



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

**REVISED**  
 AGENDA ITEM #2(A)  
 September 13, 2022  
**Discussion**

**SUBJECT**

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

**EXPECTED ATTENDEES**

- Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Health Officer and Chief of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Sean O’Donnell, Program Administrator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, DHHS
- Dr. Earl Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
- Dr. Patricia Kapunan, School System Medical Officer, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
- Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff, MCPS
- Heather Dublinske, Executive Director, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, MCPS
- Stephanie Iszard, Executive Assistant to the School System Medical Officer, MCPS

**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 MPX (“Monkeypox”) virus in the County and in the region.

**Background Information**

**State and County Data on September 11, 2022**

	Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Deaths	Probable Deaths
<b>Maryland</b>	1,231,823	14,977	270
<b>Montgomery County</b>	219,861	2,106	55

On September 11, 2022, the [Maryland.gov](https://www.maryland.gov) website reported the State’s positivity rate at 10.03%. On September 11, 2022, the [CDC COVID Tracker](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/tracker) by county showed Montgomery County in a Low Community Level with a case rate of 125.63 cases per 100,000 population for the last 7 days and a positivity rate of 10.45%.

The September 11, 2022, CDC COVID Tracker reports:

95% of the County population aged 5 years old and older is fully vaccinated.

89.8% of the total County population is fully vaccinated.

58.6% 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 September 11, 2022, there were 120.78 cases per 100,000.

Test positivity rate – 7-day average percentage of tests administered resulting in a positive case. As of September 11, 2022, the County website reports a positivity rate of 10.77%; which is a HIGH 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 September 11, 2022, the rate was -10.8%; a VERY LOW risk of transmission.

Percent of hospital inpatient beds in the community occupied by patients with COVID-19. As of September 11, 2022, 6.6% 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 September 11, 2022, 71.4% beds were occupied which is a LOW rate of utilization.

Percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in use. As of September 11, 2022, 68.1% of ICU beds were in use which is a LOW rate of utilization.

#### **COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

The declaration of the public health emergency(phe) is currently set to expire on October 15, 2022. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra, has stated that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will provide 60-days notice prior to ending the phe.

The Federal Government suspended sending free COVID-19 testing kits as of September 2022 due to a lack of funding. Per DHHS, County residents can continue to pick up free COVID-19 test and masks at libraries. Testing kits are limited to 2 per person per day and 4 masks per person.

Executive staff will share the impact, if any, to services or programs in the County that may be affected by the expiration.

## Montgomery County Public Schools

MCPS is continuing to transition from a COVID-19 operating effort by opening in-person and continuing virtual learning for K–12 students. The 2022-2023 Reopening Guide outlines the precautions in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/reopening2022/>. MCPS has implemented a multi-layered health and safety protocol that includes everyday health strategies to prevent illness and specific COVID-19 mitigation strategies depending on community transmission and local risk factors.

MCPS has implemented the following COVID-19 related policy and protocols for the 2022-2023 school year

- Students and staff members do not have to wear masks, but they can if they want to. Masks are available to any students or staff who choose to wear one. If COVID-19 transmission becomes high the policy on masks may change.
- Quarantine protocol: close contacts of people who tested positive will not be asked to quarantine, regardless of their vaccination status. People who test positive will be asked to quarantine for five days following the onset of symptoms or the positive result, in alignment with guidance from the Maryland Department of Health. They will be asked to wear a mask for five additional days following the quarantine period. If they can't wear a mask, they will be asked to continue to quarantine through the 10th day.
- COVID-19 vaccination policy: students are not required to be vaccinated to attend in-person classes but getting vaccinated is encouraged. Staff members are required to provide proof of vaccination unless they have a documented medical or religious exemption. Staff with an exemption must take and report the results of a weekly COVID-19 test.

MCPS is maintaining its COVID-19 Dashboard for the 2022-2023 school year. It 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. The MCPS COVID-19 dashboard can be found at the following link:

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

### Primary Indicators

- As of September 10, 2022, the number of cases reported in the last 7 days is 580.
- There is a total of 923 positive COVID-19 case as of September 10, 2022. This reflects the total number of self-reported positive cases since August 22, 2022.

