
Joint COVID-19 Response Legislative Workgroup

Teleconference Meeting

***THIS MEETING WILL*
*BEGIN SHORTLY***

**December 16, 2020
10:00 a.m.**

Agenda Overview

(10:00 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.)

- I. Opening Remarks
- II. Briefing from Maryland Department of Health
- III. Briefing from Maryland Hospital Association
- IV. Closing Remarks

Briefing from MD Dept. of Health

(10:05 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)

- Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Health Secretary
Dr. Ted Delbridge, Executive Director,
MIEMSS
Dr. Jinlene Chan, Acting Deputy Secretary,
Public Health Services
- Limited Questions and Answers
- Contact:
Webster Ye
webster.ye@maryland.gov



Overview: COVID-19 Response and Vaccinations

Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary (Act.)

Dr. Ted Delbridge, Exec. Director MIEMSS

Dr. Jinlene Chan, Dep. Sec. of Public Health Services (Act.)

December 16, 2020

Marylanders must continue to take action to slow the spread of COVID-19



- Wear a mask
- Practice physical distancing
- Wash hands
- Answer the call
- 4 • Get a flu shot now!

Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery

- **Testing** - over 5 million cumulative PCR tests conducted in Maryland, with testing volumes of an average of approximately 35,000 tests a day.
- **Contact Tracing** - Over 100,000 cases and over 130,000 contacts reached and interviewed by over 1,500 contact tracers. Almost 1.3 million Marylanders have signed up for Exposure Notification. All new cases receive a pre-call text with a MD COVID Alert verification code.

Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery

- **PPE** - Over 86 million pieces of Personal Protective Equipment distributed, with requests being fulfilled as we speak.
- **Hospital Surge Capacity** - Actively working with all hospitals to make sure every Marylander who needs a bed has a bed available. We continue to make Advanced Medical Tents, ICU Modulars, and Alternate Care Sites available for COVID patients.

MD SURGE RESPONSE

Theodore Delbridge, M.D., Executive Director
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services
System

Overview of Response

Today: Maryland's Hospitals are balancing COVID-19 patients and non-COVID 19 procedures

- Our focus: work collaboratively with hospitals to monitor and manage hospital capacity across Maryland
 - Advanced planning: created additional capacity
 - Alternative care sites
 - Facilitate patient movement
- Since Mid-November, Governor Hogan announced a series of measured actions to prepare the Fall/Winter surge of hospitalizations

Timeline of Measured Actions 11/10/2020

Statewide Bed Census: 7,087/COVID-19 Bed Census: 761

- Governor Hogan announced requirements for hospitals to implement their surge plans when 85% of the state's staffed bed capacity was being utilized.
- All hospitals were required to begin preparations to increase COVID-19 related operations by making sure they have enough beds and staff.
- Provided state EMS officials with the flexibility to shift patients to alternate care sites and to add capacity at those sites if the need arises.

Timeline of Measured Actions 11/17/2020

Statewide Bed Census: 7,179/COVID-19 Bed Census: 1,046

- Governor Hogan announced that hospitals should avoid any elective procedure admissions that are not urgent or life-saving—especially if they are likely to require prolonged artificial ventilation, ICU admissions, or prolonged hospitalization

