



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

AGENDA ITEM #7
April 26, 2022
Discussion

SUBJECT

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

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Chief Health Officer (DHHS)
Mark Hodge, Acting Senior Administrator, School Health Services (DHHS)
Dr. Earl Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
James D’Andrea, Chief of Staff, Office of the Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
Heather Dublinske, Coordinator, Student Welfare and Compliance, MCPS
Stephanie Iszard, Coordinator, Student Health Care Services, 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 from County Government and MCPS.

Background Information

CDC Community Level Metrics

Earlier this spring, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidance around indicators to measure community level impact of COVID-19 in local jurisdictions. More information can be found at the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

The CDC webpage states the following regarding use of the community level indicators:

“CDC looks at the combination of three metrics — new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days, the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, and total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days — to determine the COVID-19 community level. New COVID-19 admissions and the percent of

staffed inpatient beds occupied represent the current potential for strain on the health system. Data on new cases acts as an early warning indicator of potential increases in health system strain in the event of a COVID-19 surge.”

The table below from the CDC website shows how the data are classified to determine COVID-19 community level.

| COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community | | | | |
|--|---|--------|------------|--------|
| New COVID-19 Cases | | | | |
| Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days | Indicators | Low | Medium | High |
| Fewer than 200 | New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) | <10.0 | 10.0-19.9 | ≥20.0 |
| | Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average) | <10.0% | 10.0-14.9% | ≥15.0% |
| 200 or more | New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) | NA | <10.0 | ≥10.0 |
| | Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average) | NA | <10.0% | ≥10.0% |

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

As of April 21, 2022, the CDC website classifies the community level in Montgomery County, Maryland, as **LOW**, citing the following data:

- Case rate per 100,000: 134.39
- Hospital Admissions per 100,000: 2.3
- Hospital Beds Occupied by COVID-19 patients: 1.9%

The CDC website shows an “Integrated County View” COVID Tracker¹ that shows both the newer community level metric dashboard together with certain previous data sets.

The April 21, 2022, CDC COVID Tracker reports:

- 92.6% of the County population aged 5 years old and older is fully vaccinated.
- 86.9% of the TOTAL County population is fully vaccinated.
- 54.2% of the fully vaccinated population has a booster.

¹ https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&list_select_county=all_counties&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=CommunityLevels

State and County Data on April 21, 2022 (Maryland.gov website)

| | Confirmed Cases | Confirmed Deaths | Probable Deaths |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Maryland | 1,024,920 | 14,158 | 264 |
| Montgomery County | 170,868 | 1,980 | 55 |

On April 21, 2022, the Maryland.gov website reported the State's positivity rate was 4.57%.

Montgomery County Case Metrics (from Montgomery County website)

The Montgomery County website continues to monitor metrics regarding the spread and prevalence of COVID-19 in the community. The Montgomery County COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard incorporates the CDC Community Transmission metrics with other indicators. The charts on the dashboard provide historical and trend information as well as the current state. Indicators can be viewed at:

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

- Number of cases per 100,000 residents in the past 7 days. As of April 22, 2022, there were 145.43 cases per 100,000; which is **BELOW** the CDC case threshold of 200 cases per 100,000.
- Percent of staffed hospital inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7 day average). As of April 22, 2022, 2.6% of beds were occupied which is a **LOW** indicator status.
- New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 residents (7 day total). As of April 22, 2022, there were 2.1 new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 in the last 7 days, which is a **LOW** indicator status.
- Seven-day average percentage of tests administered resulting in a positive case. As of April 22, 2022, the County website reports a 7 day positivity average of 5.42%; which is a **MODERATE** rate of transmission.
- Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population during the last seven days compared to the previous seven days. As of April 22, 2022, the rate was 23.4%; a **HIGH** risk of transmission.
- Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied. As of April 22, 2022, 67.7% of beds were occupied which is a **LOW** rate of utilization.
- Percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in use. As of April 22, 2022, 65.3% of ICU beds were in use which is a **LOW** rate of utilization.

Mask Requirements

The amended Board of Health regulations that continued indoor mask requirements terminated on February 21, 2022.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

The MCPS COVID Dashboard includes data on total reported cases by day for the last 10 days; total students quarantined by year and month; and total number of reported cases and students quarantined overall. These figures can be accessed by school as well as the system totals. The MCPS COVID dashboard can be found at the following link:

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

Prior to Spring Break, MCPS sent several COVID-19 safety reminders to the community and requested that all students and staff take a COVID test prior to return to school after break on April 19. MCPS provided COVID-19 Take-Home Tests for staff and students prior to break, and an online form to report positive cases.

The MCPS COVID-19 Dashboard shows the following system totals for number of cases reported over Spring Break:

- April 13, 2022: 16 Students, 6 Staff
- April 14, 2022: 13 Students, 6 Staff
- April 15, 2022: 16 Students, 7 Staff
- April 16, 2022: 24 Students, 7 Staff
- April 17, 2022: 31 Students, 13 Staff
- April 18, 2022: 185 Students, 53 Staff
- April 19, 2022: 377 Students, 41 Staff
- April 20, 2022: 103 Students, 15 Staff
- April 21, 2022: 93 Students, 9 Staff
- April 22, 2022: 65 Students, 11 Staff

On March 8, 2022, the Board of Education unanimously approved a policy that masks be optional in all school facilities and transportation. The resolution can be found at the following link:

[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/CCCSKK726A4D/\\$file/ADOPTED%20Optional%20Masking%2020308.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/CCCSKK726A4D/$file/ADOPTED%20Optional%20Masking%2020308.pdf)

On April 19, 2022, the Board of Education appointed Patricia E. Kapunan, currently medical director, Adolescent Health Center, Children's National Hospital, Division of Adolescent Young Adult Medicine, as the first School System Medical Officer. Dr. Kapunan is scheduled to start in this position on July 1, 2022.

