



COVID-19 UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020

Number of confirmed cases

Maryland – 29,374 (+1,211)

Prince George's County – 8,516 (+381)

Bowie zip codes – 676 (+10)

20715 – 128

20716 – 179

20720 – 167

20721 – 202

Maryland COVID-19 hospitalizations decreased by 1.4% 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. The weekly data on nursing home outbreaks was released on May 6 and includes updated information on the outbreaks at Larkin Chase and Brookdale Woodward Estates in Bowie.

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.

Governor Announces Some Loosening of Restrictions on Outdoor Activities

On May 6, Governor Hogan announced that with the concurrence of his Reopening Task Force, restrictions on some activities could be relaxed now in advance of Stage One of his Reopening Plan.

These **changes went into effect this morning at 7 am:**

- **Elective Surgeries**
The Maryland Department of Health will issue guidelines, effective immediately, to allow for elective procedures to occur, at the discretion of local hospitals and health care providers.
- **Outdoor Activities**
 - The list of safe outdoor activities is expanded to include: golf, tennis, boating, recreational fishing, and camping.
 - State parks can resume functions and playgrounds in those state parks can reopen. All state beaches can reopen for walking and exercise.
 - **Public health guidance and physical distancing rules must still be followed with these activities.**
 - The Governor's order provides local governments with the flexibility to take similar actions at their discretion.
 - **NOTE: The City of Bowie will not be opening playgrounds or lifting social distancing restrictions in city parks at this time.**

View [guidance issued by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) on these changes.

Announcements about Public Schools

- **Maryland public schools are CLOSED for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year.**
- Prince George's County Schools will continue the distance learning program until the last day of school on June 16. Instruction includes online teaching, lessons broadcast on PGCPSTV, and enrichment learning packets.
- The last day for high school seniors will remain Friday, May 15.
- Starting May 6, the PGCPSTV Grab and Go meals program now offers free breakfast, lunch and supper to school aged children.
- Students can get meals for two days on Mondays and three days on Wednesdays. Parents may pick up meals for students who are unable to come to the site by showing a student ID or report card.
- Meals are available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents and guardians are not required to accompany students nor are students required to show ID.

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.

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 of the Government's COVID-19 response. To register, or to submit your questions or

concerns, please [click here](#). You can also tune into Comcast Channel 76 (Verizon Fios 42) at 6:30 p.m. to listen to the live broadcast of the Tele-Town Hall.

Payroll Protection Program Funds Still Available for Small Businesses

On April 27, a second round of funding became available for small businesses and nonprofits to help provide eight weeks of payroll and certain overhead to keep workers employed. These loans fall under the Small Business Administration, which says it can forgive the portion of Paycheck Protection loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest. Loan payments may be deferred for one year, and the loans are retroactive to February 15, 2020, so that employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020. Small businesses can contact an approved lender to apply. View a list of these lenders at: <https://www.sba.gov/document/support--paycheck-protection-program-participating-lenders>.

Maryland Coronavirus Information for Businesses

See a list of the various COVID-19 related state and federal programs to help businesses manage during this emergency at <https://govstatus.egov.com/md-coronavirus-business>.

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 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.

Volunteers are needed to support this event. If you can help check in blood donors or assist with the canteen, please email Samantha Fricke at Samantha.Fricke@redcross.org by Friday, May 15.

Mental Health Webinars

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. In recognition of this, Prince George's County is hosting a series of mental health mini-webinars throughout the month of May. These sessions are open to the public and will cover a variety of topics. They will be held every Thursday in May. Here's a few of the ones coming up in the coming week.

- May 7, 11 a.m. – Students' Emotional Health amidst COVID-19
- May 7, 1 p.m. – Mental Health & Domestic Violence
- May 14, 11 a.m. – Managing Stress & Staying Connected During COVID-19
- May 21, 10 a.m. – Emotional Self-care for First Responders
- May 21, 12 p.m. – Youth Wellness & Coping
- May 28, 11 a.m. – Grief & Vicarious (Indirect) Trauma
- May 28, 12 p.m. – Early Childhood & Social Emotional Health

View each of the mini-webinars on Zoom by going to <https://bit.ly/MentalHealthWebinars>.

City Council Nearing End of Budget Review Process

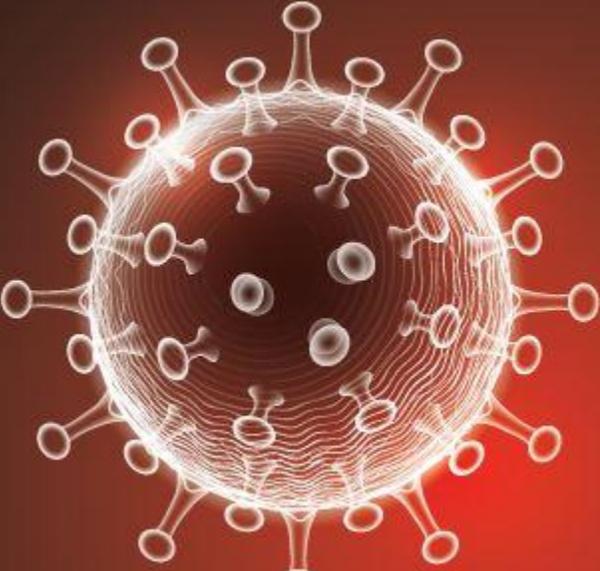
The fifth and final budget worksession on the FY 2021 Proposed Budget will be held on May 11, at 8 p.m. Council is scheduled to adopt the budget at its meeting on May 18.

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. For more information, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029 or email ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

TRASH & RECYCLING REMINDERS

- Trash must be placed in trash cans or closed bags. No loose trash or large items will be picked up.
- All recycling must be in recycling bins or carts. No loose items will be picked up.
- No special pickups
- Yard waste is being collected

These changes are in effect until further notice



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