



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Number of confirmed cases in Prince George's County – 403

Number of confirmed cases in Maryland – 1985

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

Staying at Home is Key to Slowing the Spread of COVID-19

City staff continue to coordinate with county, state and federal officials about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Operations team participates in daily conference calls with state officials and emergency managers throughout the state and each City department participates in a daily COVID-19 coordination call to make sure that local needs are being addressed. Today, they also participated in a White House conference call for state and local officials. Among the participants in that call were Dr. Anthony Fauci from the National Institute for Infectious Diseases at NIH.

Dr. Fauci stated that 39 states have instituted some form of stay at home order. He encouraged officials at all levels to keep up the efforts to promote and enforce social distancing because it will help to modify the curve of the outbreak and the hopefully the number of cases of fatalities that are currently being projected. He stressed that decisive and deliberate actions now to adhere to the physical separation guideless can make a difference in how long this emergency lasts and how severe it is.

For this reason, the Maryland State Police and other law enforcement agencies in the State of Maryland will work to enforce Governor Hogan's Stay at Home directive and other related orders.

Below are links to several important documents related to the orders:

- **March 30 Governor's Directive**
<https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/03/30/as-covid-19-crisis-escalates-in-capital-region-governor-hogan-issues-stay-at-home-order-effective-tonight/>
- **Interpretive Guidance re: Governor's March 30 Directive**
<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/OLC-Interpretive-Guidance-COVID19-08.pdf>
- **MD Department of Natural Resources FAQ about Stay at Home Order**
<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2020/03/31/frequently-asked-questions-about-governor-hogans-stay-at-home-order/>

- **Maryland State Police Statement on Enforcement of Stay at Home Order (3/31)** <https://news.maryland.gov/msp/2020/03/31/state-police-enforcement-of-governors-executive-orders-continues/>
- **Bowie Police Department Statement (3/31)** <https://www.cityofbowie.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2362>

Resources

Around the first of each month, the City publishes the Monthly News Flash, which usually contains information about City programs and initiatives and upcoming events. Since all of the April events have been canceled and operations have been scaled back because of the health emergency, we thought it would be helpful for this month's issue to include a summary of the COVID-19 information that has appeared in the daily updates. You will also find some other information about the importance of completing the US Census and announcing the annual City Budget process that will soon be underway. Please find the **April issue of the Bowie News Flash** attached to this document.

STATUS OF CITY GOVERNMENT		
Open with limited operations		
City operations that require employees to be at work have been scaled back to essential services. Some examples of essential functions include trash and recycling collection, police services, senior services, and managing the Water Plant and the Sewer Plant. Employees will also respond to emergencies as needed.		
Many employees are teleworking. They will continue to complete assignments and respond to emails they receive and to voicemails left on their phones.		
STATUS OF CITY OF BOWIE PUBLIC FACILITIES		
City Hall	City offices are closed to the public.	In office staffing will be limited. Call 301-262-6200 if you have an urgent need to conduct business.
Senior Center, Ice Arena, City Gym, City Museums, Kenhill Center, Playhouse	Closed to the public	Senior Center staff will continue to support seniors by telephone and email.
City Parks	All parks are open	Playgrounds, ballfields, courts, fitness equipment, and picnic areas at these parks are closed to public.
Trash and recycling	Continuing w/modifications	Trash must be in containers or closed bags. Recycling must be in bins or carts. No loose trash or recycling. No large items, will be collected with trash.
Special pickups	Canceled	
Yard Waste Collection	Continuing – no changes	

Bowie News Flash

April 2020

COVID-19 News

Stay at Home Order

A “Stay at Home” directive is now in place for all Marylanders. There are some exceptions, but they are limited to essential activities to provide for basic needs and to keep essential services running.

This is not a “shelter in place” order. There is no statewide curfew in place. Marylanders are being told to stay home as much as possible to protect themselves and to limit the spread of COVID-19. Most organized activities and events are forbidden under the order. Walking, hiking, and cycling are all encouraged and residents may drive to recreational areas to get their exercise, although they are encouraged not to travel great distances to do it. Just remember to practice social distancing.

In summary, Marylanders should stay at home unless they are engaged in essential activities such as:

- Obtaining necessary supplies or services – i.e. purchasing groceries
- Engaging in activities essential to health – healthcare or picking up prescriptions
- Caring for family members and obtaining necessary supplies and services for them
- Engaging in outdoor activities, if they are consistent with social distancing guidelines and the Governor’s other orders.
- Working in an essential function as outlined by the various orders issued by the State and the US Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

The full order can be viewed at www.cityofbowie.org or on the state of Maryland website at www.Maryland.gov. Also, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has published an FAQ document that provides helpful questions and answers about recreational activities at <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2020/03/30/dnr-issues-guidance-on-governor-hogans-stay-at-home-order/>.

