January 25, 2021

Important Information Regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

- States rely on the federal government to distribute vaccine doses. Doses are limited and distribution is proportionate to population. Virginia currently receives approximately 105,000 new doses per week. The goal is to fully vaccinate 8.5 million Virginians plus out-of-state residents who serve as essential workers in Virginia. The state's allocation of doses is expected to remain consistent until March.

- Following the federal formula, Virginia distributes its weekly allocation of 105,000 doses to health districts proportionate to population. Local health districts determine the most equitable and efficient use of their weekly allocation. The Crater Health District currently receives 1,800 doses each week.

- Beginning today, all local health districts in Virginia moved into Phase 1b of vaccination eligibility. This means that approximately 50% of Virginia's population is now eligible to receive the vaccine.

- There is not currently enough supply to meet demand. Virginia expects to meet demand for Phase 1b in March or April.

- County leaders continue to work with the Crater Health District to vaccinate persons who are eligible; which at this point, far exceeds the number of vaccines available.

- Two weeks ago, the Virginia Department of Health provided the public a link that was designed to notify individuals when they were eligible for the vaccine. Rather than a notification system, this link proved better suited as a tool to help users determine which prioritization phase they fall into. Detailed descriptions of these phases may be found here.

- It is imperative that as we wait to be vaccinated, we all continue to adhere to guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Virginia Department of Health. These include stay home whenever possible, wear a mask in public, maintain social distance, and wash your hands frequently with soap and water, using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.