

**June 2025
Health Officer's Update**

Dear Montgomery County Residents,



June is a month of reflection, celebration, and action. As one of the most diverse and inclusive counties in the nation, we recognize the importance of community, health, and advocacy in every aspect of our lives. We stand firm in our support of diversity, equity and inclusion, this month, we uplift and honor key health awareness initiatives while celebrating the resilience and contributions of our residents.

Montgomery County proudly celebrates **Pride Month**, reaffirming our commitment to equitable, inclusive healthcare for all. LGBTQ+ individuals face unique health challenges, from access to affirming care to mental health support. We encourage residents to take advantage of local resources that foster safe and supportive health services. One of the highlights of Pride Month is **Pride in the Plaza**, Montgomery County's annual celebration of diverse LGBTQIA+ communities.



This year's event will take place on **Sunday, June 29, 2025, at Veterans Plaza in Silver Spring**. It's a day filled with festivities, performances, and community engagement, providing a space for everyone to celebrate love and authenticity. Our Sexual Health & Wellness Services team will be onsite to provide HIV and STI testing. Learn more and get involved [here](#).



June is also **Men's Health Month**—a great opportunity to remind the men in our lives and in our community to prioritize their health and well-being. It's a chance to focus on preventive care, early screenings, and making both mental and physical health a daily priority. From routine check-ups and heart health monitoring to cancer screenings and staying active, taking proactive steps can lead to longer, healthier lives. Mental health matters, too—Men's Health Month encourages open conversations and support around stress, anxiety, and emotional well-being.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 15th—a special time to honor the fathers, father figures, and caregivers who support their families and communities. We recognize their important role in fostering well-being, whether through mentorship, health advocacy, or providing emotional support. Let's use this month to celebrate the men we care about and encourage them to invest in their health—because healthy men help build healthy communities.

Montgomery County, Maryland, will host **Juneteenth** celebrations honoring the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is more than a commemoration it's a public health touchpoint. The legacy of slavery, segregation, and systemic racism has led to persistent health disparities affecting Black communities. The



day invites us to reflect on social determinants of health—like access to quality healthcare, housing, and economic stability.

Celebrating Juneteenth fosters cultural pride, resilience, and collective healing, which are crucial for mental health. Studies show that historical trauma can influence stress levels and generational health outcomes, making community recognition of freedom and progress essential. There are *two notable events* in the county this year: The [Scotland Juneteenth Heritage Festival runs June 14-June 19](#) . The Scotland community was founded by formerly enslaved individuals in Potomac. Their weeklong celebration includes many meaningful and engaging programs. On Saturday, June 21st [BlackRock Center for the Arts](#) in Germantown will host a free event with local activities under the theme: **Montgomery County Juneteenth: PUSHING BACK The Fight for Freedom Isn't Over**. You can learn more about the event [here](#).

To close, I am happy to report that COVID-19, flu, and RSV transmission rates remain low across Maryland, including Montgomery County. Hospitalizations and ICU admissions due to COVID-19 have declined over the past month. The 7-day case rate for Montgomery County is 6.9 per 100k, similar to four weeks ago.

As one of your key public health experts, I share the concerns about the decision to stop recommending COVID-19 vaccines for healthy children and pregnant women. This rhetoric bypasses the CDC's traditional advisory process, which typically involves independent experts reviewing data before making recommendations.

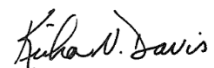
Messaging from lead national health agencies such as the [American Academy of Family Physicians](#), [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), and the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) emphasized that COVID-19 infection in children and during pregnancy can lead to major complications. The vaccine remains important for protecting both pregnant individuals and their infants.



Moreover, the FDA has approved a new COVID vaccine (Nuvaxovid), another tool in our arsenal to protect ourselves and our community against covid. The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine was developed by [Novavax](#), a local pharmaceutical company based in [Gaithersburg](#). This vaccine is based on traditional vaccine research and technology. It offers an effective option for those who have side effects or are skeptical of mRNA vaccines. At this time, it will be available for people 65 years or older or those between 12 and 64 who are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19. We know that when more people are vaccinated, everyone in the community benefits through herd immunity. I invite you to learn more about this new development through this [news article](#).

Together, we are building a healthier, more equitable future. Stay informed, stay proactive, and take care of yourselves and your loved ones this month. Thank you for all you do for the continued well-being of our communities to make Montgomery County community a healthier, happier place to live, work, and play!

Yours in Health,

Handwritten signature of Kisha Davis in black ink.

Kisha Davis, M.D., MPH, FAAFP