Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: Receive briefing and have discussion – no vote expected
Keywords: Coronavirus, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #7
March 31, 2020
Discussion

Montgomery County Council

SUBJECT

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update (County Council sitting as the Board of Health)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr. Travis Gayles, County Health Officer and Chief of DHHS Public Health Services
Dr. Earl Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency management and Homeland Security
Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Council sitting as Board of Health to receive update.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The following information is from https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/

The Maryland website is updated each day at 10 a.m. regarding the number of confirmed cases statewide and by County.

On March 26, when this memo was created, the State reported 580 confirmed cases including 164 in Montgomery County and 101 in Prince George's County. Four (4) deaths were reported statewide.

COVID-19 Background
COVID-19 is a disease caused by a respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. COVID-19 is a new virus that hasn't caused illness in humans before. Worldwide, COVID-19 has resulted in thousands of infections, causing illness and in some cases death. Cases have spread to countries throughout the world, with more cases reported daily.

COVID-19 is thought to be able to spread like the cold or flu through:
Coughing and sneezing, which creates respiratory droplets
Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
Touching an object or surface with the virus on it

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
Fever
Coughing
Shortness of breath

In more severe cases, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)

The vast majority of people recover from this infection. Most people will have mild or moderate symptoms. Older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions have a greater risk for more serious illness.

>Link to CDC Website:
>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

>Link to County website:
>https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus.html

>Link to information on County Closures
>https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/COVID19-Closures.html

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Board of Health will be briefed on the status of cases in Montgomery County and ongoing coordination and collaboration with federal, State, and local agencies and healthcare providers.
- The Council, sitting as the Board of Health, received an update at its March 24, 2020 session. The following is a link to the slides from that presentation:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/PDF/COVID-19Update03242020.pdf

The March 24 Council session which included this update can be viewed by clicking on the following link and then on the YouTube icon for March 24.

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/ondemand/index.html

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