

The background features a large, light blue watermark of the Seal of Montgomery County, Maryland. The seal is circular with the words "MONTGOMERY COUNTY" at the top and "MARYLAND" at the bottom. In the center is a coat of arms depicting a castle on a rock, flanked by a lion and a unicorn. The date "1774" is on the left and "1776" is on the right. A banner at the bottom of the coat of arms reads "GARDEZ BIEN".

County Council Update

District 1 Councilmember Andrew Friedson

Greater Farmland Civic Association

March 24, 2021

COVID vaccination progress



Mass vaccination site – Montgomery College Germantown Campus:

- County (DHHS), Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Holy Cross Health partnering
- Will be in operation by April 1
- Ramp-up to 3,000 dose-per-day capacity (depends on sufficient dose allotment from MDH/federal government)

Latest vaccine progress (as of March 23):

- 25% of County residents have received first dose; 13% fully vaccinated
- All 26,500 MCPS educators and staff have been provided opportunity to get vaccinated, plus vast majority of nonpublic educators and staff
- MDH provided DHHS with 8,000 doses this week (up from 4,500 in previous week but significantly lower than 20,000-25,000 capacity)

Continue to look for vaccine providers via MDH website and to pre-register with MDH and County DHHS:

- [MDH Vaccine Locator](#)
- [County DHHS Pre-registration portal](#)



White Oak Community Center DHHS clinic, March 5

2A

WHO: Marylanders age 60 and older
WHEN: March 23

2B

WHO: Marylanders age 16 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 illness
WHEN: March 30

2C

WHO: Marylanders age 55 and older, as well as essential workers in critical industries
WHEN: April 13

3

WHO: All Marylanders age 16 and older
WHEN: April 27

COVID Indicators and Board of Health regulation

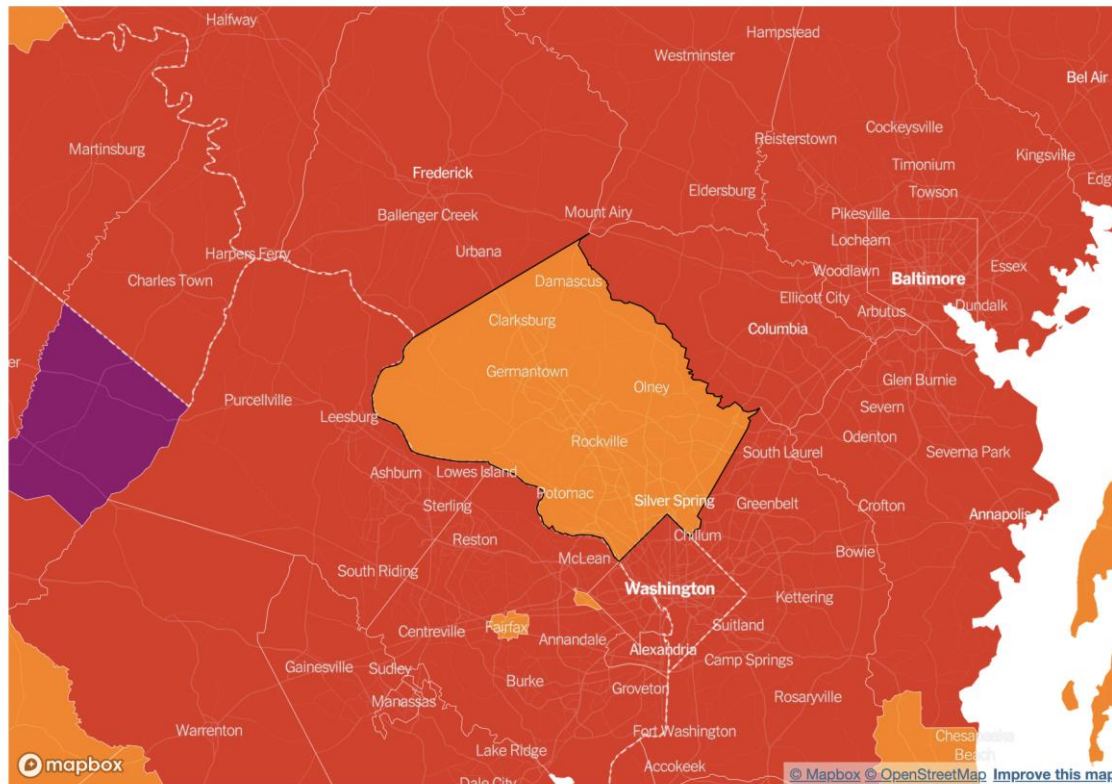


The risk of getting Covid-19 is higher in nearby areas.

