



STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

Bob Atlas, President & CEO  
Maryland Hospital Association  
6820 Deerpath Road  
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

January 4, 2021

Dear Bob:

As Maryland wages battle in our sustained war against the COVID-19 virus, we cannot and will not succeed without the leadership of our hospital community. Ensuring the timely vaccination of our frontline hospital workers is vital not only to preserving our healthcare system capacity, but also to improving public confidence in the vaccine.

According to our records, as of January 3, 2021, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) directed 163,225 first doses to be delivered to hospitals by the federal government. The doses provided to hospitals comprise the majority of Maryland's allocation to date, and we delivered doses to every hospital in the state, as requested by each hospital, based on surveys conducted by the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA). However, according to the state's ImmuNet system, where providers are required to report vaccinations within 24 hours of administration, hospitals have used just 49,419 (30.3%) of these doses since vaccine shipments began on December 14, 2020.

We are concerned that hospitals have only administered 30.3% of the doses allocated, leaving over 113,000 doses unused at this time. We understand both the Pfizer and Moderna products are new and complex vaccines posing unique challenges for handling and administration, and that hospitals must take precautions to ensure continuity of their workforce as they work to vaccinate their frontline workers. We also understand many hospitals across the state face staffing and capacity challenges, exacerbated by the holiday season.

The State of Maryland remains ready and willing to help our hospitals accomplish this critical mission. If there are resources we can provide to help hospitals more swiftly and efficiently administer their vaccine supply - whether PPE, vaccinators, or logistics support - please let us know and we will do everything possible to assist. If there are suggestions regarding adjustments to our allocations to hospitals, we can work with you to implement them.

The safe, timely, orderly, and equitable distribution of vaccines to Marylanders - starting with our healthcare heroes and most vulnerable populations - is our top priority. I know this goal is shared by MHA and our hospitals. We stand ready to provide any and all possible assistance to get this done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Hogan".

Larry Hogan  
Governor