

WJZ-TV
Baltimore, Maryland
CBS Television Licenses LLC
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT
Fourth Quarter
October 1 – December 31, 2021

Station WJZ-TV, licensed to CBS Television Licenses LLC, is responsive to the principal issues in its community of license, Baltimore, Maryland on a continuing basis. A variety of program elements, including regularly scheduled news and public affairs programming, reports on breaking news events, documentaries, specials, and public service announcements of concern to the community are included within our regular programming service. WJZ-TV's coverage of news stories, our employees' participation in community affairs, and regular interviews with community leaders have led to the determination that the issues listed are ones of importance to the Baltimore community. Our most significant programming, which dealt with current community issues during the preceding three-month period, are set forth in this report. WJZ-TV broadcasts both locally produced and network programming. Although we include only local programs herein, WJZ-TV also broadcasts several network broadcasts including FACE THE NATION, 60 MINUTES, CBS REPORTS and 48 HOURS.

PROGRAM INDEX

CONSUMER WATCH

WJZ reporters cover consumer interest topics. These reports air in the 4pm, 5pm and 6pm newscasts.

HEALTHWATCH

WJZ's reporters discuss health issues and interview experts and patients to deliver information on the latest advances in health for our 4pm, 5pm and 6pm newscasts.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Locally produced special reports, focusing on community issues, local lifestyle trends and local personality profiles. This airs in the 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm and 11pm newscasts.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH

Relevant projects launched by WJZ and community organizations to benefit area residents.

LOCAL POLITICS

WJZ News

10/13: Congressman Kweisi Mfume introduced a resolution in the House objecting to the new mail delivery slowdowns and postal rate increases. WJZ explains what he's trying to do and how this will impact your mail.

10/22: It's the talk of the town... a group of Republicans out in Western Maryland want out of our state. They've written letters to West Virginia leaders asking them to adopt their counties—calling the arrangement mutually beneficial. We sent our reporter to Washington County to talk to people about this idea.

10/23: Activists in Baltimore boarded a bus heading to Washington, D.C. this morning to rally in support of the Freedom to Vote Act. WJZ has more on why they believe this bill is so important.

12/9: The controversy continues over the back-and-forth redistricting process. Governor Hogan vetoed new maps calling them disgraceful, but both the Senate and House voted to override that veto. WJZ explains what this means moving forward.

EDUCATION

WJZ News

10/4: Parents in Anne Arundel County may need to find another way to get their kids to school tomorrow. That's because bus drivers are on strike—demanding better pay and benefits. WJZ explains, nearly 100 bus routes were canceled this morning leaving many parents scrambling.

10/5: There's controversy over a new proposed COVID-19 vaccine mandate for students in Anne Arundel County schools. It comes as 1,500 students are in quarantine after COVID outbreaks in schools. WJZ spoke with parents about the county executive's suggestion.

10/6: In Anne Arundel County, the superintendent of schools has a plan to help deal with the current bus driver shortage. He is proposing a \$5/an hour wage increase for both drivers and attendants—and as WJZ explains, he also wants a \$2,000 retention bonus for existing drivers.

10/7: A local school district is warning parents about a disturbing new trend on Tik Tok that has kids assaulting teachers and it doesn't stop there. WJZ has everything you need to know.

10/11: The Anne Arundel County school district has approved the superintendent's plan to address the ongoing bus driver shortage. WJZ reports, the county executive is expected to give final approval to the plan.

10/13: Growing concerns over violence inside Baltimore County schools. Parents and students are calling on the school board to step up and do something about it. The violence is often recorded and posted on social media and now parents say schools are failing to protect their kids. WJZ explains what school leaders say they're **g**doing to get a handle on this situation.

10/15: Baltimore County Public Schools are working to stay staffed in the face of a teacher shortage. This is impacting districts all over the country—but what's to blame? WJZ spoke to the teachers' union to find out.

10/19: There are new challenges and concerns over crippling staffing shortages at schools all over the state that are impacting students from the bus stop to the classroom. WJZ spoke to the teachers' union about their concerns and what could happen next.

10/25: Parents in Baltimore County are left speechless after a video taken inside a classroom makes the rounds on social media. It appears to show a sexual act involving two students. Woodlawn High School and the police are now investigating. WJZ spoke to parents and many say they're disturbed.