Cases have increased recently in [Loudoun](#) County in Virginia. See the full [national map of county-level risk assessments](#).

Risk level in nearby counties

LOW MEDIUM HIGH VERY HIGH EXTREMELY HIGH



[New York Times Covid Case and Risk Tracker, March 22](#)

Sacrifices made by residents and businesses and diligence in following safety precautions have saved lives and put us in a better position than many.

However, COVID remains a significant concern:

- March 22 7-day average of new cases/100,000 residents was 10 (up from sub-10 from March 7-14)
- Percentage of hospital inpatient beds occupied by patients with COVID was 7.9 (much improved from recent months but higher than percentage from early July 2020-November 2020)

With improved indicators but remaining concerns, County chose not to follow Governor Hogan in allowing the full reopening of all activities.

COVID Indicators and Board of Health regulation



Council acted as Board of Health in conjunction with County public health officials to approve [regulation](#) that recognizes precautions still needed to reduce COVID and lays out a road to reopening:

- Childcare may return to group sizes and staff-child ratios in accordance with State regulations
- Outdoor gatherings increased to 50 people or fewer
- Indoor gatherings increased to 25 people or fewer
- Retail establishments (including fitness centers, nail salons, museums, etc.) can operate at 25-percent capacity
- Houses of worship can conduct services at 50-percent capacity
- Aligned outdoor dining with MDH's guidance
- Indoor dining remains at 25-percent capacity until March 26 (Friday) when it will increase to 50-percent capacity
- 10 p.m. time limit on alcohol service eliminated, aligning with MDH
- Removes risk classifications for sports

FY22 Budget Key Items and Priorities



MontgomeryCountyCouncil
Legislative Branch

County Executive submitted proposed [Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget](#) March 15; [recommended amendments to the six-year Capital Improvements Program \(CIP\)](#) January 15.

Committee and full Council review of CIP amendments have begun; committee and full Council review of operating budget will start with [public hearings April 6, 7, and 8](#).

\$5.9 billion proposed operating budget:

- Fully funds MCPS and Montgomery College budget requests
- Maintains current property tax rates
- Addresses 1.5% inflationary increase for nonprofit health and social service providers
- Additional funding for economic development initiatives, including White Flint/Pike District
- Funds reserves back to 9.6% (County policy is 10%)
- Fully funds OPEB/retiree health obligation

FY22 Budget Key Items and Priorities



Montgomery County Council
Legislative Branch



County Executive proposed using \$121 million of \$204 million to be received from federal American Rescue Plan to balance the budget. We must fulfill the County's Fiscal Policy by not using one-time funding for ongoing expenses.

Other key items and priorities include:

- Proposal adds net 83 new positions to County government
- Neighborhood road resurfacing budget likely to increase to \$8.1 million in Fiscal Year 2022 from \$5.7 million
- Stormwater drainage budget increase we pushed for last year likely to remain for Fiscal Year 2022
- Additional help for vulnerable residents and businesses
- Enhancing Vision Zero road, crosswalk, and sidewalk safety improvements spread through various budget items
- Maintain funding for Parks (trails, parks, playing fields)

FY22 Budget Key Items and Priorities



Montgomery County Council
Legislative Branch

\$84 million of federal American Rescue Plan direct aid is unallocated and will be used for further COVID relief.

County COVID relief programs so far include:

- \$20 million Rent Relief program
- \$24.8 million for food assistance
- \$25 million Public Health Emergency Grant (PHEG) – Up to \$10,000 grants for for-profit and non-profit businesses
- \$4.9 million (State aid) for second round of Restaurant Relief Grant Program – Up to \$10,000 grants for restaurants, food trucks, breweries, wineries, caterers
- \$6.2 million (State aid) for Hotel Relief Grant Program
- \$1.2 million Winterizing Streeteries
- \$5 million Tourism Stabilization Grant Program for arts, culture, and recreation institutions forced to close



Contact



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