

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Howard County Healthcare Practice Information Needed to Vaccinate Medical Providers Against COVID-19

Columbia, MD – The Howard County Health Department (HCHD) received the first few doses of COVID-19 vaccine, which will be given to Howard County first responders and Health Department frontline vaccinators in the next days.

Preparations are underway to be able to vaccinate Howard County healthcare providers with direct patient care responsibilities. While supply is limited in Maryland, local health departments are responsible for vaccinating Phase 1A (non-hospital providers and first responders). **Information about each practice is urgently needed to prioritize and alert providers as more vaccine becomes available.** The Health Department is requesting that a short questionnaire be completed by medical providers indicating type of practice and number of participants wishing to be vaccinated. **The questionnaire is found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVID_Vaccine1_MedFacilities.**

Provider groups will be notified about vaccination clinics based upon the number of doses HCHD receives, date of receipt, and number of appointments scheduled/kept. Providers may be notified a week in advance or a day in advance depending upon the aforementioned factors. It is estimated that all health care workers in Howard County will be offered first dose of vaccine within the next four (4) weeks. Registration at www.MarylandVax.org will be **required**. Local Health Departments are not permitted to redistribute vaccine to other providers.

Providers who wish to directly provide vaccine to their patients during later phases of vaccine distribution (Phase 2) are encouraged to register at www.mdimmunet.org. Once supply is flowing, providers should receive direct shipment of vaccine to administer to patients and staff not previously vaccinated. The State of Maryland will determine when providers will receive vaccine.

"In order for the Howard County Health Department to efficiently distribute limited supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine, we are requesting urgent response to this questionnaire to ensure that we can best prioritize and distribute to those medical providers whose employees and staff who are most at risk," said Howard County Executive Calvin Ball. "These vaccines provide a lot of hope for our future, but there is still much work to do. Residents should continue the preventative measures we've all grown accustomed to – wearing a mask, physically distancing, and washing our hands."

The questionnaire, provider information about vaccine and registration on Immunet may be found by visiting <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health/MM-Alerts-and-Recalls/Healthcare-Facilities-Providers>

For additional questions, contact the Health Department at 410-313-6284.

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