



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Monday, March 16, 2020

Number of confirmed cases in Prince George's County - 10

Number of confirmed cases in Maryland - 37

(Includes presumptive cases. Figures may decrease if a presumptive case is negative.)

Governor Issues New Orders

Today, the Governor has issued new, more stringent orders regarding gatherings and business establishments. Restaurants, bars, gyms, and movie theaters are closed to the public as of 5 p.m. today, except for pickup and delivery of food. Gatherings of any kind of more than 50 people are also banned.

City Government is Open; Buildings are Closed to Public

All City facilities are now closed to the public. City services will continue with some modifications for social distancing.

Emergency Operations Center – Partial activation (7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F) starting March 16.

In keeping with Governor Hogan's orders, and the most current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the City of Bowie has made the following changes to operations and events:

STATUS OF CITY OF BOWIE PUBLIC FACILITIES		
City Hall	Offices are closed to the public as of 3/16 at 5 p.m.	Please call a specific office if you have an urgent need to conduct business. Remember you can pay bills & conduct some city business online or by telephone.
Senior Center	Closed	Homebound meals and essential transportation for doctor's appointments continue.
City Gymnasium	Closed 3/16-3/27	Will follow PGCPS schools
Ice Arena	Closed 3/16-3/27	Will follow PGCPS schools
Kenhill Center	Closed to the public as of 3/16 at 5 p.m.	No in-person counseling services will be provided by Bowie Youth & Family Services. Arrangements are being made for tele-therapy. Call 301-809-3033 for assistance.
Kenhill Center - Bowie TV Studio	Closed 3/16-4/3	Closed to producers & public
Historic Properties	Closed 3/16-3/27	Will follow PGCPS schools. Includes City museums, Radio & TV Museum and Genealogy Library.
City Parks	Open	Games & practices on ballfields are canceled.

Playhouse	Closed	
Police Department	No public access	See note below
Meeting Rooms	Canceled through 3/31	Meeting rooms at City Hall & the Kenhill Center are closed.
Trash and other Public Works collections	Continuing as scheduled	
SPECIAL INFORMATION		
Lunches for School Children		
Grab & Go lunches are being distributed to Prince George's School System students weekdays at Benjamin Tasker Middle School and several other schools, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.		
Senior Center Transportation		
Non-essential trips are canceled. Transportation continues for essential medical appointments. Call the Senior Center at 301-809-2300 for more information.		
Senior Meals Nutrition Program		
Homebound meals will continue to be delivered.		
Bowie Police Department		
The door leading to the Police Department lobby is locked and the lobby is closed to the public. Visitors are still welcome to enter the small vestibule area just inside the front door. Communications Center staff will be happy to assist you there utilizing the intercom system. Or, call 240-544-5700 for assistance. Speed cameras bills may be paid online or by calling the Finance Department.		
Those wishing to make a police report in a non-emergency case can now do so by calling 240-544-5700. In most cases, the Police will not be responding in person to take non-emergency reports, unless there is a pressing need to do so.		
City Council Meetings Closed to the Public (in-person)		
The public may not attend Council meetings. Those wishing to submit testimony for public hearings or comments for the Citizen Participation portion of an upcoming Council meeting can send a text message (240-335-3282) or email written or video testimony/comments to cityclerk@cityofbowie.org . Or mail the comments to City Hall. For assistance, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029.		
Bowie Pantry & Emergency Aid Fund		
The Pantry is open, but w/some changes in operations. Visit the Pantry website for details at www.bowiefoodpantry.org .		
City Rental Inspections Canceled		
Rental inspections conducted by the Code Compliance Office are canceled until 3/31.		
Utilities		
Per the Governor's order, public utilities are prohibited from charging late fees or shutting off service during this emergency.		
EVENTS & MEETINGS		
City Council Meetings	Closed to the public	Residents can view meetings on the web or on the government channel. See note above about testimony and comments.
City Committee Meetings	Canceled through 3/31	Will re-evaluate alternatives for April and beyond.
State of the City speech (3/18)	Canceled	

Job Fair (3/21)	3/21 event canceled	Working to replace event with an online job fair.
Green Bowie Expo (4/13)	Canceled	
Bowie Health Fair (4/25)	Canceled	
Other events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, in light of the Governor's recent orders and depending on the spread of the virus.		
GUIDANCE		
Follow CDC recommendations about hand washing hygiene, social distancing, and what to do if you suspect you may have COVID-19 (www.cdc.gov)		
Consider using delivery or curbside pickup services for groceries and prescriptions		
Prince George's County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline number: 301-883-6627		
Maryland Department of Health Hotline number: 410-767-6871		
The State of Maryland has issued the following FAQ documents		
Testing - https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/coronavirus_testing_FAQ.pdf		
For Older Adults - https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/FAQ_covid19_older_adults.pdf		
More information is available on the City's coronavirus page at www.cityofbowie.org/corona .		