



Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

November 1, 2020

2020 COMMISSION

Chair

Travis Gayles, MD, PhD

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Roseann Velez, DNP

STAFF

Kurt Seetoo, MPH

Kurt.Seetoo@Maryland.gov

WEBSITE

[https://health.maryland.gov/ta
skforces/pages/immunizations.
aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/ta
skforces/pages/immunizations.
aspx)

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan, Chair Pinsky, and Chair Pendergrass:

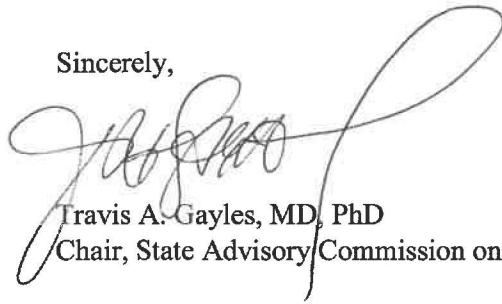
In accordance with Health-General Article §18-214(k), the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations (the Commission) is submitting this annual report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee. The Commission is charged with determining where community vaccine shortages exist, developing recommendations for equitable distribution of vaccines, making recommendations for how to increase immunizations, and studying and marketing recommendations about other vaccine-related issues.

The Commission held two meetings in February and May of Calendar Year 2020. The Commission continues to discuss how to utilize its standing to impact community education and uptake of vaccinations. The Commission also considered the following topics: the State’s response to last year’s influenza season, increasing childhood immunization rates during COVID-19, supporting and encouraging influenza vaccination for the 2020-21 season, and preliminary feedback for development of a COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, the Commission submitted a letter to the Governor encouraging him to promote messaging to parents to complete their children’s immunization schedules.

One of the Commission’s goals in 2020 was to increase the scope of the Commission’s outreach. This goal will continue through the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. The Commission will continue to explore partnerships with other agencies and entities to increase vaccine uptake and outreach. The Commission plans to hold an additional meeting before the end of this year to discuss COVID-19 vaccine distribution and monitor influenza vaccine uptake.

This letter shall serve as the Commission’s annual report for Calendar Year 2020. If you have any questions, please contact me at 240-777-1741 or travis.gayles@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis A. Gayles', written over the typed name and title.

Travis A. Gayles, MD, PhD
Chair, State Advisory Commission on Immunizations

cc: Webster Ye, JD, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs
Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP, Acting Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services
Donna Gugel, MHS, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
David Blythe, MD, MPH, Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak
Response Bureau
Sarah T. Albert, MSAR #8248