



MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICIALS UPDATE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Status Update from the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 15, 2020

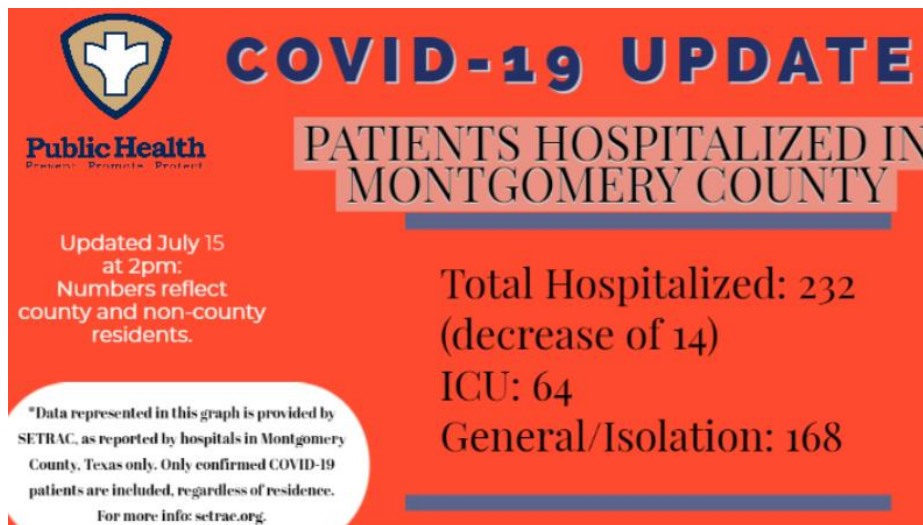
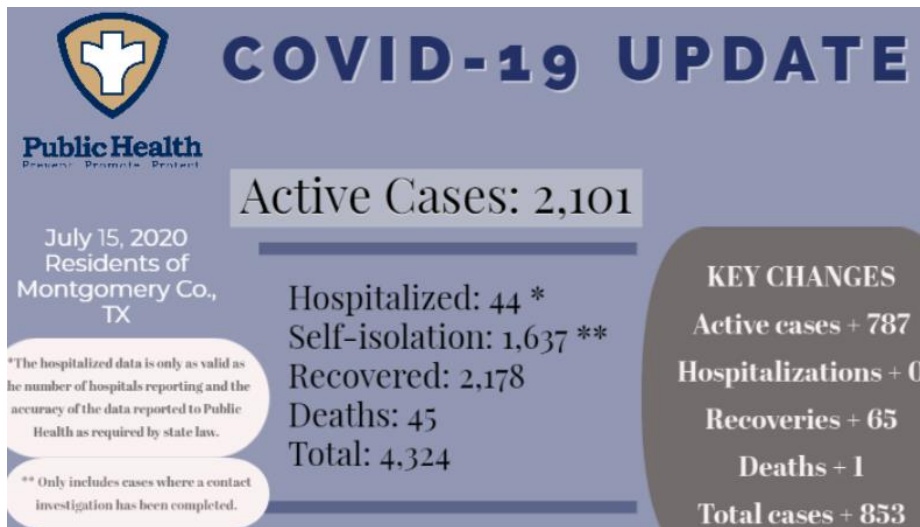
MONTGOMERY COUNTY - In the past few weeks, numbers of COVID-19 have been increasing beyond the capabilities of our Public Health staff, creating a backlog. In an effort to be able to handle the increased volume of contact investigations, we would like to thank Montgomery County Judge Mark Keough, who has offered additional staff from the County and funds from the CARES Act to pay overtime to Public Health employees.

Starting today, instead of reporting cases after a contact investigation is launched, we will now be reporting all cases received, even before our investigation begins. When cases are first reported to Public Health, we may not have information usually gained during a contact investigation - sex or status. We will only have preliminary information we receive from individual healthcare providers on the laboratory report – age and address. Sex and status will be filled in once a contact investigation is initiated. Please note, residents are notified by their healthcare providers upon a positive result.

We appreciate your understanding during this unprecedented time as we evolve our processes to meet increased demand.

Also, we can regrettably confirm an additional death related to COVID-19, bringing the total number of deaths to 45. A woman in her 80s, from Conroe, died in the hospital. She had co-morbidities in addition to testing positive for COVID-19. We offer our condolences to her family.

We can also confirm the total number of COVID-19 cases increased by 853 to 4,324 cases in Montgomery County. ACTIVE cases of COVID-19 increased to 2,101. Of the 2,101 active cases who are Montgomery County residents, 44 are known to be in the hospital, as a result of contact investigations. As mentioned above, contact investigations have not been initiated on all reported cases. 2,113 people have clinically recovered.



You can find more information on the SETRAC website, setrac.org.

It's more important than ever to take steps to slow the spread of COVID-19. Consider staying home unless it is necessary to leave your home. Avoid groups of people. Wear a mask (if it is necessary to be in public), wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently, disinfect surfaces in your car and around your home, and practice social distancing.

You can view the list of case-by-case updates on the MCPHD website here: <https://mcphd-tx.org/coronavirus-covid-19/confirmed-cases/>. You can refer to the dashboard here: <https://coronavirus-response-moco.hub.arcgis.com/>.

Just a reminder, online registration is now available for COVID-19 testing through the MCPHD/MCHD voucher program. Click on "Need to be tested?" on mchd-tx.org or mcphd-tx.org and follow the instructions. Call the COVID-19 Call Center at 936-523-5040, Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:30pm, for more information.

Meghan Ballard Arthur

Homeland Security Planner and Public Information Officer
Montgomery County Office of
Homeland Security & Emergency Management
O: 936.523.3907 | C: 936.522.6571
meghan.arthur@mctx.org