



Maryland  
Hospital Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MARYLAND HOSPITALS NEED YOUR HELP**

**Elkridge, Md.** – Maryland is facing the worst COVID-19 surge since the pandemic began nearly two years ago. The number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals across the state has nearly doubled in the last two weeks, and Maryland hospitals are virtually full.

At the same time, the hospital workforce is becoming further depleted by out-of-state and other job offers, burnout, and community-acquired COVID-19 infections.

As of Monday, Maryland hospitals were treating 3,452 COVID-19 patients—about 1,500 more than a previous peak in this pandemic one year ago today, Jan. 11, 2021.

This steep influx of COVID-19 patients is straining our hospitals, with 13 of them now having implemented crisis standards of care protocols. Earlier this month, Gov. Larry Hogan reinstated public health emergency and catastrophic health emergency declarations, but more is needed.

Maryland hospitals need the public's help to keep the doors open to everyone. Protecting community health is a responsibility every individual shares.

“Maryland hospitals and their dedicated caregivers have been saving lives from this deadly disease for two years,” says Bob Atlas, President & CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association. “We need your help as we suffer the worst surge of this crisis.”

**Get vaccinated.** The overwhelming majority of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Maryland—as much as 84%—are unvaccinated. Find a vaccination [clinic near you](#).

**Get boosted.** The COVID-19 booster offers essential protection. Maryland ranks just 18<sup>th</sup> among all states for those who have received booster shots. Make your booster appointment today.

**Wear a mask. Keep your distance. Wash your hands.** This surge could continue for weeks. Protect yourself and your loved ones. Wear a proper mask correctly, even if you're vaccinated. Avoid indoor gatherings with those outside of your immediate household.

**Know where to go.** Hospital emergency departments are stretched incredibly thin. Be sure to receive the right care in the right place. Do not visit a hospital emergency room for a COVID-19

test or vaccine or booster. See your doctor, visit an urgent care center, or use a telehealth visit for minor conditions. Use emergency departments for life- or limb-threatening needs.

**Quarantine if you are COVID positive.** Even if you don't have symptoms, stay home. Keep your friends, family, and neighbors safe. If you need a COVID-19 test, visit this MDH [site](#).

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**About the Maryland Hospital Association**

*The Maryland Hospital Association serves Maryland's 60 nonprofit hospitals and health systems through collective action to shape policies, practices, financing and performance to advance health care and the health of all Marylanders. For more information, visit [www.mhaonline.org](http://www.mhaonline.org).*