



Press Release

Maryland Hospitals Near Capacity: The Maryland Hospital Association, Hospitals Ask for the Public's Support

Elkridge, Md. – Across the state there has been another steep uptick in Marylanders needing hospitalization for COVID, plus other conditions. Most hospitals are over 90% full, with many at 100%. Hospitals will take care of everyone, but wait times are longer.

The Maryland Hospital Association urges the public to use hospital resources sparingly. If you or a family member has a life-threatening emergency medical need, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department. For less serious needs, consider using care providers in your community.

“Help preserve hospitals’ limited resources by seeking hospital care only when truly needed,” says Bob Atlas, President & CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association. “Seek care for less severe illnesses in primary care, urgent care, or via telehealth. You can also help by getting a flu shot, getting boosted against COVID-19, and social distancing when sick.”

How to help stay well and protect others:

1. When around larger groups, maintain social distance and wear a face mask that covers both your nose and mouth
2. Get tested for COVID if you have symptoms or if a family member or close associate tests positive
3. Stay home if you are sick
4. See your primary care provider early to prevent colds or minor injuries from worsening
5. Get vaccinated or boosted for COVID
6. Get vaccinated for influenza

Know Where to Go



- Primary Care:** Call or see your provider for your regular medical problems or most urgent needs
- Urgent Care:** Go for common issues urgently needing to be treated, if your primary care provider is not available
- Telehealth:** Call/video to address non-urgent health concerns
- Hospital Emergency Department:** Go only for serious life- and limb-threatening conditions



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.

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