



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Friday, March 20, 2020

Number of confirmed cases in Prince George's County - 31

Number of confirmed cases in Maryland - 149

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

Latest Actions by Governor Hogan

On March 19, Governor Larry Hogan announced a series of new orders regarding the pandemic. These orders are more strict and far reaching than what had been issued previously, but they are absolutely necessary to slow the spread of the disease. While those who are 60+ and those with compromised immune systems are most vulnerable, people of all ages are contracting the disease. Our very best defense against the spread of COVID-19 is to stay home as much as possible to limit exposure to others and to prevent those with mild cases or without symptoms from unwittingly spreading it to others.

We're all in this together. It is imperative that you do your part and limit your contact with others whenever possible.

City of Bowie Actions this Week

- City Council Adopts Public Health Emergency Declaration
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated and operating M-F, 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- EOC personnel are participating in federal, state and county conference calls related to all aspects of response to the pandemic.
- City Facilities are closed to the public, but the government is operating and residents can call, email, or submit service requests for assistance.
- The City Manager ordered teleworking, alternate work schedules, and social distancing wherever possible to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.
- Key services such as public safety, trash collection, water and sewer services are fully functioning with some modifications and extra precautions to help prevent the potential spread of the disease.
- Daily updates on COVID-19 shared with the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help for Small Businesses

Bowie businesses may be eligible for federal assistance because Prince George's County Maryland is covered under a COVID-19 disaster declaration made by the District of Columbia. Details and application: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/Index>.

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; Details at www.pgcps.org.

Need Healthcare? Sign up for 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.

Park Usage

City parks are open for all to enjoy. However, please understand that playground equipment, picnic areas, and fitness equipment are not being sanitized. Use at your own risk and do not participate or allow your children to participate in pickup games or group play involving more than 10 people (per Governor’s order). Park Rangers are still working and monitoring activities in our parks.

Senior Center Transportation

Non-essential trips are canceled. Transportation continues for essential medical appointments and to ensure that seniors have the essential supplies and groceries that they need. Please call the Senior Center at 301-809-2300 for more information about the type of help that can be provided to those in need.

Senior Meals Nutrition Program

Homebound meals will continue to be delivered to those registered for program. Seniors not currently participating in the program may be eligible to receive seven frozen meal packs delivered to their homes weekly. Contact Prince George’s County Department of Aging – Senior Nutrition Program for assistance at 301-265-8475.

Bowie Police Department

In-person access to the Bowie Police Department is restricted. Please call 240-544-5700 for assistance or use the intercom in the small vestibule area at the entrance to the Department. Speed camera citations may be paid online or by calling 301-809-3016. Late fees are waived for the bills.

Metro

Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess are operating on reduced schedules. Information: www.wmata.com

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.

Utilities

The City of Bowie Water System and other utilities in the region have suspended late fees and shutoffs during this emergency. Contact your provider or visit their websites for details.

City Council Meetings Closed to the Public (in-person)

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.

Helping Families Cope With the Pandemic

Bowie Youth & Family Services has published a list of resources to help families cope with the pandemic. Find the link on the resources tab at www.cityofbowie.org/corona.

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	Arrangements are being made to conduct some meetings remotely in April and beyond.

All city events are canceled for the remainder of March.

April events are also canceled per the Governor’s prohibition on gatherings of more than 10 individuals.

GUIDANCE

When you have food delivered or purchase carryout from a Bowie restaurant, you are helping to support a local business that employ people in our community.

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.

STATUS OF CITY OF BOWIE PUBLIC FACILITIES

City Hall	City offices are closed to the public. Comcast office is also closed. Call 1-800-934-6489 for assistance.	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. Water bills can also be dropped off in the slot next to the front door at City Hall.
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. Playgrounds, picnic areas & fitness equipment are not being sanitized. Use at your own risk.
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	