11/4: There is a desperate need for school bus drivers all over the state. That's why Anne Arundel County is hoping to bring in new hires with some extra cash. WJZ spoke with parents and bus drivers who say this is all too little, too late.

11/8: The school bus driver shortage is reaching a breaking point. Drivers in Anne Arundel and Howard Counties are taking action—pushing for better pay and benefits. WJZ explains how some of the drivers' demands are now being met.

11/12: Thanksgiving break will now begin a day before the holiday, giving Baltimore County teachers and staff an extra day to rest. The district credits the efforts made by school staff throughout the pandemic as the reason for the decision. This comes as Anne Arundel County announces three early dismissal days for mental health. WJZ has more on how local school districts are hoping to invest more into giving students and staff a much-needed break.

11/19: Parents in Howard County—you may want to start planning now. School bus drivers are fed up and are threatening to step down from behind the wheel once again. This comes after they say the school system changed plans for new incentives to keep them on the road. WJZ spoke to some of those frustrated drivers.

12/1: Students will need to keep their masks on in the classroom—but that may not be the case for long. The state Board of Education is working on new emergency regulations that will give local schools more options when it comes to face coverings. WJZ breaks down everything parents need to know.

12/7: Your student may be able to take off that mask before the end of the school year. The state school board cleared the way for local districts to make their own decisions... but this all depends on some key numbers. WJZ tells parents what you need to know.

12/13: Hoping to build positive school environments – that is the goal of three town halls hosted by Baltimore County Public Schools. But tonight, the biggest concern among school staffers was social media threats and conflicts that they say usually start

outside of school and escalate at school. WJZ has the latest on tonight's virtual town hall and the pleas from school staff to parents.

CONSUMER: HOUSING

WJZ News

10/1: A new push to help the people impacted by the EF-2 tornado in Anne Arundel County and flash flooding in Cecil County. WJZ explains, Maryland's Congressional delegation is calling on President Biden to approve the state's request for a disaster declaration so federal money can help with home and business repairs and rental assistance.

10/12: FEMA denies a request for money to help the dozens of home and business owners impacted by a tornado in Anne Arundel County. Local leaders are now calling on the governor to step in. WJZ spoke to some neighbors who are frustrated by this news and what the county executive is saying.

12/23: Just days before Christmas, over a dozen families in Annapolis were facing eviction from their homes. They're among the Marylanders at risk of homelessness due to economic hardship because of the pandemic. But in the spirit of giving, they're being given another chance. WJZ has what a judge ruled in court and what's next for these families.

CONSUMER: ECONOMY

WJZ News

10/1: The price of bacon is at the highest it's been in 40 years. The price has spiked 28% in the last year alone. Lower pork production and demand are to blame for the increase.

10/22: Filling up your gas tank keeps getting more painful. Prices are up more than 20-cents from just last month and don't expect any relief anytime soon. The prices we're dealing with are the highest we've seen since 2008 and WJZ explains what's to blame.

10/31: Fells Point is busy for Halloween night. There was concern that recent heavy rain and flooding would put a damper on this weekend—a big moneymaker for the area... but as WJZ learned, businesses are enjoying the rush of customers.

11/2: The supply chain crisis shows no signs of letting up... but the head of Baltimore's port may have a solution. There's no backlog of ships here... in fact, there were so many trucks waiting to pick up containers—traffic around the port was at a standstill this afternoon. WJZ explains how Baltimore could play a key role in ending this crisis.

11/3: Sports betting in Maryland once again hits another snag... leaving five casinos still waiting to get the green light and many sports fans outraged over the delay. WJZ explains why state officials decided to hold off.

11/9: If you're hosting Thanksgiving this year, the meal you make is going to gobble up a lot more of your cash. It could be the most expensive Thanksgiving meal ever. WJZ breaks down what you need to know and why you might want to start shopping as soon as you can.

11/9: President Biden is preparing to come to the Port of Baltimore to tout his new one trillion-dollar infrastructure bill. Some of that money will be heading to ports—hoping to ease supply chain issues. WJZ explains how the money could help all of us—especially local businesses.