On August 23rd, the Board of Education received an update on health prevention and planning efforts as school reopens. The presentation materials from this update are attached at circles 1-5.

### **This report contains:**

MCPS Opening Schools: Safe and Inclusive Schools presentation excerpt  
MCPS COVID-19 Updates

© 1-5

© 6-14

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# Safe and Inclusive Schools – Health

## Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Partnerships

**MCPS**

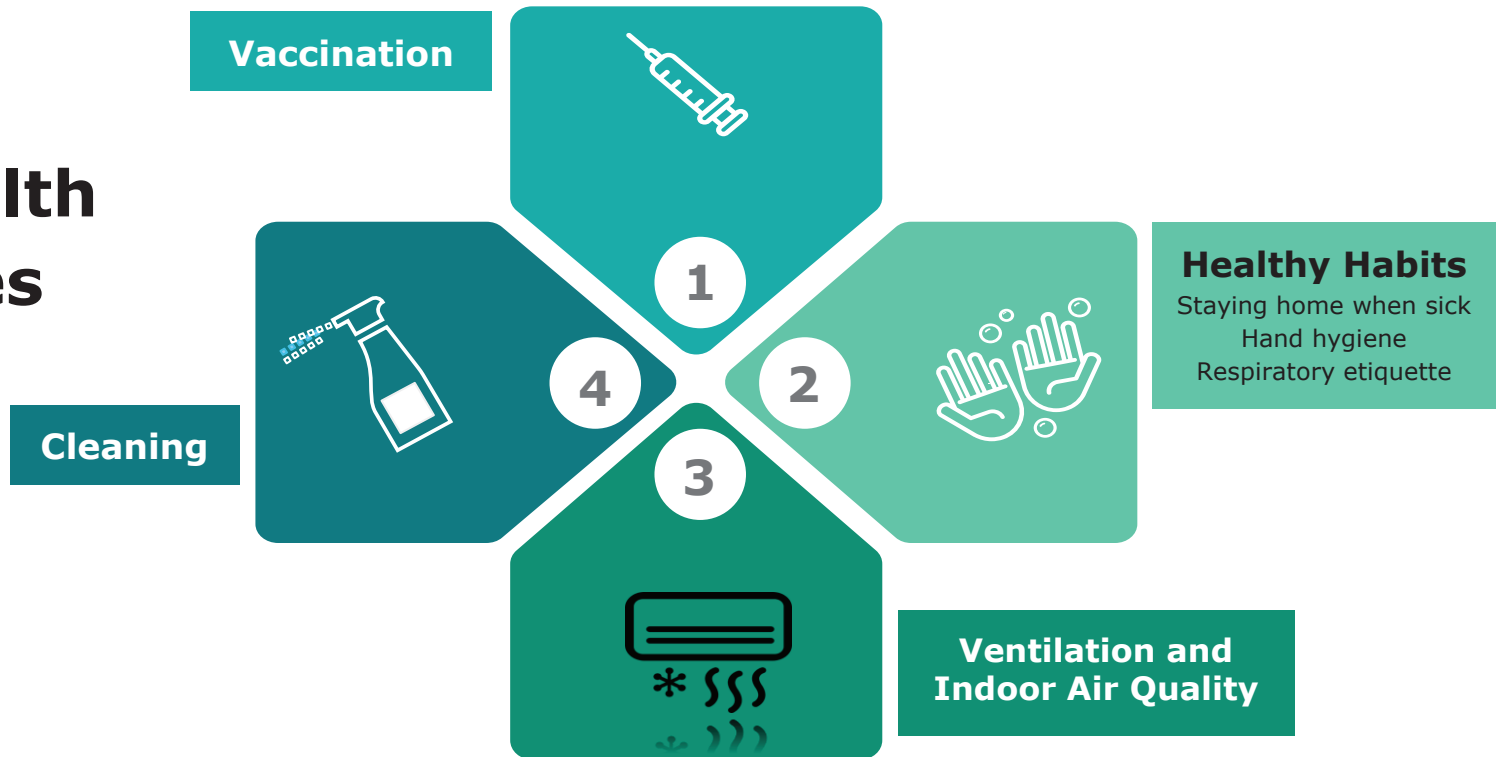
### Population Health

- **Strategic Planning - COVID-19, MPX**
  - *COVID-19 Outbreak Response*
  - *COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics*
- **School-Based Health and Wellness Centers**
- **School Immunizations**
- **International Student Admissions**
- **Coordinated Crisis Response**
- **Health and Wellness Special Initiatives**

