



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

REVISED
 AGENDA ITEM #2A
 February 1, 2022
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 Chief Health Officer, (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)
- Stephanie Iszard, Coordinator, Student Health and Wellness (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 from County Government and MCPS.

Background Information

State and County Data on January 27, 2022 (Maryland.gov website)

	Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths	Probable Deaths
Maryland	946,869	13,078	256
Montgomery County	156,147	1,845	55

On January 27, 2022, the Maryland.gov website reported the State’s positivity rate was 11.59%.

On January 27, 2022, the CDC COVID¹ Tracker by county, showed that Montgomery County was in HIGH Community Transmission with a case rate of 579.81 cases per 100,000 population for the last 7 days and a positivity rate of 10.64%.

The January 27, 2022, CDC COVID Tracker reports:

89.1% of the County population aged 5 years old and older is fully vaccinated.

83.6% of the TOTAL County population is fully vaccinated.

49.5% 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 27, 2022, there were 393.3 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. As of January 27, 2022, the County website reports a positivity rate of 9.0%; which is a **SUBSTANTIAL** rate of transmission.

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 27, 2022, the rate was -65.1%; a **VERY LOW** risk of transmission.

Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied. As of January 26, 2022, 72.8% beds were occupied which is a **LOW** rate of utilization.

Percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in use. As of January 26, 2022, 81.5% of ICU beds were in use which is a **MODERATE** rate of utilization.

Percent of inpatient beds in the community occupied by patients with COVID-19. As of January 26, 2022, 23.5% of beds were occupied with COVID-19 patients which is a **HIGH** rate of utilization.

Board of Health Order – Masks – January 25, 2022

On January 25, the Board of Health adopted an amended Board of Health regulations regarding the wearing of masks that became effective on January 25, 2022. The new Board of Health regulation

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

continues indoor mask requirements at any location accessible to the public in Montgomery County. The Board of Health Order will terminate without further action on February 21, 2022. In addition, the Council will meet as the Board of Health every week to evaluate the public health data associated with community transmission of COVID-19.

The following is a link to the Order that became effective on January 25, 2022:

https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllims/DownloadFilePage?FileName=10350_1_19990_Resolution_19-1139_Adopted_20220125.pdf

Montgomery County is distributing free N95 masks, while supplies last, through County libraries. The following is a link to the press release with specific information:

https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=39867

Montgomery County is distributing rapid tests, while supplies last, through County libraries. The following are links to the press release and additional information on the COVID webpage:

https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=39792

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html>

Montgomery County Public Schools

Representatives from MCPS will provide a brief update on case data, vaccinations, quarantine, and the testing programs. An update will be provided on the status of virtual learning for schools and for individual students.

The MCPS Community Message distributed on January 20, 2022, included information on 16 schools entering virtual instruction for 10 calendar days, scheduled to return to in person instruction on January 31, 2022.

The MCPS Community Message distributed on January 27, 2022, included information on 4 schools entering virtual instruction for 10 calendar days, scheduled to return to in person instruction on February 10, 2022. The message also indicates that optional virtual instruction for families on a case by case basis will be available through February 11, 2022. The January 27, 2022, community message can be accessed at the link below:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/community/school-year-2021-2022/Community-Update-20220127-final.html>

The MCPS COVID Dashboard includes daily case counts by school. The dashboard can be accessed at the following link:

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

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