

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Howard County Health Department Begins COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts

Columbia, MD – The Howard County Health Department received its first doses of COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by Moderna. The vaccine has been given to health department personnel who today began to vaccinate first responders from the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue and the Howard County Police Department. Required second doses of the Moderna vaccine will be given to this first cohort in 28 days.

“Today we enter an historic time in history. With this vaccine, we have the key to saving lives and ending this pandemic. However, until we are able to widely vaccinate the population of the County, we must still adhere to our non-pharmaceutical interventions of mask wearing, socially distancing and not gathering with those outside of your household” said Howard County Health Officer Dr. Maura J. Rossman.

While supply is limited in Maryland, local health departments are responsible for vaccinating Phase 1A (non-hospital providers and first responders), preparations are underway to vaccinate Howard County healthcare providers with direct patient care responsibilities. Provider clinics will begin in the next week as vaccine is available.

“Our county’s frontline healthcare workers and first responders have been our heroes throughout this pandemic – their tireless work and actions throughout our community over the last nine months have saved lives while unselfishly risking exposure to themselves and their families,” said County Executive Calvin Ball. “It is imperative that these employees are some of the first in line to receive this vaccine to protect themselves and their loved ones while still keeping our residents healthy and safe. As we move through each of the phases of vaccination distribution, it is vital that our residents and community remain informed and prepared to get vaccinated themselves when the vaccine becomes available to them.”

In the upcoming months, those who fall into Phase 1B; the elderly, essential workers, and those with serious underlying medical conditions, will be encouraged to register for vaccination clinics on www.MarylandVax.org. Clinics will be announced at www.hchealth.org on the [COVID-19 vaccine page](#).

When those in Phase 1A and 1B have received vaccine, the Health Department will move forward and begin vaccinating those in Phase 2. It is possible that by this time, there will be other healthcare providers able to vaccinate their own patients which will increase the overall number of residents vaccinated.

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The Health Department will continue to make vaccine information available on our COVID vaccine page, as well as via social media and community email updates. Go to www.hchealth.org to get more information and sign up to receive updates.

For photos of today's vaccination clinic go to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u4kzwmchpri327b/AACvMICO8NHxr3KXvvmEypODa?dl=0>

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