



**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

AGENDA ITEM #2A  
 October 12, 2021  
**Discussion**

**SUBJECT**

Updates from County Government and Montgomery County Public Schools – Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Health Planning

**EXPECTED ATTENDEES (corrected)**

- Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Chief Health Officer, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Dr. Earl Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
- Sean O'Donnell, Program Administrator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (DHHS)
- Lt. Commander, Dr. Christopher Snitchler, US Navy, Uniformed Services University (with DHHS)
- James D'Andrea, Chief of Staff, Office of the Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
- Heather Dublinske, Coordinator, Student Welfare and Compliance, (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.

**Background Information**

**State and County Data on October 7, 2021 (Maryland.gov website)**

|                   | Confirmed Cases | Confirmed Deaths | Probable Deaths |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Maryland          | 540,451         | 10,320           | 230             |
| Montgomery County | 80,598          | 1,632            | 51              |

On September 23, 2021, the Maryland.gov website reported the State's positivity rate was 4.38%.

**Vaccine Allotments and Distribution**

The County has created a vaccine dashboard:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/data/#vaccine>

Montgomery County Residents Vaccinated (only doses administered in the State of Maryland)

| Date            | MC Residents received 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose | MC Residents Fully Vaccinated |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| October 7, 2021 | 779,541 (74.2%)                            | 708,946 (67.6%)               |

On October 7, 2021, the CDC Tracker showed that 89.5% of Montgomery County’s eligible population is fully vaccinated.

**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 September 23, there was a **SUBSTANTIAL** level of transmission.

| Oct 1 | Oct 2 | Oct 3 | Oct 4 | Oct 5 | Oct 6 | Oct 7 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 80.99 | 76.05 | 76.33 | 78.04 | 77.09 | 75.95 | 75.28 |

Test positivity rate – 7-day average percentage of tests administered resulting in a positive case. As of October 6, there was a **LOW** risk of transmission.

| Oct 1 | Oct 2 | Oct 3 | Oct 4 | Oct 5 | Oct 6 | Oct 7 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2.1   | 2.1   | 2.0   | 1.9   | 1.9   | 1.8   | NA    |

**Secondary Indicators**

Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population during the last seven days compared to the previous seven days. As of October 7, there was a **MODERATE** risk of transmission.

| Oct 1 | Oct 2 | Oct 3 | Oct 4 | Oct 5 | Oct 6 | Oct 7 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 5.2   | -5.1  | -4.9  | 0.4   | 1.2   | 1.2   | -4.4  |

Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied. As of September 29 (last reported data) 67.6% of beds were occupied which is a **LOW** rate of utilization.

Percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in use. As of September 30 (last reported date) 67.1% of ICU beds were in use which is a **LOW** rate of utilization.

Percent of inpatient beds in the community occupied by patients with COVID-19. As of September 30 (last reported date) 7.4% of beds were occupied with COVID-19 patients which is a **MODERATE** rate of utilization.

**Montgomery County Public Schools**

MCPS has created a central web page with COVID-19 information:

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

This page includes links to general information such as community messages and case reports; health and safety information such as testing and quarantine protocols; and operational information such as meals and transportation.

**A new quarantine infographic** is available on this webpage:

[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/reopening/health-and-safety/COVIDguidelines\\_final%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/reopening/health-and-safety/COVIDguidelines_final%20(1).pdf)

**A new COVID-19 dashboard** can be accessed from this page which shows the number of active cases and active quarantine across the system and at the school level.

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

### **School System Medical Officer**

MCPS advertised for a School System Medical Officer to “lead the school system in matters related to the health of students, staff and families within Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).” The position closed as of October 8, 2021. The full job description can be viewed [here](#).

The HHS and E&C Committees are scheduling a joint Committee meeting next month to further discuss the plans for the School System Medical Officer position and its coordination with DHHS, as well as other concerns related to school health services, such as workload and impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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