



COVID-19 UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020

Number of confirmed cases in Prince George's County – 1,476

Number of confirmed cases in Maryland – 6,185

Bowie Youth & Family Services Offers Tips for Families

Dealing with the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and managing everyday life while complying with the Governor's Stay at Home Order can be very challenging, especially when there are children at home.

Wendy Wilcox, Director of Bowie Youth & Family Services offers some tips and encouragement for families as they cope with life in the time of pandemic. View the video interview with her at https://youtu.be/C_BM8VdZiRE and be sure to visit the Youth Services section of the city website for more information and COVID-19 related resources (www.cityofbowie.org/byfs).

Getting Help for Your Small Business in Bowie

The Bowie Business Innovation Center will host a workshop this Friday, April 10 to provide information about how to make sure you are taking advantage of all the COVID-19 relief programs and resources that are available to you as a small business owner. The workshop will be conducted on Zoom. The basics are below. Details can be found at www.bowiebic.com.

BOWIE BIC
BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER
Accelerating Business Growth

HOW TO ACCESS
**FEDERAL
AND COUNTY
RELIEF FUNDING**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10
1:00 - 2:30 P.M.**

**ZOOM LINK:
WWW.US02WEB.ZOOM.US
/J/8605226545**

**MEETING ID: 860 522 6545
TELEPHONE: 929-436-2866**

**WWW.BOWIEBIC.COM
CRYSTAL.CLARK@BOWIEBIC.COM**

Today's Q & A - Masks

During the Virtual Town Hall meeting earlier this week, many of you asked about the use of masks. Most of the questions can be answered in **Face Mask Information** document below. We hope you will read it in its entirety.

There were a few specific questions that we wanted to highlight here:

- **Are masks required when you go for a walk?**
Cloth masks are being recommended to keep people without symptoms from potentially infecting others. Cloth masks should be worn when you are in a situation where it may be difficult to maintain social distancing, such as while grocery shopping. If you are walking alone or walking with those who are staying at home with you, you do not need to wear a cloth mask.
- **How can you obtain material to make a mask?**
T-shirts, bandanas, sheets, and pillowcases can be cut up for cloth masks. Be sure to follow the instructions in the CDC pattern or one of the other patterns local hospitals have published. Check with friends and neighbors to see if they have materials that might be used to make a cloth mask.
- **Will the city be providing masks to seniors and others?**
The City of Bowie is not able to provide cloth masks, but many local organizations and individuals are making masks to share or sell at a low price. Check social media sites for efforts that might be going on in your neighborhood.

Face Mask Information from the City of Bowie

The COVID-19 pandemic is widespread throughout the United States and the number of cases in our region is growing daily. Washington/ Baltimore Corridor has become one of the most recent hot spots in the country. To protect yourself, your families and the at-risk members of our society; social distancing measures need to continue until health officials tell us it is okay to slowly relax restrictions. For now, following the Governor's orders and staying home is the best prevention against COVID-19.

When you must go out, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending that you wear a cloth mask. The recently released guidance by the CDC encourages individuals to wear cloth masks where social distancing measures cannot be maintained, such as at grocery stores and pharmacies. Medical grade masks, including the N95s and surgical masks are not recommended for use by individuals; these supplies should be reserved for health care providers and first responders.

This recommendation is not a substitute for existing guidance by the CDC to maintain 6-feet of physical distance from non-household members and to wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. Wearing cloth face coverings will not prevent the spread of COVID-19 without these other protective measures.

The CDC has an excellent how-to page showing how to make your own mask, whether you can sew or not. These masks are made with common household items including thicker sheets or t-shirts. See this link (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf) for step-by-step instructions on how to make your own mask.

If you do not have materials or the creativity gene, look to local social media sites like Facebook and

NextDoor for neighbors who may be making and distributing masks for free or at a low cost. Always exercise caution when purchasing items on the internet. Do your best to vet the seller beforehand (reviews are a great place to start) and practice safe distancing when you pick up the mask.

At this point, the wearing of cloth masks in public places is only a recommendation; it is not required. If you do not have a mask and must go to the grocery store – go, just use hand sanitizer, wash your hands after each trip and try not to touch your face or phone without washing your hands first.

Again, the use of face masks, whether cloth or medical grade, will not completely prevent the spread COVID-19, they are just an extra layer of protection to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

CDC Cloth Mask Guidance - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

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