



COVID-19 UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Friday, April 24, 2020

Number of confirmed cases

Maryland – 15,737 (+879)

Prince George's County – 4,403 (= 26% of MD cases)

Bowie zip codes – 425 (= 9.6% of PG cases)

20715 – 81

20716 – 112

20720 – 89

20721 – 143

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.

Governor Hogan Announces Recovery Plan This Afternoon

Today, the Governor announced his three-phase recovery plan to move Maryland back to normal operations. While, it is too early to begin implementing the plan or ease restrictions for individuals and businesses, he outlined the gradual roadmap the state will eventually follow.

The critical metrics that are being watched are the number of new cases, the number of new hospitalizations, the number of patients in ICU because of the virus, and the number of COVID-19 related deaths.

With the increase in testing, the number of new COVID-19 cases is still rising in Maryland and throughout National Capital Region, and the other key metrics are not trending down yet. Officials are most focused on the rate of hospitalizations and number of patients being admitted to ICU. When they begin seeing a downward trajectory or a consistent plateauing of those metrics,

Maryland will be in a position to consider lifting the stay at home order and beginning the recovery plan. Until then, the recovery plan cannot be initiated.

The Governor is cautiously optimistic that may happen in some parts of the state by early May. However, he did caution that not all parts of the states may ease restrictions at the same time.

Maryland Recovery Plan

STAGE ONE

Lifting the stay at home order; reopening of many small businesses; lower risk community activities and quality of life improvements resume. Could include reopening some outdoor activities such as golfing, recreational boating and fishing, and some outdoor gatherings, and elective outpatient surgeries.

Local governments could have additional flexibility to open local parks and playgrounds, municipal recreation centers, and libraries, if appropriate safety protocols could be followed.

STAGE TWO

This stage would begin if stage one activities resume without a spike in deaths, a sustained spike in ICU cases, or significant outbreaks of community transmission. Stage two would include more businesses reopening and nonessential workers who cannot telework returning to work.

It also would include resumption of indoor religious gatherings with limited capacity, raising limits on social gatherings, return to normal transit schedules, opening restaurants and bars with significant safety restrictions.

STAGE THREE

Involves reinstating higher risk activities including larger social gatherings, opening of high-capacity bars and restaurants, lessened restrictions on visits to nursing homes/hospitals, entertainment venues, larger religious gatherings.

Several advisory groups are being formed to develop recommendations and best practices for their industries and organizations to responsibly operate.

When the restrictions begin to ease, Marylanders will still be encouraged to avoid crowds, practice physical distancing, and take precautions to protect themselves and others.

Read the full Maryland Roadmap to Recovery Plan <https://governor.maryland.gov/recovery>.

New Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Site Available Today

The Maryland Department of Labor has launched 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.

The site had some problems when it launched this morning, but officials believe they have been addressed and encourage those who are eligible for this benefit to apply.

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



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://www.coronavirus.maryland.gov).

HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE CENSUS?

LET'S DO IT, BOWIE



Households can respond online at
2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020.