COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Turning the Page on COVID-19 in Montgomery & Rocky Hill

JUNE 2021

CDC — DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES USA

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Montgomery Twp NJ Health Department
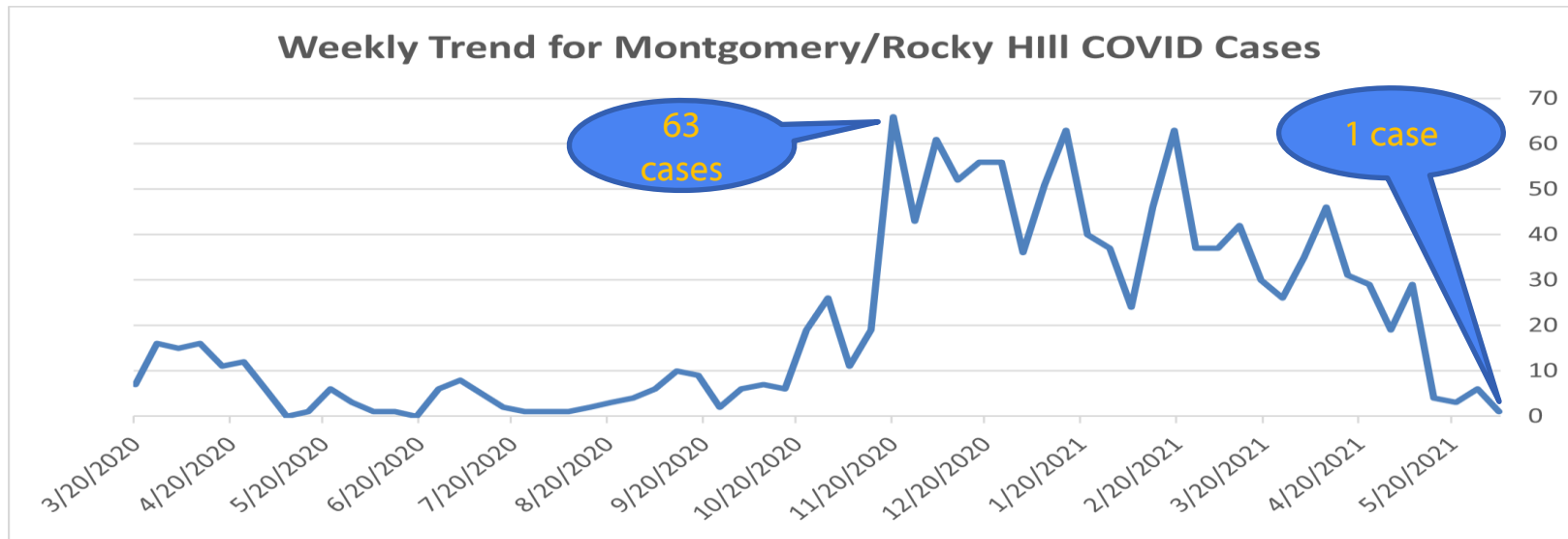Also serving the Boroughs of Hopewell, Pennington & Rocky Hill

