



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Number of confirmed cases in Prince George's County - 14

Number of confirmed cases in Maryland - 57

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

City of Bowie Declares Public Health Emergency

Today Mayor Timothy Adams signed a Declaration of Public Health Emergency. The City Council approved this declaration so that it may take additional steps to address the pandemic if needed and to make sure that the City is in a position to seek all emergency reimbursements that it may be eligible to receive.

Governor's Press Conference Today

Governor Hogan had a press conference this morning. He encourages all Marylanders to avoid unnecessary travel. The state is reducing transportation services (MTA, MARC, etc.). He reiterated the importance of social distancing and staying home as much as possible. He also encouraged people not to panic buy or hoard supplies, but instead share supplies with neighbors. The April election is postponed to June 2 and the Preakness is postponed to September.

On March 16 he announced restaurants, bars, gyms, and movie theaters would close, except for pickup and delivery of food. Gatherings of any kind of more than 50 people are also banned.

Warning

Beware of scams and criminals. The Police have had a report that someone approached a resident's door claiming to be from the city and saying they needed to enter the home to inspect for coronavirus. **The city will absolutely not be knocking on doors inspecting for coronavirus or anything else. Do not let anyone in your home unless you know them or have arranged for them to be there. This same individual is suspected in an incident in Old Town Bowie.** The Police will be posting information about this incident at www.cityofbowie.org/police later today.

City Government is Open; Buildings are Closed to Public

Given federal and state mandates and guidance all City facilities are now closed to the public. City services will continue with some modifications for social distancing. **City government is instituting alternate work schedules and teleworking for employees wherever possible.**

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

STATUS OF CITY OF BOWIE PUBLIC FACILITIES

City Hall

Offices are closed to the public.

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	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; [list of schools at www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org).

Beginning Tuesday, March 17, any student, with or without a parent/guardian, may go to any one of these sites to pick up both meals and a snack between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Adults may not pick up meals for children.

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. (Note: website url has been corrected)

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. The Bowie Water & Sewer System instituted this policy more than a week ago. See information regarding other utilities below.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

City Council Meetings

Closed to the public

Residents can view City Council meetings on the web at (www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings) 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.

All city events are canceled for the remainder of March.

There is also the potential that all events will be canceled in April as well, depending on the state of the current health emergency.

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 curb side 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.

MORE RESOURCES / INFORMATION

BGE

Suspending service disconnection and waiving late payment fees through May 1.

Conduct business 24/7 using www.bge.com

Customer Care team available by phone 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, to help with business that can't be completed online.

Report:

- Electric outages and emergencies, 1-877-778-2222
- Gas odors and emergencies, 1-877-778-7798
- Payment and credit issues, 1-800-685-0123

Hearing and speech impaired customers should call 1-800-735-2258

City of Bowie Water & Sewer System

Shutoffs are suspended and no late fees are being assessed. For more information, call 301-809-3016.

WSSC

Suspending all water shutoffs and waiving late fees.

Information: 301-206-4001 or 1-800-828-6439

Washington Gas

Temporarily suspending disconnections and waiving late fees.

Will continue to respond to emergency leaks 24/7.

Information: 844-927-4427 or www.washingtongas.com

Maryland Health Connection

Uninsured Maryland residents may enroll in a health plan through April 15, 2020. Coverage begins April 1, 2020, regardless of enrollment date. Visit www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov, select "Coronavirus Special Enrollment Period".

Information: 855-642-8571, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., weekdays.

Metro

To protect employees and customers, Metro reduced service began March 16, 2020. If you are not feeling well, please don't take public transportation. Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess will all continue to operate with reduced service, during normal hours. Metro emphasizes that customers must not use MetroAccess to travel to healthcare appointments if they are showing signs of illness.

Information: www.wmata.com