

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

Date: August 30, 2021

Note: Estimates based on best available data from 08.30.2021. 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 23)

There have been 8,004 unique applications for the 2021 program which excludes 1,909 duplicates.

For the approved payments, \$19 million have been disbursed with an average payment of \$10.3k per client. The week of August 23, \$2.24 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 \$19 million in payments for 1,846 households. All time, \$36.9 million in payments have been disbursed for 6,342 households.

In the last week, 401 apps were processed. The status of other applications by stage is as follows:

- 3,268 applications (33%) were received or pending a matching landlord
- 2,095 applications (21%) were assigned and under review
- 4,550 applications (46%) were processed and divided as follows:
 - 1,909 applications (19%) were determined to be duplicates
 - 628 applications (6%) were denied
 - 167 applications (2%) were sent to final review
 - 1,846 applications (9%) were approved

About 1,846 households have been approved to receive the funding, with 220 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 \$24 million, which has used 41% of total funds, and 63% of the 65% target. We have about 5 weeks remaining.

The following includes the recipient details for rent relief.

The recipients' race and ethnicity breakdown is:

- 54% Black
- 28% 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:

- 9% of 0% AMI
- 61% of 1-30% AMI
- 20% of 31-50% AMI
- 5% 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

14% are 4 people

12% are 5 or more people

The hardship levels stated include:

55% unemployed

28% care for self or another

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

42% 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 514 residents with unique residential writs were scheduled for eviction after July 19. This includes 13 new ones compared to previous week. About 40% 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

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 490 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 on the rise again with 410 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 1,452 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 and 102 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 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 metro region (5.6%) 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 30 UPDATE

Covid-19 Vaccinations – 4 in 5 Residents are Vaccinated

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

State data shows that 759,321 or 72% of residents have received at least one dose. The CDC estimate shows that 849,713 or 81% of residents have received at least one dose.

State data shows that 701,963 or 67% of residents have received both doses or the single-dose J&J vaccine. The CDC estimate shows that 770,297 or 73% of residents are fully vaccinated.

Regarding the percentages of County residents vaccinated by age group, per the CDC, 77,507 children ages 12 to 17 reported as receiving first doses. 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 18, 96% have received at least one dose and 87% are fully vaccinated. For residents over the age of 12, 95% have received at least one dose, and 86% are fully vaccinated.

There is high risk of transmission according to the seven-day average number of new and confirmed cases in the County per 100k residents, with 76,018 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 (8/2-8/29)

There have been 3,324 cases in this time period, including 138 hospitalizations (4% of total). 1,379 of these were of vaccinated residents.

- The week of July 18 there were 198 cases that resulted in 13 hospitalizations (7%).
- The week of July 25 there were 355 cases that resulted in 16 hospitalizations (5%).
- The week of August 1 there were 600 cases that resulted in 28 hospitalizations (5%).
- The week of August 8 there were 824 cases that resulted in 40 hospitalizations (5%).
- The week of August 15 there were 726 cases that resulted in 36 hospitalizations (5%).
- The week of August 22 there were 977 cases that resulted in 38 hospitalizations (4%).
- The week of August 24 there were 797 cases that resulted in 24 hospitalizations (3%).

The last week of data is incomplete due to reporting delays.

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

- Ages 0 to 9 accounted for 419 cases and 4 hospitalizations
- Ages 10 to 19 accounted for 437 cases and 3 hospitalizations
- Ages 20 to 29 accounted for 620 cases and 8 hospitalizations
- Ages 30 to 39 accounted for 546 cases and 20 hospitalizations
- Ages 40 to 49 accounted for 470 cases and 24 hospitalizations
- Ages 50 to 59 accounted for 391 cases and 22 hospitalizations
- Ages 60 to 69 accounted for 266 cases and 26 hospitalizations

Ages 70 to 79 accounted for 120 cases and 15 hospitalizations
Ages 80 and above accounted for 55 cases and 16 hospitalizations

People over 60 account for 13% of cases but 41% of hospitalizations and 65% of “breakthrough” hospitalizations.

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

Non-Hispanic Black account for 769 cases and 38 hospitalizations
Hispanic account for 512 cases and 25 hospitalizations
Non-Hispanic White account for 1135 cases and 53 hospitalizations
Non-Hispanic Asian account for 70 cases and 3 hospitalizations

The top hospitalizations by zip code are:

20906 (Aspen Hill) - 12 cases
20953 (Norbeck) - 11 cases
20902 (Wheaton) - 10 cases
20904 (White Oak) - 10 cases

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 4, 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 4, 2021) the number of first and single doses administered was about 8,000 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 4, 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 and far 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 341,548 vaccines, including 1,767 vaccines in the last seven days which includes 883 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 313,000 COVID-19 tests, including 5,014 in the last seven days.