



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

AGENDA ITEM #3A
 October 26, 2021
Discussion

SUBJECT

Updates from County Government and Montgomery County Public Schools – Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Health Planning

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

- Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Health Officer and Chief of Public Health Services, DHHS
- Dr. Earl Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
- Sean O’Donnell, Program Administrator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (DHHS)
- James D’Andrea, Chief of Staff, Office of the Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
- Heather Dublinske, Coordinator, Student Welfare and Compliance, (MCPS)

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 response to COVID-19.

Background Information

State and County Data on October 21, 2021 (Maryland.gov website)

	Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths	Probable Deaths
Maryland	553,593	10,540	231
Montgomery County	81,768	1,651	51

On October 21, 2021 the Maryland.gov website reported the State’s positivity rate was 3.29%.

Vaccine Allotments and Distribution

The County has created a vaccine dashboard:

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

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

Date	MC Residents received 1 st Dose	MC Residents Fully Vaccinated
October 21, 2021	784,572 (74.6%)	712,083 (67.9)

On October 21, 2021, the CDC Tracker showed that 90.5% of Montgomery County’s eligible population is fully vaccinated.

Montgomery County Case Metrics (from Montgomery County website)

Montgomery County continues to monitor metrics regarding the spread and prevalence of COVID-19 in the community. The primary indicators follow the CDC Tracker which classifies metrics by Low, Moderate, Substantial, and High. The secondary metrics are classified as the county as 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

Number of cases per 100,000 residents in the past 7 days. As of October 21, there was a **MODERATE** level of transmission.

Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21
61.48	57.11	54.15	52.54	56.15	52.25	49.8

Test positivity rate – 7-day average percentage of tests administered resulting in a positive case. As of October 20, there was a **LOW** risk of transmission.

Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21
1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	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 October 21, there was a **VERY LOW** risk of transmission.

Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21
-15.7	-18.7	-23.4	-24.7	-11.0	-20.9	-19.2

Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied. As of October 14 (last reported data) 71.9% of beds were occupied which is a **LOW** rate of utilization.

Percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in use. As of October 14 (last reported date) 72.8% of ICU beds were in use which is a **LOW** rate of utilization.

Percent of inpatient beds in the community occupied by patients with COVID-19. As of October 14 (last reported date) 5.9% of beds were occupied with COVID-19 patients which is a **MODERATE** rate of utilization.

Montgomery County Public Schools

MCPS has created a central web page with COVID-19 information:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/index.aspx>

This page includes links to general information such as community messages and case reports; health and safety information such as testing and quarantine protocols; and operational information such as meals and transportation.

A new quarantine infographic is available on this webpage:

[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/reopening/health-and-safety/COVIDguidelines_final%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/reopening/health-and-safety/COVIDguidelines_final%20(1).pdf)

A new COVID-19 dashboard can be accessed from this page which shows the number of active cases and active quarantine across the system and at the school level.

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/dashboard/>

HHS and E&C Committee – November 4

The Joint HHS and E&C Committee has scheduled meeting on November 4 to further discuss the plans for the School System Medical Officer position and its coordination with DHHS, the proposed advisory committee, as well as other concerns related to school health services, such as workload and impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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