

# Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Pulse Report on COVID-19 Impact and Recovery

**Date: September 14, 2021**

**Note:** Estimates based on best available data from 09.14.2021. For the most up-to-date information, please see: [montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine/#dashboard](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine/#dashboard)

## Response: Emergency Assistance and Demand

### 2021 Covid-19 Rental Relief: Process Update (September 13)

Note: \$300,000 in payments processed are not included below due to a systems glitch. They will be included in next week's totals.

There have been 8,414 unique applications for the 2021 program which excludes 2,105 duplicates.

For the approved payments, \$21.78 million have been disbursed with an average payment of \$10.2k per client. The week of September 6, \$1.10 million in payments were disbursed.

The current round of COVID-19 rental assistance funding adds to two previous rounds of COVID-19 assistance. Past rounds of assistance have led to \$17.9 million in payments for 4,496 households. Current round of assistance results in \$21.8 million in payments for 2,139 households. All time, \$39.7 million in payments have been disbursed for 6,635 households.

In the last week, 301 apps were processed. The status of other applications by stage is as follows:

- 3,455 applications (33%) were received or pending a matching landlord

- 1,884 applications (18%) were assigned and under review

- 5,180 applications (49%) were processed and divided as follows:

  - 2,105 applications (20%) were determined to be duplicates

  - 778 applications (7%) were denied

  - 158 applications (2%) were sent to final review

  - 2,139 applications (20%) were approved

About 2,139 households have been approved to receive the funding, with 115 approved in the last week.

Federal guidelines call for expending 65% of the \$59 million fund (i.e. \$38.35 million) by September 30 or else risk return of funds. Spending includes an estimated \$5 million in administrative costs.

The current spending is at \$26.8 million, which has used 45% of total funds, and 70% of the 65% target. We have about 3 weeks remaining.

The following includes the recipient details for rent relief.

The recipients' race and ethnicity breakdown is:

54% Black

29% Hispanic

7% White

7% multiple races

3% Asian & Pacific Islander

1% Other

The money and percentage of benefit type is 64% arrears and 36% prospective.

A heatmap of the distribution of the rent relief recipients shows concentration spread out throughout the County, with a stronger concentration in the Southeastern portion. 49% of payments to households in high need areas as defined by Homeless Prevention Index.

The following includes the applicant details for rent relief.

The percentage of area median income (or AMI) is as follows:

10% of 0% AMI

61% of 1-30% AMI

20% of 31-50% AMI

4% of 51-80% AMI

6% of 80% + AMI

The average median income is \$18,188.

The average family size is as follows:

36% are 1 person

23% are 2 people

17% are 3 people

13% are 4 people

11% are 5 or more people

The hardship levels stated include:

55% unemployed

27% care for self or another

26% received an eviction notice (this is self-reported)

44% of tenant applicants matched with a landlord application

## Eviction Tracker

DHHS and its partners conduct outreach at courts and prioritize applications from tenants with an eviction notice.

About 542 residents with unique residential writs were scheduled for eviction after July 19. This includes 16 new ones compared to previous week. About 42% of households with writs have applied for assistance. For context, less than 8% of writs typically result in eviction.

Records on writs for eviction can include commercial tenants as well as multiple notices for a single household. The stats above attempt to capture unique residential households only, but it is not always possible to make such distinctions.

These are the numbers of evictions by week:

46 the week of July 16

39 the week of July 23

52 the week of July 30

23 the week of August 6

42 the week of August 13

18 the week of August 20

13 the week of August 27

12 the week of September 3

16 the week of September 10

## Shelter Residents: Average Daily Count by Week

The graph shows the approximate number of residents that have lived in a shelter during the pandemic in hotels, through Interfaith Works or MCCH.

## MC311 Weekly Call Volume

The services to end and prevent homelessness received a downward in call volume with 337 calls last week alone. The graph shows that calls spiked in May/June of 2020, and the calls were about the County's COVID-19 rent relief program and other COVID-related questions. The other spike in calls was in late April 2021 at the start of the following round of rental assistance.

Public health calls have gone downward during Labor Day Week with 287 calls last week. The first COVID-related calls were in March of 2020, and there was a spike due to vaccine-related calls in January/February 2021.

In the last week, DHHS received 1,075 calls. A graph shows the number of calls DHHS received compared to other departments.

Another graph shows that the calls for applying to a public assistance program saw a nearly 6-fold increase the weeks after MCPS closures in late April 2020, with fluctuating numbers every week over the past several months. Calls for application to public assistance programs were at about 85 calls over the last week.

## Impact of COVID-19: Unemployment Rate in Montgomery County

The graph shows that the County's unemployment rate has been relatively on par with Fairfax County and the rest of the DC region throughout the pandemic.

Note: The local unemployment figures in the graph are not "seasonally adjusted." Summer months tend to see a cyclical increase each year due to the end of the school year (for example: teachers). This can be seen, for instance, in the increase from May to June in 2019 pre-COVID.

As of the latest data that ends at July of this year in the chart, the unemployment rate in Montgomery County is listed at 5.7%, which is slightly higher than the DC metro region (5.6%) and Fairfax County (3.7%) averages.

Pre-pandemic, the highest was 3.5% in Montgomery County in January 2019. During the pandemic, the highest point was 8.6% in May and July of 2020.

## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS – SEPTEMBER 14 UPDATE

### Covid-19 Vaccinations – As of September 14

The below CDC estimates include data on County residents receiving vaccinations in other states and DC.

The CDC estimates that 82%, or 860,111 of County residents, have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC estimates that 74%, or 780,707 of County residents, are fully vaccinated.

