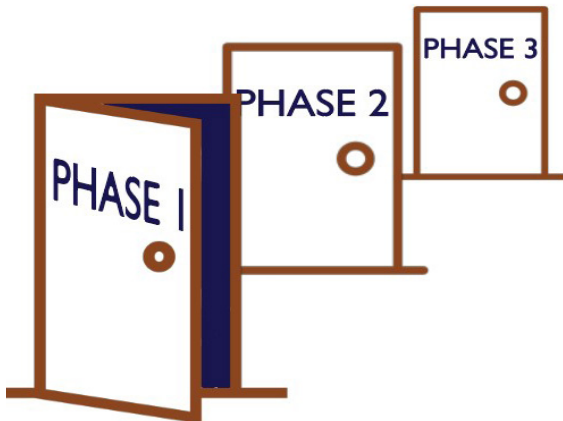# COVID RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Regional and National Practice Highlights

Issue 1 - June 17, 2020

With Montgomery County advancing to Phase 2 on June 19, our new-normal harbingers include: resumption of many previously-curtailed RideOn bus routes; new socially distanced outdoor dining opportunities (e.g., Silver Spring's Streetdine, Bethesda's Streetery); and taming long-neglected tresses. Along the phased recovery pathway, such activities' sustainability depends on dynamic ecosystems of trained personnel and patrons, adequate PPE inventory, potential support through the CARES Act and Montgomery County supplemental assistance; and collaborative, cross-agency focus and commitment.

Such ecosystems are being stood up across the National Capital area and beyond. Accordingly, this newsletter is designed to provide brief highlights of practices in key sectors in Prince George's and Fairfax Counties, the District of Columbia; and in further-afield jurisdictions, too. Select Montgomery County, MD reopening practices may be referenced, starting with subsequent newsletter issues.

Moreover, we now confront an epidemiological convergence of COVID-19 cases' geographic concentration and social determinants of health, atop centuries-long undercurrents of systemic racism. This "environmental agent of disease" must be considered "as a vital sign – alongside blood pressure, pulse, weight, and temperature," the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported June 10. COVID-related resources in this vein may also be shared here, to help support the Council's declaration of racism as a public health crisis. My editorial team of Summer Fellows and I are pleased to present this inaugural issue, and welcome your feedback.   *-- Lee Rucker Keiser, M.S.P.H.*

RESOURCES

Underlined text links to websites.

Montgomery County Resources

Reopening Phases

Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) COVID-19 Reports:
Unemployment Update (June 10, 2020)
Recovery Outlook: Commercial Real Estate - Hospitality Sector
Recovery Outlook: Office and Industrial Commercial Real Estate
Recovery Outlook: Public Transit
Recovery Outlook: Telework and Economic Development

National Data

State-Specific Reopening Data (updated daily)
Racism is a Public Health Crisis, Say Cities and Counties, Pew Trusts, June 15

United States Census Bureau Weekly Reports:
Household Pulse Survey (assessing the impact of COVID-19 on people's lives)
Small Business Pulse Survey (by sector and state, and for the 50 largest metro areas)

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From the CDC:
COVID-19 Public Attitudes, Behaviors and Beliefs, June 12 (for the US, New York, and Los Angeles)
COVID-19 Cases, January-May, Underlying Health Conditions, June 15

IN THE REGION

In the District of Columbia, **guidelines for partitions** were developed to allow for the expansion of child care resources during Phase One of reopening. Learn more here.

The District of Columbia has set up **special protocols in cooling centers** for social distancing. These rules allow cooling centers to operate during heatwaves and offer potentially life-saving respite to vulnerable populations. Learn more here.

The District of Columbia is **hiring for its new "COVID Contact Trace Force."** Learn more here.

Prince George's County has conducted Spanish-language **webinars on mental health during the pandemic**. These programs help citizens build skills for well-being and navigate the pandemic as the County reopens after being a hotspot. The events build on local efforts to expand mental health access among Spanish-speaking populations in the County. Learn more here (Spanish-language).

Child Care **Health Care** **Communications**

Housing **Transit** **Food Security**

Education **Public Safety** **Employment**

Reopening Status (June 17)
Prince George's County: "Modified" Phase 2
District of Columbia: Phase 1
Northern Virginia: Phase 2

Fairfax County uses an ArcGIS Story Map to **centralize information** about the transmission, case count, and deaths across the County, alongside information about testing and tracing. The graphic display allows users to track progress across maps and charts, while learning more from the text. Learn more here.

Fairfax County has **suspended evictions through July 24**. Penalties for late rent have also been suspended across the county until that date. Learn more here.

The District of Columbia has **banned utility disconnections** for the duration of the state of emergency. Learn more here.

