



# COVID-19 UPDATES & GUIDANCE

## Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020

### Number of confirmed cases

Maryland – 27,117 (+709)

Prince George's County – 7,831 (+284)

Bowie zip codes – 649 (+7)

20715 – 124

20716 – 171

20720 – 156

20721 – 198

Maryland COVID-19 current hospitalizations **increased by 2.6%** 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 weekly 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.

## **Chief Chat**

Bowie Police Chief John Nesky talks directly to the community in his monthly Chief Chat released yesterday. Some of the topics he covered were:

- Call 911 or the Police Non-Emergency number (240-544-5700) if you need assistance BEFORE posting to social media so that the Police can respond to a problem in real time rather than after the fact.
- Thieves are not taking a break during the pandemic. Be sure to lock your car doors and never leave anything of value in vehicles.
- If you observe ATV riders violating the law, call the Police Department to report them.
- We understand “Quarantine Fatigue”, but we encourage all to continue to abide by the Governor’s Executive order to stay home except for exercise or essential trips.

The Chief also paused to remember Nicole Warrington, one of the Department’s dispatchers who recently lost her battle with cancer. View the April Chief Chat on the [Department’s Facebook page](#) or on the [City’s Youtube](#) channel.

## **Prince George’s County Launches Text to 9-1-1**

Shortness of breath and trouble breathing are among the symptoms of COVID-19. Because these symptoms may make it difficult for someone to make a telephone call for help, the County is now able to accept 9-1-1 texts for those who are unable to speak over the phone. The County has been working on plans to roll out this program and considers this a “soft launch” to respond to an immediate community need.

## **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Blood supplies in the region are very low. The American Red Cross invites anyone who is able, to register to donate blood at their next blood drive in Bowie. It takes place on June 3 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and June 4 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at Grace Lutheran Church on Belair Drive. Please sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and search by sponsor code, “Gracerock” or call 1-800-REDCROSS to make your life saving donation today. Extra precautions will be in place to protect workers and donors from potential exposure to the coronavirus. If you have questions about your eligibility to donate blood, please call 1-866-236-3276.

## **Free Online Tutoring**

Bowie Youth & Family Services is now offering a free tutoring service for Bowie-area elementary, middle, and high school students. Experienced educators are providing this service online for the remainder of the school year. Call 1-513-817-3158 for details.

## **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!

### **Maryland Promotes Buying Locally from Farms and Seafood Markets**

Maryland Department of Agriculture is working to connect Marylanders with farmers and seafood producers providing fresh, local food products. The Department's marketing arm, Maryland's Best has released an [interactive map feature](#) based on information gathered directly from local agricultural and seafood producers. You will find information on product availability, how to order, and options for pick-up and/or delivery. On the [Department's COVID-19 News page](#) you will also find other updates and guidance related to Maryland agriculture.

### **Bowie Farmers' Market Opens May 17 with Social Distancing Precautions in Place**

A modified version of the Bowie Farmers' will open on Sunday, May 17 with special measures in place to impose social distancing and to protect vendors and customers from the spread of the coronavirus. The market will be held each Sunday through October from 8 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at Bowie High School. This year's market will be entirely drive-through. Look for the detailed plan and a list of participating vendors soon at [www.cityofbowie.org/farmersmarket](http://www.cityofbowie.org/farmersmarket).

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

The Prince George's County testing site is now at the Health Department's Cheverly Health Center located near Prince George's Hospital, at 3003 Hospital Drive. Hours of operation are Monday through 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.

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

### **City Council Nearing End of Budget Review Process**

Thanks to the more than 40 residents who submitted testimony for last night's public hearing on the FY 2021 Proposed Budget. There will be one more budget worksession on May 11, before the Council adopts the budget at its meeting on May 18.

At last night's meeting the Council voted unanimously not to increase the tax rate from its current rate of 40 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This will be the 11th year in a row that the tax rate remains flat. *Please note: residents may still see an increase in their actual property tax bills as the state has increased assessments on some properties.*

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). For more information, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029 or email

[ahernandez@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ahernandez@cityofbowie.org).

**Need health insurance? Covid-19 special enrollment now 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. You can get covered by visiting <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>



**NEED HEALTH INSURANCE?  
COVID-19 Special Enrollment is  
Open Now! Get Covered.**

**PHONE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE!**

Here is how you  
can get help:



BY PHONE - MONDAY - FRIDAY:

**PGC HEALTH CONNECT CALL CENTER**

**301-927-4500 or 240-719-2167**

9:00am – 3:00pm

**CASA Multi-Lingual Health Hotline**

**Spanish/English - 301-270-8432**

**French/English - 240-270-1318**

9:00am – 4:00pm

**Maryland Health Connection**

**1-855-642-8572**

**(Toll Free); Relay users dial 711**

8:00am – 6:00pm



ON LINE:

**[www.marylandhealthconnection.gov](http://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov)**

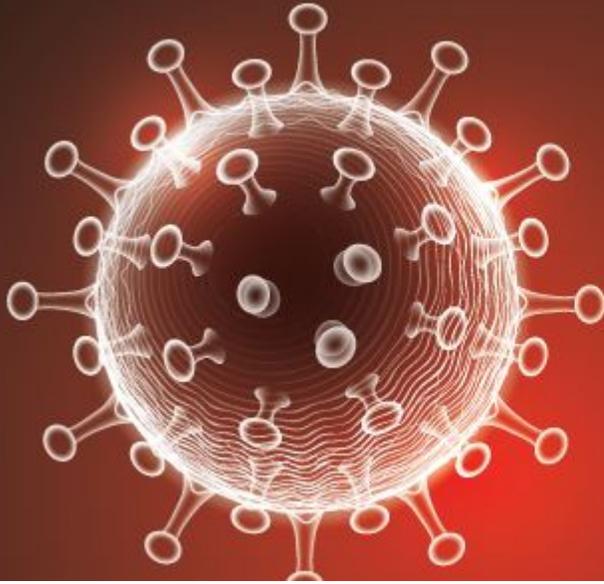


BY MOBILE APP:

**Download our free mobile app,  
Enroll MHC! Upload documents  
right from your phone or tablet!**



PGC Health Connect is a program of the Prince George's County  
Department of Social Services.



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

CALL (301) 883-6627