FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 23, 2022

CDC UPDATES LIST OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT CAUSE HIGHER RISK FOR SEVERE COVID-19

CUMBERLAND, MD – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated the list of underlying medical conditions which may put individuals at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on current evidence, people with any of those conditions are more likely to be hospitalized, require intensive care or a ventilator, or die from COVID. The list includes cancer, chronic organ diseases, neurological conditions, heart conditions, and other conditions which limit a person's ability to fight infection. The list can be viewed at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/underlyingconditions.html.

Health officials continue to urge the public to get vaccinated against COVID, get a booster when they are eligible, and get tested if they are experiencing symptons. These and other preventive measures such as masking and social distancing are especially important for those with underlying health conditions and for older individuals.

Beginning Feb. 21, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) updated the COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard to reflect CDC vaccination data. With this change, the percentage of Allegany County residents who are fully vaccinated has risen from 50% to 55%. MDH is continuously evaluating its data and reporting systems and will make updates as more data become available.

The Allegany County Health Department offers free COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals ages 12 and older on Wednesdays at the Allegany County Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No appointment is needed for first and second doses of Moderna vaccine (age 18+) and first, second, and booster doses of Pfizer vaccine (age 12+). Appointments are still required for the Moderna booster vaccine and individuals may schedule an appointment by visiting health.maryland.gov/allegany and clicking on the preferred clinic date.

Youth Pfizer vaccine clinics (ages 5 to 11) are held every third Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Willowbrook Office Complex at 12501 Willowbrook Road, Cumberland, MD. The next youth clinic is slated for Wednesday, March 9. Appointments are required for that clinic and can be scheduled at health.maryland.gov/allegany.

For assistance registering for an appointment, county residents can call the COVID-19 call center at 240-650-3999. COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are also widely available at local pharmacies, urgent care clinics, and some primary care providers.

Free drive-thru COVID-19 testing is still being offered at the Allegany County Fairgrounds (11400 Moss Ave., Cumberland) on Mondays from 2 to 7 p.m. and on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ALLEGANY COUNTY COVID-19 DATA AS OF FEBRUARY 22:

- New COVID Cases *(since February 17)*: 95 (cumulative total 16,857)
- Additional Deaths *(since February 17)*: 2 (cumulative total 344)
- Cases Per 100,000 People: 29.42 (Maryland: 10.99)
- Positivity Rate: 7.79% (Maryland: 2.87%)
- Percentage of County Population Fully Vaccinated: 55.1%

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