11/10: We're paying more for just about everything these days... and now, all eyes are on President Biden as he tries to fix the problem and keep more cash in your wallet. It's all part of his one trillion-dollar infrastructure bill which includes 17 billion to revitalize coastal, inland and land ports. WJZ breaks down what's inside the massive bill and how it could impact you.

11/18: Big news for sports fans—you'll soon be able to place a bet on your team at a Maryland casino. The Sports Wagering Review Commission approved licenses for five casinos. WJZ reports, betting could start in as early as 30 days.

11/22: More than one million people right here in Maryland are expected to travel this week and there is some welcome news for those hitting the roads. Prices at the gas pump are slightly down. WJZ explains, that's because of a new solution from President Biden.

11/27: It's a big weekend to get that holiday shopping done and WJZ has a look at how you can support the businesses right in your community—on this Small Business Saturday.

11/27: A group of young volunteers is making sure their West Baltimore community is in tip-top shape this holiday season. WJZ shows you the work being done.

11/29: The Port of Baltimore has actually been a solution in the nation's supply chain crisis. And soon, the port will have some new help thanks to the Howard Street Tunnel expansion project that's now officially underway. WJZ explains what it will mean for our city.

12/7: Good news for sports fans—sports betting is expected to become a reality in just days. WJZ reports, MGM National Harbor will take its first bet on Thursday, one day before Horseshoe and Live casinos. The plan is to have sports betting go live at noon that day.

12/9: It's the moment many sports fans have been waiting for—sports betting is officially underway today in Maryland. The first bets were placed at MGM National Harbor this afternoon. WJZ gives you a look inside and explains what this all means for the state.

12/27: This holiday season, online sales hit a record 207-billion dollars making it one of the most successful shopping seasons to date. WJZ reports, but with those sales, is also an expected record number of returns that could end up in landfills.

12/30: 2022 could mean more money in your pocket. Maryland is among a handful of states raising the minimum wage in the new year. Starting Saturday, the minimum pay will increase from \$11.75 an hour to \$12.50.

CONSUMER: JOBS

WJZ News

12/10: If you work for the University System of Maryland—you can expect a pay bump in the new year. WJZ reports, the Board of Regents just approved a 15-dollar minimum wage for all permanent workers.

12/15: If you plan on applying for a new job in Baltimore City any time soon, you'll no longer need to take a drug or alcohol test. WJZ reports, the city Board of Estimates approved the policy change, removing the pre-employment screening for prospective employees in non-safety sensitive positions.

ARTS & CULTURE

WJZ News

10/3: The Parade of Latino Nations was held today in Highlandtown... and where it ended in Patterson Park, there was a festival. WJZ was there and shows you how the fun continued with Fiesta Baltimore.

10/9: Maryland is now home to one of the few Koreatowns in the country. It's set in Howard County just outside of Ellicott City. A traditional Korean structure has been built to represent the new town and WJZ got a look at the opening ceremony.

10/14: For the first time since the start of the pandemic, Morgan State University's choir was able to perform together. WJZ brings you the celebration and how they're looking forward to a big gig coming up.

11/11: It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The magic is coming back to 34th Street in Hampden... after the city urged people to stay away last year because of the pandemic. Now, neighbors are hoping to make up for it and they're going all out this year! WJZ spoke with neighbors already putting lights up.

12/2: Baltimore is officially ready for the holiday season! The Washington Monument is now decked out in thousands of lights. The annual tradition returned for its 50th year. WJZ was there for all the excitement.

Public Affairs Outreach

10/1: Kristy Breslin was the in-person emcee for Maryland State Police Road Dawg Rumble

10/7: Kristy Breslin was the in-person emcee for Women's Giving Circle

10/7: Denise Koch hosted the Maryland Department of Education's MPT Teacher of the Year Award TV Special

10/13: Denise Koch was the in-person emcee for Towson University's Young Women in Leadership event

10/20-11/10: Denise Koch, Nicole Baker, Linh Bui, Meg McNamara and Chelsea Ingram participated in a mammogram PSA for LifeBridge Health's annual Mammoth

10/21: Kristy Breslin was the in-person emcee for Harford County government's Harford's Most Beautiful Person recognizing outstanding volunteers

