



COVID-19 UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Number of confirmed cases

Maryland – 14,775

Prince George's County – 3,875 (= 26.2% of MD cases)

Bowie zip codes – 385 (= 9.9% of PG cases)

20715 – 67

20716 - 101

20720 - 85

20721 – 132

Visit the [Prince George's County COVID-19 dashboard](#) to view data for all zip codes in the County and the [Maryland dashboard](#) for statewide data.

The Maryland dashboard has begun sharing data about hospitalizations, including the total number of Marylanders currently hospitalized with COVID-19, what level of care they are receiving (acute, ICU, etc.) and how many new patients have been hospitalized with the disease. When these numbers begin to stabilize or go down, these will be some of the key indicators that decision makers will use to determine if the spread of the disease is truly slowing down.

Laurel Hospital Reopens to Add to Surge Capacity

At a joint press conference this afternoon, Governor Hogan and County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced the reopening of Laurel Hospital with 135 hospital beds for COVID-19 patients, including 35 ICU beds. This move is part of a larger effort to make sure that Maryland has the beds it needs for all who need to be hospitalized and treated for COVID-19.

How to Shop Locally During the Pandemic

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has created a useful page with tips on how to shop locally. It includes an interactive map to better connect Marylanders with local agricultural and seafood producers. There is also a link there to a page entitled *Keep Calm and Carry Out* campaign to support local restaurants.

[How to shop locally](#)

[Maryland restaurants providing carryout service](#)

Entrepreneurship Webinar

The City of Bowie is offering an online course focused on entrepreneurship, understanding markets, and development solutions and business ideas. This course will be part of a series of live webinars starting Tuesday, April 28, 2020, which will also be recorded for viewers who are not able to watch the live presentation. All course materials will also be made available on the program website at <http://www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining>. For more information, contact Kay Starr at kstarr@cityofbowie.org.

New Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Site Available on Friday, April 24

On Friday, April 24, the Maryland Department of Labor will launch a new, one-stop unemployment insurance application allowing Marylanders to file claims for all unemployment programs entirely online. This includes the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program which was created under the federal CARES Act. PUA expands benefits to individuals who are not usually eligible for regular unemployment insurance such as sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed workers.

Those individuals who cannot work due to COVID-19 are eligible for a maximum of 39 weeks of benefits which includes \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC). Benefits will be paid back to the earliest date of eligibility. Use the link below to get more information and sign up to receive an email update when filing opens for PUA benefits.

<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/unemployment.shtml>

Prince George's County Arts Emergency Relief Fund

The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council has announced the creation of the Prince George's County Arts Community Emergency Relief Fund to support the creative community during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information and to apply, please visit:

<https://www.pgahc.org/emergencyrelieffund>

Are you an hourly employee laid off because of the pandemic?

The Prince George's County's COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund was established to help hourly employees who have been laid off because of the pandemic. Individuals who are deemed eligible may be able to receive a \$200 cash card. According to the County website, preference will be given to those earning \$19/hour or less prior to being laid off. To learn more or to apply for this program, visit <https://www.employpg.org/covid19/>



WHY MASKS MATTER:

- » COVID-19 can be spread by people who feel healthy, and is transmitted by droplets emitted when people speak, cough, or sneeze. Your mask protects others, and their masks protect you.
- » There are essential spaces like groceries, pharmacies, and public transit where maintaining social distancing is necessary, but can be challenging.
- » Wearing masks is something that we may all have to become accustomed in order to safely reopen our state.

#MasksOnMaryland

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

FOR HEALTH RESOURCES, VISIT [CORONAVIRUS.MARYLAND.GOV](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov).