



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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Voice/Relay

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TO: Howard County Employees

FROM: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: COVID Update

DATE: September 29, 2021

This communication was sent via global email to Howard County employees on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 10:37 a.m.

Dear Colleagues,

Howard County is a leader in getting our residents vaccinated but we remain in the “substantial range” for COVID-19 transmission. We have revised our telework policy, issued a mask mandate for County buildings and continue to promote physical distancing in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and County Health Department guidelines. I am sharing information so that you continue to keep safe.

COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing. All County employees have and continue to have access to get vaccinated and we are providing opportunities for onsite testing at the George Howard Building. Employees can access additional information on getting a vaccine and testing on the County COVID-19 Web page <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19>.

COVID-19 Protocols and Flu Season. Employees must continue to follow the COVID-19 protocols and not report to work if they have COVID-19 symptoms. As we are getting ready to enter the normal flu and cold season, I remind all employees that you should not come to work if you are sick. Supervisors will send employees home if they report to work sick. In addition, we encourage you to get your flu shot at a nearby pharmacy, your provider, or at the Health Department. Clinics are happening at the George Howard Building on Friday, October 15th and Monday, October 25th. Please register in advance using the following links.

To register for Friday use <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/2636429109>

To register for Monday use <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/9010246263>

Please refer to the global email sent by Lisa DeHernandez of the Health Department for more information.

Quarantine for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Persons. Employees who are not vaccinated and have been in direct contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for at least 10 days and may not return unless they have been symptom free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine. Employees may return to work after 7 days if they have a negative test at least five days after their exposure. Employees who are in direct contact with someone who has COVID-19 but are

vaccinated and asymptomatic do not need to quarantine but are recommended to monitor their symptoms, use additional caution and physical distancing, and get tested five days after their exposure.

Contact Tracing. The local health department where a person resides is responsible for any official contact tracing when someone tests positive for COVID-19. When the County is aware of a potential exposure we will notify employees in the department or building where the exposure may have occurred and will identify any potential exposures while still maintaining the confidentiality of any employee who may be positive for COVID-19.

Together we have done an amazing job of following the safety protocols and keeping each other safe while maintaining our service to the residents of Howard County. Let's continue to be leaders by closing the gap with remaining employees who need to get vaccinated, making sure we follow the masking and physical distancing requirements, getting tested when there is any question and following all of the CDC and local health department guidance. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John Peterson at X4439 or Jpeterson@howardcountymd.gov.

Thank you.

