



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 4, 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 April 28, 2021 (Maryland.gov website)

April 28, 2021	Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths	Probable Deaths
Maryland	445,493	8,521	188
Montgomery County	69,624	1,475	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 st Dose	MC Residents Fully Vaccinated
April 28, 2021	543,696 (51.7%)	365,861 (34.8%)

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 County website also has information on alerts, preregistration, and links to other vaccination sites.

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 April 28, there is a **MODERATE** risk of transmission.

22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr
9.0%	8.4%	8.4%	7.9%	8.3%	7.9%	7.8%

Fourteen-day average percentage of tests administered resulting in a positive test. As of April 26, there was a **VERY LOW** risk of transmission.

22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr
2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%	NA	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 April 28, there was a **VERY LOW** risk of transmission.

22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr
-24.5%	-27.6%	-23.7%	-27.8%	-15.3%	-14.9%	-14.4%

Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied. As of April 26, there was a **LOW** rate of utilization.

22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr
81.3%	77.8%	77.8%	74.4%	75.8%	NA	NA

Percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in use. As of April 26, there was a **LOW** rate of utilization for the system. Certain hospitals may be at capacity.

22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr
82.0%	80.8%	76.0%	76.0%	79.0%	NA	NA

Percent of inpatient beds in the community occupied by patients with COVID-19. As of April 26, there was a **MODERATE** rate of utilization.

22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr
6.6%	7.2%	6.8%	6.6%	6.7%	NA	NA

The State and County websites include information on cases and deaths by age. The following is a summary of the State data for April 28 and County data for April 23.

Maryland	Confirmed	Confirmed	% of Cases	% Confirmed
April 28, 2021	Cases	Deaths	By Age	Deaths by Age
Age:				
0-9 years	24,366	3	5.5%	0.0%
10-19 years	45,270	6	10.2%	0.1%
20-29 years	81,774	40	18.4%	0.5%
30-39 years	76,272	85	17.1%	1.0%
40-49 years	66,647	246	15.0%	2.9%
50-59 years	66,623	698	15.0%	8.2%
60-69 years	44,460	1,404	10.0%	16.5%
70-79 years	24,470	2,178	5.5%	25.6%
80+ years	15,611	3,859	3.5%	45.3%
Not available	0	2	0.0%	0.0%
Total	445,493	8,521	100.0%	100.0%

Montgomery County	Confirmed	Confirmed	% of Cases	% Confirmed
April 23, 2021	Cases	Deaths	By Age	Deaths by Age
Age:				
0-9 years	4,173	0	6.0%	0.0%
10-19 years	7,269	0	10.5%	0.0%
20-29 years	12,064	2	17.4%	0.1%
30-39 years	11,708	22	16.9%	1.5%
40-49 years	11,127	46	16.1%	3.1%
50-59 years	10,017	101	14.5%	6.9%
60-69 years	6,435	208	9.3%	14.2%
70-79 years	3,201	307	4.6%	21.0%
80+ years	3,152	776	4.6%	53.1%
Not available	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Total	69,146	1,462	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
April 28, 2021	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
African American (NH)	135,974	2,977	30.5%	34.9%
Asian (NH)	10,764	297	2.4%	3.5%
White (NH)	157,106	4,323	35.3%	50.7%
Hispanic	67,903	773	15.2%	9.1%
Other (NH)	20,801	83	4.7%	1.0%
Not available	52,945	68	11.9%	0.8%
Total	445,493	8,521	100.0%	100.0%

Montgomery County	Confirmed	Confirmed	% of Total	% Confirmed
April 23, 2021	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
African American (NH)	11,040	264	16.0%	18.1%
Asian (NH)	2,658	150	3.8%	10.3%
White (NH)	13,859	700	20.0%	47.9%
Hispanic	20,753	304	30.0%	20.8%
Other (NH)	5,883	42	8.5%	2.9%
Not available	14,953	2	21.6%	0.1%
Total	69,146	1,462	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](#).

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