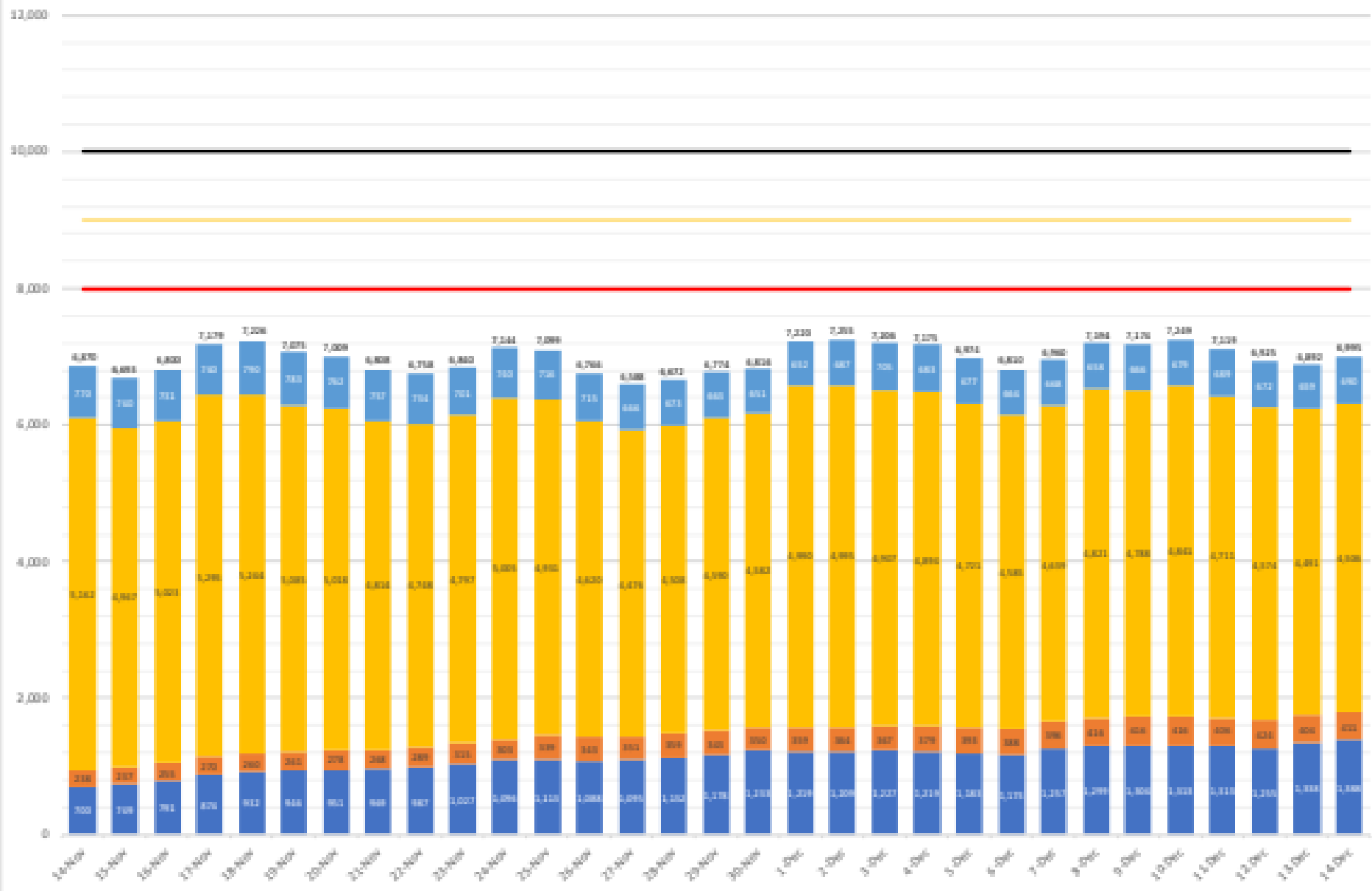
Timeline of Measured Actions 12/01/2020

Statewide Bed Census: 7,220/COVID-19 Bed Census: 1,583

- The Governor announced that hospitals are required to submit a patient surge plan to implement if hospitals statewide reaches 8,000 total hospitalizations
- Hospitals must immediately begin making adjustments by adding or redeploying staff, creating more beds, reducing elective procedures that require a bed or ventilator, and transferring patients to appropriate treatment facilities.

Pandemic Surge Capacity Triggers and Daily State of Maryland Total Hospital Census

■ M/S COVID
 ■ ICU COVID
 ■ M/S Non-COVID
 ■ ICU Non-COVID
 — Trigger 1 - 8,000
 — Trigger 2 - 9,000
 — Trigger 3 - 10,000



Where We Are Today

Care is available for every Marylander who needs care!

- Hospitals are exercising degrees of innovation and staff re-deployment.
- Statewide hospital census: 6,995
- COVID-19 hospital census: 1773
 - 23% ICU
 - 25% of all hospitalizations
- Hospital census is below 8,000
 - Additional 1900 physical beds available in hospitals

MIEMSS and Hospital Surge Engagement Team (HSET) Actions

- Viral Pandemic Triage Protocol
 - Helping EMS identify patients that are safe to stay at home
- Critical Care Coordination Center
 - 96 calls from 31 different hospitals
 - Patient transfers to 26 different hospitals
- Monitor capacity constraints
 - Reach out
 - Promote alternative care sites
 - Laurel Regional
 - Takoma Park
Baltimore Convention Center
 - 146 patients

Vaccine Update

Jinlene Chan, Deputy Secretary For Public Health (Acting)

END COVID



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
MEDICAL SYSTEM

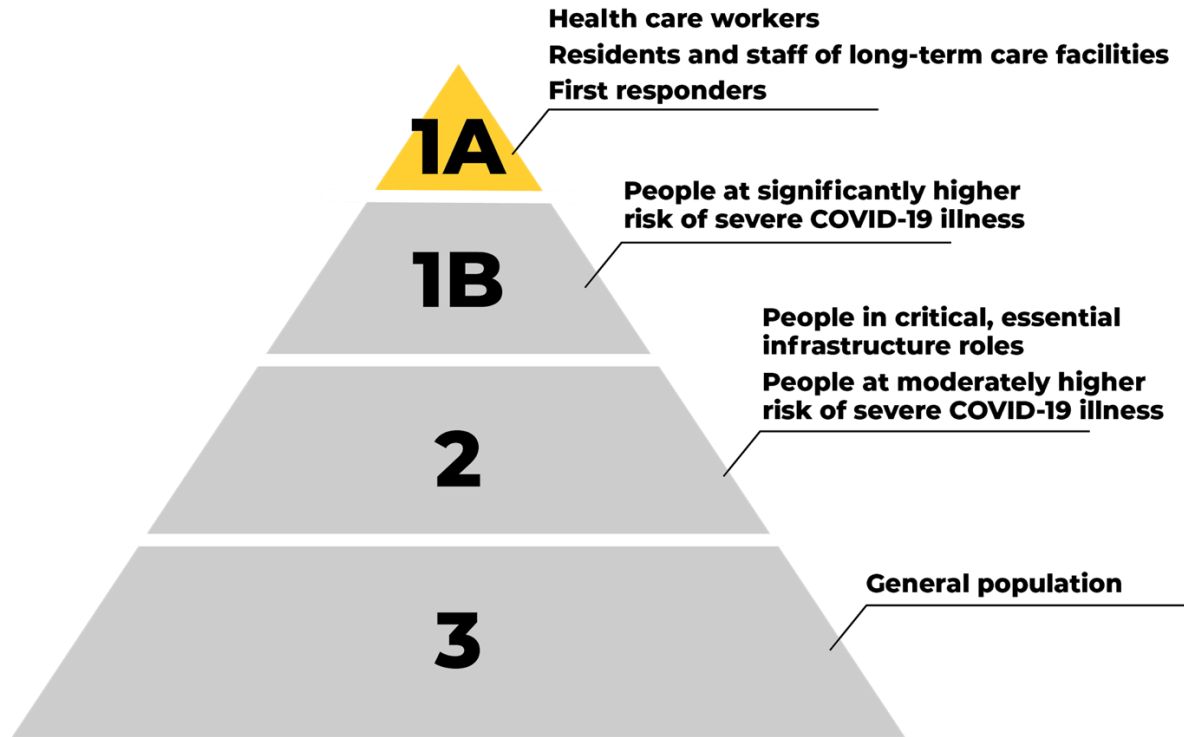
Situational Update

- Vaccinations have begun this week.
- We currently anticipate that every hospital will receive their first doses within the next 2 weeks.
- Nursing home vaccination program will begin within the next 2 weeks.

Situational Update

- Limited initial distribution: 155,000 initial doses dedicated to front line healthcare workers and long term care
- The federal government provides weekly updates on allocations.

Phased Approach



Vaccine prioritization may be subject to change.

