

COVID-19 Vaccine Inquiry Statement

(Adapted from the Maryland Department of Health Approved VAX Prioritization Letter 12/8/20)

Thank you for contacting the Anne Arundel County Department of Health regarding the COVID-19 vaccinations.

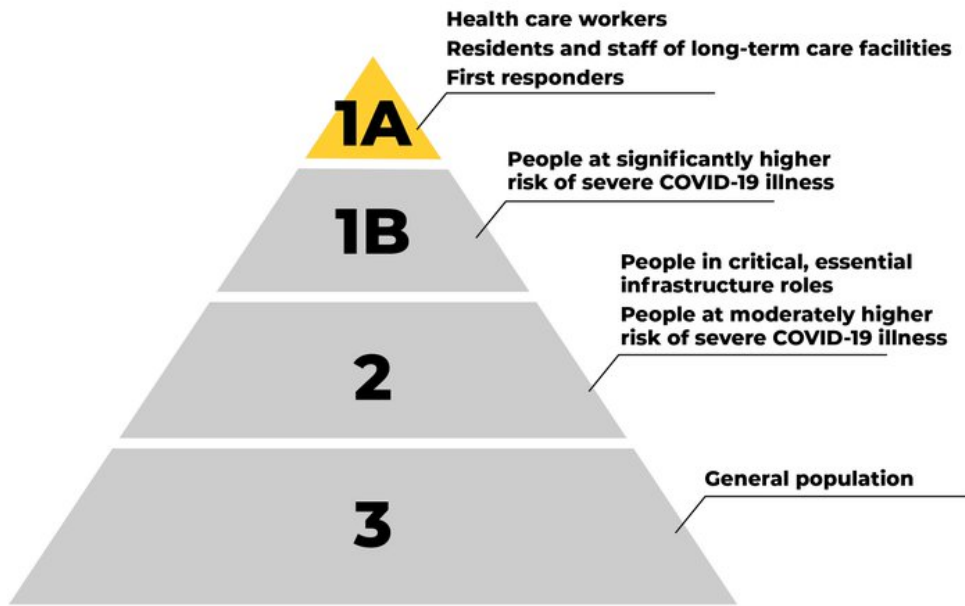
Maryland has been planning for the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines since early 2020 by working closely with federal partners. Primary distribution and allocation to the states will be made by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the federal Operation Warp Speed (OWS) effort.

In the first phase, based on the latest federal information and relative limited availability of the vaccine in December, Maryland will prioritize nursing homes (both staff and residents), and critical healthcare staff at the state's hospitals. This is in accordance with recommendations from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The vaccination of long term care facilities is being handled by the federal government directly through partnerships with CVS and Walgreens that will vaccinate staff and residents at those facilities. These long term care facilities will be receiving the Pfizer vaccine.

Due to a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine, Phase 1 has been subdivided into Phase 1A and Phase 1B. Once additional COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, the County Department of Health will focus initial vaccination efforts on Phase 1A groups which cover first responders, including law enforcement officers, paramedics, EMTs, firefighters and crisis teams. The Department of Health is already working with these groups to coordinate vaccination efforts. It is anticipated that the health department will receive the Moderna vaccine to use during these efforts.

Anne Arundel County health care providers not affiliated with a hospital or long term care facility are also part of Phase 1A, and they will be the next group vaccinated. Practices requesting to be vaccinated should submit their names online on this Form (hyperlink to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdg8IMIMTynhhgir2CoAK6tlqRVcXZBL9n9Lwwln017_sjNlw/viewform).

Once most of the requesters in the highest priority group have been vaccinated and vaccines are broadly available, the County will move to the next priority group at announced clinics. At this time, the 1B group includes individuals age 65 and older and those with chronic medical conditions who are at high risk of severe COVID-19 illness. Clinics will be announced on www.aahealth.org. Once more vaccines are broadly available with federal approval, and the County has vaccinated a significant proportion of Priority Group 1, clinics will move to Priority Group 2.



The Department of Health will work with the community and our partners to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to this vaccine. We are learning new things about the COVID-19 vaccine daily, causing things to change often so it is crucial that we maintain clear lines of communication.

For up-to-date COVID-19 information:
<https://aahealth.org/covid19>