Enforcing the Governor’s Directive

The Bowie Police Department is tasked with helping to enforce the Governor’s latest directive in Bowie. They are doing this using guidance from the Maryland State Police and the Governor’s Office of Law. See the Maryland State Police Statement at <https://news.maryland.gov/msp/2020/03/31/state-police-enforcement-of-governors-executive-orders-continues/>.

How Does the Stay at Home Order Affect City Operations?

Due to Governor's Stay at Home directive, City operations that require employees to be at work have been scaled back to essential services. Some examples of the essential functions include trash and recycling collection, police services, senior services, and managing the Water Plant and the Sewer Plant. Other non-essential functions such as planting flowers in our parks, repairing sidewalks, or issuing licenses have been suspended during this emergency, however, employees will still be able to respond to operational emergencies such as a water main break or a fallen tree in a critical area.

There are also many employees who are now working from home in a variety of areas. They will continue to complete assignments and respond to emails they receive and to voicemails left on their phones, but we do ask for your patience as we all adjust to a new work environment and a "new normal" for a while.

COVID-19 Testing at Fedex Field in Landover

On March 30, the Prince George's County Health Department began COVID-19 testing at Fedex Field. They are being supported in this effort by the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland National Guard, the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps, and the University of Maryland Medical System.

Prince George's County has provided the following information:

Those who normally go to hospitals or emergency rooms to receive primary health care are highly encouraged to seek a telehealth appointment through the Prince George's County Health Department if they believe they have been exposed and are exhibiting symptoms associated with this virus.

This site is primarily a screening area that will have limited testing capabilities for those people who meet stringent CDC testing guidelines. This site is accessible by **appointment only**, and the process is as follows:

1. Call the Prince George's County Health Department Coronavirus hotline at 301-883-6627 to schedule an initial telehealth screening.
2. The telehealth medical professional will speak to the caller to obtain information to determine if the patient meets the CDC testing requirements.
3. If the caller meets CDC testing guidelines, they will receive an appointment time and an appointment number (from 1 to 100****MUST KEEP ASSIGNED APPOINTMENT NUMBER**) to go to the FedExField site on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The individual must show up at the appointment time, with the appointment number, and be able to answer questions based on the telehealth screening.
4. Upon arriving at the testing site, the individual will receive instruction from law enforcement as to where to park and when to exit their vehicle.
5. The individual will walk to the checkpoint and give their appointment number, then they will be escorted to a tent based on their symptoms.
6. If the individual meets testing requirements outlined by the CDC, they will be escorted to the testing tent. Following the testing, the individual will be given instructions on home self-care and social distancing.

7. Those who do not meet CDC guidelines will not be tested. Those individuals who do not meet criteria but are symptomatic will receive instructions on home self-care and self-isolation, as needed. Those individuals who are asymptomatic will receive instructions on home self-care and social distancing. *The individual will then be escorted to the exit.*

Please note that walkups exhibiting no symptoms will not be tested. Those with prescriptions from primary care physicians or other health care providers will still need to make an appointment through the Prince George's Health Department's COVID-19

Pediatric Testing for COVID-19

Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC has announced that they have established a pediatric drive-thru testing center. Contact your child's health care provider for guidance before going for a test.

Limit the Spread of the Disease

The best way to protect against COVID-19 is to limit your exposure to others, follow Governor's Stay at Home directive, and follow CDC and health department guidelines on handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and disinfecting surfaces. If you have any reason to suspect coronavirus infection, contact your health care provider for guidance.

Warning – Beware of Scams and Fraud Schemes Related to the Pandemic

- **Phishing Emails** Scammers are employing a variety of schemes to trick you into providing personal information in order to supposedly receive your corona stimulus check. Checks will be mailed to those who are eligible to receive them. There is no need to take any action.
- A few weeks ago the Bowie Police reported that someone approached a resident's door claiming to be from the City of Bowie government and said that they needed to enter the home to inspect for coronavirus. The City will **absolutely not** inspect for coronavirus or anything else. Do not let anyone in your home unless you know them or have arranged for them to be there. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/police.
- **Fake CDC Emails** Watch out for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other organizations claiming to offer information on the virus. Do not click links or open attachments you do not recognize. Fraudsters can use links in emails to deliver malware to your computer to steal personal information or to lock your computer and demand payment. Be wary of websites and apps claiming to track COVID-19 cases worldwide. Criminals are using malicious websites to infect and lock devices until payment is received.
- **Be cautious of anyone selling products** that claim to prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19. Be alert to counterfeit products such as sanitizing products and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including N95 respirator masks, goggles,

full face shields, protective gowns, and gloves. More information on unapproved or counterfeit PPE can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh. You can also find information on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website, www.fda.gov, and the Environmental Protection Agency website, www.epa.gov. Report counterfeit products at www.ic3.gov and to the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center at iprcenter.gov.

