

## Update on COVID-19 in Montgomery County PA – April 24, 2020

Each week, the Montgomery County Commissioners have hosted a WebEx call with faith leaders and leaders of faith-based organizations in Montgomery County. What follows is a summary of information shared by the Board of Commissioners: Val Arkoosh, Joe Gale and Ken Lawrence.

Based on Governor Wolf's plan shared this week at <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid19/#PhasedReopening> the entire state of PA is currently at Phase Red. The move, by county, to Phase Yellow will occur based on data in these five categories:

1. The number of new, confirmed cases/100,000 people per day
2. The capacity at hospitals
3. Having enough PPE and ventilators at hospitals
4. Having enough testing available for essential workers
5. Contact tracing availability

Montgomery County is working in a concerted effort with 4 other local counties in SE PA, so any changes made will be effective. Other information shared:

- Testing is currently happening at Montgomery County Community College. The current rate of those testing positive is 14% - which appears to be a plateau.
- Montgomery County currently is seeing 187 new, confirmed cases of COVID-19 per day. That number will need to drop to an average of 30/day over a 14 day-period in order to move from Phase Red to Phase Yellow.
- All hospitals in Montgomery County currently have beds and ventilators available.
  - Long term care facilities are seeing high rates of COVID-19 with both staff and residents. An effort is being made to test ALL staff and residents at long term care facilities.
- A large number of people of all ages who test positive are asymptomatic, which is one reason masks and social distancing are so important for EVERYONE.
- It is most likely that Montgomery County will be in Phase Red through May and into early June.

During Phase Yellow:

- Residents will still continue with masks and 6-ft social distancing
- Gathering will be limited to no more than 25 people. **This includes churches.**
- Very likely Montgomery County will be in Phase Yellow through the summer.

Food Pantries – The need at our area food pantries is 4 times what they normally see. Please help with donations of food or a monetary donation if possible.

Voting - PA will have their primary on Tuesday, June 2. For your health and safety, PLEASE plan to vote by mail. You can register to do so at <https://www.votespa.com/Pages/default.aspx>

Pastor Judy