



Community Reach
of Montgomery County

NEWSLETTER January 2021

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



2021



We are less than a month into the new year, but it seems like the time has been longer. Although we are a long way from being COVID free, the arrival of vaccines, and the change from 2020 to 2021 has many of us feeling like we are finally headed to a return to our new normal. All of us at Community Reach of Montgomery County wish our community a happy, healthy and safe new year!

COVID TESTING BEGINS AGAIN

The Kaseman Health Clinic will once again begin offering COVID testing on weekends at two locations in Rockville. On Sunday, February 7, drive-up (and walk-up) testing will begin at Rockville United Church, 355 Linthicum Street, Rockville. This testing will take place on the first and third Sundays each month through June from 10am - 2pm.

Testing will also soon resume on Saturdays in the parking lot of Rockville United Methodist Church, 112 West Montgomery Avenue in Rockville. Drive-through and walk-up testing will be offered every **Saturday from 10am - 2pm**. Appointments are not necessary. Stay tuned for information about the first test date at this location.

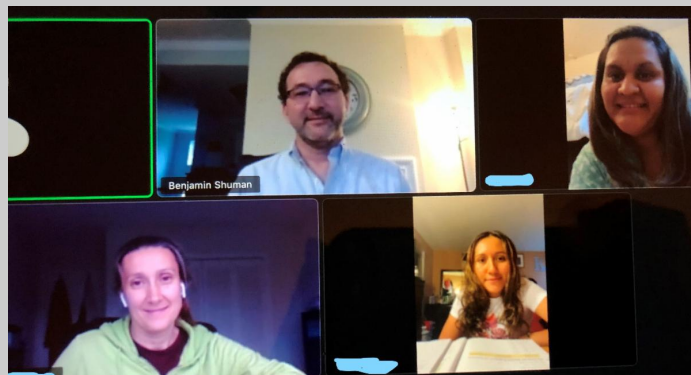
The Clinic is once again offering testing in our role as a Montgomery County Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar partner. Based on expected vaccination rates, testing is expected to be provided through June. To confirm testing during extreme cold, inclement weather, or on a holiday weekend, please check the Montgomery County [COVID website](#) before venturing out.



REGISTRATION FOR LOP SPRING CLASSES BEGIN

The spring semester of ESOL and Conversation classes offered through our Language Outreach Program (LOP) will begin in less than six weeks. Classes will remain online through the semester even if school buildings reopen before the term ends. Placement tests, required for new students to assure they are assigned to the learning level where they will receive the most benefit, will be offered online by appointment.

ESOL classes will be offered in a standard 14 week session that meets two evenings each week, or a shorter 10 week session with class times of three weeknight evenings. There will be three Conversation sessions. One session will meet each week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The other two sessions will meet one night each week - one on Monday evening and one on Wednesday evening.



To see full spring class schedules, in English, Spanish, or Portuguese, and to find the link to class registration forms, please visit the [LOP page](#) at [CMRocks.org](#).

HOW TO REGISTER FOR COVID VACCINES

Navigating when one is eligible and then how to get a COVID vaccine seems very complicated at this time. Each state in the country seems to have different priority groups and we are hearing stories of people flying to Florida to be vaccinated, or waiting outside for hours in their home state to get into a scheduled vaccination appointment. There is even a difference from county to county in Maryland about who is eligible and how one gets scheduled.

In Montgomery County, there are a few different avenues for receiving the vaccine, and the county is vaccinating people in different priority groups and tiers at the same time. A Priority Group designates the main category (i.e. healthcare workers) and tier represents the sub-category (i.e. front line hospital staff).



The County government receives a weekly allotment of vaccine and they usually do not learn what amount they will receive for the week until the Saturday or Sunday directly preceding. In addition, hospital groups and some groceries/pharmacies are receiving allotments separate from Montgomery County government. Residents may preregister for appointments at any of these places if they are eligible, but the different avenues have no way of communicating with each other.

Consider registering through every venue available to you if you fall within a priority group and tier that has opened for pre-registration. Currently, Montgomery County is vaccinating those residents who have pre-registered, are in Priority Group 1a - 1b (tier 1), and have received an emailed invitation **directly from Montgomery County**. For information about who fits into which tier priority, see [Montgomery County Vaccines](#). The County clinics are offering appointments to people 75 years and older, and those who fall into the prioritizations above that group/tier. They are also accepting pre-registrations (the "waiting list" for those who want to receive an invitation to schedule an appointment when their group is eligible) for front line essential workers, those 65 years and older, and adults with certain medical conditions. All that information is in the link above as is the link to pre-register with Montgomery County. Please also consider subscribing to the newsletters of a County Councilmember for updates. Many are sending out the most up-to-date information on a regular basis. For those who do not have the ability to pre-register online, Montgomery County will assist through the phone at **240-777-2982**.

For information about all the places where one might be eligible to preregister for the vaccine, please see the [Maryland website](#). There is the opportunity to plug in a zip code and find links to all the locations providing vaccines within a chosen number of miles.

