

**In Support of Amended Board  
of Health Regulation to replace  
Regulation 19-975**

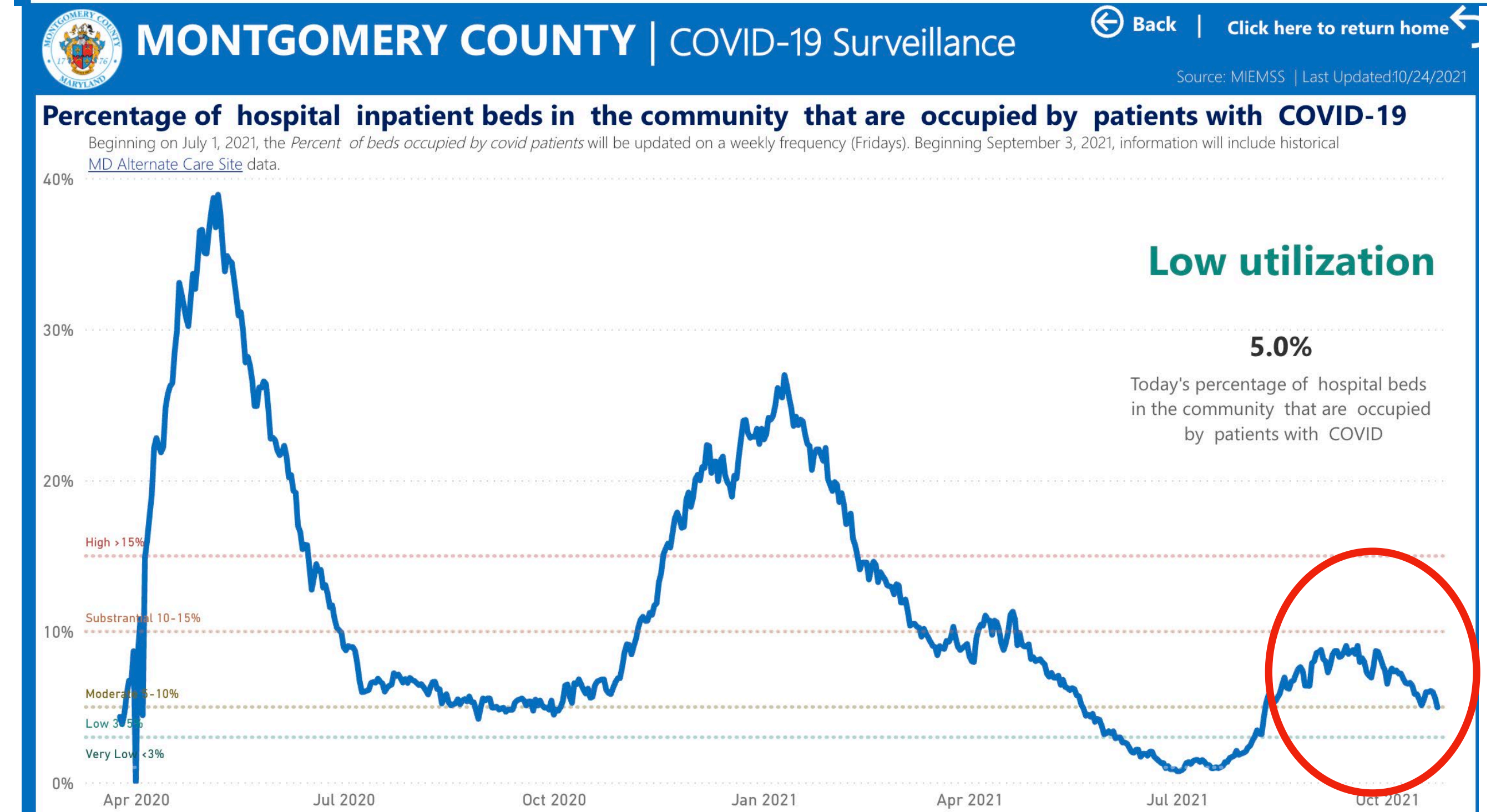
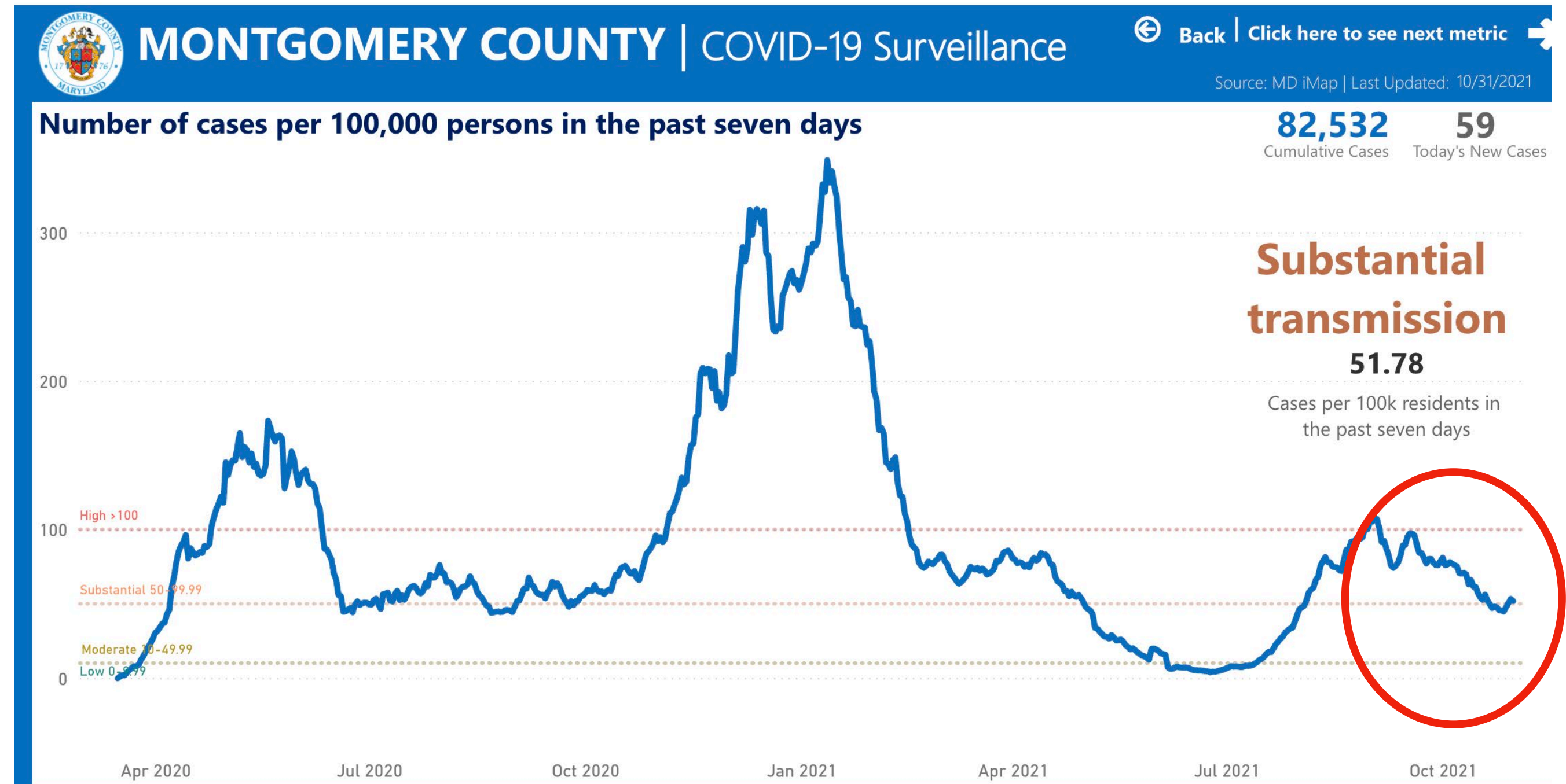
**For Montgomery County Council meeting on 11/2/2021**

