



COVID-19 UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020

Number of confirmed cases

Maryland – 21,742 (+893)

Prince George's County – 6,043 (+305)

Bowie zip codes – 554 (+11)

20715 – 99

20716 – 156

20720 – 127

20721 – 172

Maryland COVID-19 hospitalizations increased by 4% today.

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.

Prince George's County provides this statement on its dashboard:

“Prince George's County case counts per zip code area may be impacted by multiple factors including test availability and may not be an accurate indication of the concentration of positive cases in that area. Case rates per 100,000 residents is a more accurate indication of the concentration of positive cases in the area, but it also is impacted by many factors including testing availability. What is clear, is that COVID-19 is present throughout the county and in every municipality. DO NOT assume that a lower case count or rate in your community means you are not at risk. It remains of the utmost importance, that no matter where you live in the county, you must maintain social distancing and all other recommendations regarding preventing the spread of COVID-19.”

The Maryland dashboard contains 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.

Maryland is now providing data on outbreaks in nursing homes across the state. **Two nursing homes located in Bowie are on the list:** Larkin Chase and Brookdale Woodward Estates.

Masks for Bowie Seniors

On April 18, Governor Hogan ordered face masks or face coverings to be worn in Maryland whenever someone is in a retail and food establishment, laundromat, or on public transportation. Given this order, and the fact that the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, we expect that Marylanders will be wearing masks for some time to come.

While seniors are being encouraged to stay home and avoid potential exposure to the coronavirus, we know that this is not always possible, and we want to make sure you have the protection you need if you must venture out. The City of Bowie is proud to partner with local organizations and individuals who are helping to make or provide masks to us for distribution to seniors.

If you are a Bowie senior who has not been able to secure a mask, please contact the Bowie Senior Center at 301-809-2300 and we will arrange to have a free mask delivered to you. If you or your organization would like to volunteer to help with this effort, please contact Lori Cunningham at 240-544-5601 or email lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

For a list of the organizations and individuals who are already involved in making or providing masks, visit www.cityofbowie.org/masksforseniors. Thank you! You make Bowie proud!

CDC Guidance on Living in Close Quarters

If you live in an apartment or have several family members in your household, the CDC has some new recommendations for you. One of the important points is that if your household includes one or more vulnerable individuals, then all family members in the household should act as if they, themselves, are at higher risk. The CDC also recommends:

- Limiting errands
- Separating family members who are sick
- Making sure vulnerable members avoid caring for children

[Read the full *Living in Close Quarters Guidance from the CDC*.](#)

Governor Hogan's Recent Announcements (4/29/20)

• Recovery and Reopening

The case numbers are continuing to go up because of more widely available testing. The state is focused on the rate of hospitalizations and the number of patients admitted to ICU. When those metrics plateau, the state will be in a position to begin implementing reopening and recovery plans.

• Testing

More testing will be available for healthcare workers and first responders. Patients and staff will be tested at all nursing homes so that asymptomatic carriers can be identified and hopefully slow down the spread of the disease. State officials are also working to expand community-based testing, especially in hotspot areas, such as Prince George's County.

• Poultry Industry Outbreaks

Leaders in the Delmarva region are taking aggressive steps to address the poultry processing outbreaks to protect the workers and protect the food supply. Widespread testing of poultry

workers will soon begin and federal teams are being brought in to help deal with the outbreaks.

- **Nursing Homes**

Currently, there are clusters of cases at 278 group living facilities around the state. These include 4,011 confirmed cases of COVID-19 cases at 143 different Maryland nursing homes. These outbreaks account for 19% of Maryland's total positive cases and 46% of the state's deaths.

To combat this, the Governor issued an executive order requiring universal testing of ALL residents and staff at all Maryland nursing homes. Facilities will be prioritized based on an imminent outbreak or a current rising threat risk. Under the order, it will be mandatory for facilities to fully comply with strike teams deployed by the state to help stem the outbreaks. It further requires that each resident be evaluated by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or registered nurse on a daily basis. Bridge Teams can be sent in to help with clinical staffing in some of these facilities, if needed.

Nursing homes will also be required to provide regular informational updates to their residents, resident representatives, and staff regarding COVID19 infections. View the [nursing home order](#).

- **Unemployment**

The state website that was introduced on Friday for filing claims is functioning, but it is very slow. The state continues to work with the vendor to make improvements. [Apply here](#). View [Frequently Asked Questions \(and Answers\) about the new Maryland Unemployment system](#).

- **Healthcare Heroes**

The Governor has proclaimed May 2nd as **Healthcare Heroes Day** in Maryland. The state house dome will be illuminated in blue, along with sports stadiums in Baltimore. He encourages others to follow suit to show their reports for healthcare workers.

The Governor's press conferences can be viewed on his [YouTube channel](#).

Frequently Asked Questions from Residents

During the Stay at Home order we have continued to have a staff member available to answer your calls to City Hall because we believe it is important for Bowie residents to be able to talk to someone and get their questions answered. Many of you are inquiring about how city services are being handled during the pandemic. Here are some of the more popular questions that we have been asked:

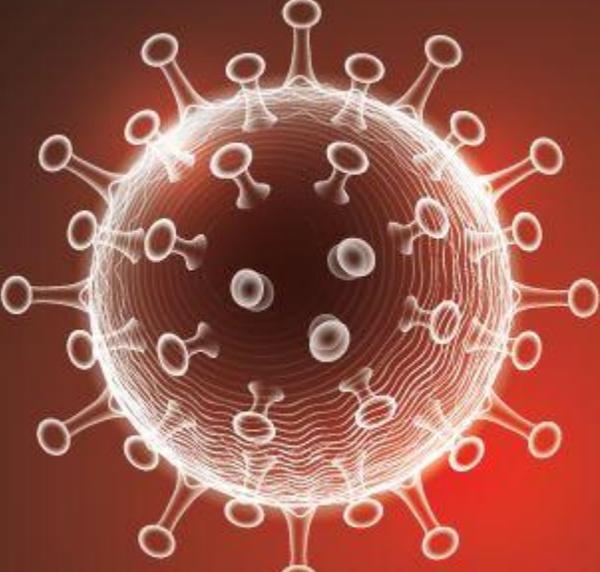
- **Trash and recycling - Why didn't my cardboard boxes get picked up with recycling?**

To protect Solid Waste collectors from potential exposure to the coronavirus, only recycling that is in a recycling cart or bin is being picked up. We encourage you to break down your boxes into pieces that will fit in the containers. Loose boxes will not be picked up during this pandemic.

- **Pet licenses - My pet license has expired. How do I renew it now?**

You will be able to renew your pet license at some point in the future when social distancing orders are lifted. For now, it is okay to have an expired pet license.

- **Xfinity office at Kenhill – When will the office reopen? How can I return equipment now?**
Because city facilities are closed, so too is the Xfinity office at the Kenhill Center. Customers can call 800-266-2278 or 800-934-6489 for assistance. If you must drop off equipment or conduct other business in person, visit their Largo office at 10432 Campus Way South (Monday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.).



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HAS
COVID-19 TESTING
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
CALL (301) 883-6627

**HAVE YOU COMPLETED
THE CENSUS?**

LET'S DO IT, BOWIE



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