



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

May 1, 2020

Dear Colleague:

As we begin to plan and prepare for potential COVID-19 vaccinations, this letter is to provide you with important information related to COVID-19 vaccines and ImmuNet, Maryland's Immunization Information System. As you might know, ImmuNet is a secure web-based registry operated by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). ImmuNet information is confidential, HIPAA compliant and available only to authorized users including Maryland health care providers.

1. COVID19 Vaccine Request and Reporting

As we are still many months away from a potential COVID-19 vaccine for the general population, HHS and CDC are currently planning for COVID-19 vaccine ordering and distribution. During the H1N1 influenza outbreak in 2009, H1N1 vaccine was ordered and distributed through the same public health infrastructure used to order/distribute Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine. While unknown at this time, planning is underway by MDH to utilize the current VFC vaccine ordering/distribution infrastructure for COVID-19 vaccine.

Currently, VFC vaccine is ordered and distributed utilizing ImmuNet. If your practice is interested in potentially providing COVID-19 vaccine, it is essential that your practice is connected to ImmuNet prior to vaccine availability. We are looking to be proactive and connect/onboard sites now so that there is no delay in distributing COVID-19 vaccine once available. Please see bullet #2 below on how to onboard with ImmuNet.

In order for your practice to be ready to receive COVID-19 vaccine, your practice must 1) be onboarded with ImmuNet and report routine vaccinations administered and then 2) register with the Center for Immunization through ImmuNet to receive COVID-19 vaccine. **Information on registering to receive COVID-19 vaccine (#2) will be issued at a later date.**

2. Vaccination Reporting Requirement as of October 1, 2019

Since October 1, 2019 Maryland statute Health General §18–109 mandates that all vaccinations administered in the State of Maryland be reported to ImmuNet, regardless

of patient opt-out status in ImmuNet. This will include administered COVID-19 vaccines. COVID vaccine administration data from ImmuNet will be used to determine vaccine coverage rates throughout the state and ensure high-risk populations are being successfully vaccinated.

The ImmuNet website, www.health.maryland.gov/immunet (under the link “Report to ImmuNet”), has been updated to guide vaccine providers with the mandatory reporting process.

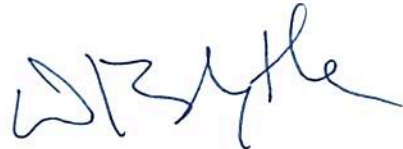
The MDH Center for Immunization continues to partner with CRISP to onboard vaccine providers who are not already reporting to ImmuNet. **Vaccine providers are encouraged to review the “Report to ImmuNet” website to determine what steps are needed to connect/onboard with ImmuNet to prepare to receive COVID-19 vaccine.** The “Report to ImmuNet” website has details on reporting and how to contact the ImmuNet Help Desk for additional assistance.

If you have any questions, please contact the ImmuNet program at mdh.mdimmunet@maryland.gov. As always, we appreciate your commitment to vaccinating Maryland residents and helping keep Maryland vaccination coverage rates high.

Sincerely,



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Chief, Center for Immunization



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