The Initial Vaccines



Nov 9: 95% efficacy

Nov 20: Applied for EUA

Dec 11: FDA approved EUA

Week of Dec 14: Distribution to hospitals and long-term care pharmacy partnership



Nov 16: 94.1% efficacy

Nov 30: Applied for EUA

Dec 17: FDA Advisory Committee to review

Week of Dec 22: potential distribution

NOTE: These are BOTH two-dose vaccines.

Safety and Efficacy

- Approved for use in individuals age 16 and older
- Trials for groups not currently included in EUA (children, pregnant women) are underway
- Expect some soreness at the injection site, tiredness and headache

1A: Frontline Healthcare Workers

- Initial allocations go directly to hospitals from the federal government
- Allocations are based on Maryland Hospital Association data



1A: Long-Term Care Facilities

- We have signed up every nursing home in Maryland, activated the Federal Long Term Facility Program on December 8.
- CVS and Walgreens are currently scheduling clinics at each nursing home to begin vaccinations as soon as possible.

Walgreens

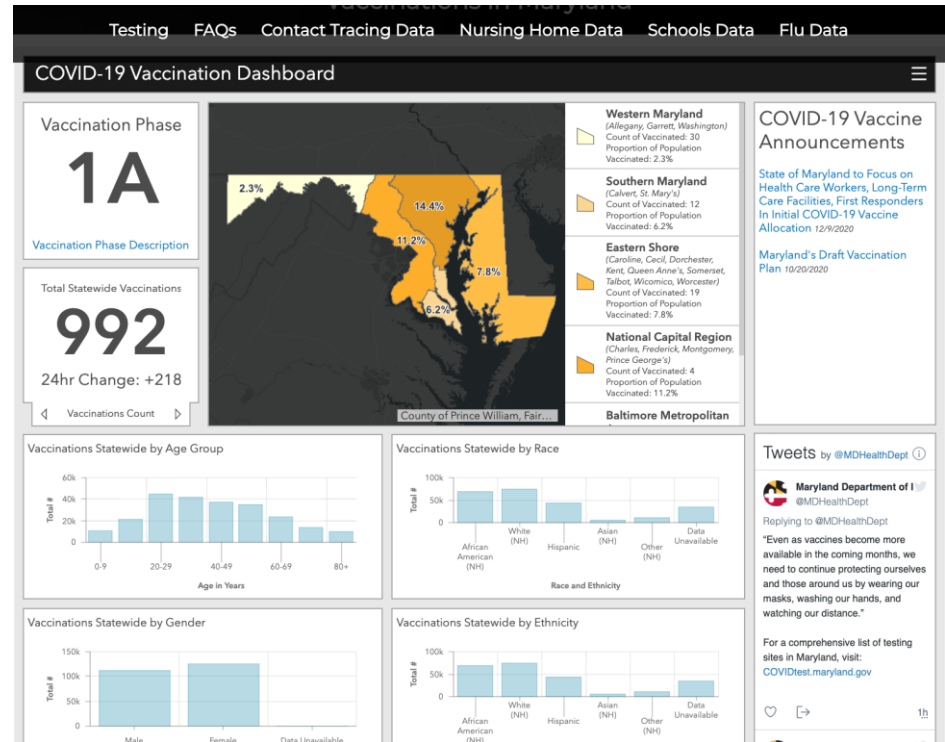
♥ **CVS** pharmacy®

1A: First Responders

- Maryland is setting aside doses from initial allocations for local health departments to vaccinate first responders
- Vaccination clinics for EMS, firefighters, and law enforcement may start **within the next two weeks**

Daily Transparency

- We will launch a public dashboard to track vaccinations, and provide demographic breakdowns.



Public Outreach Campaign

- Briefing key leaders and stakeholders
- Multi-lingual education regarding safety, efficacy, and availability
- Leveraging trusted leaders and voices

Questions We're Getting

- Should people with severe allergies get the vaccine?
- How long will Phase 1A last?
- When will our COVID metrics begin to reflect the impact of vaccinations?

Vaccine FAQ: covidlink.maryland.gov

We need your help!

- Encourage your constituents to stay vigilant and:
 - Wear a mask
 - Practice physical distance
 - Wash hands
 - Answer the call
 - Get a flu shot now!



Briefing from MD Hospital Assoc.

(10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.)

- Bob Atlas, President and CEO, Maryland Hospital Association
Dr. Redonda Miller, President, The Johns Hopkins Hospital
Dr. Maulik Joshi, President and CEO, Meritus Health
- Limited Questions and Answers

Closing Remarks

- Check Hearing Schedule on Maryland General Assembly website for committee meetings
- Next meeting TBD



