



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

January 28, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is providing this clinical update and guidance to clinicians and providers, as part of its ongoing communications related to the mitigation and management of COVID-19.

On January 26, 2021, Governor Larry Hogan announced that eligibility for Maryland's Phase 1C COVID-19 vaccine distribution will expand to include certain severely immunocompromised populations. The CDC lists a number of specific [medical conditions](#) that can put people at a higher risk for developing complications of severe COVID-19 illness.

After consideration of the medical conditions, as well as the risk for developing severe COVID-19 illness, any individual diagnosed with a medical condition listed below and who is currently hospitalized is eligible to be vaccinated in Maryland's Phase 1C vaccine distribution. These individuals will be eligible to receive vaccines through the hospital they are receiving care at starting on Monday, February 1, 2021.

Individuals diagnosed with the below conditions and who are currently hospitalized can receive a vaccine in Maryland's Phase 1C:

- Cancer patients currently in active treatment
- End stage renal disease patients requiring hemodialysis
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), especially those who are oxygen-dependent or are steroid dependent
- Solid organ transplant recipients
- Sickle cell disease patients
- Diabetic patients (Type 1 or Type 2)

Individuals who are diagnosed with these medical conditions but are not currently hospitalized will be eligible to receive the vaccine in Maryland's Phase 2 COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Please work with the clinics within your hospitals that manage the care of these patients to vaccinate these hospitalized patients. For general vaccine updates and information please visit [covidlink.maryland.gov](https://covidlink.maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Deputy Secretary (Act.) for Public Health Services