

On January 5th, Governor Hogan held a press conference to discuss the distribution of the vaccine. The press conference focused on three main areas: 1) actions being taken to accelerate distribution of the vaccine, including additional support from the National Guard and the Maryland Responder Medical Reserve Corp; 2) revisions to the prioritization of the vaccines, including expansion of those under each phase and the need not to wait for the full completion of each phase before beginning the next phase; and 3) steps that individuals can take to stay informed. One key point is that the State has expanded the priority populations in Phase 1A to include all licensed, registered, and certified health care providers. Local health departments have begun to decide with providers to get them vaccinated in the coming days and weeks. Therefore, this should be employees in medical adult day, home care, hospice, community physicians, etc. NOTE: If you have not been contacted by your local health department and work in the community, you are encouraged to reach out to them to determine vaccination procedures. The Governor pointed out during the press conference that local health departments have administered 11,401 doses of their provided allotment (32.4% of what has been allotted). Five counties have completed 80% of their Phase 1A vaccinations – Howard, Montgomery, St. Mary's, Calvert and Caroline. Other counties are just beginning to ramp up.

The press release contains links to two orders. The first order is a requirement on providers administering vaccines to report the vaccinations to ImmuNet within 24 hours. Under the arrangement between the federal government and CVS and Walgreens, CVS and Walgreens have 72 hours to report. This lessens that requirement to 24 hours and re-emphasizes the need for all providers to report within 24 hours. The second order states that a provider or facility's vaccine allocation may be reduced if ImmuNet does not reflect that the provider or facility has administered at least 75 percent of all of the total first dose allocation received to date. In addition, the order states that to the extent possible, a provider that has excess doses of COVID-19 vaccine that may be wasted due to having been thawed before they can be used at the original distribution site must notify the local health department for potential reallocation to priority groups. Local health departments must prioritize the usage of excess doses of COVID-19 vaccine at their next available clinic. Either MDH or the local health department may authorize deviation from the above prioritization requirements solely for the purposes of avoiding COVID-19 vaccine wastage.

The press release also contains a letter from Governor Hogan to the Maryland Hospital Association expressing his concern that, while 163,225 doses have been allocated to hospitals only 30.3% have been used. The Governor offered support to hospitals by way of PPE, vaccinators, or logistics support.

We encourage you to review the press release in its entirety [here](#). Please let us know if you have additional questions. As the Governor indicated, vaccinating the population of Maryland is a massive undertaking and patience will be necessary as the State waits for doses from the federal government and ramps up its efforts.