



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 17, 2021

### CDC UPDATES COVID-19 VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS Moderna, Pfizer mRNA vaccines recommended over J&J

CUMBERLAND, MD – The CDC has endorsed updated recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for the prevention of COVID-19, expressing a clinical preference for individuals to receive an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine over Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine. The unanimous recommendation is based on the latest data on vaccine effectiveness, vaccine safety and rare adverse events, and consideration of the U.S. vaccine supply. The U.S. supply of mRNA vaccines is abundant – with nearly 100 million doses in the field for immediate use. However, ACIP reaffirmed that receiving any vaccine is better than being unvaccinated. Individuals who are unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA vaccine will continue to have access to Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine.

“We have made important strides in the year since the COVID-19 vaccination program started. More than 200 million Americans have completed their primary vaccine series, providing protection against COVID-19, preventing millions of cases and hospitalizations, and saving over a million lives,” said CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky in a press statement Thursday. “Today’s updated recommendation emphasizes CDC’s commitment to provide real-time scientific information to the American public. I continue to encourage all Americans to get vaccinated and boosted.”

The updated CDC guidance comes as cases of the omicron COVID variant continue to rise around the country, with the CDC predicting a surge of omicron variant cases January.

Appointments are available for upcoming Moderna booster clinics at the Allegany County Fairgrounds. Links to register for those appointments are listed below and can also be found in a post pinned at the top of the health department Facebook page. For assistance registering for an appointment, county residents can call the COVID-19 call center at 240-650-3999.

- December 22: <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/5161103992>
- December 29: <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/0511621369>

The Allegany County Health Department continues to offer the following COVID-19 vaccinations on a walk-in basis every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Allegany County Fairgrounds at 11400 Moss Avenue, Cumberland, MD:

- First and second doses of Moderna vaccine (age 18 and older)
- First and second doses of Pfizer vaccine (age 12 and older)
- Booster doses of Pfizer vaccine (age 16 and older)

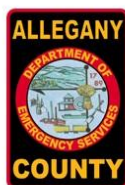
COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are also widely available in the community at local pharmacies, urgent care clinics, and some primary care providers. Currently, 48.7% of Allegany County residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, compared to 69.7% of all Marylanders.

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