MARYLAND HOSPITALS' TAKE ON COVID-19



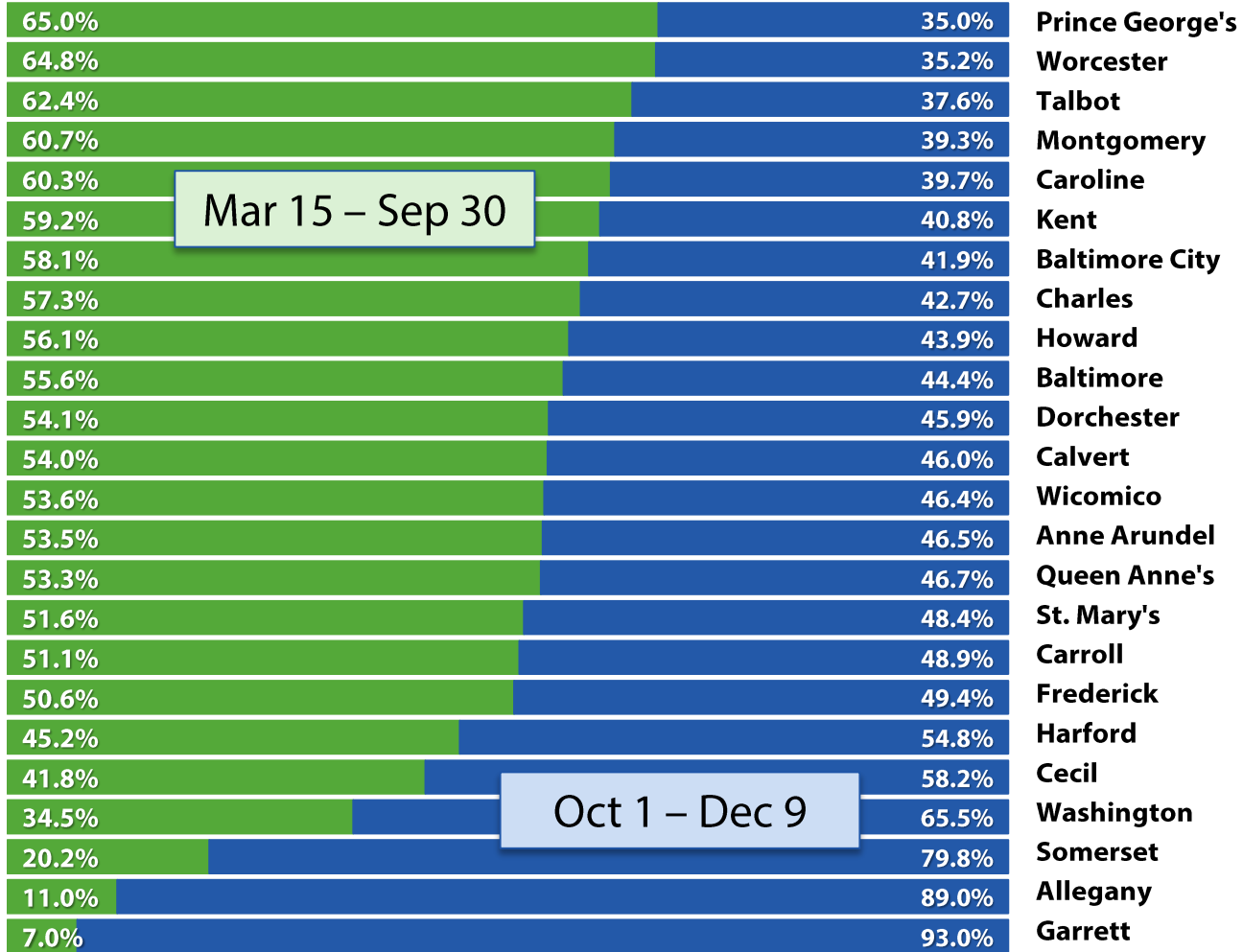
Joint COVID-19 Response Legislative Work Group