**DHHS**

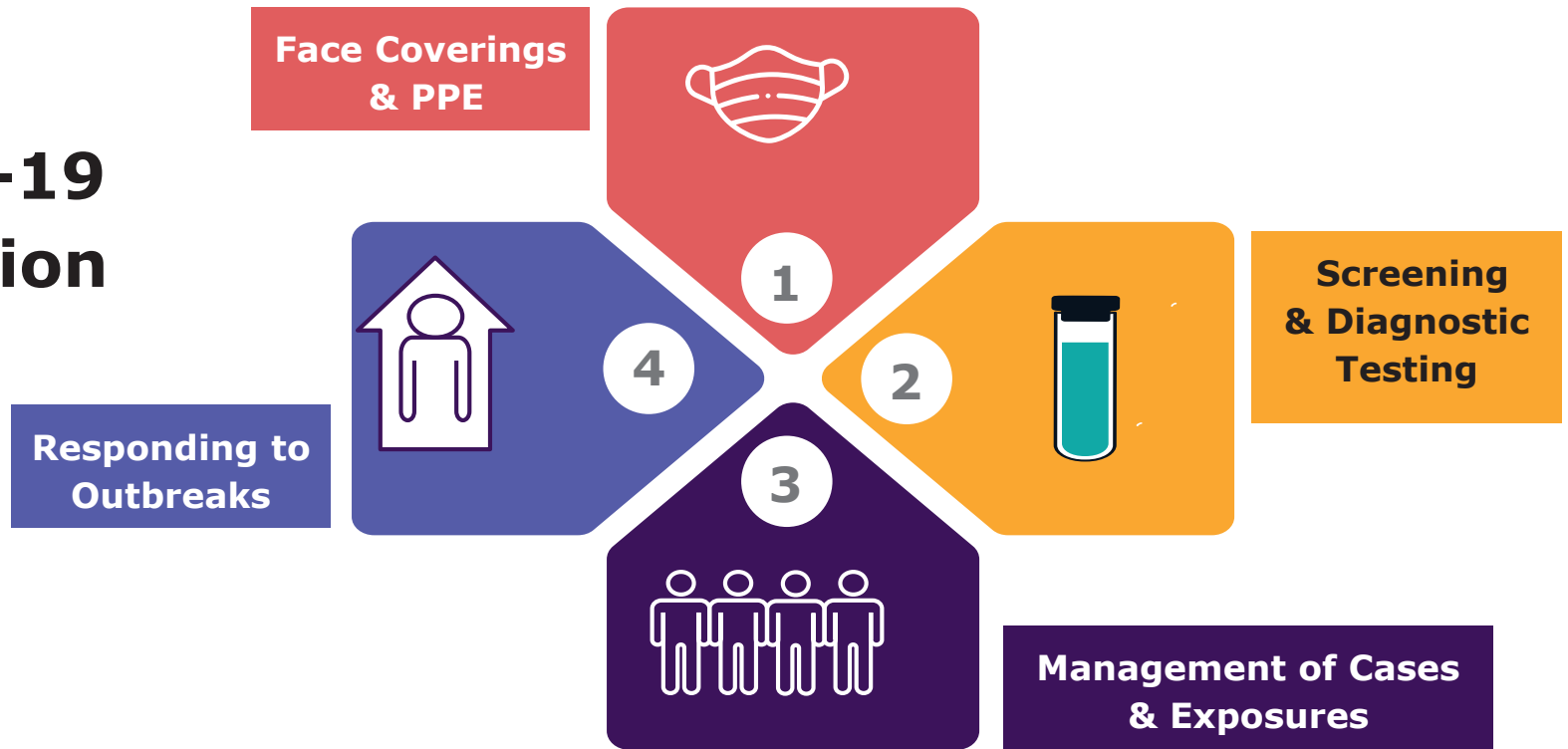
# Safe and Inclusive Schools – Health

## Core Health Strategies



# Safe and Inclusive Schools – Health

## COVID-19 Mitigation



## Safe and Inclusive Schools – Contingency Plan

### Ensuring Safe and Quality teaching and learning continues

**Plan Developed during COVID and remains available for multiple situations**

**Stage 1: School Continues as Normal**

**Stage 2: Individual Schools go to virtual**

**Stage 3: System-wide Reduction of Facility Capacity**

## Safe and Inclusive Schools – Contingency Plan

### COVID-19 Contingency Resource - OutClass

- Elementary students who experience unexpected medical absence related to COVID, will access videos of instruction
- This set of pre-recorded videos are accessible on a new canvas platform titled **OutClass**.
  - This is grade-level and content specific
  - This is aligned with in person instruction to ensure pacing
  - This is available for students who have short term absences not COVID related, as well.



# Montgomery County Public Schools COVID-19 Updates

Montgomery County Council  
September 13, 2022

# COVID-19: Role of the School System Medical Officer

- Interpret data, science, and public health guidance for school system leaders
- Develop strategies for implementation of expert guidance and public health directives based on unique school system factors
- Collaborate with Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to implement population health strategies within the school system

## COVID-19: 2022-2023 School Year Priorities

- Safe in-person learning
- Staying current with guidance, data trends and science
- Addressing multidimensional pandemic impact
- Comprehensive wellness for the entire school community
- Optimizing communication and collaboration for COVID-19 planning and operations

## 2022-2023 COVID-19 School Updates

### *Vaccination*

- MCPS continues to partner with DHHS to provide school-based vaccine clinics for students and staff
