



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.
Director

December 17, 2020

Dear Montgomery County Healthcare Provider:

The State of Maryland has begun shipment of the first SARS-CoV-2 vaccine (manufactured by Pfizer, Inc.) earlier this week and we anticipate that a second candidate (manufactured by Moderna, Inc.) will be approved later this week by the Food and Drug Administration. Both require 2 doses: the Pfizer vaccine at three weeks apart and the Moderna vaccine at four weeks apart. Initial vaccine supply will be very limited and insufficient to vaccinate everyone who wants to be vaccinated. Groups will be prioritized based upon the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and State recommendations.

On December 1, 2020 at a meeting of the ACIP, the following groups were recommended to be prioritized to receive vaccine in Phase 1a:

- Health care personnel - paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings with potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials
- Residents of long-term care facilities - adults who reside in facilities that provide medical and personal care to persons unable to live independently

Healthcare personnel employed by hospitals and nursing homes will receive vaccination at their places of employment. Other healthcare personnel will receive the vaccine through public health clinics.

To help the Montgomery County Health Department with planning and preparation of healthcare worker clinics, please complete a brief survey to include your contact information, type of practice, and estimated number of staff to be vaccinated. This information will be used to provide you with vaccine clinic registration details once the vaccine is available. Registration at these clinics will be required and will occur via PrepMod (<https://www.marylandvax.org/>).

Please click on the following link to complete the survey.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCDHHSPProviderVaccineSurvey>

Please begin thinking about the following to better prepare your practice and staff for vaccination:

- Avoid vaccinating entire workforce at same time due to potential adverse effects and need for staff to take sick leave as a result;
- Sub-prioritize employees based upon occupational risk (not personal risk); and
- Schedule second dose at time of first appointment for adherence and maximum efficacy.

Public Health Services

Montgomery County Healthcare Provider
December 17, 2020
Page 2

Once the vaccine is widely available, (Phase 2), residents will be able to receive vaccinations through their health care provider or at a pharmacy (similar to the flu shot). Providers who want to receive vaccine directly to immunize patients must register with ImmuNet at www.mdimmunet.org.

There are still many unknowns and plans will adapt as more details become available. Updated vaccine information will be posted on the Health Department COVID-19 vaccine information page at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine/>.

Thank you for your time and continued service to our community. Please stay safe!

Sincerely,

Travis A. Gayles

Travis A. Gayles, M.D., Ph.D.
Health Officer and Chief