December 16, 2020

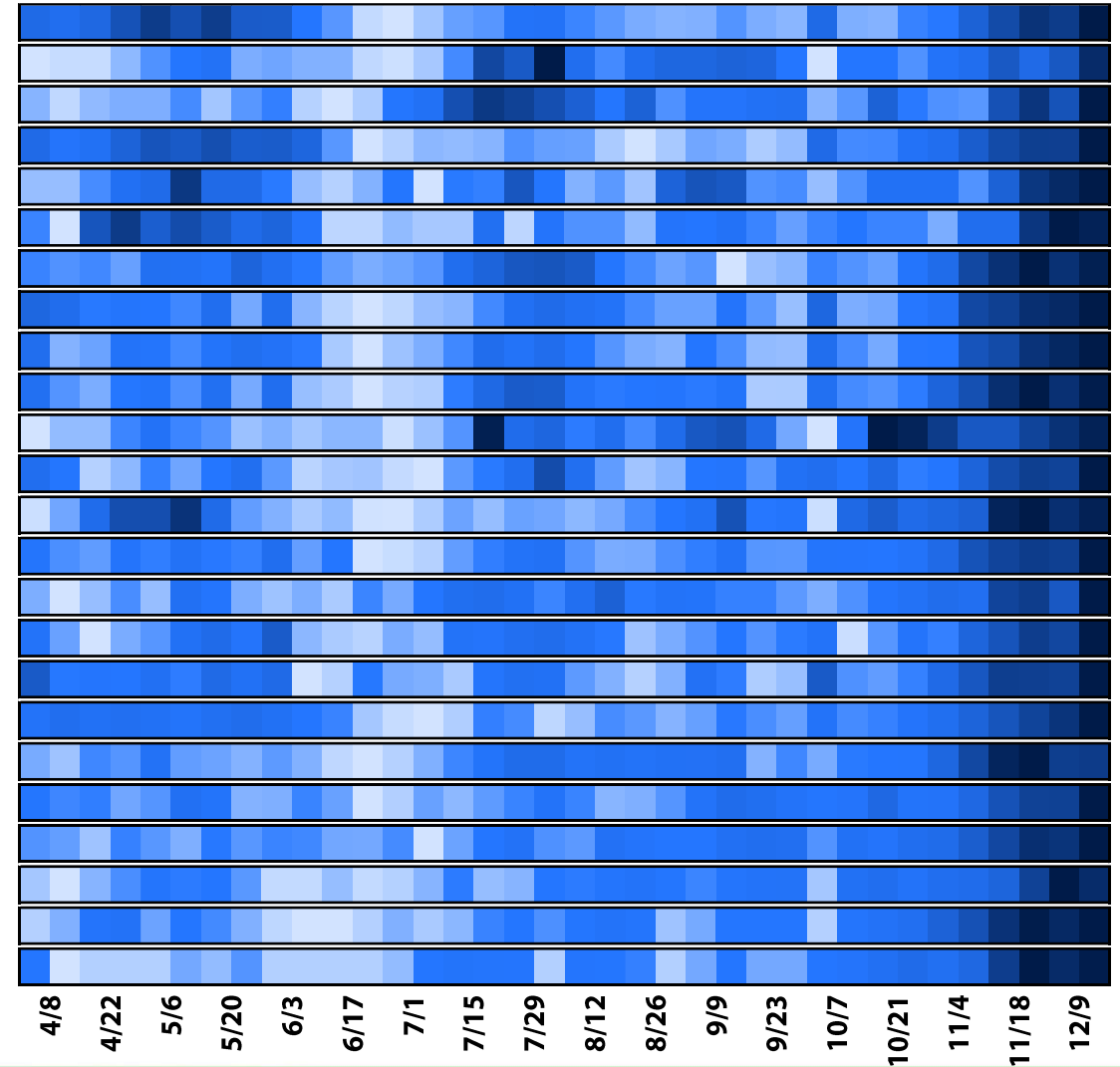


COVID-19 NOW IMPACTS ALL OF MARYLAND

Percent of Cases by Period

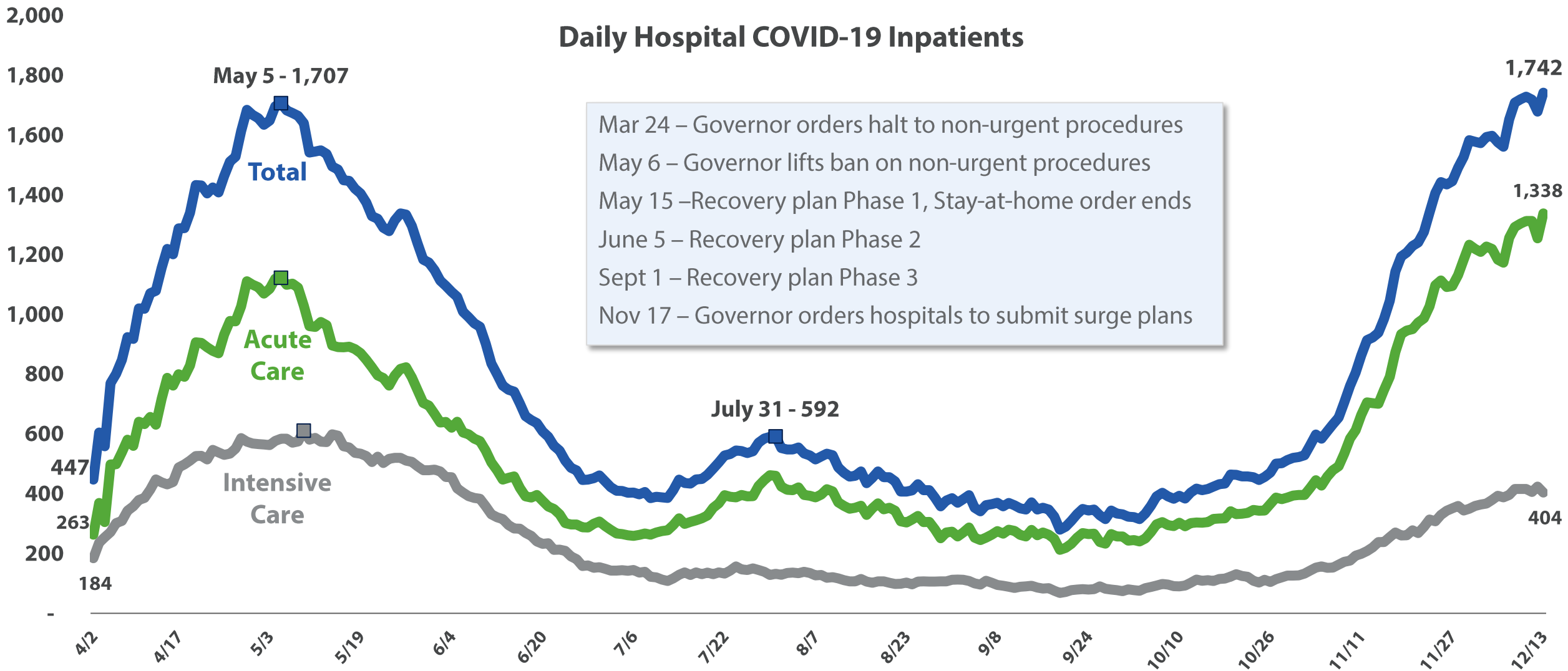


Weekly Cases per 100k



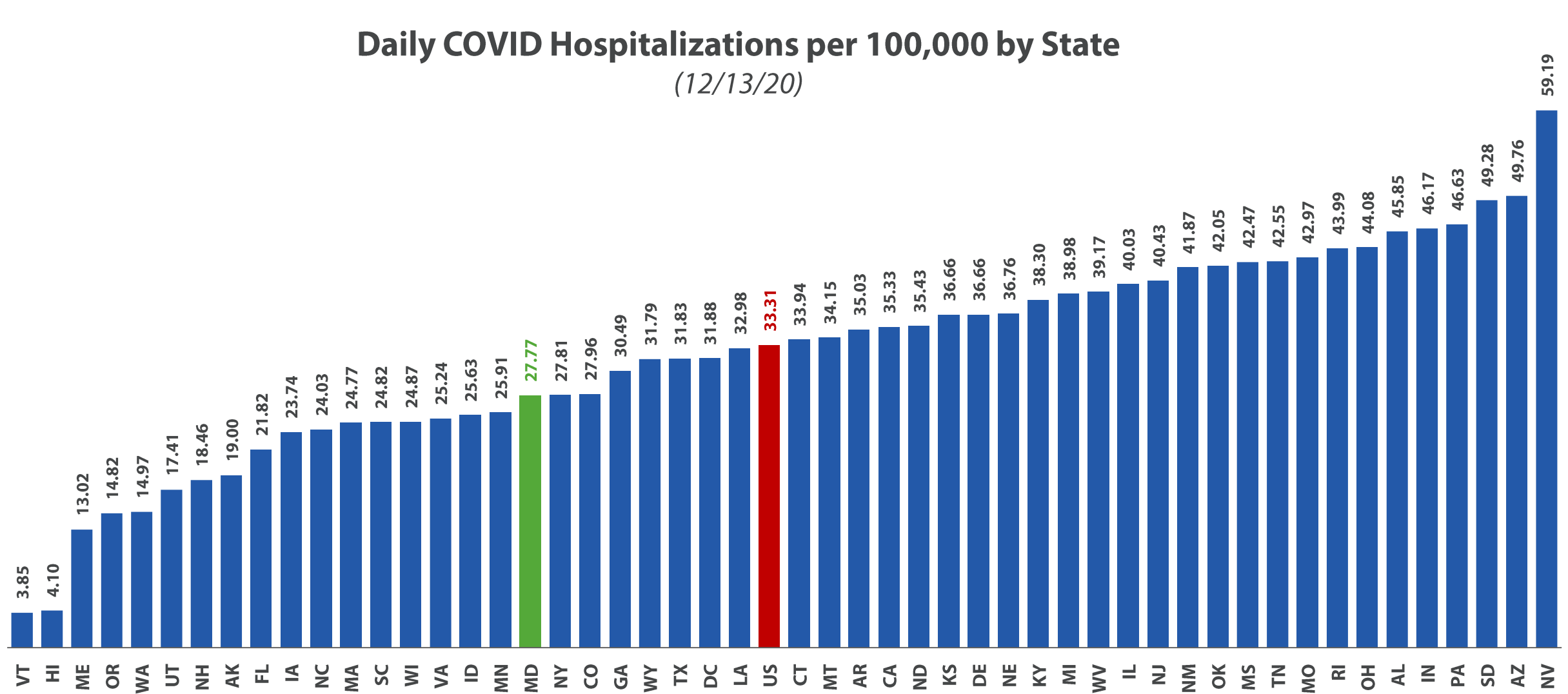
CURRENT SURGE MAY TEST HOSPITALS' LIMITS

