



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

February 11, 2021

Dear Colleague:

As we continue to plan and prepare for future COVID vaccine availability, having a robust provider network will be critical. This letter is to provide you with important updates 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. **COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Is Now Open**

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. MDH is utilizing the same 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.

In order for your practice 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. **Please see the attached guidance document on registering to become a COVID vaccine provider.**

Note: COVID vaccine is still in limited supply. Until vaccine is in larger supply you will not be able to order vaccine in ImmuNet. Once ordering is open for all providers in ImmuNet, notification will be sent to all registered providers.

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.

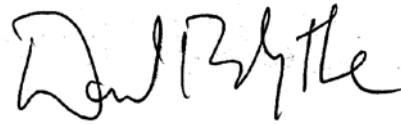
The MDH Center for Immunization continues to partner with CRISP to onboard vaccine providers who are not already reporting to ImmuNet. **Vaccine providers are encouraged to review the “Report to ImmuNet” website ([click here](#)) to determine what steps are needed to connect/onboard with ImmuNet to prepare 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,



Kurt Seetoo, MPH
Chief, Center for Immunization



David Blythe, MD, MPH
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cc: Jinelene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP, Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health