



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: Completed
Staff: Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst
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Purpose: Receive briefing and have discussion—no vote expected
Keywords: #COVID19 #Coronavirus

AGENDA ITEM #2
July 26, 2022
Discussion

SUBJECT

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Health Planning; Montgomery County Government

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Chief Health Officer, (DHHS)
Sean O'Donnell, Program Administrator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (DHHS)

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS

- 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, as well as an update on the monkeypox virus in the County and in the region.

Background Information

State and County Data on July 21, 2022

	Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths	Probable Deaths
Maryland	1,166,193	14,636	268
Montgomery County	206,883	2,050	56

On July 21, 2022, the [Maryland.gov](https://www.maryland.gov) website reported the State's positivity rate at 10.42%. On July 21, 2022, the [CDC COVID Tracker](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#/county-data) by county showed Montgomery County in High Community Transmission with a case rate of 233.66 cases per 100,000 population for the last 7 days and a positivity rate of 13.7%.

The July 21, 2022, CDC COVID Tracker reports:

94.4% of the County population aged 5 years old and older is fully vaccinated.
88.6% of the total County population is fully vaccinated.
57.7% of the fully vaccinated population has at least one booster.

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 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 July 21, 2022, there were 255.74 cases per 100,000.

Test positivity rate – 7-day average percentage of tests administered resulting in a positive case. As of July 21, 2022, the County website reports a positivity rate of 9.29%; which is a SUBSTANTIAL rate of transmission.

Secondary Indicators

Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population during the last seven days compared to the previous seven days. As of July 21, 2022, the rate was 10.8%; a HIGH risk of transmission.

Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community occupied by patients with COVID-19. As of July 21, 2022, 8.7% of beds were occupied with COVID-19 patients which is a MODERATE rate of utilization.

Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community that are occupied. As of July 21, 2022, 69% beds were occupied which is a LOW rate of utilization.

Percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in use. As of July 21, 2022, 62.4% of ICU beds were in use which is a LOW rate of utilization.

COVID-19 Epidemiology Surveillance Report – Montgomery County

On July 12, 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) released a COVID-19 Epidemiology Surveillance Report for Montgomery County. It provides statistics and epidemiology profiles of COVID-19, including infections, testing, hospitalization, deaths, vaccinations, outbreaks, and contact tracing. A downloadable version of the report is available on the DHHS website, [COVID-19 Epidemiology Report](#).

Key findings of the report include:

- There were 161,633 total confirmed cases in the County since the start of the pandemic. The highest number of monthly positive cases occurred in December 2021 and January 2022.
- Hispanic residents experienced the highest case rates during the first and second waves of the pandemic, followed by their non-Hispanic black, white and Asian counterparts. During the Omicron surge, Hispanic and non-Hispanic black residents experienced similar case rates.
- There were 8,088 confirmed COVID-19 hospital admissions among County residents since the start of the pandemic.
- Nearly 1.9 million doses of the vaccine were administered in the County, with approximately 81% of doses administered to County residents.

The Council can schedule a more in depth briefing on this report in the fall.

Monkeypox

Human monkeypox is a rare but serious illness caused by infection with the monkeypox virus, which can infect humans and other animals, such as monkeys and rodents. Symptoms of monkeypox include fever, headache, muscle aches and exhaustion. Infected individuals will often develop a rash that starts on their face and spreads to other parts of the body, according to the Maryland Department of Health.

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/Pages/monkeypox.aspx>

As of July 16, 2022, the number of confirmed monkeypox infections across DC, Maryland and Virginia is nearing 200. A total of 37 of the 200 cases are in Maryland. D.C. has 122 positive cases of monkeypox, more per capita than any state.

The federal government is managing how much vaccine is available to the states based on the number of monkeypox cases and other factors. There are two vaccines approved by the FDA available for the monkeypox infection. Maryland has been allocated 682 doses of the Jynneos monkeypox vaccine; 200 were distributed to Montgomery County ([Vaccine Information](#))

DHHS announced on July 20, 2022, that monkeypox vaccinations will be offered to a limited number of eligible County residents who are at highest risk of contracting the virus. DHHS public health staff will be working with community-based non-profit organizations to identify residents who could be at risk and are contacting them directly to offer an opportunity to be vaccinated.

Currently, monkeypox vaccinations will be limited to:

- Known contacts who are identified by public health via case investigation, contact tracing and risk exposure assessments.
- Presumed contacts who may meet the following criteria:
 - Know that a sexual partner in the past 14 days was diagnosed with monkeypox.
 - Had multiple sexual partners in the past 14 days in a jurisdiction with known monkeypox.

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