

Safety-Net Health Care COVID-19 Response Fact Sheet

1. Montgomery Cares Clinic Operations

The clinics that participate in Montgomery Cares provide primary and preventive care. All Montgomery Cares clinics are open and serving patients – however, consistent with state and federal guidance, most are increasingly utilizing telehealth as an infection control measure and to maintain physical distancing.

**Patients must call ahead before visiting a clinic location.
Clinics are not accepting walk-in patients.**

Clinics are adjusting their hours as the situation continues to evolve. Some clinics are accepting new patients, while others are not. Patients who call ahead will be screened to determine if a telehealth or in-person visit is most appropriate.

A list of clinics can be found at <https://www.primarycarecoalition.org/findaclinic>

2. What qualifies a patient for Montgomery Cares?

A Montgomery Cares patient must be:

- 18 years or older
- A Montgomery County resident
- Living at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Uninsured AND ineligible for health insurance, including Medicaid, Medicare, and subsidized Qualified Health Plans (QHPs)

If a patient is eligible for any form of health insurance – regardless of his or her ability to pay for that insurance – he or she cannot enroll in Montgomery Cares.

For more information visit: MontgomeryCares.org

3. Montgomery Cares Eligibility

If you are not already a Montgomery Cares patient, contact OESS for eligibility determination. OESS can also screen for other programs, including Medical Assistance, Qualified Health Plans through the Maryland Health Connect exchange, food assistance and

other services. Call into the OESS command center 240-777-1003 (phone lines are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or email OESS.MoCO@montgomerycountymd.gov

In some situations, the Montgomery Cares clinic can assist with eligibility determination.

4. Care for Kids Eligibility

Children who are enrolled in Care for Kids and whose eligibility expired or will expire in March and April, have had their enrollment extended to the end of June 2020. CFK staff are in contact with already enrolled children. OESS is still processing applications for the program through telephonic appointments and mailed in applications.

5. COVID-19 Screening and Testing for All Patients

COVID-19 testing is limited, regardless of income or insurance status. Montgomery Cares providers follow CDC guidelines in determining who is tested.

Most patients with COVID-19 can be safely managed at home and are not routinely tested. Those who are prioritized by CDC for testing include hospitalized patients, EMS and other first responders, staff and residents of congregant living facilities, and patients with pre-existing conditions whose care may be complicated and for whom a positive COVID-19 test would alter the course of care.

Private reference labs process COVID-19 tests, but they are very expensive. There is one drive-through testing facility in Montgomery County, and other testing facilities throughout the state. All require a physician order, and patients must meet criteria for testing.