

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

Date: July 13, 2021

Note: Estimates based on best available data from 07.13.2021. For the most up-to-date information, please see: montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine/#dashboard

Response: Emergency Assistance and Demand

2021 Covid-19 Emergency Rental Relief Fund (July 12)

There have been 7,752 applications for the 2021 program and a 34% landlord match.

For the payments issued and queued for the fund, \$6.64 million have been disbursed (an uptick of \$1.37 million compared to the previous week), there have been 637 clients (up 135 compared to the previous week), and a \$10.4k average payment per client.

The highest week that applications were received was the week of April 18 with 1,942 applications. The week of July 4th, 267 applications were received and 135 were approved.

In the dollars by benefit type for the fun, 63% are arrears payments and 37% are prospective.

The recipients' race and ethnicity are:

- 56% Black
- 25% Hispanic
- 8% White
- 7% multiple races
- 3% Asian & Pacific Islander
- 1% Other

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

- 9% of 0% AMI
- 60% of 1-30% AMI
- 20% of 31-50% AMI
- 5% of 51-80% AMI
- 7% of 80% + AMI

The average income is \$18,354.

The average family size is as follows:

- 34% are 1 person
- 22% are 2 people
- 17% are 3 people
- 14% are 4 people
- 12% are 5 or more people

The hardship levels stated include:

- 56% unemployed
- 28% care for self or another
- 29% received an eviction notice (this is self-reported)

The breakdown of the application processing of the fund is as follows:

- Received and matching: 3,410 (44%)
- Under review: 2,233 (29%)
- Final review and approval: 355 (5%)
- Payment queue and issuance: 637 (8%)
- Duplicate: 901 (12%)
- Denied: 216 (3%)

The two previous rounds of the Covid-19 Rent Relief Program helped 4,496 households and \$17.9 million in payments were disbursed.

54% of payments were disbursed to households in high need areas as defined by Homeless Prevention Index.

Average Daily Count of Shelter Residents during COVID-19

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

Child Care (July 12)

There have been \$403 million in approved subsidies for childcare with an uptick of \$37k compared to the previous week. The number of approved children was 1,879, an uptick of 50 compared to the previous week.

The average length of the subsidy is 4 months and the average monthly amount is \$819.

There are 689 total voucher applications, divided by stage as follows:

- 20 are in process

- 74 were duplicate applications
- 63 were denied
- 6 are waiting for the customer
- 77 cases were closed due to no responses
- 449 were approved

About 1,811 vouchers were issues, totaling \$3.99 million, and 74% of invoices were paid (about \$2.04 million).

Food Security and Hubs (July 12)

Service Consolidation Hubs

Eight Service Consolidation Hubs are operational and working at full speed with food distribution, food home deliveries, and diaper distribution and are integrating other activities into their service model. Recent enhancements have focused on embedding case managers into the hubs.

5,807 households were served last week, which is a 1% decrease compared to the previous week. These households were served through the following partners:

- Blackrock (UpCounty) served 931 households
- Clifton Park (Longbranch) served 976 households
- Hughes (Wheaton) served 612 households
- Harvest (Olney) served 601 households
- Interfaith (Twinbrook) served 660 households
- Kingdom Fellowship (East County) served 799 households
- Oak Chapel (Aspen Hill) served 367 households
- Seneca Creek (Gaithersburg) served 861 households

MC311 Weekly Call Volume

The services to end and prevent homelessness received high call volume with 531 calls last week alone. The graph shows that calls spiked in May 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 next round of rental assistance.

Public health calls are now reverting to pre-COVID levels, with 252 calls last week. The first COVID-related calls were in March of 2020, and there was a spike due to vaccine-related calls in February 2021.

In the last week, DHHS received 1,266 calls.

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. As of the latest data, for May of this year, the unemployment rate is at 5.6% which is slightly higher than the DC region and Fairfax County averages.

Covid-19 Vaccinations – 9 in 10 Adults at At Least One Dose (CDC)

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

State data shows that 715,992 or 68% of residents have received at least one dose. The CDC estimate shows that 799,185 or 76% of residents have received at least one dose.

State data shows that 661,111 or 63% of residents have received both doses or the single-dose J&J vaccine. The CDC estimate shows that 725,986 or 69% of residents are fully vaccinated.

Regarding the percentages of County residents vaccinated by age group, per the CDC, 37,323 children ages 12 to 15 reported as receiving first doses. For residents over the age of 65, 98% have received at least one dose and 93% are fully vaccinated. For residents over the age of 18, 91% have received at least one dose and 83% are fully vaccinated. For residents over the age of 12, 90% have received at least one dose, and 81% are fully vaccinated.

There is a very low risk of transmission according to the seven-day average number of new and confirmed cases in the County per 100k residents, with 71,354 total cases.

In our County, 62% of the vaccinations used the Pfizer vaccine, 32% used the Moderna vaccine, and 6% used the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

The CDC ranks Montgomery County #1 nationwide for % of 12+ population vaccinated among all US Counties with under 300 K residents.

Vaccination Counts: Change over Time and by Age Group

The first slide shows a breakdown of weekly volume of first and single and second dose vaccinations between January 9, 2021 and July 3, 2021. The graph shows a steady uptick until the week of May 17, 2021, and then a steady decline. The most recent week noted (July 3, 2021) the number of first and single doses administered were about 5,000 and the second doses were about 6,000.

The second slide shows the weekly volume by age for first doses. No numbers are given and the graph ages are color-coded.

The area 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 June 24, 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 the Southeastern and Western parts of the County.

Hispanic residents have closed the gap in vaccination while progress continues for Black and African American residents.

Note: More than 10% of vaccine records do not include complete race/ethnicity data. This chart 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.

County Government Coordinated Vaccinations

DHHS administered 329,813 vaccines, including 2,277 vaccines in the last seven days including 936 first doses.

A graph shows a week-by-week color representation since March 3rd of the number of vaccine types administered in the County.

DHHS also administered 286,738 COVID-19 tests, including 1,616 in the last seven days.