Both Fairfax County and Prince George's County have **created interactive maps** for residents to find sites for food distribution, nutrition resources, and other food assistance. In both counties, these maps are accompanied by robust public information campaigns.
See Fairfax County's map here.
See Prince George's County's map here.

In June, distance-learning surveys for parents were distributed by Fairfax County Public Schools, and by Prince George's County's Public Schools.

Fairfax County is **evaluating three scenarios for schools this fall**: a virtual start with enhanced digital access, prioritizing in-person instruction for certain students with hybrid instruction for others, and virtual learning by need or a space-available basis. These will be discussed at public meetings this week.
Learn more here.
Meeting information is available here.

Prince George's County is **encouraging and assisting protesters to get tested** for COVID-19 at free testing sites across the county. Learn more here.

Fairfax County is providing **grants to businesses** to assist in financial recovery during the economic downturn. Applications for the RISE grant closed on June 15. Learn more here.

FURTHER AFIELD

The Department of Human Services in Monroe County, New York has **waived fees for low-income families** receiving subsidies for child care through June 30. This waiver builds on the subsidy program to ensure that families can afford child care in this time. Learn more here.

The Department of Health and Human Services in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania is **surveying recipients of telemedicine** for behavioral health. Results from the survey will be used to improve telemedicine provision later in the pandemic. Learn more here.

Local governments in Westchester County, New York are **directing recovered coronavirus patients to donate plasma at a central extant facility,** the New York Blood Center. This central effort enables the collection and distribution of convalescent plasma, which is used to treat patients in the County and well beyond. Learn more here.

The City of Rochester, New York created a **centralized web portal on coronavirus information** called *Jumpstarting ROC*. The site contains information on staying healthy, business assistance, child care, and resources from the city and Monroe County. Learn more here.

Public Health – Seattle and King County **uses its blog**, *Public Health Insider*, to not only provide advice on staying safe, but also to discuss the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on communities of color. The blog also provides layman-oriented explanations of the science behind the coronavirus response. The blog is similar to Montgomery Planning's *The Third Place* blog. Learn more here.

King County, Washington provides **an extensive, zip-code specific list of resources** for rent and housing assistance. Learn more here.

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania has **created an emergency fund** to provide hotel access or other housing assistance during the crisis. Learn more here.

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania is **allowing rideshare passengers to cancel rides** if the driver or employee is not wearing a mask, without charge. Learn more here.

The City of Rochester, New York has **created an interactive map for children's meals**. The *Grab and Go Finder* shows where families can pick up pre-packaged breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Learn more here.

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania has started a **weekly "contact-free" food box distribution** at several sites. Learn more here.
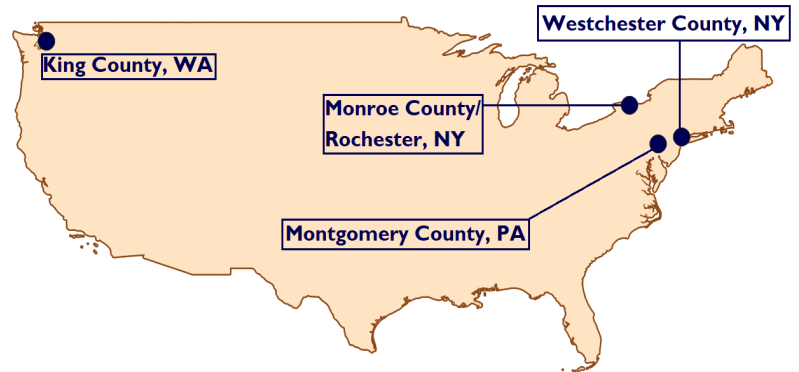
The City of Rochester, New York has **provided Chromebooks** to all fourth- and fifth-grade students in the city's public school system to enable distance learning. Learn more here.

The City of Rochester, New York r**eplaced the city-wide, volunteer-based cleaning day** with community-based "sweeps." This effort allows for beautification and litter cleanup while keeping the public safe from COVID-19. Learn more here.

In Monroe County, New York, the Rochester Works! initiative will **operate a summer youth employment program for young people** ages 16 to 20. This program will provide youth valuable experience, and families needed income during the crisis. The program is county-wide. Learn more here.

King County, WA

Westchester County, NY

Monroe County/ Rochester, NY

Montgomery County, PA

Reopening Status
King County, WA: Phase 1 (Modified) of 4
Monroe County, NY: Phase 3 of 4
Montgomery County, PA: "Yellow Phase" (Phase 2 out of 3)
Westchester County, NY: Phase 2 of 4
Editorial note: Each phase's dimensions vary by jurisdiction.