

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

Date: July 27, 2021

Note: Estimates based on best available data from 07.27.2021. For the most up-to-date information, please see: montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine/#dashboard

Response: Emergency Assistance and Demand

2021 Covid-19 Rental Relief: Process Update (July 26)

There have been 7,223 unique applications for the 2021 program which excludes 1,098 duplicates.

For the approved payments, \$9.96 million have been disbursed with an average payment of \$10.2k per client. The week of July 19, \$1.98 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 \$10 million in payments for 977 households. All time, \$27.9 million in payments have been disbursed for 5,473 households.

In the last week, 305 apps were processed. The status of other applications by stage is as follows:

- 3,430 applications (41%) were received or pending a matching landlord
- 2,106 applications (25%) were assigned and under review
- 2,783 applications (33%) were processed and divided as follows:
 - o 1,098 applications (13%) were determined to be duplicates
 - o 332 applications (4%) were denied
 - o 376 applications (5%) were sent to final review
 - o 977 applications (12%) were approved

About 977 households have been approved to receive the funding, with 196 approved in the last week.

The highest week that applications were received was the week of April 18 with 1,942 applications. The week of July 19, 252 applications were received and 196 were approved.

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 \$5.0 million in administrative costs.

The current spending is at 15 million, which has used 25% of total funds, and 39% of the 65% target. We have about 10 weeks remaining.

The following is the recipient details for rent relief.

The recipients' race and ethnicity breakdown is:

- 54% Black
- 27% Hispanic
- 8% White
- 7% multiple races
- 3% Asian & Pacific Islander
- 1% Other

The money and percentage of benefit type is 63% arrears and 37% prospective.

A heatmap of the distribution of the rent relief recipients shows concentration spread out throughout the County, with a stronger concentration in the South.

51% of payments to households in high need areas as defined by Homeless Prevention Index.

The following is the applicant details for rent relief.

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

- 8% of 0% AMI
- 61% of 1-30% AMI
- 20% of 31-50% AMI
- 5% of 51-80% AMI
- 7% of 80% + AMI

The average income is \$18,250.

The average family size is as follows:

- 35% 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

29% 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.

Eviction Tracker

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

About 364 residents with unique residential writs are scheduled for eviction after July 19. This is 39 additional compared to previous week. About 34% 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.

A chart will track new cases by week once additional data points are collected.

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 high call volume with 522 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 are now reverting to pre-COVID levels, with 235 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 79 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 that ends at May of this year in the chart, the unemployment rate in Montgomery County is listed at 5.6%, which is slightly higher than the DC region and Fairfax County 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 2020.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS – JULY 27 UPDATE

Covid-19 Vaccinations – Over 800,000 with at least one dose

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

State data shows that 728,294 or 69% of residents have received at least one dose. The CDC estimate shows that 812,025 or 77% of residents have received at least one dose.

State data shows that 674,033 or 64% of residents have received both doses or the single-dose J&J vaccine. The CDC estimate shows that 739,834 or 70% of residents are fully vaccinated.

Regarding the percentages of County residents vaccinated by age group, per the CDC, 39,286 children ages 12 to 15 reported as receiving first doses. For residents over the age of 65, 99% have received at least one dose and 93% are fully vaccinated. For residents over the age of 18, 92% have received at least one dose and 84% are fully vaccinated. For residents over the age of 12, 91% have received at least one dose, and 83% 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 71,873 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 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 July 17, 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 17, 2021) the number of first and single doses administered was about 5,000 and the number of second doses was about 5,000.

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

The 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 July 10, 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. 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.

County Government Coordinated Testing Vaccinations

DHHS has administered 333,271 vaccines, including 1,594 vaccines in the last seven days which includes 763 first doses.

A graph shows a week-by-week color representation since March 3rd of the number of vaccine types administered in the County, with the peaks in vaccination in April and May 2021.

DHHS also administered 291,327 COVID-19 tests, including 2,786 in the last seven days.