As more vaccines and more doses become available, it is expected that medical clinics, urgent care facilities, and private practices will also be able to provide vaccinations. Reach expects that opportunity will include Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic. When that will happen is part of the great unknown.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE REACH 2021 ANNUAL GALA

Plans are underway for the Reach 2021 Annual Gala. The date of the event is

Saturday evening, April 24th. We expect this celebration will once again be virtual although there is a small possibility a very limited in-person piece will be held at Lakewood Country Club.

The Gala Committee, again led by Catherine Leggett as our Chair, will meet in the first week of February. Anyone interested in joining the committee is encouraged to email or call [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#), 301-637-0172.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Specific sponsor tiers have been created. The Reach staff is also happy to discuss the specific interests of potential sponsors and tailor an agreement that works best for both our supporters and Reach. Please contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#) for those discussions as well.

Keep up-to-date on the exciting news about the Gala as decisions are made and "performers" are chosen! Follow Reach on Facebook ([@CMRocks.org](#)), Twitter ([@CMRockville](#)), and on our website ([CMRocks.org/Events](#)).



FOOD SECURITY SURVEY/CLOTHING DRIVE

The **Montgomery County Food Council** is distributing a survey to determine the nutrition and food needs of the community. The organization wants to get an accurate picture of the current needs as they have changed due to COVID. Please consider taking the survey and sharing this information with your Montgomery County network so the organization can get the clearest picture possible to help shape the County government and nonprofit response to assuring all residents have enough to eat. It is currently available in English and Spanish, and will soon be also available in Amharic, French, and Chinese. Find the survey [here](#). All responses must be completed by **March 17, 2021**.

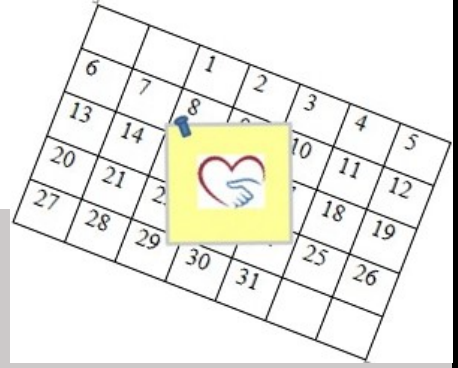


A longtime supporter of Reach, **Mt. Calvary Baptist Church** has been working hard to assist those in need during these very difficult times. Mt. Calvary has been holding a drive-up **food distribution** every **Thursday evening at 5pm** for many months and hopes to continue to do so until food insecurity steeply lessens. In addition, on **Saturday, February 6**, Mt. Calvary will offer a **Grab 'n' Go clothing distribution** from 10am - 12:30pm. Any clothing that is not claimed by those in need will be donated to Interfaith Works Clothing Center. Mt. Calvary Baptist Church is located at 608 North Horners Lane, Rockville. As the Clothing Distribution will be held outside due to social distancing requirements, the event will be postponed to the following Saturday, February 13th if weather is inclement. For additional information, please contact [Mt. Calvary Baptist Church](#).

Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, April 24, 2021
REACH ANNUAL GALA
Virtual Event

Sponsorship Opportunities Available
contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN A REACH COMMITTEE - Development, Finance, Faith Advisory, and Governance currently all meet online as standing committees. Help determine the success of Reach through your service. Short term committees also need new members. The Annual Gala committee meets for the first time on February 2nd to facilitate the April 24th Gala.

WRITER/EDITOR/INVESTIGATOR to help build out our procedures manual for a few departments and programs that are not yet completed. Interview staff to determine how tasks are accomplished and who is responsible for what. Help them explain their work in layman's terms and then put it in writing for them.

CLIENT INTAKE COORDINATORS for Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP). Are you a compassionate, detail-oriented person with a desire to help those in need? Work a four-hour shift weekly during business hours (ideally from 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm) to help us assist Rockville residents facing eviction; provide County residents with referrals for low-cost dental and other services; and much more. Training is provided. DURING COVID CLOSURES, volunteers can assist remotely by collecting information from callers and providing basic answers to questions.

INTERPRETERS at the Kaseman Health Clinic to help Spanish speaking patients clearly communicate with some English-only medical providers. May be able to serve online during COVID closures. Help us ensure that our providers and patients can communicate clearly. Confidentiality is required.

DONATIONS REQUESTED:

For Kaseman Health Clinic and Housing Program:

C-Fold Paper Towels, Paper Towel Rolls, Hand Sanitizer, Antibacterial Hand Soap, Trash Bags, Disinfecting Wipes, Scouring Powder, Window Cleaner, Facial Tissue, Bleach, Disinfectant Spray, Dishwashing Liquid, Toilet Paper

For more information about these opportunities and others, please visit our [Volunteer Page](#) or contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#) at 301-637-0172.



Thanks to Our Reach Board of Directors!

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DONATE TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY

STAY CONNECTED:



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