professionals will be able to receive vaccines in Phase 1C.
- **Education** (K-12 teachers and support staff, childcare providers, higher education institutions)
  - Educational facilities include: licensed childcare facilities, K-12: both public school systems and nonpublic schools; and higher educational institutions.
  - Each educational facility shall:
    - Identify a clinical provider (e.g. hospitals, FQHCs, others) that is registered with ImmuNet for COVID-19 vaccine administration. If no provider is identified, then the local health department will be the default vaccinator of that facility through one of their general population clinics and the local health department's vaccine allocation.
    - We encourage each educational facility and their clinical provider to coordinate with each local health department on their vaccine administration plan for vaccine allocations.
    - An educational facility's clinical provider may submit a vaccine allocation request to the state and identify the number of staff that need to be vaccinated.
    - **Note:** Due to the limited supply of vaccine, Maryland does not anticipate significantly fulfilling any specific educational vaccine requests until a majority of Marylanders over age 65 are vaccinated.
- Note: Higher Educational Institutional front line workers with potential contact with students living in residence halls (congregate living), facilities maintenance, dining hall, campus police are included in 1C.
- Each educational facility shall prioritize their faculty, staff, and students by the following:
  - (A) Faculty or staff that provide essential in-person learning (i.e. instruction that cannot be delivered remotely);
  - (B) Individuals with essential functions related to facility/campus operations;

- (C) Individuals that require residential or on-campus housing;
- (D) or that meet an existing priority group in Phase 1A or 1B currently.

○ **Continuity of Government**

- Local elected officials should be prioritized as extra doses become available by the relevant local health departments.
- All federal law enforcement agencies should coordinate with the Maryland State Police on their needs.
- All local government (at the county and municipal levels) agencies shall coordinate with their local health department on vaccination priorities. As extra doses become available, local health departments should vaccinate those agencies with a focus on continuity of government operations.
- MEMA, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and MDH will issue additional state agency specific guidance and requests for continuity of government operations for all non-state law enforcement agencies.

Further information will be provided as it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Owen, MDH Public Information Officer, at [andy.owen@maryland.gov](mailto:andy.owen@maryland.gov).