Endemic Health Planning

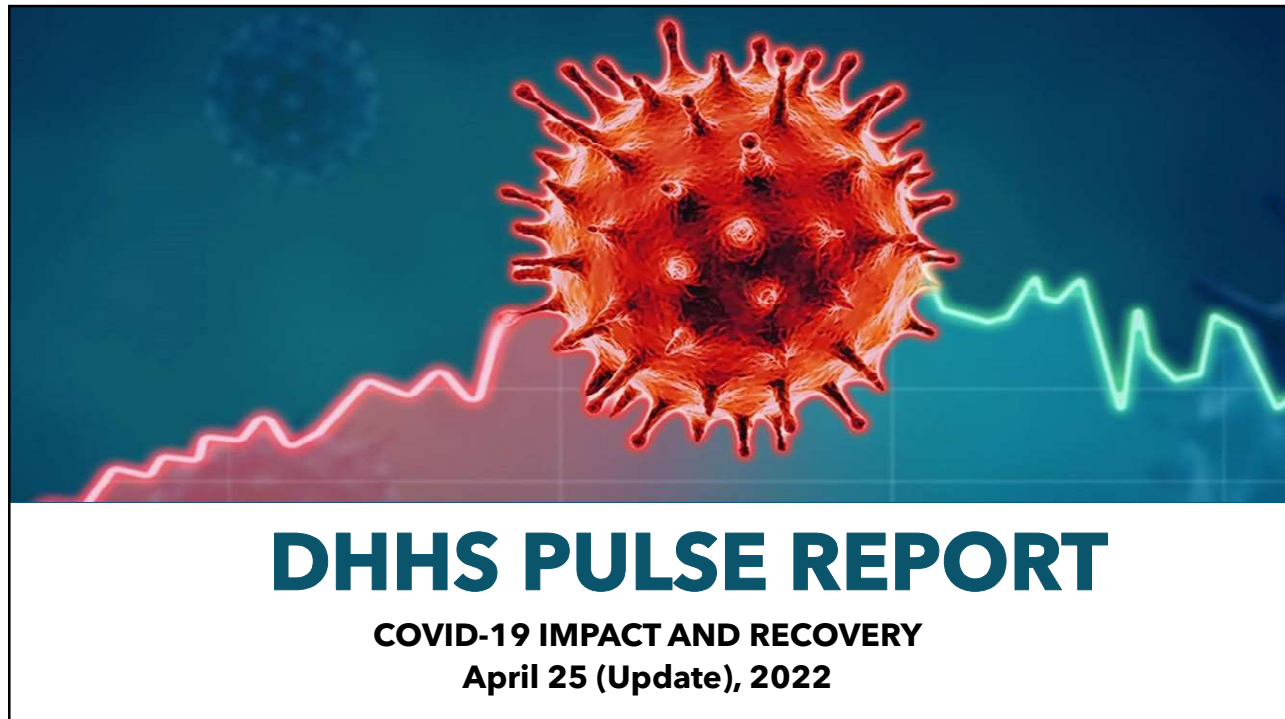
On February 14, 2022, Council President Alborno and Education and Culture Committee Chair Rice wrote to Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Monifa McKnight and Chief Administrative Officer Richard Madaleno to request that the agencies collaborate to "continue or restart this work to develop a framework for the protocols, structures, and systems needed to position the County for an endemic state with the COVID-19 virus, understanding that variants can occur at any time." At the March 1, 2002 Board of Health briefing, Dr. Crowel and Mr. D'Andrea outlined the overarching framework for each of agency in approaching this work going forward. This framework included:

- Build on the work of the initial recovery planning efforts from the beginning of the pandemic;
- Examine best practices from other jurisdictions both locally and in other areas;

- Plan for both immediate needs and fostering long term recovery in each key mission area, such as health and human services, education, economic, government operations;
- Plan for future surges, outbreaks, and new variants;
- Re-establish the bi-agency workgroup between DHHS and MCPS; and
- Strengthen communication with residents to provide clear and straightforward information to facilitate individual decision making.

As the agencies continue this planning work, the Council will continue to receive updates in future Board of Health briefings as well as schedule specific opportunities for in-depth discussion of the range of elements involved in endemic health and recovery planning.

Alternative format requests for people with disabilities. If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov



1

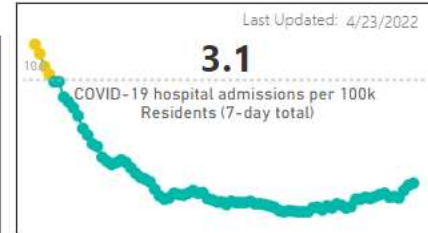
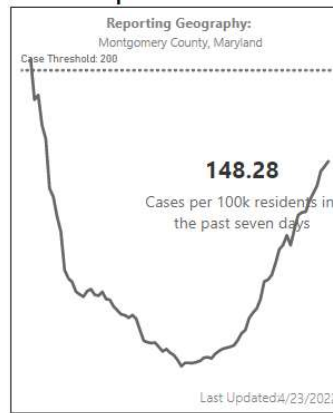


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COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL STATUS

Based on CDC's community level indicators, Montgomery County's community level status is **LOW**.

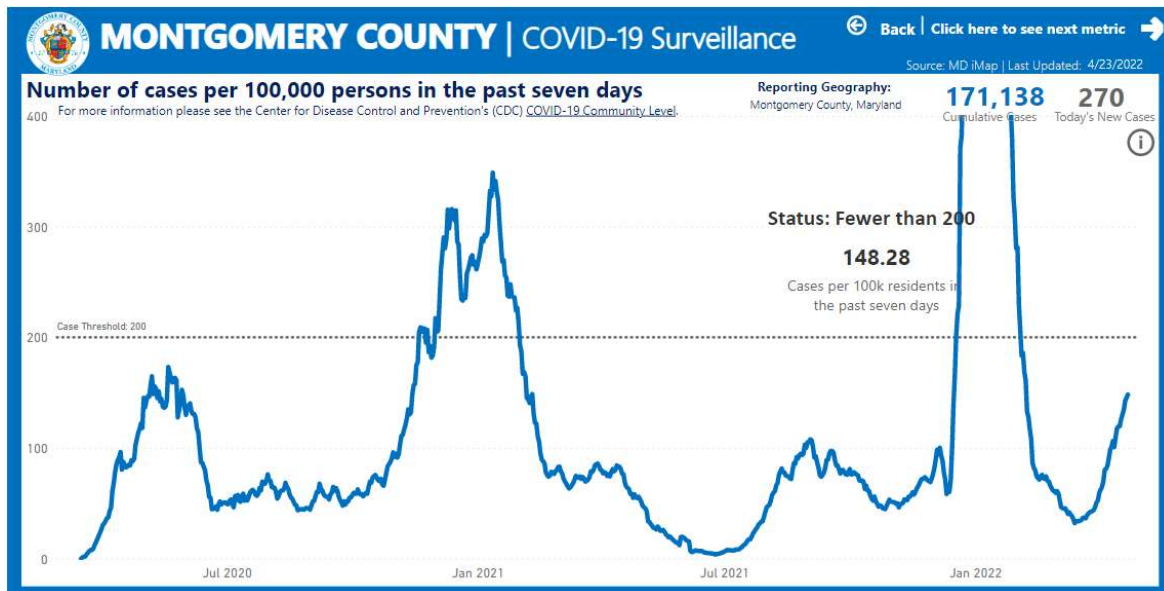
- Fewer than 200 cases per 100k in the past seven days
- Fewer than 10 new COVID-19 admissions per 100k in the past seven days
- Less than 10% of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients on average in the past seven days



For real-time updates, visit the COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/data/>

