



# COVID-19 UPDATES & GUIDANCE

## Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

**Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020**

### Number of confirmed cases

**Maryland** – 15,737 (+962)

**Prince George's County** – 4,141 (= 26% of MD cases)

**Bowie zip codes** – 403 (= 9.7% of PG cases)

20715 – 78

20716 – 102

20720 – 89

20721 – 134

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.

This week the Maryland dashboard began 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.

### City Government Operations

More than a month has passed since the City of Bowie began modifying operations because of COVID-19. We thought it might be helpful today to recap the changes to City government operations that have been put in place during this pandemic.

Police officers, park rangers, trash and recycling crews, water and wastewater plant operators, and other mission critical employees continue to report to work in person. Many other city employees are working from home and continuing to answer your emails and telephone calls.

The Emergency Operations Center is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to manage the City's response to this crisis.

## STATUS OF CITY OF BOWIE PUBLIC FACILITIES

<b>City Hall</b> <b>301-262-6200</b>	Closed to the public	Please call a specific office or 301-262-6200 if you have an urgent need to conduct business. Water bills and speed camera bills can be paid online.
<b>Police Department</b>	Open. No public access.	<b><i>See note below</i></b>
<b>Senior Center</b> <b>301-809-2300</b>	Closed	Delivery of homebound meals continues. Neighbors Helping Neighbors volunteers will help seniors with groceries and prescription pickup. <b><i>(See Senior section below for more information.)</i></b>
<b>City Gymnasium</b>	Closed	
<b>Historic Properties</b>	Closed	
<b>Ice Arena</b>	Closed	
<b>Kenhill Center</b>	Closed	No in-person counseling services are being provided by Bowie Youth & Family Services. <b><i>See Youth Services section below for assistance &amp; for information about tele-counseling.</i></b>
<b>City Parks &amp; Trails*</b>	Open for walking, running, biking, etc.	<b>The following areas in parks are closed:</b> playgrounds, ballfields, picnic areas & fitness equipment
<b>Dog Park</b>	Open	
<b>Playhouse</b>	Closed	
<b><i>*Please observe social distancing standards while using parks and trails.</i></b>		

## CITY SERVICES UPDATE

### Trash & Recycling Services

The following rules are in place until further notice to protect crews:

- Trash must be in cans or bags
- No loose or bulky items will be collected
- No special pickups of metal or tires
- Recycling must be placed in recycling bins or carts.
- Loose cardboard boxes will not be collected if they are on the ground. You must break down the boxes and put them in carts or bins in order to dispose of them.
- Yard waste collection continues on Wednesdays.

**Please note:** If you are using this time to clear out sheds, closets, garages, etc. you will only be able to dispose of items that fit in bags or trashcans. Other items will need to be stored neatly and out of sight until regular solid waste operations resume.

### Bowie Police Department

The door leading to the Police Department lobby is locked and the lobby is closed to the public. Visitors are still welcome to enter the small vestibule area just inside the front door. Communications Center staff will be happy to assist you there utilizing the intercom system. Or, call 240-544-5700 for assistance. Speed cameras bills may be paid online or by calling the Finance Department.

Those wishing to make a police report in a non-emergency case can now do so by calling 240-544-5700. In most cases, the Police will not be responding in person to take non-emergency reports, unless there is a pressing need to do so.

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

City Council meetings are being held virtually during this emergency. While the public cannot attend Council meetings or Budget Worksessions in person, they may submit testimony for public hearings or comments for the Citizen Participation portion of an upcoming Council meeting by texting a message to 240-335-3282 or emailing written or video testimony/comments to [cityclerk@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofbowie.org). Testimony and comments must be received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. For assistance, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029.

View the meetings live at [www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings](http://www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings) or on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channel 71 and 996.

### Animal Control

Limited services are being provided. Pet licenses **are not being issued** while facilities are closed.

### Building Permits

Building permits are being accepted electronically. Email [buildingpermits@cityofbowie.org](mailto:buildingpermits@cityofbowie.org) and attach an electronic version of the Prince George's County permit and any plans approved by the County. Applicants must include a phone number so that they can be contacted for credit card payments of the application fee. After the permit application has

been reviewed and approved, the permit will be emailed to the applicant. Work should not begin until the approved City permit has been issued.

### **City Rental Inspections Canceled**

Rental inspections conducted by the Code Compliance Office are canceled until further notice.

### **Code Compliance**

Please do your part to keep Bowie looking good. Code Compliance staffing is very limited at present, but we encourage you to report trash and other health and sanitation issues, such as high grass that may become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and rodents, so that they may be addressed.

### **Senior Services**

While the building is closed, staff are available by email and telephone to support Bowie seniors. Call 301-809-2300 for assistance. Homebound meal delivery continues.

The **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** program matches volunteers with seniors and disabled individuals that need help grocery shopping or picking up prescriptions during the pandemic. If you are a City of Bowie senior or disabled person in need of assistance, please complete the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Senior Request Form found at [www.cityofbowie.org/nhn](http://www.cityofbowie.org/nhn). Contact Lori Cunningham at [lcunningham@cityofbowie.org](mailto:lcunningham@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5601 for more information.

### **Bowie Water & Sewer Service**

Employees continue to operate the Water Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Water bills can be paid online, mailed or dropped off in the slot at City Hall. Late fees are not being charged and water shutoffs are suspended during this emergency.

Spring hydrant flushing is canceled.

### **Bowie Youth & Family Services**

No in-person counseling services are being provided. Tele-counseling is available. Call 1-513-817-3158 for assistance or to schedule an appointment.

## **EVENTS & MEETINGS**

### **City Council Meetings**

Closed to the public until further notice

Residents can view meetings on the web or on the government channel. See note above about testimony and comments.

### **City Committee Meetings**

Canceled until further notice

If there is an urgent need for a city committee to meet it can be done virtually. The meeting will be

advertised on the meetings calendar on the website and the public will be provided access to the meeting through a virtual meetings tool.

**City Events**

Canceled through 5/31.

Bowiefest has also been canceled.



## **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).**