



# COVID-19 UPDATES & GUIDANCE

## Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

**Date: Monday, May 4, 2020**

### Number of confirmed cases

**Maryland** – 26,408 (+946)

**Prince George's County** – 7,598 (+265)

**Bowie zip codes** – 642 (+12)

20715 – 122

20716 – 169

20720 – 153

20721 – 198

**Maryland COVID-19 hospitalizations increased 1% 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.

### **Prince George's County Benefit Distribution at City Hall – May 5**

You may see cars lined up on May 5 during the middle of the day. Employ Prince George's is using the front parking lot of City Hall as a distribution point for benefits under its Hourly Worker Employee Relief Program. Distribution is only for those individuals who have prequalified and were contacted and told to appear at this distribution event. If you have questions about this program or would like to apply for the Hourly Worker Employee Relief Program, please visit Employ Prince George's at [www.employpg.org/covid19](http://www.employpg.org/covid19).

### **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 senior, living in the City of Bowie, and have 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](mailto: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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/masksforseniors). Thank you! You make Bowie proud!

### **City Council Meetings and Budget Worksessions During the Pandemic**

City Council meetings are being held virtually during this emergency. While the public cannot attend Council meetings or Budget Worksessions in person, they can watch them live on the Bowie government channel (FIOS 10/Comcast 71 & 996) or at [www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings](http://www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings).

Residents may submit testimony for public hearings or comments for the Citizen Participation portion of an upcoming Regular 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.

***The next Regular Council meeting takes place on May 4 at 8 p.m. and will include a public hearing on the FY 2021 Proposed Budget, Capital Improvements Program and on the Constant Yield Tax Rate.***

### **County Executive COVID-19 Town Hall**

County Executive Alsobrooks will host a Tele-Town Hall on Thursday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m. to give an update on the Government's COVID-19 response. To register, or to submit your questions or concerns, please [click here](#). If you do not want to listen over the phone, you can tune into CTV Channel 76 (Verizon Fios 42) at 6:30 p.m. to listen to the live broadcast of the Tele-Town Hall.

### **Need Health Insurance? Covid-19 Special Enrollment is Still Open!**

Do you need health insurance? Maryland Health Connections COVID-19 Special Enrollment Session is open until June 15 for uninsured residents to apply for health insurance, including Medicaid. Get covered by visiting <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov>.

### **Vote by Mail - Maryland Primary Election Information**

The Maryland Primary Election originally scheduled for late April will be held on June 2 and will be conducted primarily by mail. All registered and eligible voters will be mailed a ballot for this election. Look for your ballot in the mail soon. Visit the [Prince George's County Board of Elections](#) online or view the [Maryland Voter Guide](#) for more information about the 2020 Primary Election.

### **Evictions and Foreclosures Still Suspended**

Per an administrative order issued by the Maryland Court of Appeals, all evictions and foreclosures in Prince George's County have been suspended until further notice, due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The CARES Act also provides protections for holders of some types of mortgages. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development has issued [guidance for homeowners on these forbearance provisions](#).

### **New Guidance from the CDC**

- If you are living in a small space or with several other people, or with someone who has been exposed to the coronavirus, the CDC has issued new guidance for you.  
[Living in Close Quarters Guidance](#)
- While Maryland is not at the point where it can provide a specific date for reopening, there is a lot of planning taking place at all levels for government to make sure that strategies are in place to help reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus when restrictions are eventually lifted. Yesterday the CDC issued guidance on cleaning different types of facilities (public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools) and surfaces for reopening. There is also useful information in the document on cleaning and disinfecting your home.  
[Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)

### **Testing in Prince George's County**

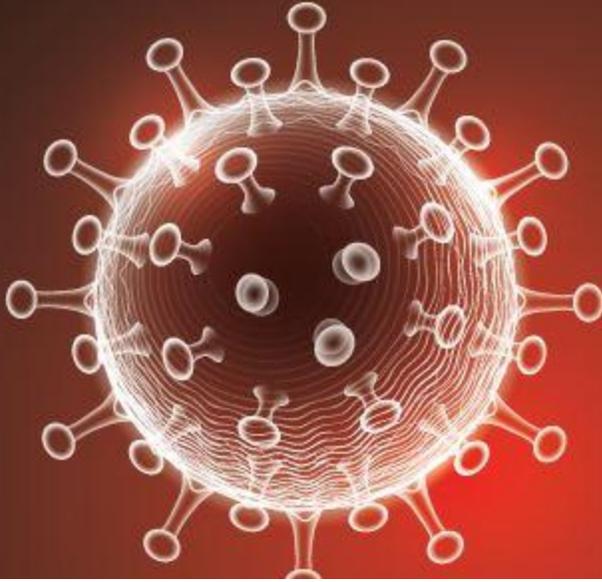
The testing site at Fedex Field has closed. Testing will now take place at the Health Department's Cheverly Health Center located near Prince George's Hospital, at 3003 Hospital Drive. Beginning May 4, the Cheverly testing/screening site hours of operation will be Monday thru Friday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. by appointment only. Call your health provider if you think you may have COVID-19 or call the Prince George's County COVID-19 testing hotline at 301-883-6627.

### **Unemployment Claims**

The state website that was introduced on Friday for filing claims is functioning, but operating slowly. The state continues to work with the vendor to make improvements. New claims can be made online Tuesdays through Saturdays.

[Frequently Asked Questions \(and Answers\) about the new Maryland Unemployment system.](#)

[Apply here](#)



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HAS  
**COVID-19 TESTING**  
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

CALL (301) 883-6627

For questions or concerns related to COVID-19, including testing, please call 301-883-6627.



# COVID-19 (Coronavirus) RENTERS FACT SHEET

No one in Prince George's County should have to worry about losing housing in the middle of this public health crisis. Please know that your landlord/ apartment management cannot evict you for being unable to pay your rent during this time, as all evictions and foreclosures in Prince George's County are currently suspended.



## RENTAL PAYMENTS

- If you have the money to pay your rent, please continue to do so.
- If you find that your circumstances prevent you from paying part or all of your rent, please be in communication with your landlord/management company so that they can help you map out a plan.
- If you are facing eviction, free legal help is available. Learn more at: <https://bit.ly/PGCCOVIDLegal>



**You cannot be asked to leave your residence for having COVID-19 or while seeking medical assistance.**

## UTILITIES

- If your utilities are paid separately, please note that your utilities cannot be turned off for inability to pay.
- Please reach out to your utility providers, as they stand ready to offer support, including waiving late fees. You may also be eligible for utility assistance.



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive



For more information about COVID-19,  
please visit: [health.mypgc.us/coronavirus](https://health.mypgc.us/coronavirus)