10/23: Kristy Breslin hosted Harford County Center's Ghoul and Oyster Roast

10/23: Denise Koch had a live virtual appearance for the University of Maryland's Founders Week Gala

10/24: Nicole Baker was the in-person emcee for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Baltimore event

11/6: Kristy Breslin was the gala emcee for the Harford County Public Library Foundation

11/9: Nicole Baker did an interview via Zoom for Sandymount Elementary in Finksburg for their elementary school news reporter interview

11/19: Vic Carter was the in-person emcee for the Baltimore Police Department's Awards Ceremony Gala

12/4: Denise Koch was the in-person host for The Corner Team's volunteer celebration event. The Corner Team teaches conflict resolution and life skills to Baltimore's youth.

12/5: Linh Bui and Tim Williams participated in the Baltimore mayor's Christmas parade

12/5: Kristy Breslin participated in the Bel Air Christmas parade celebration

COMMUNITY

WJZ News

10/1: There's a new plan from the USPS that could mean it'll take your mail even longer to get to you. WJZ explains the plan—and the price increases for sending holiday packages.

10/2: Hundreds of volunteers turned out today for the Civic Works annual Ricky Myers Day of Service—cleaning up different neighborhoods and community gardens. WJZ stopped by one of their locations and found a hardworking group of young women.

11/1: It's been 48 hours since City Dock in Annapolis was underwater because of coastal flooding... forcing many businesses to close. The first day of the work week has them cleaning up what they can salvage. WJZ reports from the state capital.

11/1: The temperatures are dropping outside, it's almost time to break out that winter gear. One local business owner wants to make sure everyone can stay warm with a hand-knitted hat. WJZ is at Lovely Yarns in Hampden with how this is a real team effort.

11/6: Baltimore City has a new park. Rash Field Park, located on the south side of the Inner Harbor, is now open for everyone to enjoy. WJZ takes you there and shows you how they're breaking it in, with some special weekend events.

11/13: 350 people in Baltimore City won't have to worry about where their turkey is coming from this Thanksgiving—thanks to the charitable efforts of GBMC and the Mr. Mack Lewis Foundation. As WJZ reports, some are using their good fortune to help others.

11/14: Every major city has its challenges. Baltimore refuses to hide from their own. Instead, they're addressing them head-on by unifying state and local leaders to create a stronger city for us all tomorrow. WJZ shows you it all starts inside a 43-year-old Baptist church in Northwest Baltimore.

11/20: As the cost of food continues to rise, organizations that help provide something to eat to people that might need a little extra help—are becoming more and more important. WJZ has the story of one organization in Edgewood that has been helping to feed its community for nearly 30 years.

11/24: It's a road many of us use every day—and now Baltimore City officials want you to slow down on the Jones Falls Expressway. They just approved new speed cameras to cut down on dangerous driving. WJZ explains the impact these cameras could have.

12/31: It's New Year's Eve—so have you picked out your resolutions yet? WJZ visits with some of our memorable local newsmakers to find out their hopes and dreams in the new year.

12/31: WJZ was live at New Year's Eve celebration in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood—which featured live music, dancing and food.

HEALTH

WJZ News

10/3: A potential major step forward in the fight against COVID-19. A pharmaceutical company has developed a pill to treat the virus. WJZ speaks with a local doctor about the encouraging results of studies so far.

10/7: A big step toward ending the pandemic... Pfizer has applied for emergency use authorization for its vaccine for kids as young as 5. While new COVID-19 cases are going down nationwide, the CDC says more than 600 children have died from the virus. WJZ reports, CBS News has learned the CDC's advisory committee is set to meet the week of November 1st and that means young children may be able to get their first Pfizer vaccine dose as early as the first week of November.

10/7: Using COVID-19... to commit fraud. Investigators with Homeland Security in Baltimore have seized hundreds of counterfeit masks, fake COVID treatments and even fraudulent websites claiming to sell vaccines. Now, they're dealing with a spike in fake vaccination cards being shipped to Baltimore. WJZ met with investigators to learn more about this scam.