3

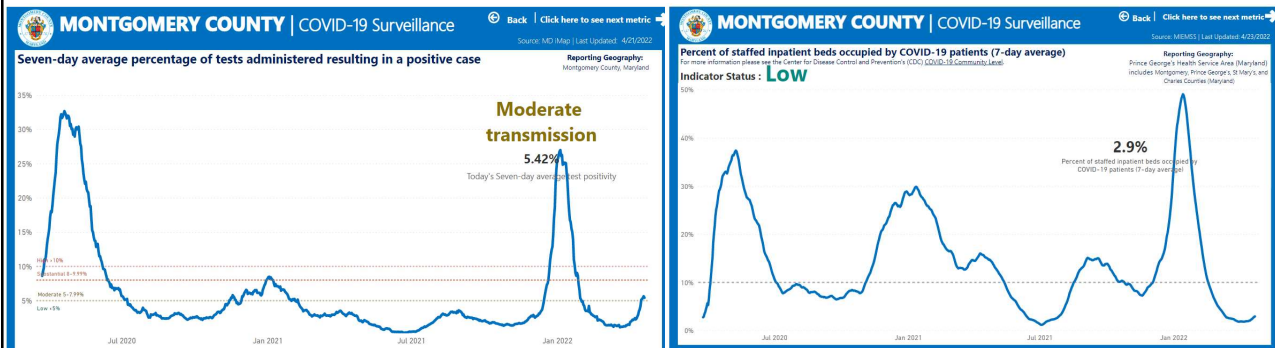
COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL STATUS



For real-time updates, visit the COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/data/>

4

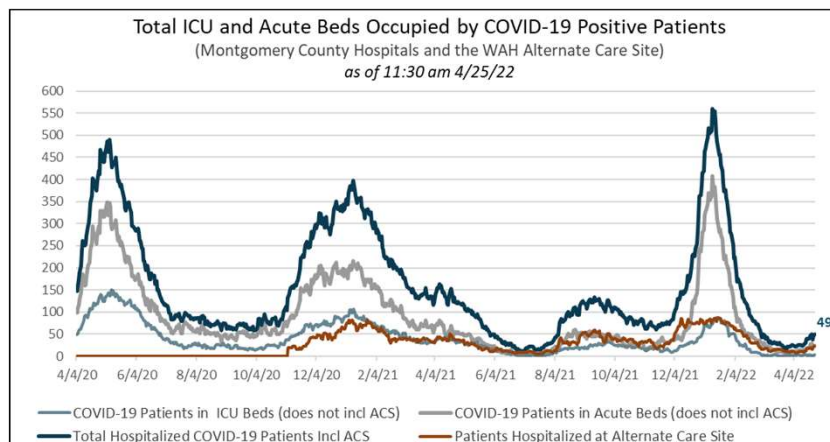
COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE



For real-time updates, visit the COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/data/>

5

COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS



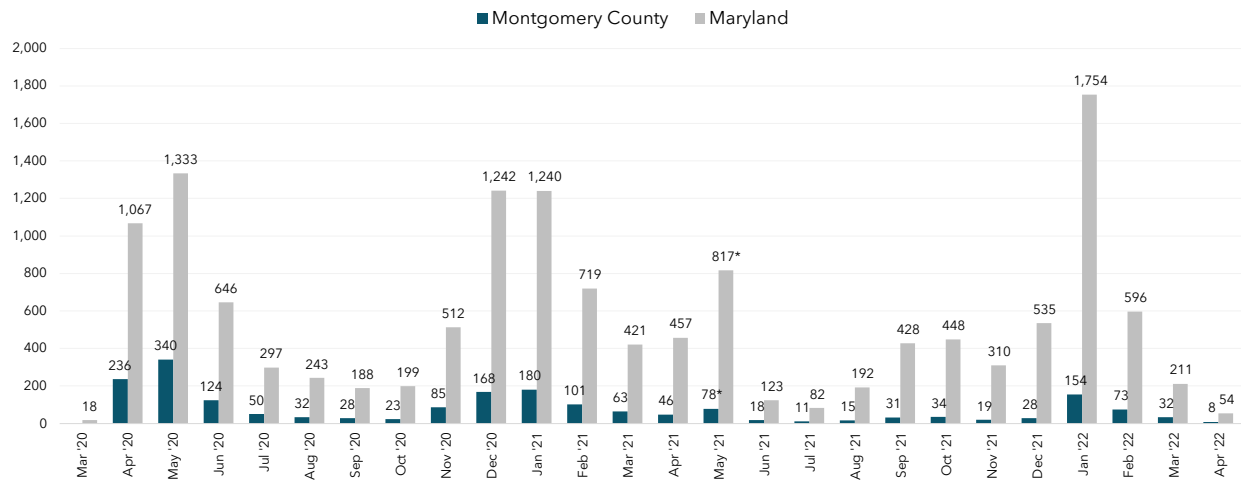
- There are 49 hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of 4/25. Acute care occupancy (24) has increased 33% since last Monday (+6). ICU bed occupancy (3) is unchanged.
- 2.6% of hospital beds in the community are occupied by patients with a COVID diagnosis (as of 4/20).
- 22 patients (18 acute, 2 ICU) are currently hospitalized at the alternate care site (↑ 22%). These patients are transfers from other hospitals and may come from other jurisdictions.

For real-time updates, visit the COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/data/>

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COVID-19 DEATHS

Monthly COVID-19 Deaths
Updated 4/16/22



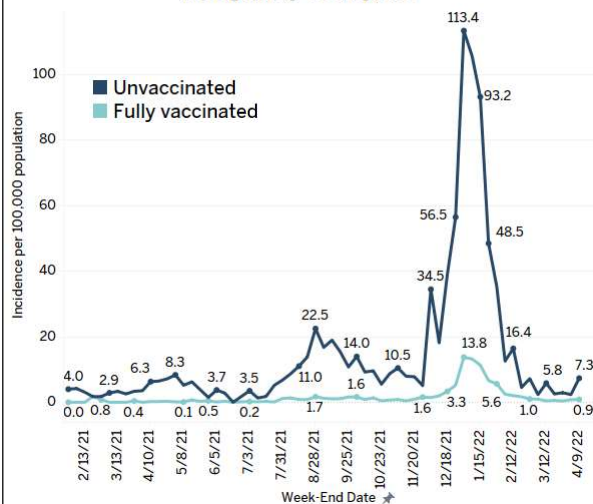
*VSA revised death data on May 27, 2021 to include COVID-19 deaths not previously counted.

NOTE: Monthly totals are based on the date death was reported, which may not be the same as the date on which the death occurred.

