

COVID RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Regional and National Practice Highlights

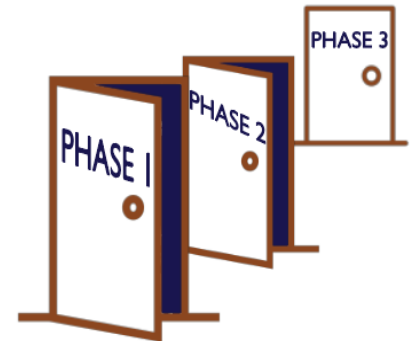
Issue 2 - July 1, 2020



Since publishing our inaugural issue two weeks ago, reopenings have cautiously proceeded to Phase 2 in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, and the District of Columbia. Maryland's face-covering order, in its third month, is reinforced by a new campaign, [#MasksonMaryland](#). But nationally, July begins with over one-third of states – due to their spiking COVID case counts – in a “not so fast” reopening rollback, according to [tracking by Johns Hopkins University](#). Even Virginia's (including Fairfax County) July 1st move to Phase 3 featured the [Governor's last-minute hold](#) on restrictions on seating and congregating in bars.

In California, Florida, Georgia and New Jersey, the four counties from which we gleaned practice highlights (page 3) each share populations close in size to Montgomery County's 1.05 million, and with similar rates of diversity. COVID-19's disproportionate effect on certain subgroups is tracked more consistently via two new national COVID/equity databases (see “Resources,” page 2.)

Finally, although Montgomery County-sponsored July Fourth celebrations are cancelled, and residents are urged to celebrate at home, the District of Columbia's [new guidance for private cookouts](#) may prove helpful for Montgomery County hosts and guests, too. – *Lee Rucker Keiser, M.S.P.H.*



CASE STUDY: CONTACT TRACING

Reducing the spread of our 21st century pandemic may increasingly depend on a decades-old public health practice: revisiting newly-diagnosed patients' friends-and-family network. When University of Texas at Austin students' spring break trip to Mexico became a public health emergency upon their return, [swift action in contact tracing](#) successfully minimized community spread of COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported June 24. Locally, Montgomery County Health Officer Dr. Travis Gayles informed the County Council on June 23 that 100% of new COVID cases in Maryland's contact-tracing system receive an initial contact within 24 hours, with over 80% resulting in a conversation in that time frame.

However, as [some states scramble](#) to adequately staff their tracing workforce, others are pursuing creative approaches. California [librarians, tax assessors, paralegals and investigators](#) are serving as contact tracers under a state-funded, \$8.7 million program with the Univ. of California-San Francisco. Their goal is to train 20,000 new contact tracers statewide by July. A new [Baltimore Health Corps](#) will recruit, train and employ about 300 currently-jobless residents to serve as contact tracers, care coordinators, and community health workers.

Beyond workforce needs, states are enhancing contact tracing communication, such as Maryland's new [CovidLINK](#) webpage; and Georgia's "[Healthy Georgia Collaborative](#)" 90-second YouTube video. Deployment of contact-tracing technology has prompted concern about privacy of consumer information, the subject of a June letter sent to Apple and Google by Attorneys General of [Maryland](#) and 35 states, plus D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam. Notably, a [University of Arizona](#) app would avoid collecting any personally-identifiable information. - LRK



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IN THE REGION



The District of Columbia issued **comprehensive guidance for condominiums and apartment buildings** to help them reopen services during Phase 2. [Learn more here.](#)



Montgomery County Public Libraries' **"Summer Read and Learn Program"** for children and teens includes multi-lingual game boards, and a virtual escape room. [Learn more](#)

Prince George's County is providing **"grab and go" play kits** for children through the county's Parks Department. The kits contain art supplies, a jump rope, and other supplies. [Learn more here.](#)



Fairfax County is offering **free childhood vaccination clinics** for children whose vaccine schedules were disrupted by COVID-19. [Learn more here.](#)



Prince George's County has launched a **pilot text to 911** service to better serve resident needs during the pandemic. [Learn more here.](#)



The District of Columbia Department of Health is **providing fresh produce** to families in underserved areas with a program designed for COVID - *Produce Plus Direct*. [Learn more here.](#)



Prince George's County is offering **virtual computer science education for students**, and professional development for teachers, in a partnership with Amazon and BootUp. [Learn more here.](#)

The District of Columbia has created a **list of virtual service opportunities** to help high school students earn community service hours. [Learn more here.](#)



The Washington, D.C. Economic Partnership created an ArcGIS Story Map to **highlight businesses providing essential services**. These highlights include projections on growth and pandemic impact. [Learn more here.](#)

