



Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Friday, May 15, 2020

Number of confirmed cases *

- Maryland** – 36,986 (+1,083)
- Prince George’s County** – 10,791 (+413)
- Bowie zip codes** – 774
 - 20715 – 143
 - 20716 – 205
 - 20720 – 189
 - 20721 – 237

The current number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Maryland decreased 2.7% today.

Prince George’s County, Montgomery County, and Fairfax County are currently among the counties on the nationwide list of the *Top 50 Confirmed Cases by County* published by the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. Though it is not a county, Washington, DC is also on the list. The number of cases in Prince George’s County places the county at #25 on this list.

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 updated on May 13 and includes updated information on the outbreaks at two nursing homes in Bowie.

Facility	# of patient cases	# of staff cases
Larkin Chase	77 (17 deaths)	25 (0 deaths)
Brookdale Woodward Estates	7 (1 death)	5 (1 death)

**Source: Maryland Health Department COVID-19 dashboard*

Prince George’s County Keeps Stay at Home Order in Place Through June 1

On May 14, County Executive Alsobrooks announced that the Stay at Home Order will remain in effect for Prince George’s County through June 1 to allow the number of positive COVID cases in the County and the death rate here to subside. At present, the County is averaging nine COVID-19 related deaths every day.

Prince George's Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter outlined five pillars to reopening:

1. Reduce the curve.

The County needs to have a one to two week decline in new cases and a two week decline in the death rate before opening.

2. Adequate Healthcare Capacity.

Officials need to see a consistent two-week decline in hospital cases and they need to ensure that, at the time of reopening, 20% of the medical surge beds and 30% of the ICU beds are available in the event of a surge in cases.

3. More Testing Capacity

Testing to be more readily available. Officials want to test up to 9,000 individuals each week. Currently, approximately 5,500 tests are being administered each week. They would also like to see an additional two testing sites opened in different parts of the County.

4. Ability to Perform Contact Tracing

Some County employees are going to be trained and redeployed as contact tracers and new tracers are being hired. Officials also hope to have some of the tracers being hired by the State assigned to help with training in Prince George's County.

5. More Personal Protective Equipment Needed

Officials do not believe there is adequate supply of PPE available yet for hospitals, front line workers and first responders. They are working to purchase additional equipment and secure more shipments from state supplies.

[View Press Release on County Executive's Announcement \(May 14\)](#)

Reopening Maryland

Reopening up the state of Maryland will be accomplished gradually. Some counties, with low numbers of cases are moving forward to implement Stage 1 on May 15, at 5 p.m. per the Governor's announcement. Others, including Prince George's, Montgomery, Howard, Charles, and Baltimore City are delaying reopening and others, like Frederick County, will implement some, but not all of the provisions in Stage 1. **Anne Arundel County is allowing all retail establishments (excluding restaurants and bars) to open for curbside pickup only; houses of worship are not permitted to reopen yet.**

As of May 15, at 5 p.m. the following restrictions are being lifted in some Maryland counties:

Stage One Reopening of Maryland

The following restrictions are eased in Stage 1;

- Worship services are permitted with restrictions.
- Retail establishments can open (restaurants and bars remain closed) at 50% of capacity.
- Personal services like barber shops and salons can resume with some restrictions.
- Manufacturing can resume.
- Pet groomers, animal adoption shelters, car washes, and art galleries can begin reopening.

The Governor stressed the importance of continuing to do the following:

- Stay home as much as possible, if you are older or have a health condition that makes you more vulnerable to the disease.
- Employers should encourage telework.
- Wear masks in indoor public areas, retail stores, and on transit.
- Practice physical distancing and avoiding gatherings of over 10 people.
- Wash your hands often and frequently sanitize high-touch areas.

