

Date: 2/1/2022

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Montgomery County Public Health District, in conjunction with the Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, continues to encourage eligible populations to be fully vaccinated and receive a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Those who have been vaccinated and/or boosted tend to have mild symptoms and the majority can recover at home. Need to find a vaccine or a vaccine booster shot? Click here for vaccine sites: <a href="https://www.vaccines.gov/">https://www.vaccines.gov/</a>.

If you are diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, please follow the CDC guidance here: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html">https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html</a>.

MCPHD reports weekly on Tuesdays, but DSHS updates daily at this link: <a href="https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/45e18cba105c478697c76acbbf86a6bc">https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/45e18cba105c478697c76acbbf86a6bc</a>.

Since our last report on 1/25/2022:

- Total cases of COVID-19 increased by 4,075 to 129,631. \*Total cases include confirmed (PCR testing) and probable (antigen testing) cases.
- Deaths of Montgomery County residents have increased by 17 to 1,195 since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, according to data from DSHS.
- 222 confirmed cases of COVID-19 are currently hospitalized in Montgomery County.
   SETRAC data for regional hospitalizations can be found here: <a href="https://bit.ly/3jwhdiv">https://bit.ly/3jwhdiv</a>.

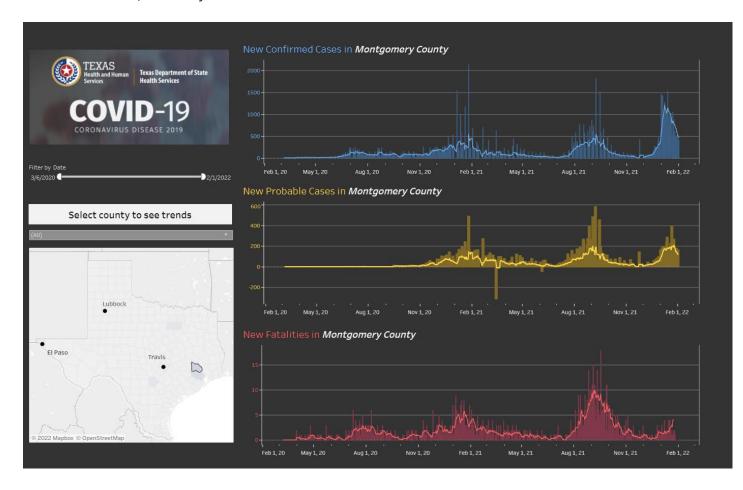
Please note, DSHS is no longer posting active and recovered estimates for a number of reasons.

- They were estimates based on research from early in the pandemic on the proportion
  of people who required hospitalization and the length of time it took hospitalized and
  non-hospitalized people to resolve their symptoms.
- With changes in the virus, that proportion and timeline has changed, so the resulting calculations were no longer accurate.
- Plus, we now know the risk of transmitting the virus decreases before symptoms are completely resolved.

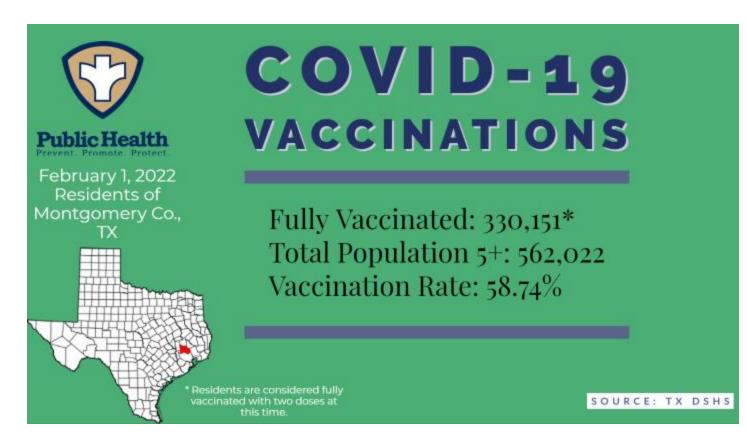
- Recovery estimates are less meaningful when people have gotten infected and recovered multiple times or may have recovered from one infection but not recovered from a second.
- In moving to providing annual data, there's no straightforward way to assign active and recovered estimates to a year.
- There are no longer any state executive orders that rely on active or recovered cases.

The Testing Positivity Rate for Montgomery County has increased to 34%, up from 33% last week.

Source: UT Health, School of Public Health



The COVID-19 dashboard for Montgomery County can be found here: <a href="https://coronavirus-response-moco.hub.arcgis.com/">https://coronavirus-response-moco.hub.arcgis.com/</a>.



Do your part to slow the spread of COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself and those around you is to be vaccinated. You should also:

- Get tested if you feel sick.
- Avoid groups of people.
- Practice social distancing.
- Wear a mask in public (over your nose and mouth) or with others who live outside your household. Never share a mask with others.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Disinfect surfaces in your car and around your home.