

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

Date: August 9, 2021

Note: Estimates based on best available data from 08.09.2021. 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 (August 9)

There have been 7,372 unique applications for the 2021 program which excludes 1,555 duplicates.

For the approved payments, \$13.43 million have been disbursed with an average payment of \$10.3k per client. The week of August 2, \$1.77 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 \$13.4 million in payments for 1,304 households. All time, \$31.3 million in payments have been disbursed for 5,800 households.

In the last week, 395 apps were processed. The status of other applications by stage is as follows:

- 3,138 applications (35%) were received or pending a matching landlord
- 2,122 applications (24%) were assigned and under review
- 3,667 applications (41%) were processed and divided as follows:
 - o 1,555 applications (17%) were determined to be duplicates
 - o 445 applications (5%) were denied
 - o 363 applications (4%) were sent to final review
 - o 1,304 applications (15%) were approved

About 1,304 households have been approved to receive the funding, with 169 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 \$18.4 million, which has used 31% of total funds, and 48% of the 65% target. We have about 8 weeks remaining.

The following is the recipient details for rent relief.

The recipients' race and ethnicity breakdown is:

54% Black

28% Hispanic

7% White

6% 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 Southeastern portion.

50% 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:

9% of 0% AMI

61% of 1-30% AMI

19% of 31-50% AMI

5% of 51-80% AMI

6% of 80% + AMI

The average income is \$18,250.

The average family size is as follows:

35% are 1 person

23% 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

27% received an eviction notice (this is self-reported)

37% 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 439 residents with unique residential writs were scheduled for eviction after July 19. This includes 23 new ones compared to previous week. About 39% 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

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 625 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 392 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 1,532 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 public assistance program information remain much higher than pre-COVID levels, with at least two to three times the comparative volume.

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 June of this year in the chart, the unemployment rate in Montgomery County is listed at 6.4%, which is slightly higher than the DC region (6.4%) and Fairfax County (4.1%) 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 – AUGUST 9 UPDATE

Covid-19 Vaccinations – 85% of Adults are Fully Vaccinated

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

State data shows that 740,676 or 70% of residents have received at least one dose. The CDC estimate shows that 826,427 or 79% of residents have received at least one dose.

State data shows that 684,259 or 65% of residents have received both doses or the single-dose J&J vaccine. The CDC estimate shows that 751,085 or 72% of residents are fully vaccinated.

Regarding the percentages of County residents vaccinated by age group, per the CDC, 41,283 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 94% are fully vaccinated. For residents over the age of 18, 93% have received at least one dose and 85% are fully vaccinated. For residents over the age of 12, 93% have received at least one dose, and 84% are fully vaccinated.

There is substantial risk of transmission according to the seven-day average number of new and confirmed cases in the County per 100k residents, with 73,058 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.

COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations: Last Four Weeks (7/5-8/1)

There have been 1,675 cases in this time period, including 66 hospitalizations (4% of total). 22 of these were of vaccinated residents.

- The week of July 5 there were 198 cases that resulted in 13 hospitalizations (7%).
- The week of July 12 there were 355 cases that resulted in 16 hospitalizations (5%).
- The week of July 27 there were 572 cases that resulted in 27 hospitalizations (5%).
- The week of July 26 there were 550 cases that resulted in 10 hospitalizations (2%).

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

- Ages 0 to 9 accounted for 222 cases and 4 hospitalizations
- Ages 10 to 19 accounted for 208 cases and 2 hospitalizations
- Ages 20 to 29 accounted for 350 cases and 7 hospitalizations
- Ages 30 to 39 accounted for 291 cases and 13 hospitalizations
- Ages 40 to 49 accounted for 198 cases and 4 hospitalizations
- Ages 50 to 59 accounted for 190 cases and 8 hospitalizations
- Ages 60 to 69 accounted for 133 cases and 15 hospitalizations
- Ages 70 to 79 accounted for 62 cases and 9 hospitalizations
- Ages 80 and above accounted for 21 cases and 4 hospitalizations

People over 60 are 13% of cases but 42% of hospitalizations

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

- Non-Hispanic Black account for 300 cases and 20 hospitalizations
- Hispanic account for 278 cases and 18 hospitalizations
- Non-Hispanic White account for 551 cases and 17 hospitalizations
- Non-Hispanic Asian account for 40 cases and 1 hospitalization

The top hospitalizations by zip code are:

- 20904 (White Oak) - 11 cases
- 20910 (Silver Spring) - 5 cases
- 20879 (Montgomery Village) - 4
- 20903 (Hillandale) - 4

COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations

In the last four week there were 618 residents with a breakout case, or 0.075% of vaccinated residents in the County (75 out of 100,000).

The cases per vaccinations status were as follows:

- 63% had received no COVID-19 vaccination
- 4% had received one dose
- 4% had received a single dose
- 29% had received two doses

There were 22 residents hospitalized for COVID-19, which makes up 0.003% of vaccinated residents in the County (3 out of 100,000).

The 60 and over population account for 73% of the total.

The division of breakthrough (or post-vaccination) hospitalizations per age are as follows:

- Ages 0 to 9 accounted for 0 breakthrough hospitalizations
- Ages 10 to 19 accounted for 1 breakthrough hospitalizations
- Ages 20 to 29 accounted for 0 breakthrough hospitalizations
- Ages 30 to 39 accounted for 2 breakthrough hospitalizations
- Ages 40 to 49 accounted for 1 breakthrough hospitalizations
- Ages 50 to 59 accounted for 2 breakthrough hospitalizations
- Ages 60 to 69 accounted for 8 breakthrough hospitalizations
- Ages 70 to 79 accounted for 5 breakthrough hospitalizations
- Ages 80 and above accounted for 3 breakthrough hospitalizations

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 August 14, 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.

County Government Coordinated Testing Vaccinations

DHHS has administered 336,337 vaccines, including 1,582 vaccines in the last seven days which includes 965 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 299,088 COVID-19 tests, including 4,322 in the last seven days.