



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 13, 2021

### CDC: COVID BOOSTERS RECOMMENDED FOR ALL ADULTS

CUMBERLAND, MD – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that everyone age five and older be vaccinated for COVID-19 and that all adults get a COVID vaccine booster if it has been at least six months since their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or if it has been at least two months since they received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. This recommendation includes individuals who have previously been diagnosed with COVID-19, whether they had symptoms of the disease or not. Studies have shown that immunity to COVID-19 infection decreases over time, and a booster shot significantly enhances protection against serious complications from COVID-19.

“Does getting vaccinated mean you won’t get COVID? No, just like getting a flu shot doesn’t mean you won’t get the flu,” explained Brenda Caldwell, Public Information Coordinator for the Allegheny County Health Department. “But getting vaccinated reduces your chances of contracting COVID-19 or suffering serious illness or hospitalization if you do become ill.”

Caldwell went on to explain that even individuals who previously had COVID-19 should be vaccinated and get the booster shot when they are eligible for one. “The vaccine series and boosters provide an additional layer of protection, even if you have had COVID-19 infection or have received monoclonal antibodies.”

Appointments are available for upcoming Moderna booster clinics at the Allegheny County Fairgrounds. Links to register for those appointments are listed below and can also be found in a post pinned at the top of the health department Facebook page. For assistance registering for an appointment, county residents can call the COVID-19 call center at 240-650-3999.

- December 15: <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/0913462591>
- December 22: <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/5161103992>
- December 29: <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/0511621369>

The Allegheny County Health Department continues to offer the following COVID-19 vaccinations on a walk-in basis every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Allegheny County Fairgrounds at 11400 Moss Avenue, Cumberland, MD:

- First and second doses of Moderna vaccine (age 18 and older)
- First and second doses of Pfizer vaccine (age 12 and older)
- Booster doses of Pfizer vaccine (age 18 and older)

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are also widely available in the community at local pharmacies, urgent care clinics, and some primary care providers. Currently, 48.4% of Allegheny County residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, compared to 69% of all Marylanders.

The Allegheny County Health Department will hold a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for youth ages five to eleven on the ground floor of the Willowbrook Office Complex from 3 – 5 p.m. on December 15. Appointments are required, and the child’s parent or legal guardian must come with them to the appointment. Appointments can be scheduled by going online to <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/2869370621>. The WOC building is located directly across the street from UPMC Western Maryland, at 12501 Willowbrook Road, Cumberland, MD.

Free drive-thru COVID testing continues at the Allegheny County Fairgrounds Ag Pavilion on Mondays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beginning Wednesday, December 15, CIAN laboratory will replace MAKO for COVID-19 tests.

Updated data on COVID-19 cases are not currently available due to network issues at the Maryland Department of Health.

###

## Media Contacts:



Brenda K. Caldwell  
Public Information Officer  
Allegheny County Health Department  
(301) 759-5239  
[brenda.caldwell@maryland.gov](mailto:brenda.caldwell@maryland.gov)



Mark Karalewitz  
Public Information Officer  
Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services  
(240) 609-6506  
[mkaralewitz@alleganygov.org](mailto:mkaralewitz@alleganygov.org)