Daily Hospital COVID-19 Inpatients



MARYLAND HOSPITALIZATIONS CONSISTENTLY BELOW U.S.

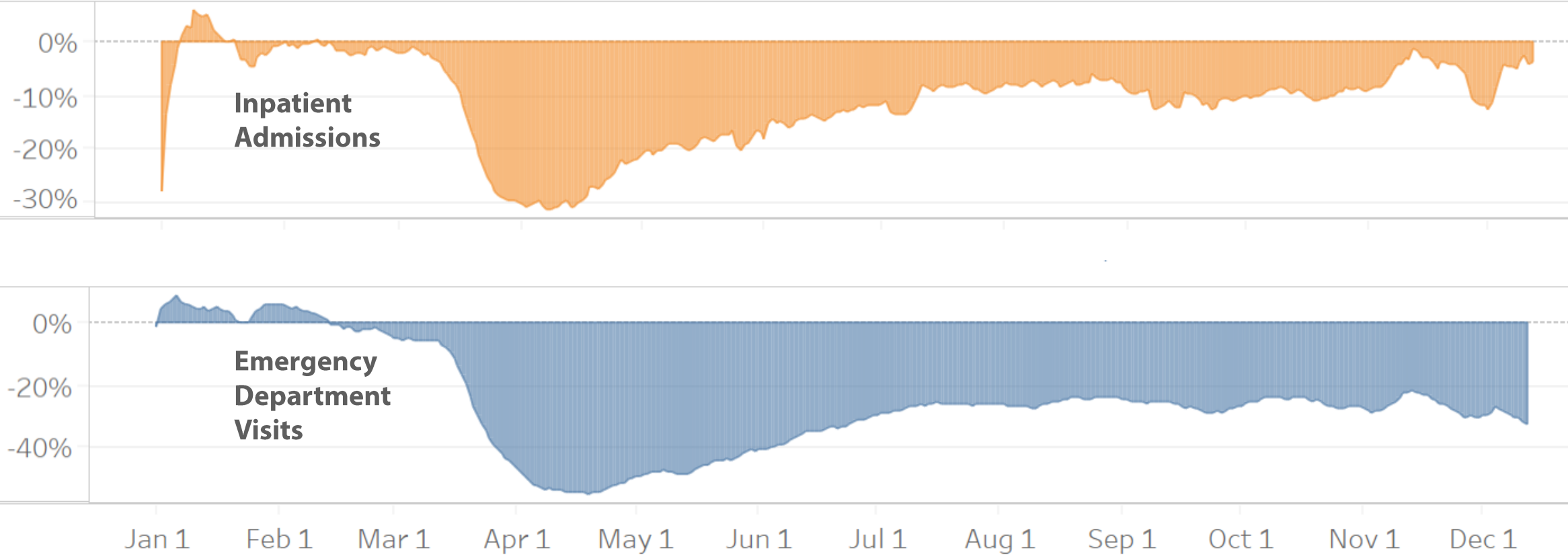
Daily COVID Hospitalizations per 100,000 by State
(12/13/20)



Source: Hospitalizations – The COVID Tracking Project: Compiled State Reported Hospitalizations;
Population – United States Census Bureau, 2019: Population, Population Change, and Estimated Components of Population Change

