FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 8, 2021

A COVID-19 BOOSTER DOSE IS ENCOURAGED FOR ALL ELIGIBLE COUNTY RESIDENTS

CUMBERLAND, MD – All eligible individuals ages 18 and older are encouraged to receive their COVID-19 booster vaccine. If you received your initial series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago, you are eligible for a booster dose. If you received a single dose of Johnson and Johnson vaccine at least two months ago, you are eligible for a booster dose.

"COVID-19 hospitalizations are trending up in the state and locally, and the majority of hospitalizations are among unvaccinated people. The vaccine offers strong protection against severe disease as long as you continue to receive all recommended doses including boosters," said Dr. Jennifer Corder, Medical Deputy Health Officer for Allegany and Garrett Counties. "The booster dose strengthens your immune response. Without a booster, your immunity can weaken over time and you will have less protection."

COVID-19 booster vaccines are available locally at pharmacies, urgent care clinics, and some primary care providers. The health department has appointments 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 15: https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/0913462591
- 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 also offers 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:

- 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 18 and older)

Free drive-thru COVID testing continues at the Allegany County Fairgrounds Ag Pavilion on Mondays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
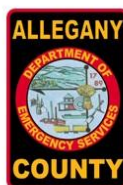
Updated data on COVID-19 cases are not currently available due to network issues at the Maryland Department of Health.

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