



February 3, 2021

Dear FutureCare Staff, Residents and Families,

In our effort to keep you informed of Maryland's vaccine distribution developments as they become available, I wanted to pass along this week's update from the state health department.

Maryland has entered Phase 1C of its vaccination distribution plan, and expanded eligibility as of Monday to include certain severely immunocompromised individuals. This phase opens vaccine eligibility to a **significantly larger groups of people**. Since our FutureCare residents and staff are already eligible to receive the vaccine, this change **doesn't directly affect their eligibility**.

However, the indirect impact could be significant if you have not yet been vaccinated. Phase 1C opens the door for tens of thousands more Marylanders to receive the vaccine, which is a scarce resource. This could mean longer wait times – weeks, or even months – for appointments.

If you have not already, **I urge you to act now to get vaccinated or authorize your family member to get vaccinated!**

Again, **thank you to those who have received the vaccine.** By getting vaccinated, you are prioritizing not only your own health, but that of all our staff, family and community members.

Please use the following links to find out where you can get the vaccine, and how to make an appointment. This week, Maryland opened additional retail pharmacies (Safeway and Rite Aid), as well as high-capacity community vaccination sites in Prince George's County and Baltimore City.

- COVID-19 Vaccine in MD: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>
- MD Vaccination Sites: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/maryland-retail-vaccination-sites>

For your reference, Phase 1C eligibility includes the following groups of individuals:

- All Marylanders over 65;
- Public safety workers not in Phase 1A;
- Healthcare workers not in Phase 1A, including, but not limited to lab services, public health, and other healthcare professions;
- Food and agriculture production;
- Critical manufacturing;
- U.S. Postal Service workers;
- Public mass transit workers;
- Grocery store personnel;
- Veterinarians and support staff;
- Clergy and other essential support for houses of worship; and
- Immunocompromised individuals (such as cancer patients and those who suffer from Diabetes and many other conditions.)

I cannot emphasize enough how limited this lifesaving resource will become as access widens across the community.

As always, our facility's designated Vaccine Clinic Coordinator and I are here to answer questions and guide you through this process. Whether you have questions about the vaccine, the facility's vaccine clinic schedule or completing the vaccine consent form, we welcome you to ask questions via phone or email. Keeping you and your loved ones safe and informed is our top priority and our privilege.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheikh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'S' being particularly large and stylized.

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