



**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst  
**Purpose:** Receive briefing and have discussion – no vote expected  
**Keywords:** Coronavirus, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #2A  
May 11, 2021  
**Discussion**

## SUBJECT

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update and County Health Planning

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr. Travis Gayles, County Health Officer and Chief of DHHS Public Health Services  
Dr. Earl Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security  
Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Council sitting as Board of Health to receive updates.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Council will receive an update on the public health data and emergency response to the COVID-19 public emergency from Dr. Gayles, Dr. Stoddard, and Dr. Crowel.

## Background Information

### State and County Data on May 5, 2021 (Maryland.gov website)

May 5, 2021	Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths	Probable Deaths
Maryland	450,689	8,622	191
Montgomery County	70,075	1,477	46

### Vaccine Allotments and Distribution

On December 23, 2020, the Montgomery County Health Department received its first allotment of vaccine to be distributed in accordance with the Maryland State vaccination plan. The County has created a vaccine dashboard:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine/>

### Montgomery County Residents Vaccinated (all doses administered in the State of Maryland)

Date	MC Residents received 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	MC Residents Fully Vaccinated
May 5, 2021	570,689 (54.3%)	410,006 (39.0%)

On April 27, 2021, the County Council sitting as the Board of Health, approved an amended Board of Health regulation to allow further phased reopening tied to COVID-19 vaccinations. Phases are triggered when 50 percent of the population has at least one dose of vaccine, when 60 percent of the

population has at least one dose of vaccine, and when 50% of the population is fully vaccinated. The press release summarizing the regulation is at (1)-(2).

The following are links to the County website on information on wearing masks and reopening requirements with links to Board of Health Regulations.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/face-coverings.html>

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/reopening/>

### Montgomery County Case Metrics (from Montgomery County website)

Montgomery County continues to monitor metric regarding the spread and prevalence of COVID-19 in the community. Each indicator also has a metric for Very High, High, Moderate, Low, or Very Low risk of transmission/utilization. Indicators can be viewed at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/data/>

#### Primary Indicators

Seven-day average number of new confirmed cases per 100,000 population. As of May 5, there is a **MODERATE** risk of transmission.

29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May	3-May	4-May	5-May
8.0%	7.7%	7.3%	6.8%	6.6%	6.5%	6.1%

Fourteen-day average percentage of tests administered resulting in a positive test. As of May 4, there was a **VERY LOW** risk of transmission.

29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May	3-May	4-May	5-May
2.4%	2.4%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	NA

#### Secondary Indicators

Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population during the last seven days compared to the previous seven days. As of May 5, there was a **VERY LOW** risk of transmission.

29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May	3-May	4-May	5-May
-14.4%	-10.9%	-12.5%	-13.1%	-20.1%	-18.0%	-21.6%

Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied. As of May 4, there was a **LOW** rate of utilization.

29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May	3-May	4-May	5-May
77.7%	78.3%	75.2%	74.4%	75.1%	78.0%	NA

Percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in use. As of May 4, there was a **LOW** rate of utilization for the system. Certain hospitals may be at capacity.

29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May	3-May	4-May	5-May
77.6%	75.2%	73.3%	73.3%	70.3%	77.8%	NA

Percent of inpatient beds in the community occupied by patients with COVID-19. As of May 4, there was a **MODERATE** rate of utilization.

29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May	3-May	4-May	5-May
6.7%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	6.8%	NA

The State and County websites include information on cases and deaths by age. The following is a summary of the State data for May 5 and County data for April 30.

Maryland	Confirmed	Confirmed	% of Cases	% Confirmed
May 5, 2021	Cases	Deaths	By Age	Deaths by Age
Age:				
0-9 years	24,958	3	5.5%	0.0%
10-19 years	46,045	6	10.2%	0.1%
20-29 years	82,732	41	18.4%	0.5%
30-39 years	77,168	89	17.1%	1.0%
40-49 years	67,314	249	14.9%	2.9%
50-59 years	67,297	714	14.9%	8.3%
60-69 years	44,831	1,432	9.9%	16.6%
70-79 years	24,650	2,193	5.5%	25.4%
80+ years	15,694	3,892	3.5%	45.1%
Not available	0	3	0.0%	0.0%
Total	450,689	8,622	100.0%	100.0%

Montgomery County	Confirmed	Confirmed	% of Cases	% Confirmed
April 30, 2021	Cases	Deaths	By Age	Deaths by Age
Age:				
0-9 years	4,270	0	6.1%	0.0%
10-19 years	7,363	0	10.5%	0.0%
20-29 years	12,193	2	17.5%	0.1%
30-39 years	11,826	22	16.9%	1.5%
40-49 years	11,208	48	16.1%	3.3%
50-59 years	10,089	103	14.5%	7.0%
60-69 years	6,473	210	9.3%	14.2%
70-79 years	3,224	309	4.6%	20.9%
80+ years	3,159	782	4.5%	53.0%
Not available	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Total	69,805	1,476	100.0%	100.0%

The following is from the State and County websites on case and death data for race and ethnicity.