**Joe Gresock, 10/31/2021**

# Reasons for Support, and Additional Amendment

- As the council is no doubt is aware, the proposed amendment will reduce the “mask on/mask off” policy whiplash
- Taking the county data holistically, the CDC’s policy upon which the original Regulation was based appears too stringent
- A policy for Montgomery County should reflect the local environment and take the CDC’s guideline for what it is: just a guideline

- Understanding that the hospitalization data lags by a week, it is clear that the hospitalization is in approximately the “low” utilization category of 5%. Actual conditions are clearly different now from back in August.
- Is the goal to have a low transmission rate in itself? Or should it be to have the lowest actual impact on citizens, such as hospitalization and death?
- The Council’s proposed amendment would allow mask policy to more accurately reflect the **actual** danger, as opposed to simply targeting the CDC’s “substantial” threshold



# Further amendment

- I further suggest that the Regulation could be changed to trigger when **both** the transmission rate **and** the test positivity rate reach the thresholds for 7 consecutive days, rather than only requiring one of these metrics to exceed their threshold.
- Alternatively, the Regulation could use a hospitalization rate for the threshold, for example, 10% (substantial). This could also be combined with the above, to say that masking takes place only when hospitalization is above 10% and one of the other thresholds are also met.
- If additional amendments are not allowed at this time, I recommend these changes be considered for future amendments.

**Thank you for considering rational options for moving forward in an increasingly safe Montgomery County**