

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS**

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

April 15, 2021

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HITS VACCINE MILESTONE WITH
OVER 150,000 RESIDENTS FULLY VACCINATED**

*County Executive Announces Renewed Beautification Efforts, Including
Designation of a Litter Czar and Creation of a Litter Reduction and Illegal
Dumping Taskforce*

LARGO, MD – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that the County continues to hit new vaccine milestones with over 150,000 residents fully vaccinated, which equates to 20% of County residents ages 16 and older. In addition, the County Health Department has now administered over 100,000 vaccinations to County residents.

“We are proud that our vaccination efforts have ramped up significantly over the past few months, helping us significantly increase the number of Prince Georgians who have been able to receive this life-saving vaccine,” said Alsobrooks. “I want to continue to encourage every Prince Georgian to sign up to get vaccinated so you can protect yourself and your loved ones, and so we can finally put this pandemic behind us.”

Through the County Health Department, pharmacies, hospitals and other partners, over 400,000 vaccinations have been provided to County residents. 267,000 County residents have received at least one dose of a vaccine. A little over a month ago on March 6, only 94,631 County residents had received at least one dose of a vaccine. In addition, over 212,000 County residents have signed up on the County's pre-registration list since it opened in January, and more than 68% of those currently on the list have now been vaccinated.

Due to the continued progress in administering vaccines and the increased availability of vaccines, the County joined the State in opening up eligibility to all residents ages 16 and older on Monday, April 12, 2021. County residents who have not yet pre-registered for a vaccination and want to get vaccinated are encouraged to do so as soon as possible at mypgc.us/ProudtobeProtected. Residents who have trouble accessing the Internet or utilizing technology can pre-register by calling 311 and pressing #.

County residents are also able to get vaccinated through the State's mass vaccination sites and the new FEMA site at Greenbelt Metro Station. To receive appointments at these sites, residents should pre-register with the State of Maryland online at covidvax.maryland.gov or 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

In addition, the County Executive announced that the County is placing a renewed focus on beautification efforts. The County Executive appointed Tiaa Rutherford of the Department of the

Environment as the County's Litter Czar to coordinate all litter reduction efforts. The County Executive is also creating a Litter Reduction and Illegal Dumping Taskforce to further strengthen litter reduction efforts.

This Taskforce will continue to work with the Environmental Crimes Unit, which includes the County Attorney, the State's Attorney's Office, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Public Works and Transportation, the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, and the Prince George's County Police Department, to expand the illegal dumping camera monitoring program. The Taskforce will also research best practices and benchmarking for litter reduction and dumping mitigation, create a quick reference guide on litter and dumping ordinances, and recognize community members who work to keep the community clean through the Hometown Heroes Campaign.

Over the long term, the Taskforce will launch a customer dashboard and map showing litter routes and mitigation activities across Prince George's County. In addition, the County will review new and innovative policy initiatives for litter reduction, push forward with data-driven enforcement activities, and continue its award-winning coordinated communications campaign to reduce litter across the community.

This is all in addition to the efforts already underway in the County. Early on in the pandemic, the County followed CDC guidance and limited the work of employees who were responsible for litter collection. However, crews have since returned to the roadways, and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) has collected 1,004 tons of litter and illegal dumping to date in fiscal year 2021. DPW&T also conducted two recent litter blitzes in conjunction with the State Highway Administration, removing 136 tons of litter during those two blitzes.

To continue building on these litter reduction efforts, the County Executive is asking community groups, businesses and other organizations to join the spring Growing Green with Pride Day community cleanup on May 1, 2021. Community groups that sign up will receive bags, gloves, litter pickers and mulch to help clean and beautify neighborhoods across the County. Groups must register no later than Friday, April 23 to receive the free supplies from DPW&T. Those interested in registering can do so online at mypgc.us/GrowingGreen.

The County Executive also reminded residents who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 to apply for the FEMA Funeral Assistance Program, which offers financial assistance to alleviate the burden and stress of funeral expenses. Basic documentation is required to apply for the program, including an official death certificate indicating the death was due to COVID-19 and funeral expense documents. Residents can apply over the phone at 844-684-6333 (TTY: 800-462-7585), Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. More information is available on the [FEMA website](#).

Finally, the County's COVID-19 metrics remain stable. The County's average daily case rate is hovering over 19 new cases a day per 100,000 residents. In addition, the County's positivity rate is sitting at 5.2%, and the infection rate is sitting at 1.01. County residents are reminded to continue to wear masks, stay six feet away from those outside of their immediate household, wash their hands, and avoid crowds.

###