

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: **Veterans Day and COVID (Update #109)**

Date: November 11, 2020

Good afternoon, Raptors. I want to give a special salute to veterans today. As our nation faces serious current challenges, I am reminded that we have overcome equally daunting ones in the past. Our veterans have played pivotal roles in many historic moments, and continue to do so in our current circumstances. On behalf of the College, I want to thank the veterans among our students, faculty, and staff for their service. We are proud to have you in our midst. My kudos go out to the [Combat2College](#) program and other veteran-focused activities that nurture community and comradery.

You may have seen that [Governor Hogan](#) reported yesterday that the state of Maryland is officially in a surge of COVID-19 infections. Several metrics are rising consistently, including seven straight days of over 1,000 new COVID-19 cases per day in Maryland. He described these circumstances as “widespread community transmission.” Family gatherings and traveling out of state are now considered to be the highest risk activities, followed by working outside of the home.

Given the College’s current remote teaching, learning, and working status, the large majority of our operations are not changed by the governor’s directions. Please keep in mind, though, that the Maryland Department of Public Health is issuing warnings about indoor gatherings with more than 25 people and advising against nonessential travel to sites with spiking metrics. The governor’s office emphasized that telework is the status that should be practiced wherever possible.

I want to join the governor in acknowledging that we all have COVID-19 fatigue and some are letting down their guard. We must all continue to practice proper health protocols and reduce spread of COVID-19 in Maryland. Our common health depends upon this.

If you need a [COVID-19](#) test, they are available through the county. Additional questions can be addressed at our upcoming Conversation with Leadership on December 10. Questions on any topic are being accepted until December 3 at ResilientMC@montgomerycollege.edu.

Stay safe.