

Colleagues,

Over the past few weeks, many of you have expressed an interest in, and willingness to receive, the COVID-19 vaccine. We are working with our local partners to allow eligible faculty and staff the opportunity to be included in the 1B tier for vaccine distribution planned over the next few weeks. Although encouraged, receiving the vaccine will be optional, and updates will be provided when they are available.

If you or your loved ones are over the age of 65, you may be able to receive the vaccine through your county's health department before it becomes available to us more broadly as College employees. Because I am in this category, I was able to get my first dose of the vaccine this morning. I will return in three weeks to receive the second dose of the vaccine.

I am including information here relevant to those who live within our service region. Many of the webpages linked below include links to forms where pre-registration is available. Similar resources are available for those who live outside the tri-state region. Please visit your local health department's website for additional resources and information.

[Maryland COVIDLINK](#): Find statewide information about COVID-19, testing sites, vaccine distribution sites, and more.

<https://health.maryland.gov/allegany/Pages/COVIDVaccination.aspx>: Find information and updates from the Allegany County Health Department.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>: Find information from the Pennsylvania Department of Health

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>: Find information from the West Virginia Department of Health

I will continue to update the ACM community as more information becomes available. I cannot stress enough the importance of receiving the vaccine. The following link from the CDC, "Understanding and Explaining mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines" might be helpful: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/mrna-vaccine-basics.html> If we hope to return to some sense of normalcy within the calendar year, this is one step we can all take toward that goal. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you!

Dr. B