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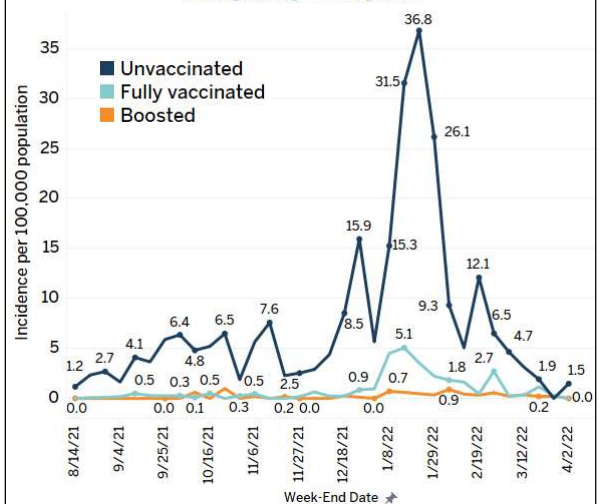
HOSPITALIZATIONS & DEATHS BY VACCINATION STATUS

Weekly Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Hospitalization Rates by
Vaccination Status
Montgomery County, MD



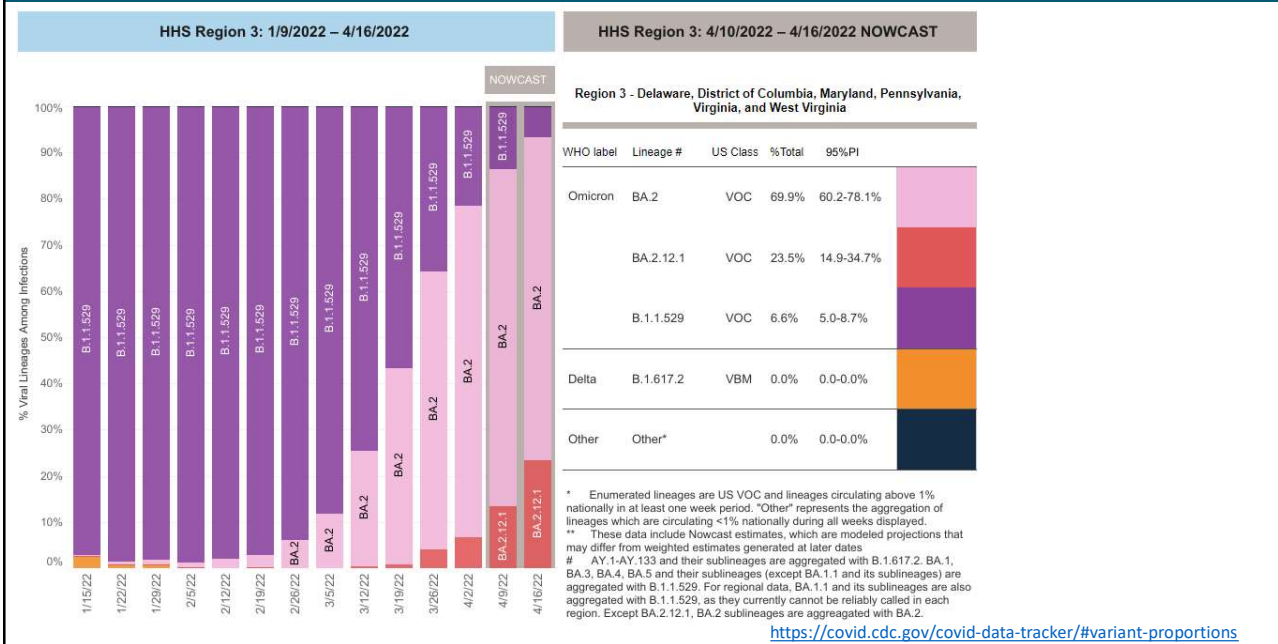
NOTE: Hospitalization rates for the boosted population are not available.

Weekly Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Death Rates by Vaccination
Status
Montgomery County, MD



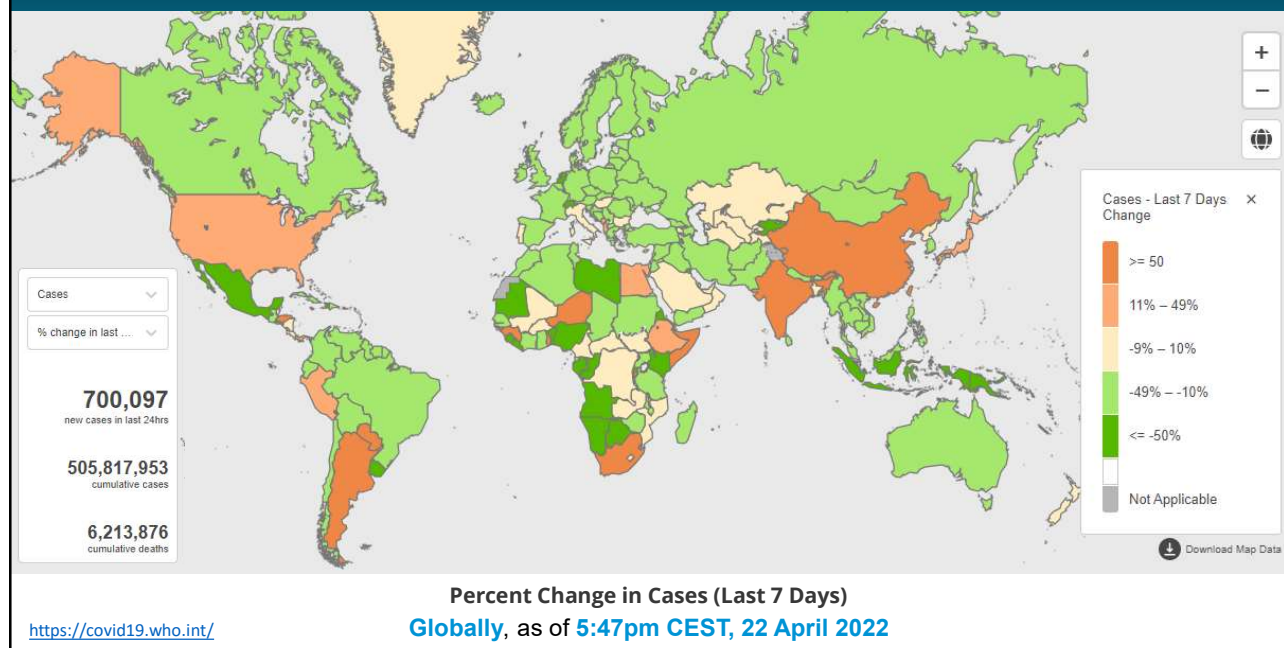
8

MONITORING VARIANT PROPORTIONS: REGION 3 U.S.

