



Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

November 1, 2021

2021 COMMISSION

Chair

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

Dianna E. Abney, MD

Members

Alyson Bennett, RN

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

David Blythe, MD, MPH

Deborah Busch, DNP, RN, CRNP

Rebecca Carter, MD

Aditya Chopra, MD

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

Yen Dang, PharmD

Janaki Deepak, MD

Toby Gordon, ScD

Russet Lewis, MD

Dear Governor Hogan, Chair Pinsky, and Chair Pendergrass:

Victoria McIntyre

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 making recommendations about other vaccine-related issues.

Alicia Mew, MSN/Ed., BSN

Monique Soileau-Burke, MD

Sara Vazer, MD

STAFF

Kurt Seetoo, MPH


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The Commission held one meeting in August of Calendar Year 2021. The Commission continues to discuss how to utilize its standing to impact community education and uptake of vaccinations. Though not directly part of the Department's day-to-day COVID vaccination operations, the Commission reviewed the State's response to COVID-19, individually and collectively supported and encouraged COVID-19 vaccination, and held discussions on addressing hesitancy to COVID-19 vaccine. In August of 2021, Dr. Travis Gayles, Chair of the Commission, resigned as the Health Officer of the Montgomery County Health Department and thus stepped down as the Chair of the Commission. A search for a replacement was undertaken and led to Dr. Diana E. Abney being appointed Chair.

One of the Commission's goals from 2020 was to increase the scope of outreach as a Commission. This goal continued into 2021 as the Commission explored partnerships with other agencies and entities to increase vaccine uptake and outreach, although that was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This letter serves as the Commission's annual report for Calendar Year 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Commission staff person Kurt Seetoo at 410-767-6628 or kurt.seetoo@maryland.gov

Sincerely,



Dianna E. Abney, MD
Chair, State Advisory Commission on Immunizations

cc: Heather Shek, JD, MS, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs
Jinlene Chan MD, MPH, FAAP 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