



COVID-19 UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: **Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

Number of confirmed cases in Prince George's County – **1,310**

Number of confirmed cases in Maryland – **5,529**

Gov. Hogan Grants Local Health Departments Power to Take Action Against Local Businesses Not Complying with Executive Orders

Gov. Hogan has issued a new executive order that empowers local health departments to take action against any businesses, establishments, and construction sites they deem unsafe. He said while most businesses and individuals in the state have been complying to his stay-at-home executive order and the closure of non-essential businesses, there are reports that some are still not doing so.

Virtual Town Hall

Thanks to all who participated as listeners or panelists in the City's Virtual Town Hall on April 7. We were fortunate to have a varied group of experts on the call. Over 100 questions were received through the Zoom application and via email. About half of them were answered on the call and those answers will be summarized and posted to the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/corona soon.

Questions that were not answered on the call, due to a lack of time, will also be addressed and posted to the website. We will also be featuring one of the questions and answers in this update each day.

Today's Q & A

Where can I find statistics about the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Bowie and the number of deaths related to the virus here? Can the City share this information?

*As of today, there are 1,310 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Prince George's County. We don't know how many of those are Bowie residents, but you can rest assured the virus has affected every community, in every part of Prince George's County. The reported numbers reflect only **confirmed** cases. There are probably many more residents who are infected but have not been tested.*

The Maryland Department of Health and the Prince George's County Health Department are charged with tracking confirmed cases of COVID-19. They are only reporting the number of cases by

county. They are not providing data by municipality zip code, or neighborhood.

There are a few reasons for this:

1. First, patient confidentiality is protected in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) of 1996. Patient information, such as residential location, is protected in order prevent medical information from being obtained by non-authorized people.
2. Health officials from the State and County are also concerned that if areas are artificially identified as not having a high number of confirmed cases, a false sense of security may arise where social distancing and preventive measures designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 may subside.
3. Health Officials want all Marylanders to behave as if everyone may have COVID-19. For these reasons, Health Officials are only listing confirmed cases by County.

TRASH & RECYCLING CHANGES

- Trash must be placed in trash cans or closed bags. No loose trash or large items will be picked up.
- All recycling must be in recycling bins or carts. No loose items will be picked up.
- No special pickups
- Yard waste is being collected