



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 14, 2025

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to notify you that for the first time this season, Maryland's statewide combined - COVID, influenza and RSV - weekly respiratory virus-associated hospitalization rate (as calculated by [CDC](#)) exceeds 10 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents, due in large part to increasing COVID and flu infections. More specifically, the CDC data shows the Maryland combined hospitalization rate for the week ending on January 4 was 10.2.

Therefore, **Maryland Department of Health recommends implementing broad facility-wide source control in all patient care areas and patient-facing healthcare settings, including outpatient and long-term care.** Weekly information is updated at <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/Pages/resp-virus-metric.aspx>.

Clinicians should implement key measures to prevent and contain the spread of respiratory infections, such as:

- Universal masking in all patient care areas and patient-facing health care settings
- Vaccinate eligible patients and healthcare workers against COVID, influenza, and RSV
- Treat with antivirals early and when appropriate
- Test and isolate infected individuals quickly
- Use Personal Protective Equipment appropriately
- Identify and adhere to standard, contact, droplet, and airborne precautions
- Optimize ventilation in your facility

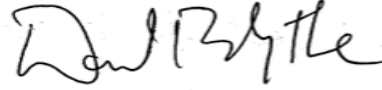
Broad facility-wide source control can be discontinued once the combined weekly respiratory virus-associated hospitalization rate has been below 10 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents for two consecutive weeks. Regular infection control measures should continue regardless.

Maryland Department of Health's respiratory illness dashboards, including for COVID, influenza, and RSV, as well as other respiratory pathogens, are available at <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/Pages/Respiratory-Virus-Surveillance.aspx>

We appreciate your attention to this situation.



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