Keep Children Safe Online

Because schools are closed, children will likely be spending more time online, potentially making them more vulnerable to predators and cyber scams. The FBI seeks to warn parents, educators, caregivers, and children about the dangers of online sexual exploitation and signs of child abuse. The FBI has issued recommendations. They include:

- Discuss Internet safety with children of all ages when they engage in online activity.
- Review and approve games and apps before they are downloaded.
- Make sure privacy settings are set to the strictest level for online gaming systems and electronic devices.
- Monitor your children's use of the Internet; keep electronic devices in an open, common room of the house.

Please read the complete list of recommendations at <https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/pressreleases/school-closings-due-to-covid-19-present-potential-for-increased-risk-of-child-exploitation>

Bowie Food Pantry News

The pantry continues to operate M,W,F 9 a.m - 12 noon. Donations are accepted on M,W,F from 8 a.m. -12:30 p.m. They are providing drive up service only. Clients will be checked in and groceries loaded into their vehicles. Donors should pull up and volunteers will take their donations into the pantry. The greatest needs are soup, beans, spaghetti sauce, beefaroni/ravioli, peanut butter, tuna fish, canned fruit/applesauce, rice (bagged or boxed), canned meats, toilet paper, and personal care items. They could also use medium size boxes and NEW cloth totes. Check their website (www.bowiefoodpantry.org) or Facebook page (@bowiefoodpantry) for updates.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors – Do You Need Help with Grocery Shopping?

The Bowie Neighbors Helping Neighbors program is focusing its efforts on helping seniors (65+) or individuals with a disability who live in the City of Bowie do their grocery shopping or pick up prescriptions.

Need help? Please fill out the Request for Assistance form or contact **Lori Cunningham** at 240-544-5601 or email lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

Want to volunteer? Please complete a Neighbors Helping Neighbors application and return it as soon as possible. Both forms can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms. For additional information visit www.cityofbowie.org/nhn.

Youth & Family Services

During the COVID-19 emergency, you can reach Bowie Youth & Family Services at 1-513-817-3158. A staff member will be there to assist you during our normal hours of operation, which are M-Th, 8:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. and F, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. You can also check out their list of resources to help families cope with social distancing and other challenges related to the pandemic at www.cityofbowie.org/covidfamilyhelp. Also follow them on Facebook @BowieYFS.

COVID-19 Resources

- **State of Maryland Resources:**
 - **Maryland Department of Health Hotline:** 410-767-6871
 - **State of Maryland 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
 - **Monitor ongoing State actions:**
<http://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus>
- **Prince George’s County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline:** 301-883-6627
- **Meals for School Children** Grab & Go meals are available to Prince George’s School System students weekdays at Benjamin Tasker Middle School and other schools; for details, www.pgcps.org.
- **Special “Senior Only” Shopping Hours**
Some groceries and drugstores are reserving certain early hours for “seniors only” to shop. Check with your stores to see if they have made special arrangements.
- **Need Health Care? 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”. For more information, call 855-642-8571, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., weekdays.

- **Emergency Relief Grants for Small Businesses & Nonprofits** The \$50 million Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Program offers grant amounts up to \$10,000, not to exceed 3 months of cash operating expenses, to small businesses and nonprofits with 50 or fewer employees. Learn more at this link:
<https://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/maryland-small-business-covid-19-emergency-relief-grant-fund>
- **Metro** Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess are operating on very reduced schedules. Information: www.wmata.com

Changes to City Services and the Operating Status of City Government

- **Public Works Curbside Collections Continue with Some Modifications**
 City of Bowie trash and recycling services are continuing to operate. However, in an effort to protect the solid waste crews, the following changes to curbside collections are now in effect:
 - All trash must be placed in trash cans or closed bags. No loose trash or large items will be picked up.
 - No special pickups
 - All recycling must be in recycling bins or carts. No loose items will be picked up
 - Weekly yard waste collection continues

Please note: If you are using this time at home for spring cleaning, you will not be able to dispose of any items unless they are in trash cans or bags. Crews will not be able to take large items of any type.

Thank you for understanding and cooperation.

- **City Hall**
 City offices are **closed** to the public. Call 301-262-6200 if you have an urgent need to conduct business.
- **Senior Center, Ice Arena, City Gym, City Museums, Kenhill Center and Playhouse** All facilities are **closed** to the public. Some employees are working from home and will respond to emails and voicemails.
- **Bowie Police Department**
 There is **restricted access** to the Department. 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.
- **City Parks** All parks are **open**. Playgrounds, ballfields, courts, fitness equipment, and picnic areas at these parks are closed to public. Do not participate

or allow your children to participate in activities or group play involving more than 10 people (per the Governor's order). You are permitted to drive to a park under the Governor's March 30 order.

