



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 23, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

The Maryland Department of Health has previously recommended that broad facility-wide source control should be implemented in all patient care areas and patient-facing healthcare settings, including outpatient and long-term care, when the statewide combined weekly respiratory virus-associated hospitalization rate (as calculated by CDC) meets or exceeds 10 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents. **According to [CDC data](#), the combined weekly respiratory virus-associated hospitalization rate has now been below 10 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents for two consecutive weeks. Therefore, facilities may opt to discontinue broad facility-wide source control at this time.**

While COVID, influenza and RSV hospitalizations have decreased in recent weeks, there is still substantial respiratory virus activity and vaccination rates are significantly lower than in previous years. Therefore, we encourage Maryland health care providers to continue to monitor MDH's Source Control Metric webpage for the most up-to-date information:

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/Pages/resp-virus-metric.aspx>.

Clinicians are urged to continue to take the following key measures to prevent and contain the spread of respiratory infections:

- Vaccinate eligible patients and healthcare workers against COVID, influenza, and RSV
- Treat with antivirals early and when appropriate
- Test and isolate infected individuals quickly
- Use Personal Protective Equipment appropriately
- Identify and adhere to standard, contact, droplet, and airborne precautions
- Optimize ventilation in your facility

We appreciate your attention to this situation.

Sincerely,

Niles Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP
Deputy Secretary
Public Health Services