Montgomery Twp. Department of Health

- Montgomery Township Department of Health (MTDH) is 1 of 3 municipal departments in New Jersey with national public health accreditation
  - Also, Princeton and Bloomfield
- MTDH has contracts to provide services to nearby municipalities
  - Rocky Hill, Pennington, Hopewell Borough
- Montgomery Twp. has invested in the COVID-19 Response
  - Doubled public health staffing
  - Acquired refrigeration for Moderna
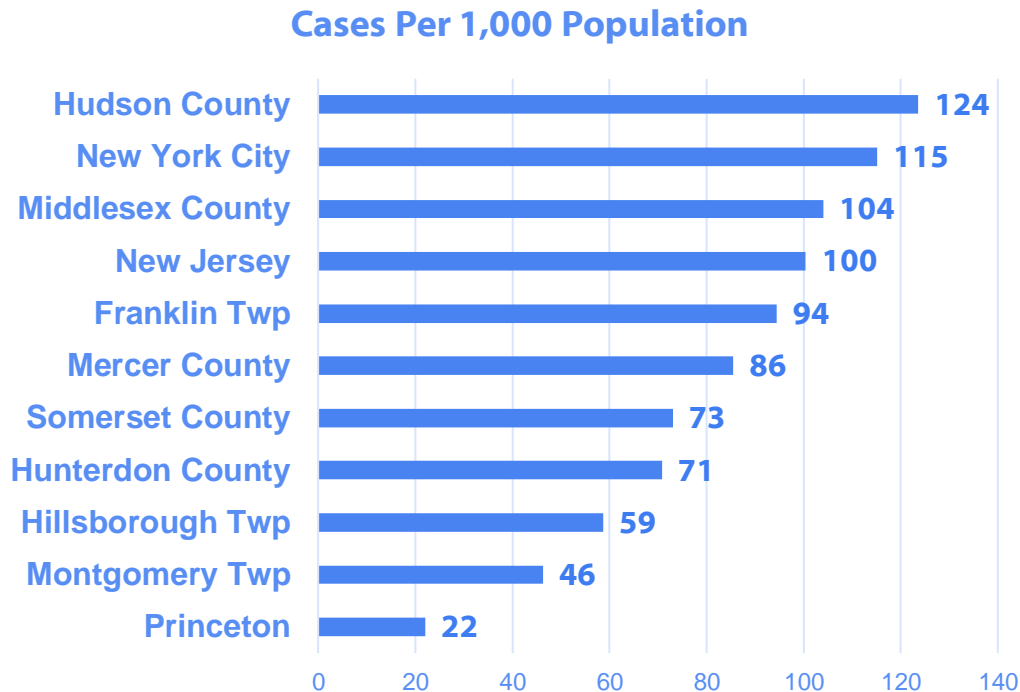 - Expense to be reimbursed by grants

COVID-19 Heroes Work Here

Public Health

Thank You Health Department Workers!

Winter Was the Most Challenging Locally

- We saw several weeks with 60+ Cases between November and February

Weekly Trend for Montgomery/Rocky Hill COVID Cases

63 cases
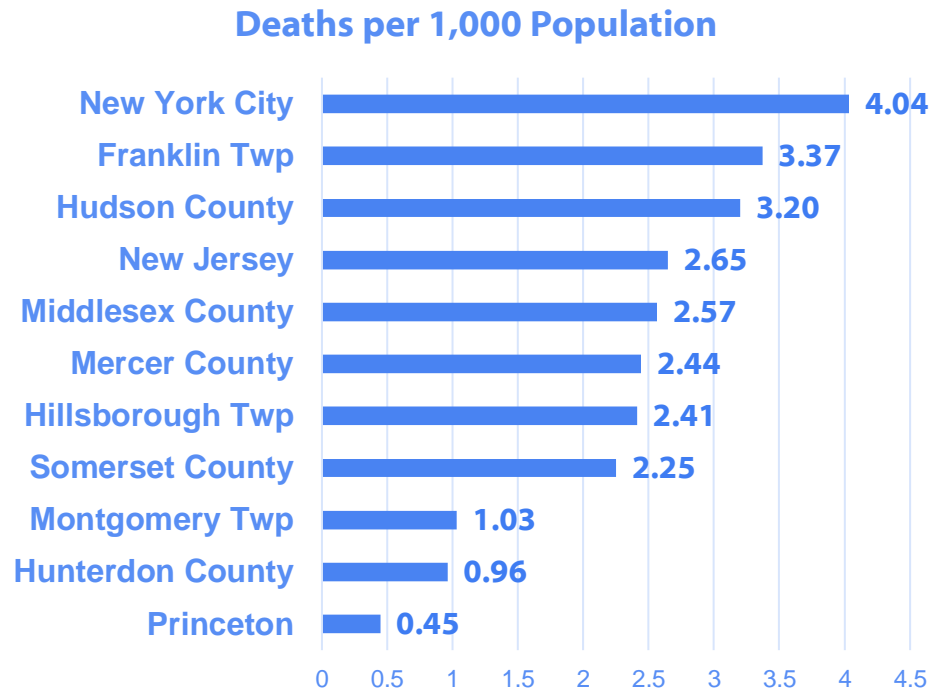
1 case

Overall, Montgomery Did Comparatively Well

- Montgomery had 46 cases per 1,000 population, much better than other nearby areas.
- We did twice as well as the state overall
- Key factors were
  - Cooperation with contact tracing and health guidelines
  - Many residents able to shift to working from home
  - Relative affluence
- Princeton did even better with 22 cases per 1,000

