



City of Rockville  
111 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland  
20850-2364  
www.rockvillemd.gov

240-314-5000  
TTY 240-314-8137

July 21, 2020

The Honorable Sidney Katz, President  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Katz,

The Rockville Mayor and Council is grateful to the County Council for its leadership in providing essential resources and services to residents and during the COVID-19 pandemic. We support the need for an expanded and enhanced testing strategy for COVID-19, and encourage the Executive to immediately implement a comprehensive strategy that includes free, no appointment, no referral, walk-up testing, at sites available County-wide. We also support extending the availability of testing sites and hours to help provide greater access to residents.

On the National front, COVID-19 is surging in the southern and western portions of the United States at increasingly alarming rates. While Maryland and Montgomery County have made significant progress, now is the time to implement an aggressive testing strategy, combined with mask wearing, physical distancing, contact tracing, and other measures the County has used to protect public health. It is paramount that the County continues to aggressively combat the virus, which could help prevent a resurgence that has emerged other parts of the country. A robust testing operation is an important next step and essential to early identification, mitigation, and prevention of COVID-19 and the related public health, social, and economic impacts of this unprecedented crisis, and it is necessary to advance to the next stage of its phased approach to reopening.

We request that the County include the City of Rockville in this expanded testing initiative in the near future, and we welcome the opportunity to partner. Given the size of our City, we welcome the opportunity for at least two sites to support Eastern and Western Rockville, and focus on areas where the need is greatest and access has been limited. Rockville has been contacted by residents who have expressed concern regarding a lack of available testing, appointment times, and test result delays. The virus is being transmitted in our community. Rockville was one of the hot spots for nursing home cases, and one of our zip codes is among the top 6 highest number of cases in Montgomery County. According to the Maryland Department of Health, there are 1379 (as of 7/20) positive cases in Rockville zip codes. With a population of more than 68,000 residents, and a central location in the County, and a major commuter point, Rockville is an ideal location for additional testing sites that can be easily accessed by the community.

The Rockville Mayor and Council urges the County Council and the Board of Health, to expand testing at a greater pace and to many more sites than the current 3 permanent sites that exist in the County. With a population above 1 million and as one of the top two Counties in Maryland with COVID-19 cases, we need to continue to take a proactive and expansive approach to testing and prevention. It is our belief that every Rockville and County resident who wishes to be tested should have an accessible, walk-up, no-cost, no-referral, timely, and convenient testing option.

MAYOR  
Bridget Donnell Newton

COUNCIL  
Monique Ashton  
Beryl L. Feinberg  
David Myles  
Mark Pierzchala

CITY MANAGER  
Robert DiSpirito

CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF  
COUNCIL OPERATIONS  
Sara Taylor-Ferrell

CITY ATTORNEY  
Debra Yerg Daniel

The Honorable Sidney Katz  
July 21, 2020  
Page Two

The City of Rockville is eager to support you in this effort. We thank you for your consideration of our request on this critical public health matter.

Sincerely,

  
Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor

  
Monique Ashton, Councilmember

  
Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember

  
David Myles, Councilmember

  
Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember

Rockville Mayor and Council

cc: County Councilmembers  
Montgomery County Executive