- Vaccines and boosters are available for all age groups at after school and weekend vaccine events

# 2022-2023 COVID-19 School Updates

## **Afterschool Clinics on Wednesday, September 14th**

**New Hampshire Estates Elementary School**

**Whetstone Elementary School**

**Weller Road Elementary School**

## **Weekend of September 17th and September 18th**

### **Saturday**

**Paint Branch High School**

**Shady Grove Middle School**

**Clarksburg High School**

### **Sunday**

**Banneker Middle School**

**Gaithersburg Middle School**

**Montgomery Blair High School**



## 2022-2023 COVID-19 School Updates

### *Testing*

- Universal screening testing no longer recommended by CDC; move to strategic screening
- Testing available for symptomatic students in the health room
- MDH/MSDE extended funding for at-home rapid tests through the 2022-2023 school year
- MCPS and DHHS distributed test kits to schools, vaccination clinics, school events and the Back-to-School Fair prior to the first day of school

## 2022-2023 COVID-19 School Updates

### *Masking*

- Not mandatory in most situations
- Required for health room staff actively engaging in patient care activities
- Temporarily required in some situations:
  - Students presenting with COVID-19 symptoms to the health room
  - Individuals positive for COVID-19 if returning from isolation on days 6-10
  - Outbreak situations (as an alternative to quarantine)

## 2022-2023 COVID-19 School Updates

### *Case Management and Reporting*

- MCPS and DHHS continue to collaborate on outbreak management
- Staff and families receive notification of outbreak exposures, and individual case exposures in higher risk situations
- The MCPS COVID-19 online dashboard shows self-reported positive cases



# COVID-19 MCPS Links & Resources

- [Fall 2022 Reopening Plan: Health and Safety Procedures](#)
- [Superintendent's Community Message 8/18/22: Fall 2022 Reopening Plan](#)
- [Online COVID-19 information portal](#)
- [School System Medical Officer Community Message 8/24/22: Back to School](#)