Cases Per 1,000 Population

County/Area	Cases Per 1,000
Hudson County	124
New York City	115
Middlesex County	104
New Jersey	100
Franklin Twp	94
Mercer County	86
Somerset County	73
Hunterdon County	71
Hillsborough Twp	59
Montgomery Twp	46
Princeton	22

State and county dashboards as of 5/15/21
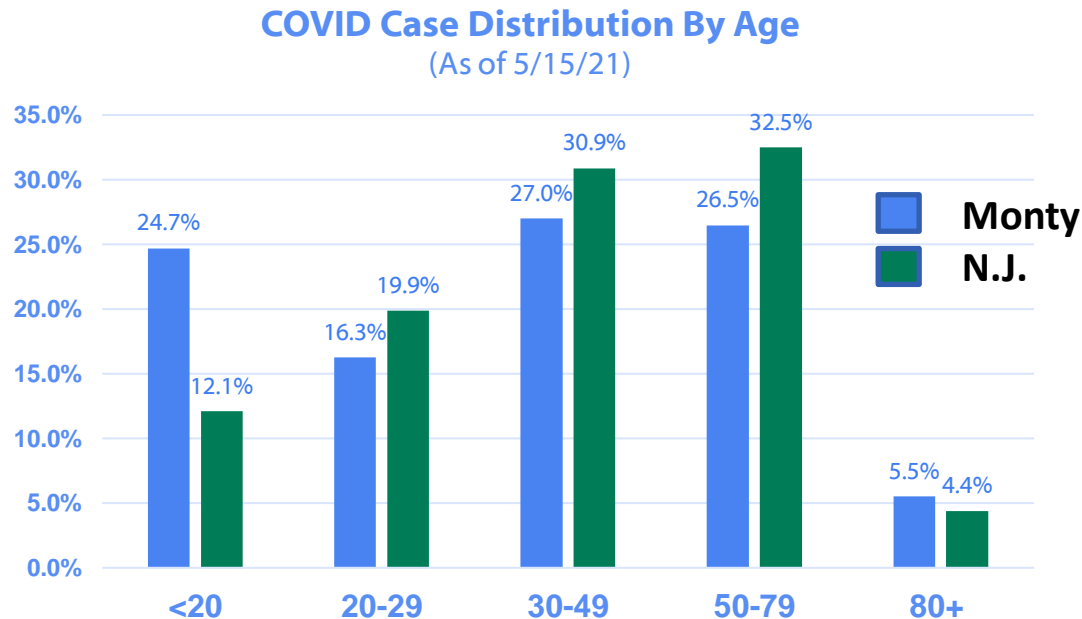
How We Doing in Montgomery, Rocky & Hill

- Sadly, Montgomery had 24 deaths and Rocky Hill had 1
- Most deaths were at the Stonebridge senior facility
  - Other towns have multiple facilities of similar type, which probably drove higher numbers of deaths per capita
- Princeton fared the best locally

Deaths per 1,000 Population

	Deaths per 1,000
New York City	4.04
Franklin Twp	3.37
Hudson County	3.20
New Jersey	2.65
Middlesex County	2.57
Mercer County	2.44
Hillsborough Twp	2.41
Somerset County	2.25
Montgomery Twp	1.03
Hunterdon County	0.96
Princeton	0.45