Maryland	Confirmed	Confirmed	% of Total	% Confirmed
May 5, 2021	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
African American (NH)	138,375	3,030	30.7%	35.1%
Asian (NH)	10,908	297	2.4%	3.4%
White (NH)	159,036	4,360	35.3%	50.6%
Hispanic	68,416	781	15.2%	9.1%
Other (NH)	21,043	84	4.7%	1.0%
Not available	52,911	70	11.7%	0.8%
Total	450,689	8,622	100.0%	100.0%

Montgomery County	Confirmed	Confirmed	% of Total	% Confirmed
April 30, 2021	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
African American (NH)	11,240	265	16.1%	18.0%
Asian (NH)	2,683	151	3.8%	10.2%
White (NH)	13,994	706	20.0%	47.8%
Hispanic	20,922	310	30.0%	21.0%
Other (NH)	5,968	42	8.5%	2.8%
Not available	14,998	2	21.5%	0.1%
Total	69,805	1,476	100.0%	100.0%

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# Council passes new Board of Health regulation to allow a further phased reopening tied to COVID-19 vaccinations

**For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 27, 2021**

Rockville, Md., April 27, 2021—Today, the Council voted unanimously to approve an amended Board of Health regulation to allow a further phased reopening tied to COVID-19 vaccinations. The amended Board of Health regulation takes effect on April 27 at 5 p.m.

The Fifth Amended Board of Health Regulation provides guidance for expanded reopenings based on the percentage of the County population receiving COVID-19 vaccinations. [Currently, 51.2 percent](#) of the County population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. The expanded reopenings would be automatically triggered when the Montgomery County Health Officer reports that the vaccination benchmarks have been reached to the Board of Health.

Face coverings and social distancing are still required. The phases would be:

1. At **50 percent** of the population receiving at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine:

- gathering limits increase to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
- businesses limited to 25 percent capacity (including theatres) move to 50 percent capacity and may sell food and drink for consumption while seated.
- camps can move to the gathering limits of 50 indoors and 100 outdoors.
- escape rooms can allow 10 people per game.
- museums and galleries may reopen touch exhibits.
- malls may reopen pedestrian concourses and return tables and chairs inside.
- sports move to 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors with a similar number of spectators.

2. At **60 percent** of the population receiving at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine:

- gathering limits increase to 250 people indoors and no limit outdoors.
- most businesses move to 75 percent capacity.
- camps can increase to gathering limits of 250 people indoors with no capacity limit outdoors and may permit campers from outside of Washington, D.C., Maryland or Virginia.
- convention and banquet facilities are limited to 50 percent of the facility's maximum capacity per State restrictions.
- cigar and hookah bars may permit smoking outdoors.
- food service establishments may move to 75 percent of maximum capacity.
- religious facilities may move to 75 percent of maximum capacity.

- sports may increase capacity for participants and spectators to 250 people indoors and no limit outdoors and may engage in play with teams from outside Washington, D.C., Maryland or Virginia.

3. At **50 percent of the population being fully vaccinated** with the COVID-19 vaccine, all conduct and business in Montgomery County must follow any State or Maryland Department of Health requirements in place at the time. “Fully vaccinated” means two weeks after a person has received all required doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Montgomery County follows face covering guidelines from the CDC and the Maryland Department of Health, whichever is stricter. The new regulation provides an exception for sports activities that allows the removal of face coverings during vigorous outdoor exercise for high heat and humidity.

If the Montgomery County health officer finds that after reviewing community transmission metrics that continued reopening phases would be contrary to the public health, the health officer must report those concerns to the Board of Health and the continuation to the next phase must be suspended pending a hearing before the Board of Health.

The amended Board of Health regulation can be viewed [here](#).

*Release ID: 21-180*

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