OVERALL HOSPITAL VOLUME HAS DROPPED

2020 Utilization Compared to 2019

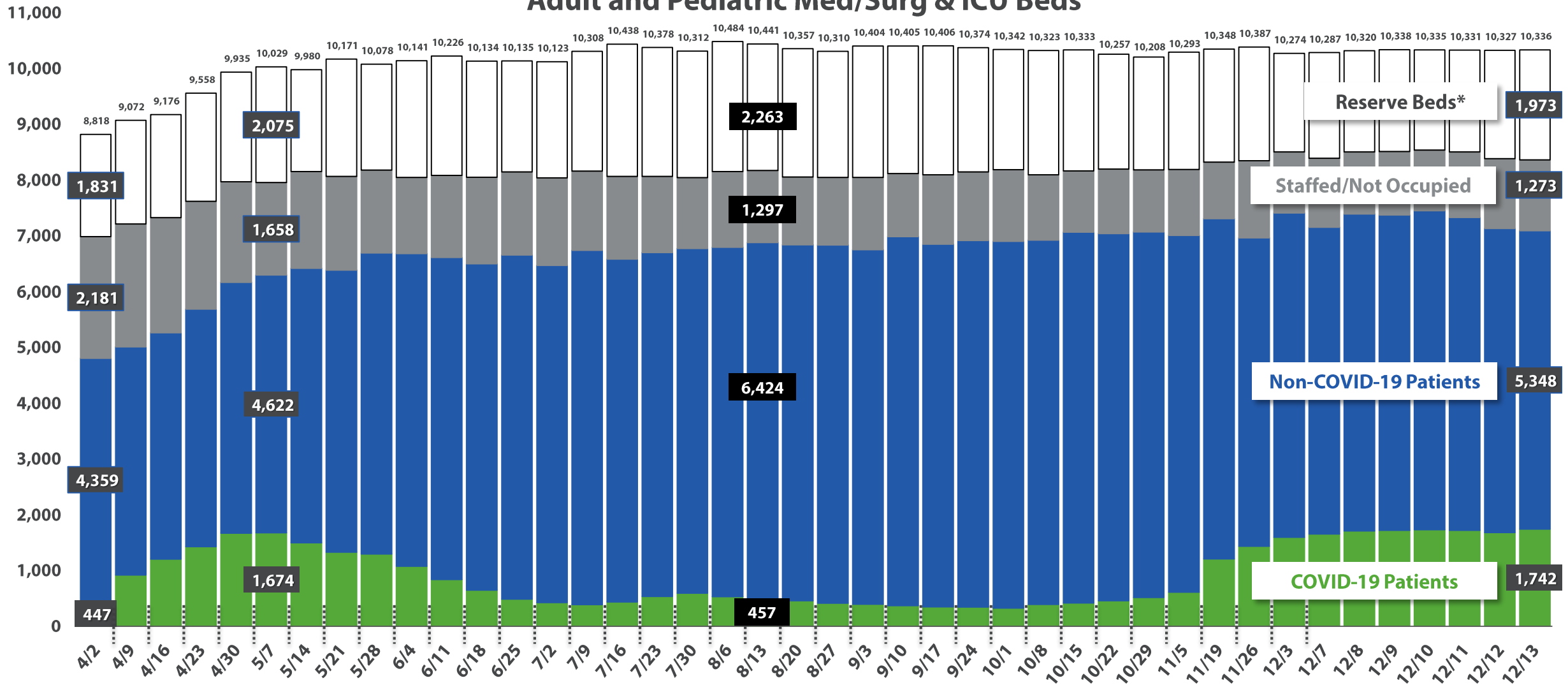


7-day moving average. Source: CRISP, using HSCRC case mix data and real-time admission/discharge/transfer data
<https://reports.crisphealth.org/#report/53/1174>



MARYLAND HOSPITALS MANAGE BED CAPACITY

Adult and Pediatric Med/Surg & ICU Beds



Source: Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) Facility Resources Emergency Database (FRED) Daily Survey Submission

<https://reports.crisphealth.org/#report/53/1175>

* Reserve beds = Available physical beds that can operate with staff added



"I am a nurse on the frontlines of caring for COVID patients and I believe in the science behind the vaccine."



"I think about all the people who have suffered."

Photos and quotes courtesy of the University of Maryland Medical System

"I'm a respiratory therapist taking care of COVID patients...I lost my dad...(the shot) means a lot. It's basically
in honor of him."

"I'm thankful to our colleagues who have been working tirelessly to care for our community," Dr. Mohan Suntha, UMMS President & CEO

"We've got many weeks and many months ahead of us... but to me this is

the beginning of the end."



"I'm more than willing and happy to get the vaccination because I know what it's going to mean not just for me, but all people of color."



Joint COVID-19 Response Legislative Workgroup

Maulik Joshi, Dr.P.H.

President and CEO, Meritus Health

MERITUS HEALTH



- 150,000 people in Washington County
- Co-Incident Command with County Department of Health
- **COVID-19 Frictionless Testing:** No appointment, no patient charge, no doctor's order, no symptoms; Almost 80k tests processed since March; Almost 80% processed by Meritus Medical Lab; Drive Thru Testing
- **Treatment:** Bamlanivimab: Over 60 infusions as of last week
- **Healthcare Heroes:** Pay Protection Program in Spring; Redeployed 300 staff then
Today: Fatigued; Extra shifts; Incentives; Helping Hands; Agency Staff
- **Surge:** 20 Bed infection containment wing built in 120 days; Almost 100 COVID-19 patients in the hospital today; ICU: 25+; Positivity greater than 15%



PREPARING FOR THE VACCINE

- Receiving 1 box of the Pfizer vaccine
- Prioritizing according to discussed guidelines
 - ED, ICU, COVID units, highest risk of exposure
- Will then continue to roll-out to lower risk employees
- Expect to continue to collaborate with the county and partners to educate public and ease concerns

HOW WE HAVE TAKEN CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY

- **Being agile** – Drive through testing
- **Community orientation** – Free phone line, video visits, no patient charge
- **Taking care of our staff and providers** – Support and recognize
- **Partnership with all**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Wear a mask, wash your hands, socially distance
- Message the importance of being safe this season
- Continue to educate your constituents on the vaccine, its benefit, and how health systems are working diligently to ensure they are safe
- Fund mental health in the future
- Seek meaningful change in disparities reduction



JOHNS HOPKINS
M E D I C I N E

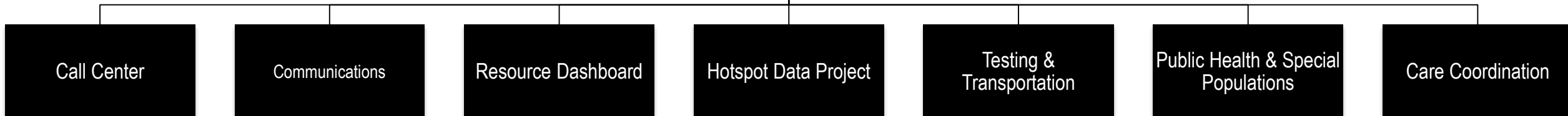
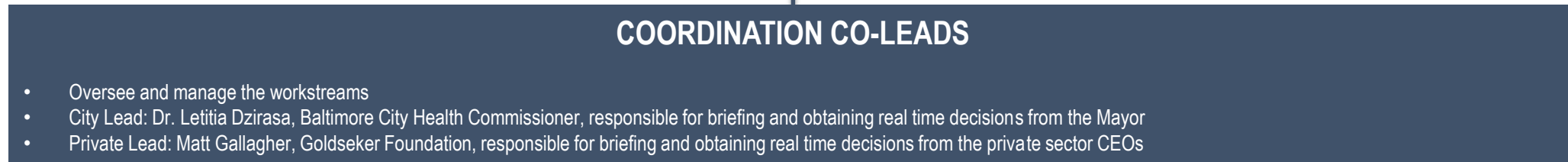
Presentation to the Joint COVID-19 Response Legislative Work Group

