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 #2(A)
January 11, 2022
Discussion

Montgomery
County Council

SUBJECT

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Health Planning; Montgomery County Government

(Montgomery County Public Schools is not presenting at this update but is scheduled to participate at the January 18 COVID update to Council)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr, Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Chief Health Officer, (DHHS)
Dr. Earl Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Sean O'Donnell, Program Administrator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness
    and Response (DHHS)

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 January 6, 2022 (Maryland.gov website)

	Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths	Probable Deaths
Maryland	788,965	11,809	239
Montgomery County	121,074	1,725	52

On January 6, 2022, the Maryland.gov website reported the State's positivity rate was 29.98%.

On January 6, 2022, the CDC COVID[1] Tracker by county, showed that Montgomery County was in **HIGH** Community Transmission with a case rate of 1800.34 cases per 100,000 population for the last 7 days and a positivity rate of 25.72%.

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[1] Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID Tracker https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Maryland&data-type=Risk&list_select_county=24031

The January 6, 2022, CDC COVID Tracker reports:

89% of the County population aged 5 years old and older is fully vaccinated.
83.5% of the TOTAL County population is fully vaccinated.
41.6% of the fully vaccinated population has a booster.

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 January 6, 2022, the County website reports 1751.1 cases per 100,000; which was a **HIGH** level of transmission.

Test positivity rate – 7-day average percentage of tests administered resulting in a positive case. The County website is not current due to issues with the Maryland Department of Health data feed. As noted on the previous page, the CDC Tracker reports a positivity rate of 25.72%.

Secondary Indicators
Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population during the last seven days compared to the previous seven days. As of January 6, 2022, the rate was 75.9%; a **HIGH** risk of transmission.

Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied. As of January 4, 2022, 75.3% beds were occupied which is a **LOW** rate of utilization. (it has been noted in previous updates that it is not just the number of beds that a hospital has available but also availability of staff to allow the beds to be occupied by patients.)

Percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in use. As of January 4, 2022, 76.6% 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 January 3, 2022, 31.1% of beds were occupied with COVID-19 patients which is a **HIGH** rate of utilization.

Board of Health Order – Masks – January 4, 2022

On January 4, the Board of Health adopted an amended Board of Health regulations regarding the wearing of masks that became effective at 12 a.m. on January 5, 2022. The new Board of Health regulation continues indoor mask requirements at any location accessible to the public in Montgomery County until at least Jan. 31, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. In addition, the Council will meet as the Board of

Health every two weeks to evaluate the public health data associated with community transmission of COVID-19 to determine if the indoor mask mandate should continue.

The following is a link to the Order that became effective on January 5, 2022: https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllims/DownloadFilePage?FileName=10331_1_18958_Resolution_19-1120_Adopted_20220104.pdf

Link to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

MCPS representatives are not presenting at this update but will participate in the January 18 update.

As reference, the following is a link to the MCPS Dashboard:

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

Report on COVID cases by school December 23 – January 5 (this can be reached through the Dashboard for the most up to date report):

https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/Coronavirus/dashboaird/14-Day%20COVID-19%20Case%20Reports%20December%2023%20-%20January%205.pdf

MCPS Health and Safety Procedures:

https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/safety.aspx

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