- **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.
- **Senior Center Transportation**
Non-essential trips are canceled. Transportation continues for essential medical appointments. For food and prescription pickup, please refer to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. Please call the Senior Center at **301-809-2300** for transportation assistance.
- **Senior Meals Nutrition Program**
Homebound meals will continue to be delivered to those registered for the program. For information, contact the Prince George's County Department of Aging Senior Nutrition Program at 301-265-8475.
- **City Council Meetings are currently closed to Public Attendance**
Residents may view meetings online at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings or on Verizon channel 10 or Comcast channel 71 and 996. 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 to **240-335-3282** or email written or video testimony/comments to cityclerk@cityofbowie.org. Or, mail the comments to City Hall. For more information, contact the City Clerk at **301-809-3029** or ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.
- **Virtual City Committee Meetings**
All meetings of the City's Boards, Commissions and Committees have been canceled. Committee members should contact their liaisons if they believe it is necessary to have a meeting during this time. A virtual/on-line meeting could be considered to handle emergency and/or a time sensitive matter. If a board feels that they must meet, the meeting will take place on the committee's regularly scheduled date and time and all proper public notice will be provided.

Posting of reasonable advance public notice, indicating how the meeting will be conducted and how the public can observe:

- For online electronic: website allowing the public to log in and observe will be provided.
- For virtual online: website to log onto to observe will be provided.

For more information, please contact the City Clerk at ahernandez@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3029.

Other Bowie News

Make Sure Bowie Counts!

It is Census time! The 2020 Census is the first to be completed electronically or by telephone. Paper forms will also be available, but the hope is that most people will complete the form electronically. Take time while you are home now and cross this off your "to do" list. Federal law requires that every household complete the Census. Not only is it the law, but the 10- year census helps to determine funding levels for schools, transportation, emergency response, and other programs. Getting a complete count is critically important to making sure that Bowie and Prince George's County get their share of funding. Estimates are that each County resident counted equates to \$1,825 per year in funding. Undercounting means that our City and County will miss out on funding for critical programs.

Let's all do our part to make sure that doesn't happen by completing the Census. Learn more about the Census at www.2020census.gov.

City Council Meetings to Note

- **April 6** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Recognition of former Mayor G. Frederick Robinson
- **April 13** Special City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Introduction of Budget Ordinance and CIP Resolution, Budget Worksession #1

Budget Review Begins in April

City Council begins reviewing the Proposed FY21 Budget and Capital Improvements Program in April. This Budget takes effect July 1, 2020. Meetings begin at 8 p.m.

- **April 13** Budget Introduction, Public Hearing, & Budget Worksession #1 – General Fund Revenues, Capital Improvement Program, and Capital Projects Fund
- **April 20** Budget Worksession #2 - Public Works Department and Water and Sewer Fund
- **April 27** Budget Worksession #3 - Community Services Department
- **April 29** Budget Worksession #4 City Manager's Office, Police, Finance and Nondepartmental
- **May 4** Budget, CIP and Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing •
- **May 11** Budget Worksession #5 - Planning and Community Development, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, General Fund Summaries, and Appendix (including the Plan of Compensation) •
- **May 18** Adoption of Budget and Capital Improvements Program

Bowie Ice Arena Summer Camps

The Ice Arena is currently closed to the public. Summer Camp registration is underway for full-day, half-day and specialty camps. Register now. Information: 301-809-3090 or www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

City Gym Summer Camps

The Gym is currently closed to the public. The Bowie Gymnasium will host two **basketball camps** this summer for boys and girls, ages 8 – 14. They will take place the weeks of June 22 – 26 and July 13 – 17. Cost is \$210 for residents and \$225 for nonresidents. Register now. For more information, contact Mike Lonergan at mlonergan@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-2383.

Streetlight Outages

Help us to keep the lights on Bowie. Please report street light outages or other problems with streetlights to our Public Works Department. We depend on the public to let us know when there is a problem with a streetlight. Please do not assume that the problem has been reported.

You can report an outage by contacting Dawn Collins at 301-809-2336 or dcullins@cityofbowie.org or visit our service request system to report the problem (www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest)

Events

All City events are canceled at least through April 30, 2020.

Help Us Spread the Word

You are likely receiving this update because you have signed up for Alert Bowie or you've followed the link on our website or social media. We recognize that not everyone in Bowie has access to these tools. Please help us to spread the word by forwarding our updates to your Bowie friends and neighbors or sharing the information with seniors who could benefit from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. (We also want to make sure that everyone receives the notification about changes in trash and recycling collection.)

Anyone can sign up for Alert Bowie at www.cityofbowie.org/alerts to receive a variety of information from the City of Bowie, including weather alerts, job opportunities, newsletters, and crime alerts. Those that don't want to complete an Alert Bowie registration can still get Bowie COVID-19 alerts by texting COBCOVID19 to 888777.