Regarding the percentages of County residents vaccinated by age group, per the CDC, 79,241 children ages 12 to 17 reported as receiving first doses (88%-97% of total at 90% confidence). For residents over the age of 65, 100% have received at least one dose and 95% are fully vaccinated. For residents over the age of 12, 97% have received at least one dose and 88% are fully vaccinated.

There is a substantial risk of transmission according to the seven-day average number of new and confirmed cases in the County per 100k residents, with 77,870 total cases.

In our County, 63% of the vaccinations used the Pfizer vaccine, 31% used the Moderna vaccine, and 6% used the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

The CDC ranks Montgomery County #1 nationwide for the percentage of the 12+ population fully vaccinated among all US Counties with over 300,000 residents.

### Vaccination Counts: Change over Time and by Age Group

The first graph shows a breakdown of weekly volume of first and single and second dose vaccinations between January 9, 2021 and September 11, 2021. The graph shows a steady uptick until the week of May 17, 2021, and then a steady decline. The most recent week noted (September 11, 2021) the number of first and single doses administered was about 4,000 and the number of second doses was about 6,000.

The second graph shows the weekly volume by age for first doses. No numbers are given and the graph ages are color-coded. The chart on vaccinations of County residents by provider type showcases the number of first doses by week for County residents of all ages from January 10, 2021 through September 7, 2021.

The chart includes the following categories: Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (in-County); Maryland mass vaccination site (out of County); Maryland mass vaccination site (in-County); local hospital (in-County); local hospital (out of County);

pharmacies (in-County); pharmacies (out of County); grocers (in-County); grocers (out of County); other (in-County); and other (out of County).

Pharmacies and grocery stores now account for two thirds of all doses.

## Vaccination Gaps and Differentials by Geography and Race/Ethnicity

The tracts with below average first dose vaccination rates for all ages is distributed in a heat map, with the lowest averages spread primarily to some Southeastern (Germantown, Montgomery Village, Gaithersburg, Redland) and far Western (Aspen Hill, Burtonsville, Fairland, Silver Spring( parts of the County, as well as further North (Damascus).

The gap between Black and African American residents and White Non-Hispanic residents has closed within 3 percentage points.

Note: More than 10% of vaccine records do not include complete race/ethnicity data. A chart included on race and ethnicity of first dose vaccination rates is therefore based on slightly incomplete data and so under reports the actual vaccinate rate for each group. The reader is therefore encouraged to focus on the relative vs. the absolute rates.

## COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations: Last Four Weeks (8/16-9/12)

There have been 3,591 cases in this time period, including 149 hospitalizations (4% of total). 1,502 of the cases were of vaccinated residents and 55 hospitalizations were of vaccinated residents.

A breakdown of the case rates and hospitalizations of the vaccinated and unvaccinated populations can be seen as follows (note: The charts show the population of children aged 10 and over as a proxy for the vaccine-eligible population and show the relative risk faced by eligible residents who are not vaccinated):

93% of the population in this population is vaccinated and 7% are unvaccinated

43% of cases are of those vaccinated and 57% are of the unvaccinated

39% of hospitalizations are of the vaccinated and 61% are of the unvaccinated

The risk of cases in the last 4 week has gone up 2.84% for the unvaccinated population and 0.16% for the vaccinated population, which puts the unvaccinated at an 18 times greater risk. The risk of hospitalizations in the last 4 weeks for has gone up 0.140% for those unvaccinated and 0.006% for those vaccinated, putting the unvaccinated at a 22 times greater risk for hospitalization.

By week, the cases and hospitalizations were as follows:

The week of August 16 there were 982 cases that resulted in 42 hospitalizations (4%).

The week of August 23 there were 1154 cases that resulted in 52 hospitalizations (5%).

The week of August 30 there were 821 cases that resulted in 34 hospitalizations (4%).

The week of September 6 there were 631 cases that resulted in 21 hospitalizations (3%).

The division of cases per age and hospitalizations are as follows:

Ages 0 to 9 accounted for 489 cases and 7 hospitalizations

Ages 10 to 19 accounted for 509 cases and 5 hospitalizations

Ages 20 to 29 accounted for 626 cases and 10 hospitalizations

Ages 30 to 39 accounted for 560 cases and 19 hospitalizations

Ages 40 to 49 accounted for 518 cases and 21 hospitalizations

Ages 50 to 59 accounted for 394 cases and 24 hospitalizations

Ages 60 to 69 accounted for 309 cases and 27 hospitalizations

Ages 70 to 79 accounted for 126 cases and 20 hospitalizations

Ages 80 and above accounted for 60 cases and 16 hospitalizations

People over 60 account for 14% of cases but 42% of hospitalizations and 63% of “breakthrough” hospitalizations.

The division of cases per race and ethnicity are as follows:

Non-Hispanic Black account for 803 cases and 41 hospitalizations

Hispanic account for 643 cases and 28 hospitalizations

Non-Hispanic White account for 1135 cases and 58 hospitalizations

Non-Hispanic Asian account for 78 cases and 3 hospitalizations

A heatmap shows the case levels by 100,000 divided by areas with the top hospitalizations by zip code. The top five are:

20905 (482.3 cases per 100,000, or 90)

20851 (439 cases per 100,000, or 68)

20872 (428.5 cases per 100,000, or 54)

20904 (427 cases per 100,000, or 236)

20871 (413.4 cases per 100,000, or 77)

This excludes zip codes with populations under 10,000 residents.

## County Government Coordinated Testing Vaccinations

DHHS has administered 343,997 vaccines, including 1,263 vaccines in the last seven days which includes 505 first doses.

A graph shows a week-by-week color representation since March 8 of the number of vaccine types administered in the County, with the peaks in vaccination in April and May 2021.

DHHS also administered 323,738 COVID-19 tests, including 5,685 in the last seven days.