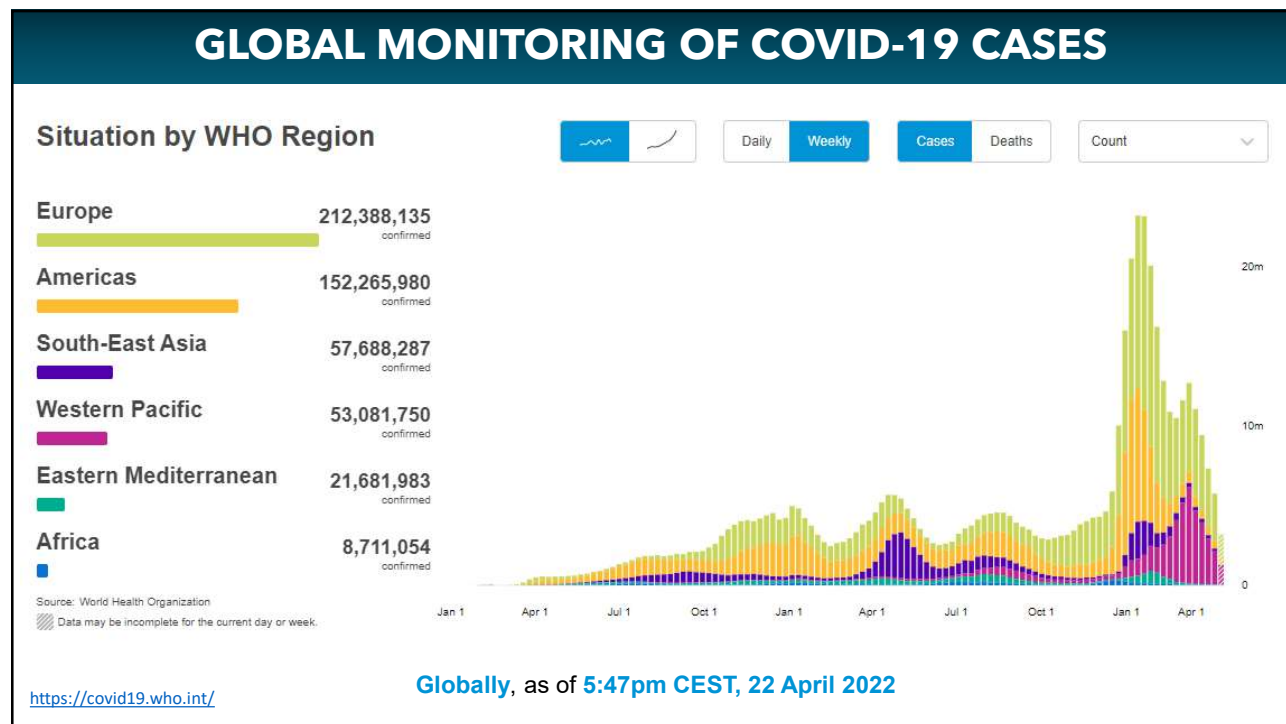


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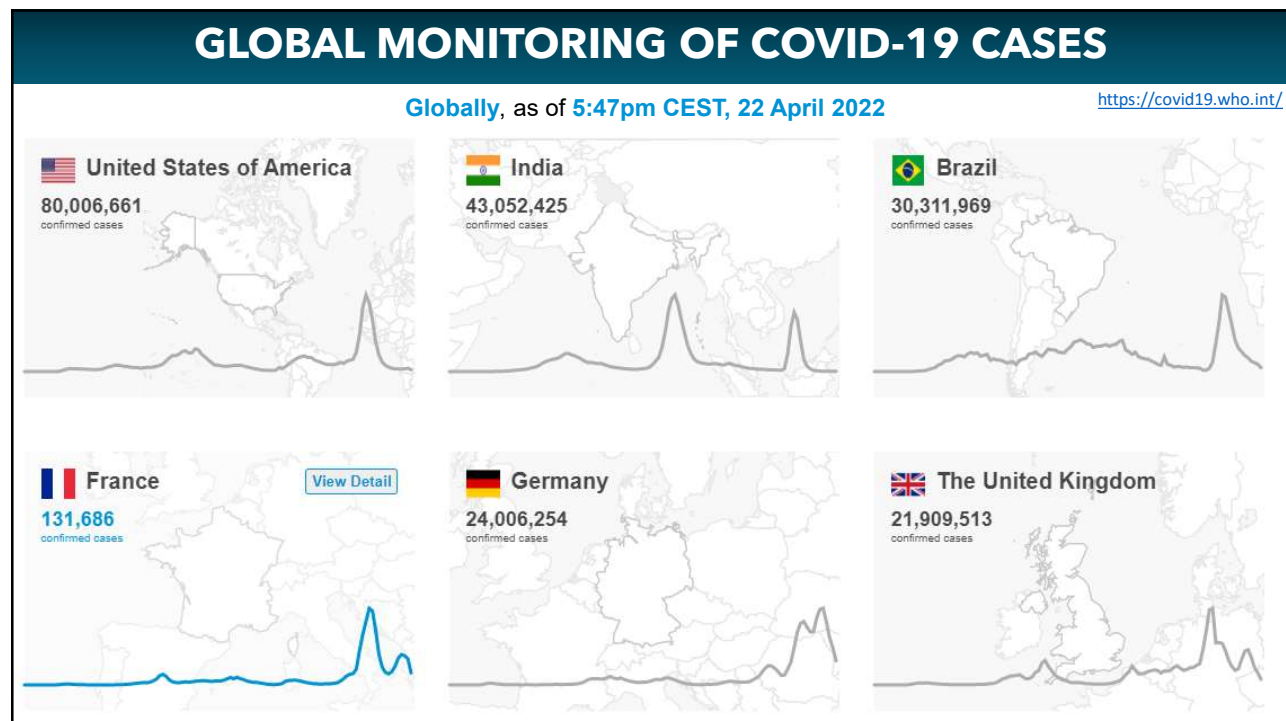
GLOBAL MONITORING OF COVID-19 CASES



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11



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COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: TOTALS FROM CDC

TOTAL VACCINATIONS (AS OF 4/11/22)

- **≥95%*** of total population received at least **ONE DOSE** [N=1,068,693]
- **87%** of total population received at least **TWO DOSES** (fully vaccinated) [N=911,934]
- **54%** of fully vaccinated population received a **FIRST BOOSTER/ADDITIONAL DOSE** [N=492,930]

*The CDC caps percentages at 95% to account for margins of error in data entry and population estimates.

NOTE: On 4/15/22, Maryland made updates to previously submitted data to the CDC that resulted in a decrease of 50,176 doses administered. Some percentages may have decreased as a result.

NOTE: The CDC vaccination count includes Montgomery County residents who received their shots in Maryland or outside the state. It also includes vaccinations administered in some federal entities within Montgomery County.

VACCINATIONS BY AGE GROUP

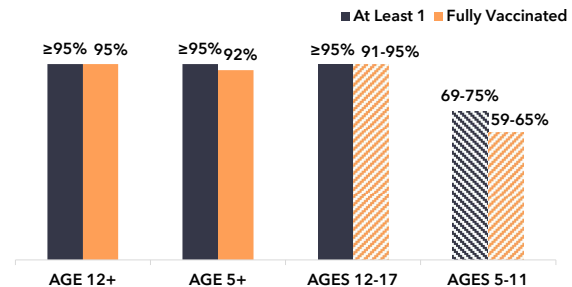


Chart reflects percent of total age group population that received doses. Percentage estimates are reflected as ranges for ages 12-17 and ages 5-11 due to higher margins of error.

