



Maryland  
Hospital Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Maryland's First Line of Defense: Hospitals Care for Communities During COVID-19**

**Elkridge, Md.** – Maryland hospitals have been on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic for one year, treating the first COVID patients on March 4, 2020. Since that day, they have admitted and treated about 35,000 of our family members, friends, and neighbors. Hundreds of thousands more Marylanders have benefited directly from hospitals' efforts.

Maryland hospitals answered the call quickly and with full force to save lives and care for their communities. They added bed space to handle additional patients, shored up supplies of scarce protective gear, and supplied COVID testing—and now vaccinations—to their workforce and their communities.

“Health care workers stepped up to the front lines of this unprecedented public health emergency—as they always do—more than earning the moniker of health care heroes,” says Bob Atlas, president and CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association. “We are grateful for their dedication, ingenuity, and perseverance.”

“We truly appreciate our hospital heroes, who have worked 24/7 to keep us healthy and hopeful during this crisis,” says Harry S. Johnson, MHA Executive Committee chair and a partner at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP. “They have gone above and beyond for their communities and demonstrated their commitment to caring for our fellow citizens.”

In the past year, the state's nonprofit hospitals:

- Tested more than 1.2 million community members, patients, and staff members for COVID in just the first six months of the pandemic
- Added capacity for roughly 6,000 beds to make room for all potential COVID cases while still meeting everyone else's needs
- Helped lead our state's vaccination rollout, delivering more than 450,000 vaccine shots through February 2021
- Cared for their communities outside of their four walls, providing donations of food, transportation, school supplies and non-clinical personal protective equipment
- Ensured safe access to care by expanding telehealth capabilities

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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).*