State and county dashboards as of 5/15/21

Montgomery Cases Skewed Young

- Montgomery had many more cases among youth compared to the state overall.
- Many of these cases came in clusters from youth sports activities
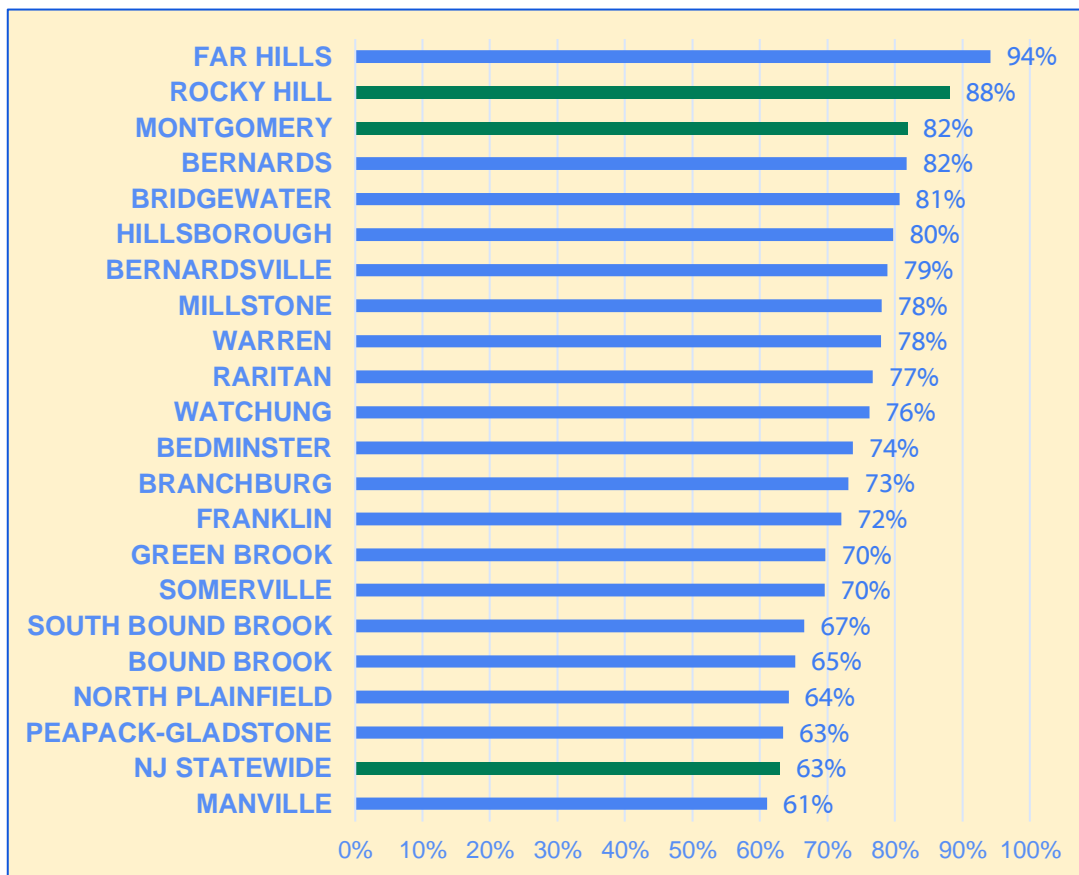- Older residents represented few cases but a majority of deaths.

COVID Case Distribution By Age
(As of 5/15/21)

	Monty	N.J.
<20	24.7%	12.1%
20-29	16.3%	19.9%
30-49	27.0%	30.9%
50-79	26.5%	32.5%
80+	5.5%	4.4%

Note: NJ's youngest age grouping does not include 18- to 19-years old.

