



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 14, 2020

ALLEGANY COUNTY COVID-19 CASES REACH 4,629, DEATH TOLL AT 118

CUMBERLAND, MD – The Allegheny County Health Department reports that Allegheny County’s cumulative COVID-19 case count is now at 4,629, with 118 deaths. The current case rate in Allegheny County is 109.76 cases per 100,000 population, while Maryland’s state average is currently 46.4 cases per 100,000 population. Allegheny’s positivity rate is now at 13.44%, while the statewide average is 7.46%.

Although COVID-19 vaccines are starting to be shipped in the U.S., producing enough vaccine for everyone in the U.S. will take time, so it is critical that all of us remain vigilant and continue to follow public health guidance to safeguard our health and the health of those around us. Avoid social gatherings and opt for celebrating the holidays at home with your immediate family, or via phone call or video chat. Stay home as much as possible, and correctly wear a face covering when out in public. Maintain social distancing of at least six feet from other people. Frequently wash your hands and clean high-touch surfaces.

The initial vaccine supply will be limited and will be rolled out in three phases.

- Phase 1 will focus on target priority groups at highest risk of exposure to or developing complications from COVID-19, beginning with healthcare workers; residents and staff of long-term care facilities; and first responders. Next will be those community members at significantly higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.
- Phase 2 will include people in critical infrastructure roles, including essential non-healthcare and transportation workers, and people at moderately higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.
- Phase 3 will be a wide-scale distribution of the vaccine associated with broad availability to the general population of the state.

The timeline for progressing to the public phase of vaccination will depend on how quickly mass quantities of vaccine are available and completion of vaccination of higher priority groups or notification by CDC and state authorities that distribution to the general public can begin.

###

Media Contacts:



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



Todd Bowman
Public Information Officer
Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services
(240) 609-8861
tbowman@alleganygov.org