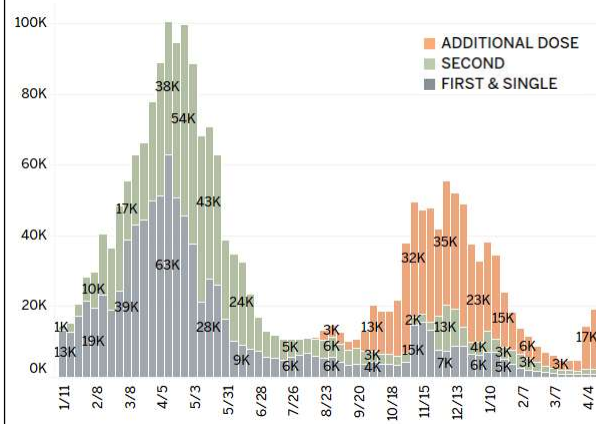
- **58%** of the fully vaccinated 12+ population received a **FIRST BOOSTER/ADDITIONAL DOSE** [N=492,726]
- **77%** of the fully vaccinated 65+ population received a **FIRST BOOSTER/ADDITIONAL DOSE** [N=129,637]

13

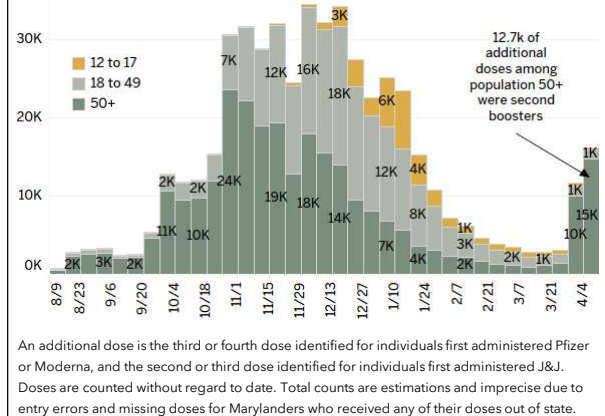
COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: WEEKLY VOLUME

Charts below show most recent full weeks of data, up to **April 10, 2022**.

VACCINATIONS BY DOSE



ADDITIONAL DOSES BY AGE GROUP

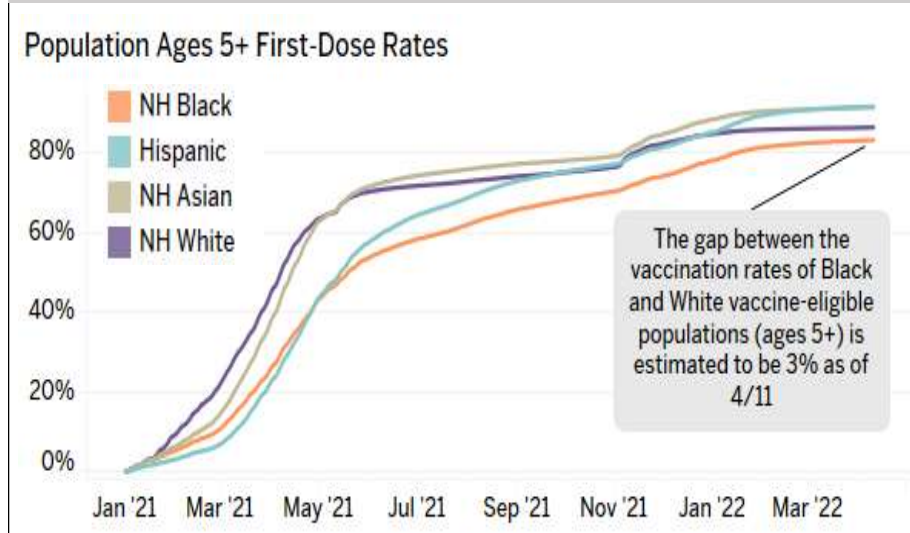


Unlike the CDC vaccination data, data from Maryland Health Department only include Montgomery County residents who were vaccinated in Maryland. Totals do not include vaccinations administered at federal entities within the county to non-residents.

14

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: GAPS

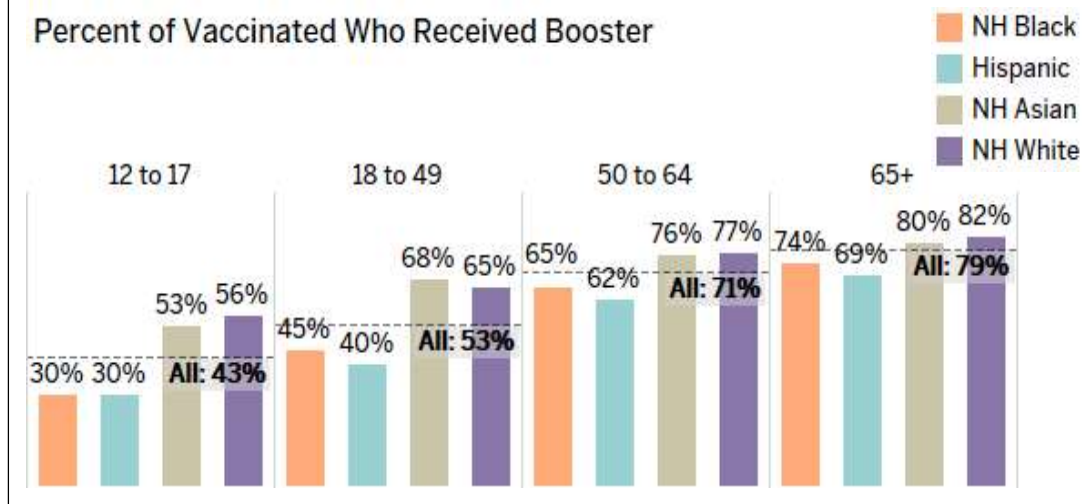
FIRST-DOSE VACCINATION RATES BY RACE



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COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: GAPS

ADDITIONAL DOSE RATES BY RACE & AGE

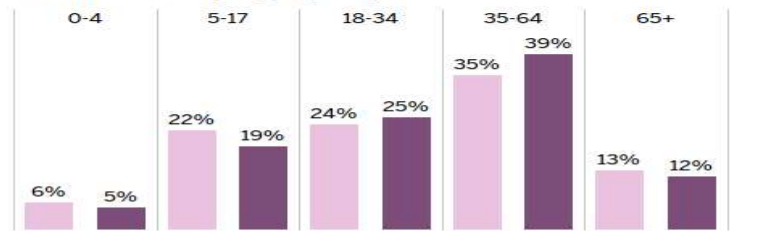


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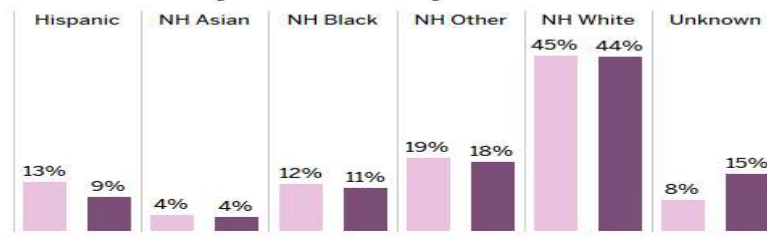
COVID-19 CASES

