



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 #6B
April 14, 2020
Discussion

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)
Julie Parker, Public Information Office
Ken Hartman, Director, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Center and lead for COVID-19 Communications for special populations and multi-cultural and language needs

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Council sitting as Board of Health to receive updates.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

At this session, the Council will receive updates regarding public health and emergency management, including hospital surge planning and increased capacity for testing. The Council will also be provided with an update and discuss the work being done to reach Montgomery County's diverse communities with the critical information they need to respond to the COVID-19 health crisis. This includes translation of press releases, videos, and other information into multiple languages, the use of multiple communications platforms in multiple languages (such as Spanish language radio and television and the addition of the WhatsApp platform), and communications with special populations, such as the disability community. Mr. Hartman is the County Executive's lead in this effort and is working in coordination with and support from the County Council's multi-cultural communications team.

The following public health information is from Maryland state website as of 1 p.m. on April 9, 2020:

Statewide:

Confirmed cases	6,185
Deaths	138
Negative Tests	35,344
Hospitalizations	1,348
Released from Isolation	376

Female 3320 Confirmed Cases and 53 Deaths
Male 2865 Confirmed Cases and 85 Deaths

Montgomery County:

Confirmed Cases: 1214
Deaths 29

The State has recently begun to provide information by race. This is the Statewide information posted on April 9, 2020. Information is not available for every case and it lags behind the daily totals previously provided.

	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
African American	2064	55
Asian	122	6
White	1540	39
Other	449	3
Not Available	1354	21
Total data available by race	5529	124

COVID-19 Background (from Maryland.gov)

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 County Website:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus.html>

Link to Maryland Website:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/>

Link to CDC Website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Board of Health is continuing its regular briefings on the status of cases in Montgomery County and ongoing coordination and collaboration with federal, State, and local agencies and healthcare providers.

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