

## PRESS RELEASE



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### **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER DR. ERNEST CARTER STATEMENT ON RECENT SPIKE IN COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS IN THE COUNTY**

**LARGO, MD** – Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter released the following statement today on the recent spike in COVID-19 hospitalizations in County facilities:

“I am extremely concerned that the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 in the County has increased 37% since last week, reaching over 200 patients on Monday for the first time since February 2021. CDC studies now show hospitalized COVID-19 patients are **17 times more likely to be unvaccinated**, while individuals who have not received a booster dose are **20 times more likely to die** from COVID-19 than those who have received a booster dose.

“As your Health Officer, I am imploring every Prince Georgian five years of age or older to – as soon as possible – get vaccinated against COVID-19 and get a booster

dose if you are 16 or older; it will save your life. The more people who are vaccinated and boosted will help ease the growing strain on the ability of hospitals to provide timely, high-quality care to patients with or without COVID-19.

“Please utilize urgent care facilities or your primary care physician for minor ailments or needs and avoid coming into a hospital within the County seeking a COVID-19 test or treatment for non-emergency illness. Free COVID-19 tests are available statewide and in multiple places across the County. A list of free, County-operated or supported testing sites and an interactive map of sites regionwide are available at [health.mypgc.us/COVIDtesting](https://health.mypgc.us/COVIDtesting).”

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