

Governor Hogan began the press conference today with an update on the pending weather storm. Following the storm update, Governor Hogan stated that over 5,000 Marylanders and 300,000 Americans have been lost to COVID-19. Yesterday began the first vaccinations in Maryland and signaled a day of hope. Earliest efforts in the State's vaccination plan will focus on Phase 1A - frontline health care workers, long term care residents and staff, and first responders. Every hospital in Maryland will receive first doses of the vaccine over the next week. As more vaccines begin to arrive, distribution plans will accelerate. Vaccines will be distributed to all 227 nursing homes in the next two weeks and administered by Walgreens and CVS (which is part of the 155,000 initial dose allocation). Currently, there are outbreaks in 189 nursing homes and 142 assisted living communities (NOTE: An outbreak is defined as one or more positive cases).

To assist in the efficient distribution of the vaccine, Hogan is reactivating the National Guard to provide logistical support to the Maryland Department of Health. Special field teams will assist with planning and logistical support to points of distribution of the vaccines; will support mobile vaccination clinics; and will augment rapid response teams to address outbreaks in nursing homes and other congregate settings. Maryland is ramping up a public health outreach campaign and will be briefing congressional delegation, leaders of the General Assembly, county leaders, community leaders. Maryland will also be launching a Statewide PSA campaign to promote vaccine safety.

Governor Hogan also discussed Maryland's testing strategy. So far, five million tests completed to date; all 500,000 Korean LabGenomics tests used; CIAN Diagnostics (Frederick, Maryland lab) will be acquiring 1 million more LabGenomics tests under a new agreement. During questioning, Governor Hogan stated that this is an agreement between two private companies and the State is not purchasing or involved in the agreement. Governor Hogan did thank again the Republic of Korea and LabGenomics for coming to the State's aid in our darkest days in the beginning of the pandemic.

Dr. Chan (Acting Public Health Secretary) provided additional updates: The University of Maryland vaccinated the first health care workers this week. Again, all hospitals will have first doses within the next two weeks. Limited initial distribution of 155,000 initial doses will be dedicated to front-line health care workers, long-term care residents and staff, and first responders. The federal government provides weekly updates on allocations. It is anticipated that Maryland will receive 300,000 doses by the end of month but ordering doses can change daily. It is anticipated that at least 800,000 to 1 million doses will be needed to vaccinate ALL in Phase 1. The State will then be able to move into Phase 2, which includes essential workers. Essential workers will include school staff and childcare providers (Superintendent of Schools has requested prioritizing schools to ensure that students can return to the classroom). Dr. Chan did state that other vaccines are currently in clinical trials which, when approved, will increase availability of doses.

Dr. Chan also discussed the two vaccines - Pfizer (95% efficacy; two doses) and Moderna (94.1% efficacy; two doses). While Pfizer is currently being distributed, Moderna is being reviewed December 17<sup>th</sup> by the FDA Advisory Committee; anticipate potential distribution week of December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Pfizer vaccine is approved for use in individuals age 16 and older. Trials started for children under 16 years and pregnant women. Individuals should plan for an expect side effects, including soreness at the injection site, tiredness, low-grade fever, and headache. Typically, these resolve in one or two days. These symptoms show the vaccine is working.

Dr. Chan also stated that the State will be posting a daily public dashboard on the number of vaccinations administered.

Dr. David Marcozzi (Incident Commander, UMMS) discussed the need to receive proper education on the vaccines and not to be swayed by social media. He looks forward to receiving the vaccine himself and

discussed in more detail the components of the Pfizer vaccine. You will not get COVID-19 from the vaccine itself.

**Questions:**

**When will you get the vaccine?**

Governor Hogan said he will do it as soon as he becomes eligible but will not jump the line ahead of health care workers.

County executives have announced closures of indoor dining and outdoor dining. There seems to be conflicting information on safety. Governor Hogan said that County Executives have the authority to make their own decisions and he will not second guess them. But, from the beginning, outdoor dining has shown to be safer. Nothing is 100% safe.

**Does Maryland have vaccines to send to the District to those front-line workers who live in Maryland but work in the District?**

Governor Hogan stated that he has been in contact with both DC and VA and has a meeting tomorrow but there will be dosages to share.

Regarding the General Assembly Session, Governor Hogan said that the General Assembly has a plan that allows for flexibility, but we will have to see how it goes.

As far as government officials, those individuals probably fall into Phase 2.

**Links**

[Press Release on CIAN/LabGenomics Agreement](#)

[Reactivation of Maryland National Guard](#)