Redonda G. Miller, M.D., M.B.A.
President, The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Public Private Partnership (P3)



- Data suggested Baltimore likely to experience disproportionate COVID-19 impact due to density of population, high rate of poverty, prevalence of multiple chronic conditions
- Opportunity for collaboration to make broader impact
- Partners include: JHM, UMMS, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
- Officially launched March 24, partners available to support new administration as needed
- Resulted in efforts becoming embedded in standard operations



P3 Workstream Spotlight: Communications and Resource Dashboards

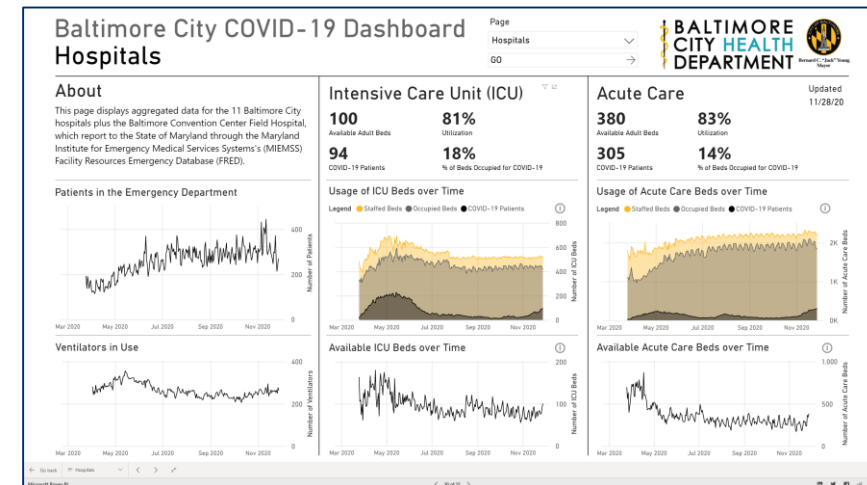
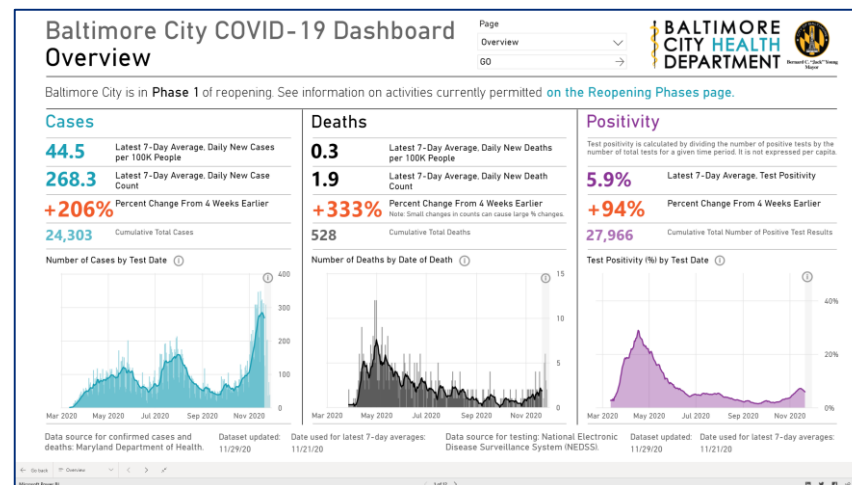
Communications

- Developed and implemented communications and public outreach strategies aimed at creating widespread, shared behaviors to slow the spread of COVID-19
- Collaborated on culturally-appropriate COVID outreach
- Allowed for expert input in briefings



Dashboards

- Integrated with key information on COVID-19 testing, results, scarce resource capacity, hospital bed availability, other critical data



Partnerships: Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital

- Licensed by state, jointly operated by JHM and UMMS
 - For adults with subacute needs who are recovering from COVID-19
 - First patient admitted on April 27
 - Cared for more than 340 patients to date
 - Average length of stay: 5 days
 - Current census: 25-35
- Capabilities expanded to include:
 - Testing
 - Infusion site



Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital

Partnerships: Lord Baltimore Hotel

- **Triage, Respite, and Isolation Center**
 - Partnership between JHM, UMMS, Baltimore City
 - For residents with known/suspected COVID-19 who do not require hospitalization and are unable to self-isolate
 - Clinical support provided by UMMS
 - Financial support provided by JHHS
 - First resident arrived May 20
 - Served more than 1,000 residents to date (includes individuals with COVID, PUI, COVID prevention)



- **Current use:**
 - 83 residents for isolation and prevention

Partnerships: Community Testing

- Collaboration between JHM, MDH, BCHD, BUILD, faith-based organizations
- Goal: To prioritize testing in medically underserved areas/for patients with transportation and other limitations
 - High positivity in Latinx community (>30%)
 - High rate of inpatient admissions from community
- JHM provides follow up and care for those without insurance or primary care provider
- Includes connection with additional resources (e.g., access to Amazon food boxes, referrals to Lord Baltimore Hotel)
- Will continue in winter months with modular heated units



Testing site: Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 21224

Cumulative	Overall	Non-Hispanic/Latinx	Hispanic/Latinx
Total Tests Completed:	2948	1179	1764
Number of Positive Tests:	620	54	565
Number of Negative Tests:	2328	1125	1199
% positive	21.0	4.6	32.0

Vaccine Equity for Staff

- **Priorities:**

- Identify JHM groups at risk for disparities in outreach, education, and engagement
 - Underrepresented populations
 - Staff without access to email, computers
- Develop strategies for outreach and education about sign-up, logistics, vaccine
 - Messaging at all literacy levels, for non English-speaking staff members, and through a variety of communication vehicles (paper, text, face-to-face, etc.)
 - Increased access to technology
 - Use of champions, ambassadors
- Monitor engagement and vaccine request stats