We Are Doing Well with Vaccinations

- 82% of Montgomery adults had 1+ dose by June 1
  – 71% have completed course of vaccinations
- Rocky Hill even higher at 88%
  – 79% have completed course of vaccinations

Source: Somerset County dashboard as of 6/1/21

At Least One Dose as of 6/1/21

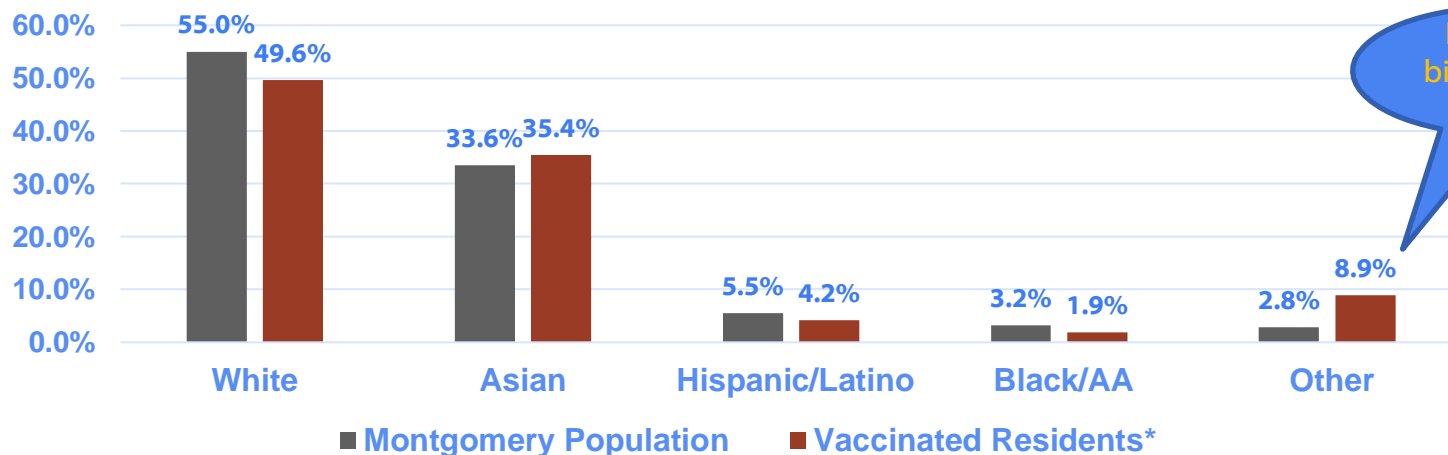| Municipality	Percent
FAR HILLS	94%
ROCKY HILL	88%
MONTGOMERY	82%
BERNARDS	82%
BRIDGEWATER	81%
HILLSBOROUGH	80%
BERNARDSVILLE	79%
MILLSTONE	78%
WARREN	78%
RARITAN	77%
WATCHUNG	76%
BEDMINSTER	74%
BRANCHBURG	73%
FRANKLIN	72%
GREEN BROOK	70%
SOMERVILLE	70%
SOUTH BOUND BROOK	67%
BOUND BROOK	65%
NORTH PLAINFIELD	64%
PEAPACK-GLADSTONE	63%
NJ STATEWIDE	63%
MANVILLE	61%

VACCINE EFFORT REACHING MOST GROUPS

- Efforts to be intentional in targeting diverse groups has succeeded.
- A key factor has been hiring a vulnerable population coordinator

Distribution of Vaccinated Montgomery Residents
(Source: Somerset County, June 4, 2021)

Includes biracial and Latinx

■ Montgomery Population   ■ Vaccinated Residents*

* Vaccinated data repercentaged to exclude 8.1% of unknown race.

We Are Not Satisfied!

