

**February 2021**

# NEWS

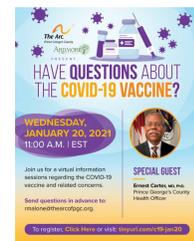
## COVID-19 Virtual Discussion Series

If you missed the Arc's January 13 virtual discussion featuring Lauren Linkenauger, Healthcare Supervisor at Walgreens, please click on the link below to listen to the event. Ms. Linkenauger responded to listener's questions and concerns surrounding the rollout of the new vaccine.



<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8171424594886384144>

If you would like to listen to the Arc's second Q & A session in this series, from January 20, with special guest Ernest Carter, MD, PhD., Prince George's County Health Officer, please click on the link below.



<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1984618900592196108>

## From the Desk of Angela Alsobrooks

As we continue to do all that we can to protect and provide for our residents, I want to urge residents to continue to take every precaution and preventive measure to protect themselves and their loved ones during this time. That includes wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and limiting travel.



On Monday, January 25, I announced that due to the limited supply of vaccine, we are cancelling appointments for individuals who do not live or work in the County that have scheduled appointments at our vaccination sites. We do not yet have the supply we need to

vaccinate everyone here and must prioritize our vulnerable County seniors and workers at this time. Our Health Department continues to replace those cancelled appointments with seniors and eligible workers in our County to ensure they will be able to receive the vaccine.

When counties in Maryland first started receiving vaccines, the State gave guidance that said counties should not restrict vaccinations to just those who lived or worked in their respective counties. We followed that guidance, and as we prepared to move to Phase 1B, we put the link to the State website on our vaccine page so people could sign up for appointments that we had opened. It was not clear if we could override this guidance.

A few days later, new and clearer guidance was issued by the State allowing counties to make restrictions, which prompted our Health Department to change course. When we looked at last week's vaccination appointments, a third of those in Phase 1B who received vaccines from our clinic did not live or work in our County, and there were several hundred appointments coming up this week for individuals who did not live or work in our County. While this decision may bring disappointment to many outside of this county, the reality is we had to ensure our seniors, workers, and residents facing the most significant health and infection risk challenges with regard to COVID, in the jurisdiction hardest hit by this pandemic, had equitable opportunity to receive these life-saving vaccines, as other counties have done.

If we did not restrict our vaccine appointments to just those who lived or worked in the County, our residents would have been left with far fewer options to receive these life-saving vaccines where they actually live and/or work. While it is a difficult decision to have to turn people away, I am confident that other counties will work just as quickly as we are to provide these vaccines to their seniors, workers and others who are eligible at this time. We look forward to collaborating with our neighbors and solving the problems presented by this pandemic together.

While we cannot honor the first dose appointments for individuals who do not live or work in the County, those individuals who received a first dose with our Health Department will be able to receive their second dose. At this time, we are only vaccinating individuals eligible in Phases 1A and 1B who live or work in the County. Individuals in those groups who have pre-registered will be prioritized for appointments that continue to open. We will also be checking identification for proof of residency or proof of employment in Prince George's County for every vaccination appointment going forward.

All individuals who live or work in the County that wish to receive a vaccine must complete and submit a pre-registration form. Individuals who fill out the pre-registration form will be sent private, direct links from the Health Department when it is time for you to make an appointment. For those who have already received a first

dose and are concerned about receiving a second dose, our Health Department will send you a link to schedule an appointment at least a week before the appointment date that you need. Moving forward, we are providing links to individuals to schedule their second dose appointment at the time of the first appointment, and also offering assistance on-site with scheduling your second appointment before you leave. However, if there are no appointments listed at that time, the Health Department will send you a link approximately a week before the date that you need.

In addition, I announced that the County has entered Phase 1C of its vaccine distribution plan, for pre-registration only. We want to make sure all of our residents understand that it will take several weeks, or longer, for individuals in Phase 1C to receive appointments for a vaccination. There are 95,000 people in Phase 1B alone, and we need to continue to prioritize those who have signed up in Phase 1A and 1B who have not yet received appointments. However, as long as you have pre-registered, you will be able to receive an appointment as they become available.

Finally, the County is calling for volunteers to supplement the County's medical staff. The County is accepting volunteers, especially doctors or nurses, working or retired, for the Medical Reserve Corps. Medical and non-medical volunteers can sign up, and anyone wishing to volunteer in the County should specify Prince George's County during the sign-up process. Potential volunteers can learn more and sign up at <https://bit.ly/PGCMedicalReserve>.

I am Prince George's Proud that, in times like these, we can count on each other to rise to the challenge and support our community. Thank you for volunteering your time and effort to help Prince Georgians, and please share this information with anyone you think may be interested in volunteering.

### Giant Food Expands Prince George's County Headquarters

We are also proud to announce that Giant Food, thanks to a partnership with the Maryland Department of Commerce and Prince George's County, will be greatly expanding their presence at their Landover headquarters. They have announced that they will be expanding both their sales and merchandising operations and they will also be adding an additional 31,000 square feet to their corporate office. This welcomed expansion will bring additional jobs to Prince George's County, and we look forward to continuing to work with our grocers to expand shopping options for our residents and reduce food insecurity in the region.

Below is an update on upcoming locations for the County's Stand Up & Deliver program including the dates, times, and locations of grocery/meal distributions:

Friday, January 29 at 12:30 PM (Groceries)

- Turner A.M.E. Church – 7201 16th Place, Hyattsville, MD
- First Baptist Church of District Heights - 7234 Lansdale St,

Saturday, January 30

- Kingdom Fellowship at Hight Point High School (10:00 AM) - 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD (Meals)
- New Home Baptist Church (10:00 AM) - 8320 Landover Rd, Landover, MD (Groceries)
- United Baptist Church (11:30 AM) - 7701 Riverdale Rd, New Carrollton, MD (Groceries)

If you're in need of food assistance, please stop by one of these distribution locations this week. You can also find additional food distribution locations on the County website by clicking [here](#). If you're in a position to help those experiencing food insecurity at this time, please consider making a financial or in-kind donation to the Stand Up & Deliver program. You can contribute securely online through the United Way of the National Capital Area [here](#).

Yours in service,  
Angela Alsobrooks  
Prince George's County Executive

---

### Surprise Birthday Celebration



Chantell Queen, a participant in the Day Program, shared her unhappiness over the inability to celebrate her birthday while speaking with some friends at New Horizons. Upon seeing how upset Chantell was feeling, several of our DSP's got together and decided to cheer her up with a small birthday party - socially distanced, of course. Thank you to her staff and friends; Elaine Brown, Tim Contee, and Lenora Johnson, for making this very special celebration possible.

---

### Virtual & Telephonic Services

New Horizons offers both options Monday through Saturday using the Zoom platform. For additional information please contact Kim Turner at [kturner@nhssi.org](mailto:kturner@nhssi.org) or 301.249.0206.

---

## Celebrating 51 Years of Changing Lives & Building Opportunities

NOW more than ever we need your support!  
Please help us continue our MISSION for the next 51 years.

---

[Donate Today!](#)