The District of Columbia has **created standard signage** for reopening businesses. The signs remind customers to socially distance and to wear masks. [Learn more here.](#)



Child Care



Health Care



Communications



Housing



Transit



Food Security



Education



Public Safety



Employment

Reopening Status (July 1)

Prince George's County: Phase 2
District of Columbia: Phase 2
Northern Virginia: Modified Phase 3

RESOURCES

Montgomery County Resources

[Reopening Phases](#)
[MCPS Parent Fall \(COVID\) Recovery Survey](#) (until July 8)
["Shared Streets" Resident and Business Surveys](#)
["Vision Zero" Pedestrian/Cyclist Traffic Safety Survey](#)
(until August 9)

[Office of Legislative Oversight COVID-19 Reports](#)
[Unemployment \(June 25\)](#)
[Recovery Outlook: Evictions in Rental Housing](#)
(June 16)

National Data

Emory University's [COVID-19 Health Equity Dashboard](#)
(state and county data, updated weekly)

[Health Opportunity and Equity \(HOPE\) Initiative](#)
Interactive data tool measuring well-being across 24 indicators for different racial and ethnic groups.
(Data from Maryland, Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Mississippi, and Wisconsin)

[Community Resilience Estimates](#) from the US Census Bureau.
New data assessing a community's ability to withstand a natural disaster or pandemic.

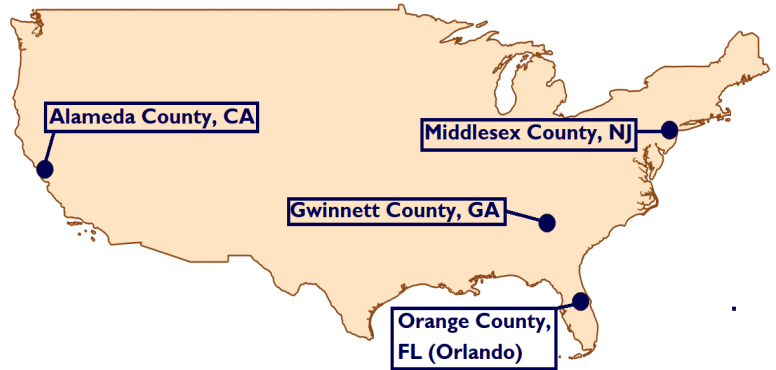
FURTHER AFIELD



The City of Orlando, FL launched on June 26 a new “**Safer, Stronger, Together**” **campaign** for businesses and residents to help share accountability, and communication tools, to promote safer reopening.

[Learn more here.](#)

[Visit the campaign website here.](#)



Gwinnett County, GA **reopened its public libraries on June 22**. Reopening has started with reduced access to furniture and computers, with time limits. This reopening parallels a [more limited reopening here](#) in Montgomery County.

[Learn more here.](#)

Middlesex County, NJ **created an online arts tour**.

[Learn more here.](#)

Reopening Status

Alameda County, CA: Modified Stage 2 of 4

Gwinnett County, GA: Locally enforced regulations

Middlesex County, NJ: Stage 2 of 4

Orange County, FL: Modified Phase 2

Editorial note: Each phase's dimensions vary by jurisdiction.



The City of Orlando, FL is operating **small group summer camps for children**. Attendees are placed in cohorts, and interact with the same small group of children and the same caregiver for the whole summer.

[Learn more here.](#)



Alameda County, CA partnered with advocacy organizations to provide **information about safer drug use** to [people suffering from addiction](#). The county also **redesigned orientations for in-home service providers** to [provide training while adhering to social distancing protocols](#).



Alameda County, CA is **providing isolation housing** for symptomatic or COVID-19 infected people experiencing homelessness, as well as safe housing for high-risk people experiencing homelessness.

[Learn more here.](#)



Gwinnett County, GA is **providing hand sanitizer on all buses** throughout its commuter bus system.

Alameda County, CA is **surveying bus riders** to [learn more about transit service](#) during the pandemic. This act parallels [similar surveys](#) by Montgomery County's RideOn.



Alameda County, CA produced a **bilingual food resources list with a QR code**. Residents can scan the code to access online information. [Learn more here.](#)



Gwinnett County, GA public school parents must **advise the school system** by July 10 if they want their children to have in-person instruction, or remote digital learning. Schools begin August 5.

[Learn more here.](#)



Alameda County, CA's COVID communication for their **correctional facility** is highly transparent, including daily COVID-19 updates, plus extensive inmate education about enhanced cleaning and hygiene. [Learn more here.](#)