10/9: The coronavirus is still surging in Maryland... with 20 more deaths and another 1,200 new cases reported in the last day. This comes as more Marylanders are choosing to get vaccinated. WJZ has an update on the state's fight against COVID-19.

10/12: Halloween is right around the corner—and for parents, COVID is once again a concern... so is it safe to let your kids go trick-or-treating? WJZ tells you why doctors are giving the green light, as long as you follow a few rules.

10/15: Starting Monday, all of Baltimore City's 14,000 employees will have to show proof of vaccination or face weekly testing. Baltimore's police union is pushing back, telling its officers not to disclose their vaccination status—to delay the start of this mandate. WJZ explains why the police union may not be alone.

10/16: Preventing a “twindemic”—COVID is still here and so is flu season and there is a new effort to prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed and as WJZ reports, there is an urgent push for people to get vaccinated against both COVID and the flu.

10/18: There’s growing tension over vaccine mandates in the workplace. Some people are so upset, they spent the afternoon protesting. Nearly 100 people gathered outside Northrup Grumman in Hanover—they want to make sure their voices are heard, as the deadline looms for all federal workers and contractors to get the shots. WJZ spoke to some of those protesters about the message they’re hoping to send.

10/20: The FDA is closer to giving the green light for kids 5 to 11 to get the COVID-19 vaccine and the White House is getting ready. The plan is to give the vaccines in kid-friendly spaces... so what’s being done here in Maryland? WJZ spoke with local health officials about the state’s plan to get kids to roll up their sleeves.

10/21: Halloween is right around the corner and before you know it—the holidays will be here. Plenty of families are getting travel plans ready. But the big question is—how do you keep kids safe who are still unvaccinated? WJZ spoke with a local doctor to get answers.

10/26: The FDA gives the green light for kids as young as five to get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Those kids could start getting the shots as early as next week. WJZ spoke to local doctors and parents about what comes next.

10/27: Masks in schools have been a hot topic for months now and in December, the state school board will reconsider the universal mask mandate—not only that, it will also look at current quarantine policies. WJZ has everything parents need to know.

11/1: Children as young as 5 could soon start getting their COVID-19 vaccines as soon as Wednesday, but only if the CDC gives approval. While some parents are getting ready to vaccinate their children, others are still hesitant. WJZ spoke with parents on how they’re feeling, and why doctors say this is a critical step in controlling the pandemic.

11/3: Children ages 5 and up can now get their COVID-19 vaccine—while some parents are rushing to get their children vaccinated, many are still hesitant. WJZ wanted to hit on some of your top questions about this vaccine for kids—and has those answers.

11/18: Maryland reaches a major milestone in the fight against COVID-19 – more than nine million vaccines have been administered in the state. This comes as the FDA is expected to make a decision on opening up booster shot eligibility to all those who have already been fully vaccinated. WJZ explains what’s next for Maryland.

11/20: More than a thousand new cases of COVID-19 reported in Maryland. Hospitalizations, deaths and the positivity rate are also on the rise. WJZ reports, even more Marylanders can now get boosters, as the push to get people vaccinated continues.

11/22: A groundbreaking end to a two-decades long medical rule could save thousands of lives here in Maryland and beyond. The University of Maryland Medical System will no longer consider race in determining the kidney health of patients. That means thousands of people living with kidney disease will now have access to special treatments and transplants for the very first time. WJZ spoke with hospital leaders and a patient who say it’s a step forward in health equity.

11/24: Thanksgiving can be stressful under normal circumstances, but it may be more so this year. After months of social distancing, bigger in-person gatherings are back this year. WJZ explains – the added stress centers around rising numbers in the pandemic.

11/25: On this Thanksgiving, doctors want you to know we are not out of the woods in the pandemic—as Baltimore sees a rise in cases among children—along with a spike in the transmission rate. WJZ breaks down the risks health officials are flagging and what families are doing to keep themselves safe.

11/29: Prepare, but don’t panic. That’s the message from top health officials about the new Omicron variant of COVID-19. It is potentially more contagious than previous strains, but its severity is still unclear. WJZ’s investigator breaks down what you need to know and if we could see more cases coming our way.

11/30: There are still a lot of questions surrounding the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Scientists want to know how effective our current vaccines are at fighting it—something we likely won’t know for at least two weeks. WJZ has everything you need to know.

