



Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Number of confirmed cases *

- Maryland – 42,323 (+777)
- Prince George’s County – 12,446 (+206)
- Bowie zip codes – 838 (+5)
 - 20715 – 166 (+2)
 - 20716 – 213 (+3)
 - 20720 – 205 (+0)
 - 20721 – 254 (+0)

Hospitalizations

The rate of new hospitalizations continues to trend downward in Maryland. Since the state began tracking COVID-19 related cases a few months ago, there have been a total of 7,393 patients hospitalized with confirmed COVID-19 cases. This hospitalization figure represents a hospitalization rate of 18% among confirmed cases. Another way of saying this is that, to date, 18% of the individuals with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Maryland, have ended up being hospitalized because of the disease.

Outbreaks

A good portion of the cases in Maryland can be attributed to outbreaks. These have occurred in places like nursing homes, assisted living facilities, prisons, group homes, and poultry processing facilities. According to the latest numbers, these cases represent 25% of the cumulative total of all Maryland cases. Nursing homes alone represent 20% of all cases and 50% of the deaths statewide since the pandemic began.

National Capital Region Cases Numbers Among the Highest in the US

Prince George’s County (#25), Montgomery County (#32), and Fairfax County (#36) 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 (#42) is also on the 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.

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

Maryland Expands Testing

On May 20, Governor Hogan announced new steps to increase the availability of testing in the state of Maryland.

- ***More Testing Locations***

In addition to the daily testing currently available at the Prince George's County Health Department clinic in Cheverly, drive through testing will soon be available at two additional locations in Prince George's County. Other details will be shared as soon as they are available. Addresses for these Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) sites are below:

Hyattsville (Landover) VEIP

7401 Jefferson Ave.

Hyattsville, MD 20785

(This site is located about 15 minutes from City Hall, off of Pennsy Drive)

Opens Friday, May 22

Clinton VEIP

7213 Old Alexandria Ferry Road

Clinton, MD 20735

Opening sometime next week

- ***Expanding testing criteria to include those who are asymptomatic***

People who suspect that they may have been exposed to COVID-19, even if they are not yet symptomatic, can get tested at one of these new sites without a prior doctor's order or a scheduled appointment. These tests will be provided at no out-of-pocket cost.

- ***Pharmacists Can Order and Administer Tests***

Governor Hogan has issued an emergency order authorizing the state's pharmacists to directly order COVID-19 tests. Additionally, the order authorizes pharmacies to collect specimens for COVID-19 tests onsite, provided that it is carried out safely by qualified personnel in accordance with all CDC guidance. Pharmacists must adhere to all test result reporting requirements. This order coincides with new federal guidelines expanding options to pay for pharmacists to offer COVID-19 tests for Medicare beneficiaries.

Look for pharmacies to advertise when they have tests available and are ready to begin administering them.

Testing of residents and staff is also taking place at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, correctional facilities, and group homes throughout the state. Many of these facilities have experienced outbreaks over the last several weeks. The Governor's office also announced today that more supplies of test kits and testing supplies are being distributed to local jurisdictions this week to augment local testing.

The number of positive COVID-19 cases in Prince George's County and across Maryland is expected to increase with expanded testing and the numbers may seem quite alarming. The important thing to remember here is that identifying the additional cases and isolating these individuals, especially the asymptomatic ones, will be a critical step in slowing down the spread of the disease.

- [More information on COVID-19 testing in Maryland](#)
- [Governor Hogan's press release on testing – May 19](#)
- [Governor's order on testing by licensed pharmacists](#)

Information for Businesses about Reopening Planning

The Maryland Department of Commerce website offers updates and best practices for businesses as they plan for reopening, when the Stay at Home Order is lifted for Prince Georges' County. Visit open.maryland.gov/backtobusiness.

Also, the CDC has issued guidance on reopening building that have been closed for an extended period of time or have been open with reduced operations. The recommendations include information about flushing water systems and monitoring for microbial hazards such as mold and the bacteria that causes Legionnaire's disease.

[View guidance](#)

Prince George's County Rental Assistance Program Update

Due to an overwhelming response, this program is temporarily closed. An announcement on the [County website](#) instructs residents to check back periodically for updates.

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.

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.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

Primary Election

June 2, 2020 • 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

In response to COVID-19, and in keeping with the guidelines for social distancing, important changes have been made to how we vote in upcoming elections.

NEW DATE – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Tuesday, June 2, 2020!

Primary Election Day

VOTE BY MAIL!

There will be a limited number of in-person voting locations open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. County voters are encouraged to Vote by Mail. Fill out your ballot as soon as you receive it, sign the envelope, and send it back through the mail. There's no stamp needed; postage is pre-paid. All ballots must be postmarked by June 2nd to be counted. If you have not yet received your ballot in the mail, please call the Prince George's County Board of Elections at **(301) 341-7300**.

BALLOT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Prince George's County voters can also drop-off completed ballots at a ballot drop box from May 21st to June 2nd. There are five (5) drop-off locations throughout the County:

Prince George's County Board of Elections
1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A
Largo, MD 20774

Bowie Gymnasium
4100 Northview Drive
Bowie, MD 20716

Kentland Community Center
2413 Pinebrook Avenue
Landover, MD 20785

College Park Community Center
5051 Pierce Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Southern Regional Technology
and Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY VOTER INFORMATION

For more information about the June 2nd Primary Election in Prince George's County, including online voter registration, vote by mail and other voting options, limited in-person voting locations and more, please visit the Prince George's County Board of Elections at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/559/Board-of-Elections> or call **(301) 341-7300**.