Guidance

[Governor's Stage 1 Reopening Order \(May 13, 2020\)](#)

[Guidance for Houses of Worship](#)

[Guidance for Retail Establishments](#)

[Interpretive Guidance for Reopening of Certain Businesses & Facilities](#)

[Guidance for Personal Services](#)

Primary Election

Primary Election Day is June 2. This election will be conducted primarily by mail. All registered and eligible voters should have received a ballot in the mail. Complete your ballot and return it in the self-addressed envelope as soon as possible. Please make sure to sign the oath on the ballot envelope or your ballot will not be counted.

In-person voting will be available for those who cannot vote by mail. The City of Bowie Gymnasium is one of five locations in the County where voting will take place in person on Election Day.

The Board of Elections announced last week that English language instructions were omitted from the ballot mailing. The instructions are being sent out to voters in a different mailing or can be viewed at [this link](#).

For more information about this election or if you believe you are eligible to vote in Prince George's County and did not receive your ballot, please call the Prince George's County Board of Elections at 301-341-7300 or visit elections.mypgc.us.

Prince George's County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Prince George's County Emergency Rental Assistance Program will provide temporary rental and utility assistance, up to \$1800 per month for three months, for households meeting the income eligibility requirements. The application process is now open. For more information, visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3471/COVID-19-Emergency-Rental-Assistance.

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 at www.cityofbowie.org/farmersmarket. You can also find links to their websites or contact information there on how to preorder your selections.

Please note: the selection of produce will be limited for now since it is still early in the growing season.

Volunteers Needed for American Red Cross Blood Drive – June 3 & 4

Grace Lutheran Church on Belair Drive is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive on June 3 and 4. Several volunteers are needed to support the American Red Cross workers who will be conducting this event. If you are able, please consider volunteering to help check in blood donors or to serve snacks to donors after they give blood. Please email Samantha Fricke at Samantha.Fricke@redcross.org as soon as possible.

If you would like to donate to give blood, register at www.redcrossblood.org and search by sponsor code, "Gracerock" or call 1-800-REDCROSS to make your life saving donation today.

City Council Meeting – May 18, 8 p.m.

Agenda topics:

- Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget and Capital Improvements Program 2021-2026
- Amending Bowie City Code to allow for appointment of a Public Health Officer and adding a section on Access to Healthcare Resources
- COVID Business Recovery Plan Recommendation by the Economic Development Committee
- Community Development Block Grant Program
- Stay at Home Order Remaining in Effect
- Discussion on the Bowie IcePlex Project

View the [full agenda](#) and related staff reports for this meeting.

Please note: Despite the headline on the article about the new ice rink in the print edition of yesterday's Bowie Blade-News, the IcePlex project has not been canceled. The future of the project will be discussed at the meeting on Monday evening.

City Council Meetings Closed to the Public (in-person)

City Council meetings are being held virtually during this emergency. While the public cannot attend Council meetings in person, they may submit testimony for public hearings or comments for the Citizen Participation portion of an upcoming Council meeting by texting a message to 240-335-3282 or emailing written or video testimony/comments to 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.

View the meetings live at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings or on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channel 71 and 996.

2020 Census

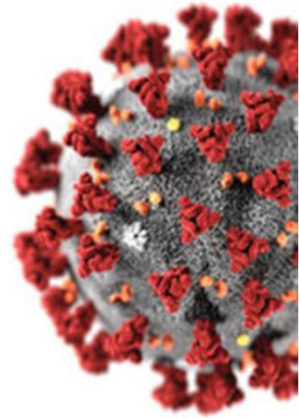
The Census & COVID-19



Take 10 Minutes for a Healthy Community

How does participation in Census impact emergencies such as COVID-19?

Participation in the 2020 Census affects apportionment of services and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funding for things including:



Complete your Census questionnaire NOW

Visit [My2020Census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) online or by phone at 1- 844-330-2020.

PGCensus2020.org @PGCensus2020

A complete Census count is going to be critical as we fight and rebuild after COVID-19 has left our community. Accurate Census counts are how we ensure our community gets the resources we need, such as for our healthcare and our schools. Take ten minutes now to complete your Census at [my2020Census.gov](https://my2020census.gov).



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

CALL (301) 883-6627