12/1: The first case of the omicron variant of COVID-19 is found in California. WJZ reports, now Maryland is getting ready to deal with the variant.

12/3: We now know there are at least three cases of the Omicron variant in Maryland. Health officials are urging people not to panic, though. WJZ has team coverage with details on those first three cases and what you need to know to stay safe.

12/5: Since the discovery of the new Omicron variant in Maryland, health officials have been hoping to get more of a handle on the spread of COVID-19. WJZ explains, the state Department of Health has opened its first of a series of vaccination and testing clinics in Baltimore.

12/6: COVID is really taking a toll on those who care for all of us. Healthcare workers are more burnt out than ever, creating a new demand for solutions. WJZ explains how our local nursing schools are doing just that.

12/9: Work continues across the state to slow the spread of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant. The good news is, we're more prepared than we were in March of last year and researchers have been hard at work trying to figure out ways to stop the spread—they've even turned to chewing gum. WJZ tells you how an everyday item may soon be a tool in ending this pandemic.

12/12: The Omicron variant is reported in 27 states including Maryland, but Delta is still the dominant strain. New cases are up and hospitalizations are still rising. WJZ explains what health officials are saying as they closely watch the surge.

12/14: Another grim milestone in our coronavirus fight. Johns Hopkins reports more than 800,000 people nationwide have now died from the virus. It comes as hospitalizations in Maryland are surging. WJZ has the message from the governor and a local doctor on what you can do to prepare and stay safe.

12/15: The state health department says it is working around the clock to deal with the aftermath of a cyber attack that's impacting how they track COVID. The latest wave of cases now threatens holiday plans for the second year in a row. WJZ explains, even if you want to get a COVID test before any plans next week, you may have some trouble finding one.

12/18: Between the pandemic and the holiday season, there's currently a dire need for blood donations. WJZ explains just how bad the need is and what you can do to help.

12/20: As COVID cases are surging, schools are caught in the middle—trying to keep kids in the classroom while keeping them safe. Here in Maryland, local districts are taking some very different approaches. WJZ tells you what parents need to know about some of the changes being made.

12/21: More than 6,200 COVID cases are reported in the last 24 hours in Maryland—that's the highest number our state has seen since the start of the pandemic. 1 in every 1,000 Marylanders now has COVID. WJZ reports on the new actions Governor Hogan is taking to prepare for what's to come.

12/22: Health officials now warn there could be a tsunami of new COVID cases from the Omicron variant that could overwhelm our hospitals. The strain has already been found in every state, just over three weeks since the first case was reported in the U.S. Now, parents are wondering if schools will be forced to close. WJZ spoke to students and teachers along with officials to hear how they're gearing up for this winter surge.

12/24: Just like last year, COVID cases are surging, and they are a concern for the faithful... some churches were forced to cancel or scale back Christmas Eve services. WJZ has how churches in the area are being affected for the second year in a row.

12/27: As COVID cases rise, Baltimore County brings back its indoor mask mandate. The county executive also declared a local state of emergency to shore up the county's coronavirus response money. WJZ has what you need to know and how local business owners are feeling about the mandate being back in place.

12/28: As Omicron continues to spread, a troubling trend has the concern of health experts. A rise in pediatric hospitalizations shows this virus is taking a toll on children. WJZ spoke with a doctor at Johns Hopkins about what you can do to keep your family safe.

12/28: The CDC recently updated its guidance on quarantining—changing the time you'd need to isolate if you test positive or are exposed to COVID. Isolation was shortened from 10 days to 5 days. WJZ takes your questions to a local doctor for answers.

12/29: With New Year's just days away, and the Omicron variant dominating transmission, tests seem to be even harder to get every single day. WJZ was at an at-home test giveaway where tests were gone in just minutes.

12/29: Hospitalizations reach a new record—with over 2,000 patients battling COVID-19. WJZ reports, some of our local hospitals are now calling on Governor Hogan to reinstate a limited public health emergency.

12/30: As Maryland's COVID numbers continue to rise, the list of counties where you need to mask up again is getting longer. The renewed mandates are hoping to stop the spread. WJZ has everything you need to know when you head out the door.