- Our goal is to get close to 100% vaccination in Montgomery and Rocky Hill
  - 18% of our adults still need to receive their initial dose
  - We have only begun to vaccinate our children, with approval of Pfizer for children 12 and older
  - Younger children likely to follow in fall
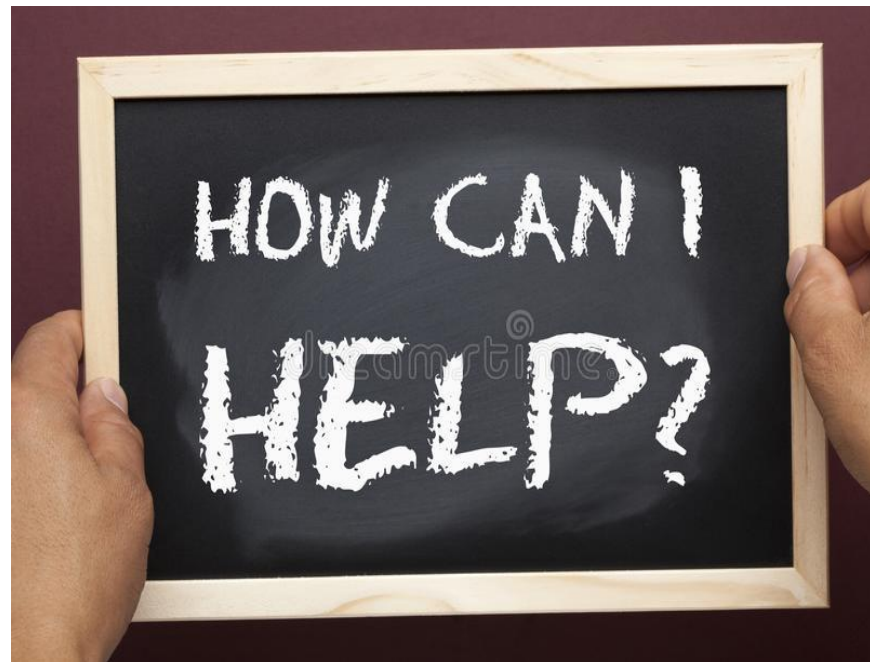- A key issue is helping "hesitant" residents to get vaccinated

How We Reach the Hesitant

- Many people are naturally hesitant to try new medical treatments
- And we are coping with disinformation about the vaccines
- The most important channels of communication are trusted people
  - Family & friends
  - Personal physicians / other health professionals
  - Faith leaders
  - Community leaders

How You Can Help as a Community Leader

- Listen for signs of hesitancy
    - I'm not sure about it
    - I haven't gotten around to it yet
- Ask supportive questions
    - What have you heard that concerns you?
    - What arguments in favor of vaccination have you considered
- Explain your own decision process
    - Wanting to see parents/grandchildren
    - Not wanting to worry you might pass the virus to a loved one
    - Wanting to get back to normal

Local Evidence Can Be Persuasive

- 82% of Montgomery adults have received a vaccine, and none have had a serious negative reaction
- Not a single Montgomery resident who has been fully vaccinated has subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 (although it happens)
- Montgomery is leading other communities in getting vaccinated, which helps everyone stay safe
- The Montgomery Health Department is offering to answer questions by phone, and is holding local clinics

Help Us Make Connections!

- We want to meet with local groups to answer questions and address concerns
- Can you invite us, either virtually or in person, to meetings of:
  - Faith communities
  - Civic organizations
  - Clubs
  - Neighborhoods
  - School groups/PTA's
  - Employee groups
- Can you host a vaccination clinic?
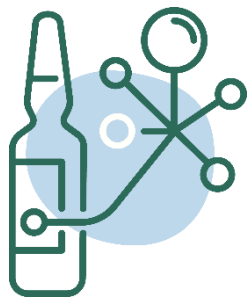 - 5-10 people is enough
  - We'll do a "pop up" clinic!

COVID-19 and Vaccine Basics:
A Sample of Available Public Presentation

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from COVID-19

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine...

- Will help create an immune response in your body against the virus

- May help keep you from getting severely ill, even if you do get COVID-19
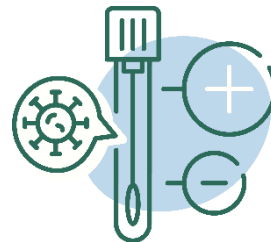
Key facts about COVID-19 vaccination

Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19

People who have already gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated

COVID-19 vaccines <u>cannot</u> give you COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 <u>viral</u> tests*

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/vaccine-myths.html

*https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html

What are the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

- COVID-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting sick from COVID-19.

- All COVID-19 vaccines available in the U.S. have been shown to be very effective.

- Wearing masks and social distancing help lower your chance of getting the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough.

- The combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

- The more people who get vaccinated, the faster we can get back to our normal lives.

Protect yourself, your family, friends, coworkers, and your community.
Get vaccinated.

- Please help us help our community

- We look forward to working with you!