

Update on COVID-19 in Montgomery County PA – 5/29 and 6/5

Each week, the Montgomery County Commissioners have hosted a WebEx call with faith leaders and leaders of faith-based organizations in Montgomery County. I am offering a summary of what was shared by the Board of Commissioners: Val Arkoosh and Ken Lawrence.

Rev. Diane Jamison Fitch

The county is scheduled to move to **PHASE YELLOW on Friday, June 5**, based on several metrics:

- The **capacity at hospitals** is sufficient to handle additional cases.
- Having enough **PPE and ventilators** at hospitals.
- **Contact tracing** availability:
The county has a Contact Tracing Team that can do tracing for up to 50 people/day. This is employing people in our county, and additional people are being trained. To contain the spread, **it is important to share information and answer questions if called**. The information is confidential, and names will not be shared. The caller will identify themselves as from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health.
- There is enough **testing available for all who wish to be tested**.
Currently, 250-350 can be tested per day at county sites. Certain CVS and Rite Aid locations are also offering no cost testing for those 18 and older. Testing locations can be found by clicking the green “County Testing Information” box at the top of the COVID-19 page. <https://data-montcopa.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/covid-19>
- The number of **new, confirmed cases/100,000 people per day** – the county is still seeing 88 new cases/day, far from the hoped 30 cases/day they were aiming for. But the trend is coming down.

During Phase Yellow:

- All residents are asked to continue **social distancing** and wear **face coverings** in public.
- COVID-19 can spread from **asymptomatic** carriers and can linger in the air for **12-15 minutes**.
- **Gathering will be limited to no more than 25 people**. This **includes churches**. Singing is not wise. Outside is safer. It is recommended that you **NOT serve food/beverages**.
- Wearing of **masks protects others** – the same reason everyone in an operating room wears a mask.

An update from June 5:

- The numbers are still tending down.
- Encouraging all to work from home if possible.
- They are hopeful that Montgomery County will move to **GREEN** in about 3-4 weeks. This would mean gatherings of up to 250 people are OK with continued safety precautions in place.