Case Demographics: Past Two Months

Distribution by age group



Distribution by race/ethnicity

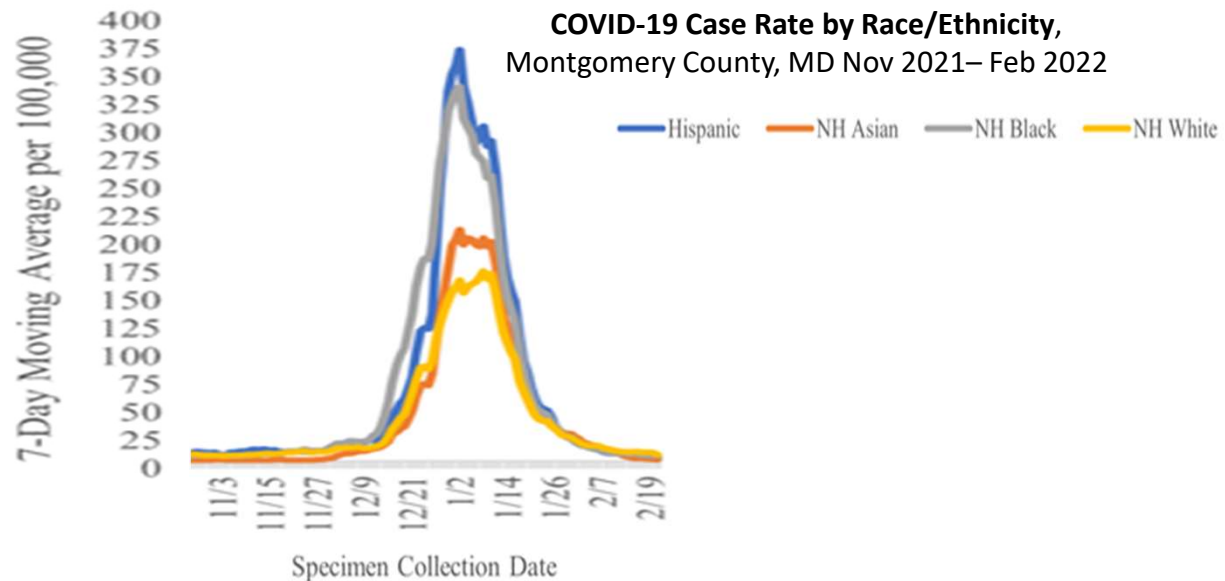


Note: Case data only reflect confirmed cases via PCR tests.

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DEMOGRAPHIC IMPACT FROM COVID, NOV-FEB

COVID-19 Case Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Montgomery County, MD Nov 2021– Feb 2022

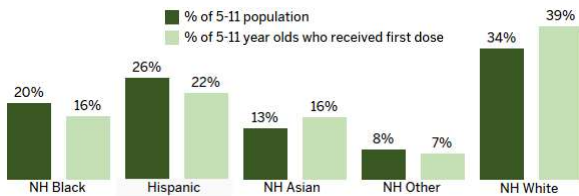


<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/data/case-counts.html#confirmed-cases>

18

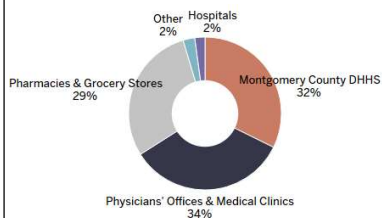
COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: PEDIATRIC VACCINATIONS

FIRST DOSES BY RACE/ETHNICITY



Charts reads: 20% of 5-11 population are NH Black, and 16% of vaccinated 5-11 population are NH Black. <1% of vaccinated children identify as Native American; they are included in the "Other" category. Approximately 3% of pediatric records do not contain race/ethnicity information.

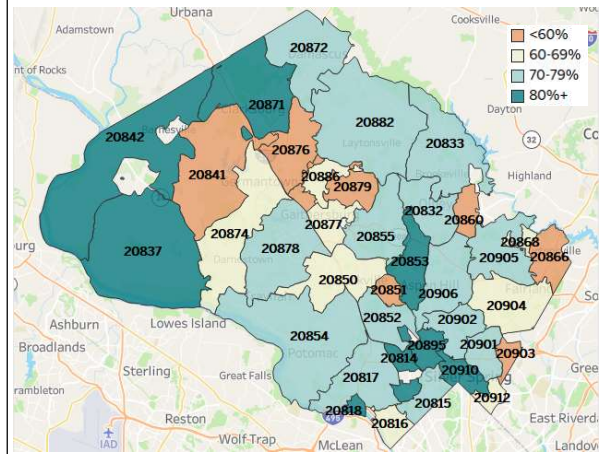
PEDIATRIC VACCINE PROVIDERS



Pediatric vaccinations are distributed evenly between Montgomery County DHHS (in partnership with MCPS, physicians and medical clinics, and pharmacies and grocery stores.

FIRST-DOSE VACCINATION RATES BY ZIP CODE

Vaccination rates among residents ages 5-14 are used as a proxy for pediatric vaccination rates in the map below due to the availability of population estimates only for certain age categories. Zip codes with fewer than 100 residents ages 5-14 are excluded.



19

DISTRIBUTION OF MASKS & RAPID TESTS

2,210,000 rapid tests have been acquired by the County

- More than 1.7M kits have been distributed
- 978,404 kits and 1,226,423 masks have been distributed at libraries
 - *Test kits and masks are now available during all hours that libraries are open.*
- 490,280 rapid test kits have been provided to MCPS
- 136,512 test kits & 235,603 masks distributed to childcare, private schools, and community non-profits
- 48,090 rapid test kits and 124,446 N95 masks have been distributed through municipalities

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GET MEDICATION FOR COVID-19

Test-To-Treat and Pharmacy Sites:

- COVID-19 medications are now available through your doctor, local pharmacies, and health clinics.
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, do not wait to get treated.
- You must take oral COVID-19 medication within 5 days of your first COVID-19 symptoms.
- Use the online tool to find a location that is right for you.

ASPR Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response

Find COVID-19 Medication

Rockville, MD, USA

12.5 mi

Results: 90

- > Locations with testing, medical visits, and medication (Test-to-Treat) 13
- > Locations to fill a prescription 77

How to get medication

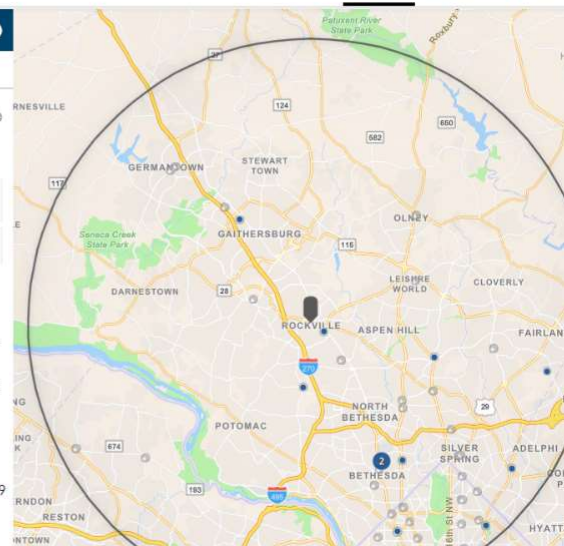
1. Locations to get testing, medical visits, and medication (Test-to-Treat)

Some pharmacy clinics and health centers can prescribe and give you medication at the same location.

[Learn more about the Test-to-Treat program.](#)

2. Locations to fill a prescription

Any healthcare provider can evaluate and prescribe you COVID-19 medication just as they normally would. You can fill those prescriptions at any location in this tool.



