

# VACCINE ROLL OUT GETTING BETTER

The demand for coronavirus vaccines is very high. It will take a long time for supplies to catch up. It is largely out of the county's control to get more doses faster, as it is supplied through the state.

There is not yet a federal centralized system for vaccine appointments. Thus, many need assistance and information, especially the elderly.

The roll-out of these vaccines is a major undertaking and we should expect challenges. The good news is that the county is responding to concerns and fixing problems.

The county hosted a Vaccination Town Hall on Feb. 8 to communicate updates.

The county encourages all residents to complete a questionnaire on the county site at [HowardCountyMD.gov/Departments/Health](http://HowardCountyMD.gov/Departments/Health), which will help the health department to contact you when your appointment is available.

Completing the questionnaire does not register you for a vaccination appointment but notes your desire for a vaccine and contact details.

Older residents have expressed frustration trying to register online for an appointment. The county supplied telephone numbers to assist with registering for a vaccination appointment. They are: 410-313-6284 and 410-313-2273 (Spanish).

Some vaccination venues are organized and well-run but some locations need an organizational overhaul. Difficulties at large sites included long waits outdoors, parking far from entry areas without providing mobility assistance or wheelchairs for those in need and lack of communication about how to get vaccinated in the car. These issues were even more of a concern for our residents aged 75+.

The county is moving quickly to resolve problems.

Dr. Maura Rossman, Howard County chief health officer, said during the Town Hall that a vaccination program for the homebound is being addressed. In addition to increasing mobility equipment and staff at vaccination sites, the county is providing more communication and signage for lining up, mobility assistance and in car vaccinations.



**MY TURN**  
Lisa Markovitz

Increased assistance with traffic and directional management is also planned. Porta-potties are being added at large sites as well.

These changes will create a more organized and efficient process.

All those registered for a large county vaccination site, such as the Howard County Community College, are requested not to arrive more than ten minutes before their appointment to minimize traffic backing up. Appointments will be honored, the county said, even if you are late due to the entry line waits.

The county has promised that second doses will be available in time for those who received their first shot.

If you experienced a frustrating time getting your first dose, do not hesitate to get your second shot. When planning your second dose, keep in mind that many are experiencing flu-like symptoms for a day or two after

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You may want to plan down-time in advance. Talk to your physician about any side-effects or complication concerns.

Dr. M. Shafeeq Ahmed, acting president of the Howard County General Hospital, noted at the Town Hall that doctors' offices are not being given supply of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines due to the lack of storage equipment needed for mass distribution.

The Six Flags site in Prince George's County is a mass vaccination site that has received rave reviews for being very well-organized. You can get your vaccination in the car. An observation area is also provided.

All Maryland residents can sign-up for an appointment at Six Flags when their phases open.

The Baltimore Convention Center is also open to all Maryland residents. More information on sites, phases, and appointment availability can be found at the State vaccination resources site at [Coronavirus.Maryland.gov](http://Coronavirus.Maryland.gov), or by phone at 1-855-634-6829.

*Lisa Markovitz, MSF, is president of the Maryland civic/political group, The People's Voice.*

### YOUR TURN

Share your views on this month's My Turn. Submissions must be signed, include a phone number and email address. Please keep your comment to 250 words or less and send them to [info@bizmonthly.com](mailto:info@bizmonthly.com)

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as of 2.15.21

**HOWARD CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC**

**APRIL 26, 2021**

9:30AM: REGISTRATION  
11:15AM: SHOTGUN START

TURF VALLEY RESORT  
2700 TURF VALLEY RD  
ELLCOTT CITY, MD 21042

REGISTER AT [HOWARDCHAMBER.COM](http://HOWARDCHAMBER.COM)

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