

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Karen Wright
Executive Director

Happy New Year Everyone!

I know it's been quite some time since you have had any news from HomePorts. This was mostly by design. There has been so much information being tossed around about COVID-19, the testing and the vaccines, that we thought it was best not to muddy the waters with more information.

We have not been idle over the past months. We have been busy working on grants and loans to keep us afloat until the end of the pandemic and we have been considering what HomePorts' role will be in the future. In addition, we have some brave and dedicated volunteers that have continued to transport several of our members to their essential appointments. We can not begin to express our gratitude to this group. They have been extraordinary.

We have received calls and emails asking for information regarding when and where to sign-up for the COVID-19 vaccine. HomePorts is getting regular updates from the Kent County Health Department. They will alert us when the vaccine is open to the 75-year plus and 65-74 year categories, and we will immediately email an alert to you with links. For those of you without internet or email, Sally or I will telephone you and assist you in the registration process. We will also drive those members that will need transportation to get their vaccines.

For members and volunteers who live in Queen Anne's County ... the Kent County Health Department will not vaccinate you. You will need to be vaccinated through the Queen Anne's County Health Department. For more information please visit their website: <https://health.maryland.gov/qahealth/Pages/qacдох-home.aspx>. If you need assistance, please call our office at 443-480-0940 and we will help you.

The latest guidelines for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine are on the following two pages.

Coming Up ...

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 3
11:00 am

Meeting will be held virtually
using zoom.us

See details on last page



Why did the banana go out
with the prune?
Because it couldn't get a date.



What is a ram's favorite
Valentine's Day song?
'I only have eyes for ewe, dear'



What do you call two birds in love?
Tweetharts!

COVID-19 VACCINATION DISTRIBUTION



Maryland will distribute the vaccine in accordance with the latest guidelines. We are asking everyone to please be patient and continue with safe practices.

We are currently in Phase 1A

If Phase 1A applies to you, you may be able to register now. Please visit <https://www.Marylandvax.org> for more information or to register. If you need help registering please contact us at 443-480-0940.

Tier 1:

- Hospital personnel
- Long-term care facility staff members and residents
- Developmental Disability Administration group homes
- Assisted living facilities
- Residential rehabilitation programs

Tier 2:

- EMS
- Vaccinators (local health department, school nurse, etc.)
- Testing sites - including testers and onsite registration staff members
- Public health - COVID-19 response
- Urgent care & primary care providers

Tier 3:

- Dental practices
- Pharmacists
- Other health care professionals (outpatient specialties, optometrists, physical therapists, podiatrists, community health workers, in-home nursing staff, etc.)
- Detention centers staff members
- Homeless shelters staff members
- Law enforcement (patrol/public-facing)
- Fire rescue
- 911 dispatchers
- Behavioral health (non-telehealth) - residential/recovery, etc.
- School nurses (non-vaccine/non-testers)
- Lab workers
- Morticians and funeral home employees
- Surgical centers
- Other providers licensed by the Maryland Department of Health

Phase 1B

If Phase 1B applies to you, you will be able to register to receive a vaccination in the next few weeks.

Visit <https://www.kenthd.org> for more information or to register. If you need help registering please contact us at 443-480-0940.

Tier 1:

- Adults ages 75 and older

Tier 2:

- Public transit workers
(transport for senior citizens and people with disabilities)
- Education sector (teachers and support staff)
- Child care workers
- Food and agricultural workers

- Postal Service workers

- Grocery store workers
- People experiencing homelessness
- People in detainee centers

Tier 3:

- Manufacturing workers

continued on next page ...

Phase 1C

If Phase 1C applies to you, you will be able to register to receive a vaccination in the next few weeks.

Visit <https://www.kenthd.org> for more information or to register. If you need help registering please contact us at 443-480-0940.

Tier 1:

- Adults ages 65 to 74

Tier 2 - People 16 to 64 years old with high-risk medical conditions, including:

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Heart conditions
- Immunocompromised state
- Obesity/severe obesity
- Pregnancy
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 Diabetes, Type 1 Diabetes
- Asthma (moderate-severe)
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised conditions (from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, prolonged use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medication)
- Dementia, ALS, other neurologic issues
- Liver disease
- Pulmonary disease
- Thalassemia

Tier 3 - Essential workers not previously in Phase 1A or 1B, including:

- Transportation and logistics
- Water and wastewater
- Food service
- Shelter and housing (construction, etc.)
- Finance (banks, etc.)
- IT and communications
- Energy
- Legal (state's attorney, public defenders, judiciary, etc.)
- Media
- Public Safety (engineers, etc.)
- Public health workers - non-COVID-19 response
- Social & Human Services (Aging, DSS, Human Services) - field/in-home services
- Continuity of government (elected officials)

Why you should consider getting the vaccine

1. It helps protect you and those around you from COVID-19
2. Early clinical trials show the vaccines are highly effective in preventing serious illness.
3. These vaccines are the path forward to ending the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Most of the participants in clinical trials had minimal side effects. The most common were soreness at the injection site, fever, or body aches. See more details on next page.

WHAT ARE THE VACCINES?

Vaccines	Status	Dosing	Efficacy	Potential Side Effects
Pfizer	Vaccine has been authorized for emergency use	Two doses delivered three weeks apart	95% effective at preventing serious illness	Injection site pain, fatigue, chills, headaches
Moderna	Vaccine has been authorized for emergency use	Two doses delivered four weeks apart	94.1% effective at preventing serious illness	Injection site pain, fatigue, chills, muscle aches, joint pain, headaches
AstraZeneca	Vaccine trials are ongoing	NOTE: a half dose may be recommended for the first dose	-	Injection site pain, muscle aches, headaches

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Safety is a top priority while federal partners work to make a COVID-19 vaccine(s) available. Vaccines undergo a series of rigorous clinical trials using thousands of study participants to generate data and other information for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine their safety and effectiveness to approve or authorize for emergency use. Following approval or authorization, many vaccine safety monitoring systems watch for adverse events or possible side effects. Visit the CDC's website for more information about ensuring the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. including information about specific vaccine monitoring systems.

HOMEPORTS ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 3, 11 AM

We are holding our annual meeting virtually on Wednesday, February 3 at 11 am via zoom. We hope you can join us for our "State of HomePorts" presentation and at the very least let us see your smiling face. To join the meeting visit:

<https://zoom.us/j/92779730689> and enter meeting ID: 927 7973 0689

Note that there is no password needed.

Meeting Agenda:

- . Call to Order
- . Recognition of Outgoing Board Members
- . Election of Board Members
- . 2020 Year In Review



Please join us as we thank Jane Hukill who will be leaving the board after serving six years - including two as President. It will be an extremely difficult task to fill her shoes. She has worked tirelessly since our inception to see that HomePorts does the best we can to assist Kent County's seniors to remain safely in their own homes. She has been a remarkable asset and will be sorely missed.

THANK YOU JANE!

Other board members whose terms have ended or who have otherwise left the board are: Wendy Coslett, Joe Harding and Judge Porter. A big debt of gratitude goes out to them also.