



**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst  
**Purpose:** Receive briefing and have discussion – no vote expected  
**Keywords:** Coronavirus, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #0.5  
March 24, 2020  
**Discussion**

## SUBJECT

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update (County Council sitting as the Board of Health)

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr. Travis Gayles, County Health Officer and Chief of DHHS Public Health Services  
Dr. Earl Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency management and Homeland Security  
Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Council sitting as Board of Health to receive update.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The following information is from <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

### COVID-19 Background

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. COVID-19 is a new virus that hasn't caused illness in humans before. Worldwide, COVID-19 has resulted in thousands of infections, causing illness and in some cases death. Cases have spread to countries throughout the world, with more cases reported daily.

### COVID-19 is thought to be able to spread like the cold or flu through:

Coughing and sneezing, which creates respiratory droplets  
Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands  
Touching an object or surface with the virus on it

### Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

Fever  
Coughing  
Shortness of breath  
In more severe cases, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)

The vast majority of people recover from this infection. Most people will have mild or moderate symptoms. Older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions have a greater risk for more serious illness.

Link to CDC Website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Link to County website:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus.html>

Link to information on County Closures

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/COVID19-Closures.html>

## **SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**

- The Board of Health will be briefed on the status of cases in Montgomery County and ongoing coordination and collaboration with federal, State, and local agencies and healthcare providers.

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