



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 2, 2022

COVID-19 Update for Montgomery County

Status Update from the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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: <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

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

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

Since our last report on
1/25/2022:

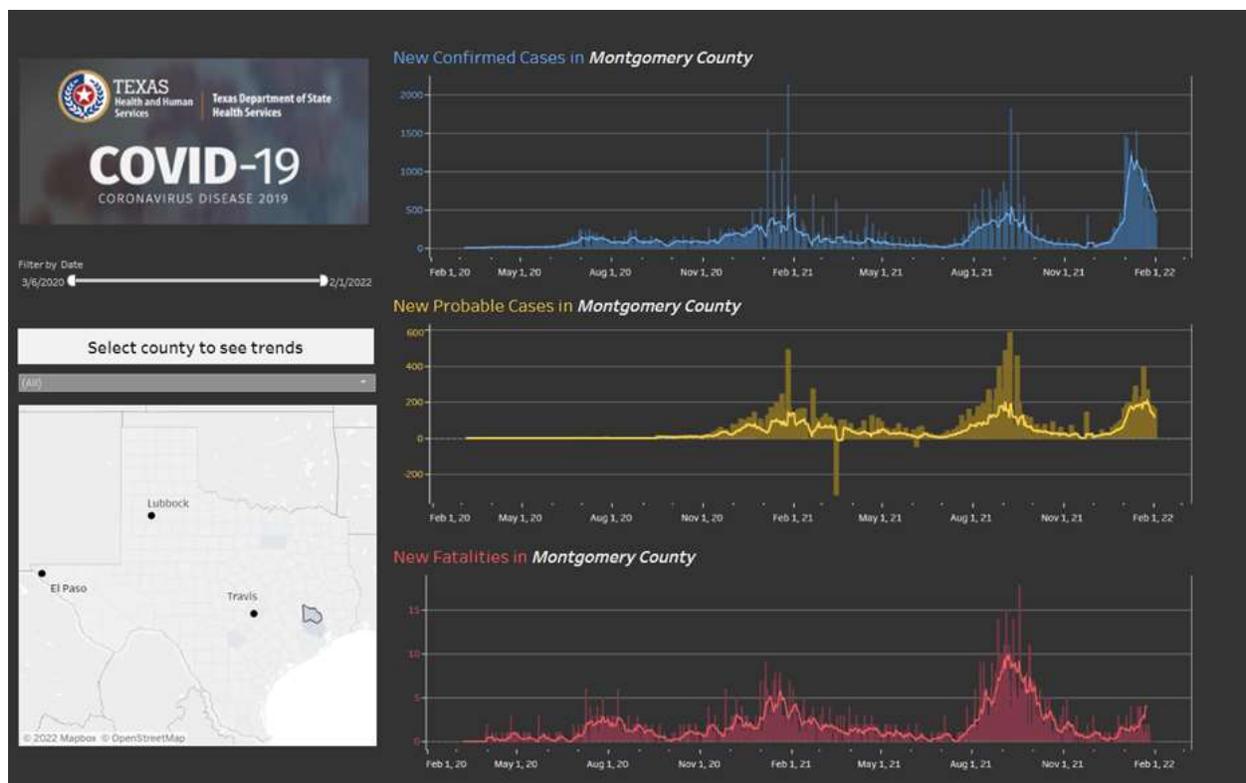
- Total cases of COVID-19 increased by 4,075 to 129,631. **Total cases include confirmed (PCR testing) and probable (antigen testing) cases.*
- Deaths of Montgomery County residents have increased by 17 to 1,195 since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, according to data from DSHS.
- 222 confirmed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

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

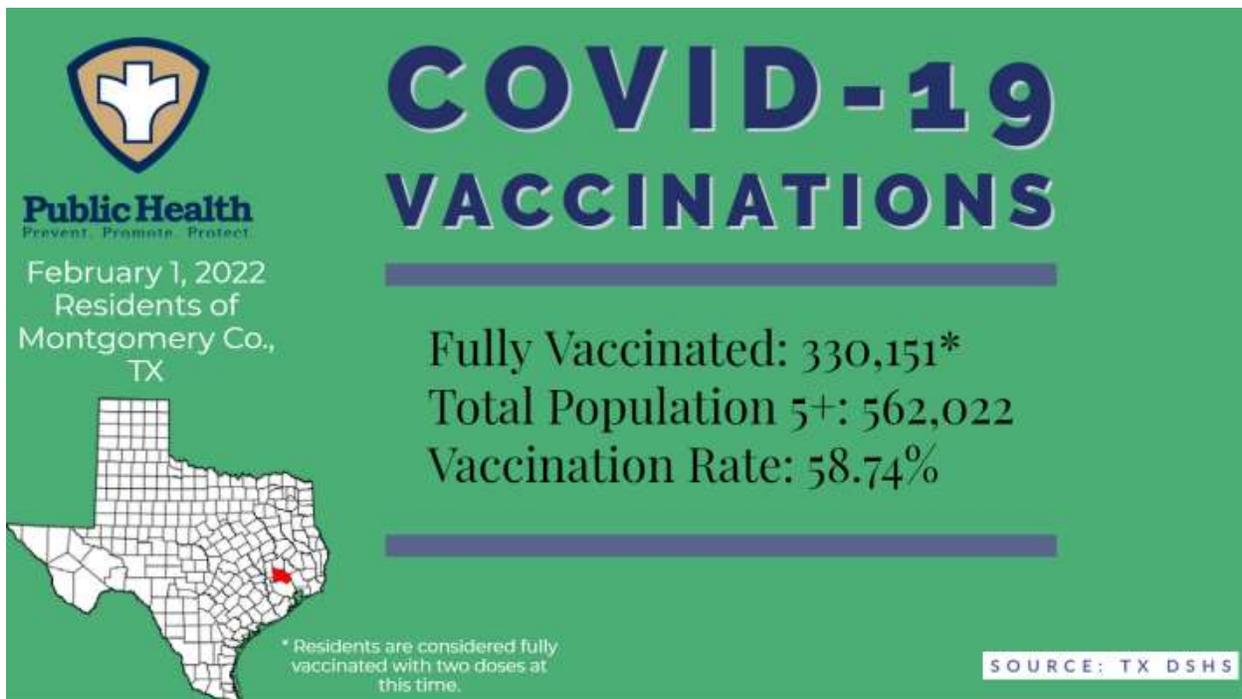
- They were estimates based on research from early in the pandemic on the proportion of people who required hospitalization and the length of time it took hospitalized and non-hospitalized people to resolve their symptoms.
- With changes in the virus, that proportion and timeline has changed, so the 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: <https://coronavirus-response-moco.hub.arcgis.com/>.



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.*