ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND
CORONAVIRUS
JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 20, 2021

ACIP MEETING THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS MODERNA, J&J BOOSTER RECOMMENDATIONS

CUMBERLAND, MD – The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a CDC group of medical and public health experts tasked with developing guidance for the use of vaccines, is meeting Wednesday and Thursday this week to discuss recommendations for booster doses of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccines. A decision is expected later this week. Booster doses of the Pfizer COVID vaccine have been available to specific populations since late September.

The COVID-19 case rate in Allegany County continues to exceed the statewide average, hovering at over twice the number of cases per 100,000 people. Meanwhile, the vaccination rate in the county remains one of the lowest in the state. As of October 19, 46.1% of Allegany County residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, compared to the Maryland state average of 65.7%.

Free COVID-19 vaccines are available locally at pharmacies, urgent care clinics, pediatric offices, and some primary care providers. Allegany County Health Department continues to offer COVID-19 vaccines on Wednesdays at the Willowbrook Office Complex, 12501 Willowbrook Road, Cumberland. Vaccinations are free and no appointment is needed. From 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccines are offered. From 1 to 4:00 p.m., Pfizer vaccines are offered for those age 12 and older, including booster doses for eligible adults. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Free drive-thru COVID testing continues at the Allegany County Fairgrounds on Mondays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can pre-register for testing by going to health.maryland.gov/allegany and clicking on the testing pre-registration link under "COVID-19 Information" on the right side of the page.

Allegany County COVID-19 Case Statistics as of October 19:
- New COVID Cases: 37 *(cumulative total 9,598)*
- Additional Deaths: 2 *(cumulative total 244)*
- Cases Per 100,000 Population: 38.75 *(Maryland: 14.11)*
- Positivity Rate: 7.77% *(Maryland: 3.36%)*

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