<https://aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx>

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OBTENGA MEDICAMENTOS CONTRA EL COVID-19

Pruebas para Tratar y Sitios para surtir una receta:

- Los medicamentos contra el COVID-19 están ahora disponibles a través de su médico, y en las farmacias locales y centros de salud.
- Si tiene síntomas de COVID-19, no espere para recibir tratamiento.
- Debe tomar los medicamentos contra el COVID-19 dentro de los 5 días después de que aparezcan los primeros síntomas de la enfermedad.
- Use la herramienta de búsqueda que aparece a continuación para encontrar un sitio conveniente para usted.

ASPR Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response

Encuentre medicamentos contra el COVID

Rockville, md

12.7 mi

Results: 169

- > Sitios con pruebas, citas médicas y medicamentos (Pruebas para Tratar [Test-to-Treat]) 17
- > Sitios para surtir una receta 152

Cómo obtener los medicamentos

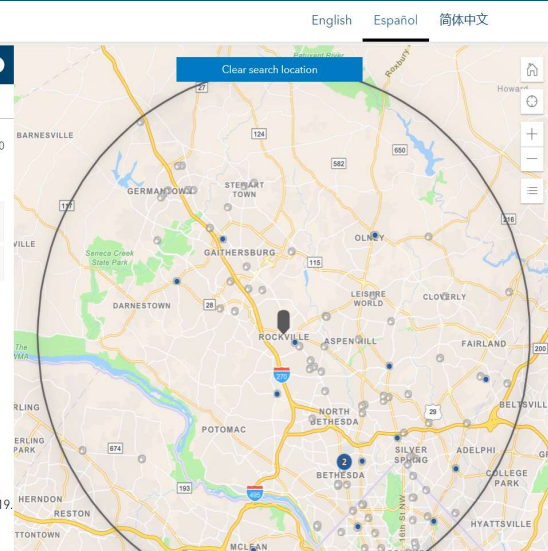
1. Sitios con pruebas, citas médicas y medicamentos (Pruebas para Tratar [Test-to-Treat])

Algunos centros médicos en farmacias y centros de salud pueden recetar y darle los medicamentos gratis en el mismo sitio.

[Aprenda más del programa Pruebas para Tratar \(Test-to-Treat\).](#)

2. Sitios para surtir una receta

Cualquier proveedor de atención médica que normalmente lo pueda atender puede evaluarlo y recetarle medicamentos contra el COVID-19. Usted puede surtir esas recetas en cualquier sitio que aparezca en la herramienta de búsqueda.



<https://covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-es-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/>

22

DATA SOURCES

This report aggregates data from several sources, some of which are publicly available. Nearly all data are subject to retroactive changes.

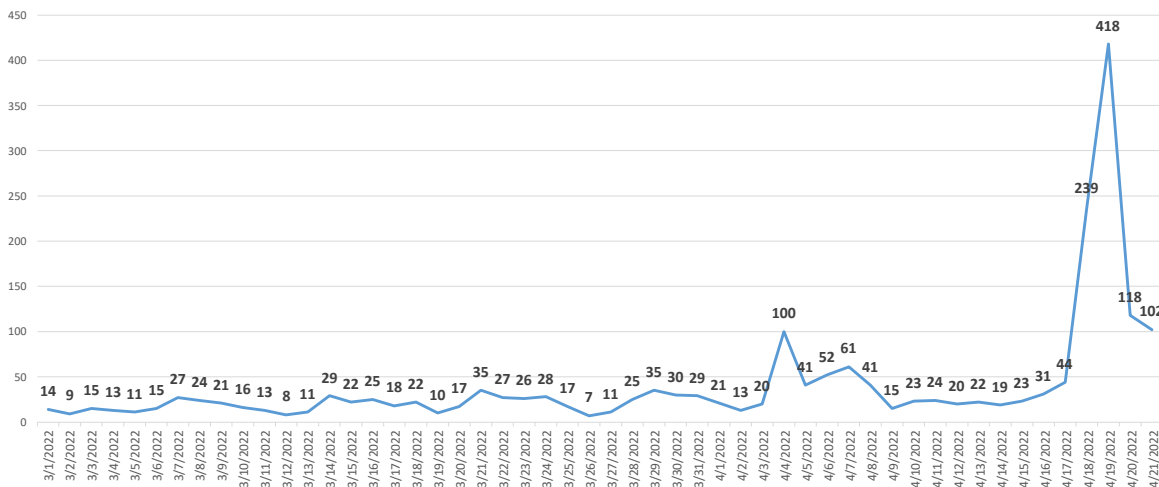
- Rental assistance data is generated by DHHS each Sunday prior to the publication of this report.
- Data on evictions are provided by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office each Monday for the week prior.
- Data on shelter occupancy are collected by DHHS weekly.
- MC311 data are downloaded weekly from [DataMontgomery](#).
- Unemployment data are downloaded monthly from [FRED](#).
- Case and hospital occupancy data are provided by Maryland Department of Health. Real-time data can be found on the Montgomery County [COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard](#).
- Data on COVID-19 deaths are available through the [Maryland Department of Health](#) dashboard and ArcGIS platform.
- Data on hospitalizations and deaths by vaccination status are available on the [DHHS COVID-19 website](#).
- Vaccine data are downloaded from the [CDC website](#) each Tuesday morning. More detailed vaccine data are provided by the Maryland Department of Health Immunet database on a weekly basis.
- Data on county government coordinated testing and vaccinations are collected by DHHS daily.

Montgomery County Public Schools COVID-19 Updates

Montgomery County Council
April 26, 2022

1

MCPS COVID Data: March 1 – April 21



2

2

Spring Break COVID Data

- 762 positive COVID cases reported during Spring Break (April 9-18).
- 6,334 positive COVID cases reported during Winter Break.
- Cases have declined the week following Spring Break.
 - Symptomatic Health Room Testing: 6 positive of 211 students tested after presenting with COVID-like symptoms
 - Asymptomatic PCR testing: 32 positive tests out of ~20K tests

3

3

Planning for the Future: Contact Tracing in Schools

- In alignment with CDC, Maryland Department of Health and DHHS guidance and recommendations, MCPS will phase out universal contact tracing
- Beginning May 2nd, MCPS will not individually identify and notify close contacts and will inform classes, grade levels or schools of COVID cases reported
- MCPS and DHHS will continue collaboration to address identified outbreaks.

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4

Upcoming COVID Vaccination Clinics

Weekend of April 30th (10:00 am to 6:00pm)

Saturday MCCPTA CLUSTER EVENTS

Clarksburg High School

Damascus High School

Weekend of May 1st (10:00 am to 6:00pm)

Saturday MCCPTA CLUSTER EVENTS

Einstein High School



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5

School System Medical Officer

- At the Board of Education Meeting on March 24, 2022, Dr. Patricia Kapunan was appointed as the MCPS School System Medical Officer effective July 1, 2022.
- Dr. Kapunan brings a wide range of experience, having both a medical degree and a masters degree in public health.
- Dr. Kapunan is the current medical director at Children's National Hospital, Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine.

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