



COVID-19

UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Friday, May 22, 2020

Number of confirmed cases *

Maryland – 44,424 (+893)
Prince George's County – 13,077 (+247)
Bowie zip codes – 868 (+10)
 20715 – 176 (+2)
 20716 – 215 (+0)
 20720 – 216 (+5)
 20721 – 261 (+3)

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 **7,634 patients** hospitalized with confirmed cases of COVID-19. This represents 18% of those who have tested positive for the virus in Maryland.

Other hospitalization and testing information:

- The current statewide hospitalization rate is the lowest since April 19.
- Today, Maryland hospitalizations are down 3.3%; acute care beds are down 2.9%; and ICU beds are down 3.8%
- Since the pandemic began, 20% of all Marylanders have tested have been positive. The US positive test rate is 12%.
- 3,243 Maryland patients have been released from isolation.
(This figure is a statewide cumulative total of individuals that local health departments have reported as having been released from home isolation. Since "recovery" can mean different things as people experience COVID-19 disease to varying degrees of severity, the Maryland Department of Health reports on individuals released from isolation rather than recovered. "Released from isolation" refers to those who have met criteria and are well enough to be released from home isolation. Some of these individuals may have been hospitalized at some point. Source: MD Health Department)

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*

County Executive Alsobrooks Cautiously Optimistic about Modified Stage 1 Opening by June 1

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced Thursday that if current data trends continue, Prince George's County will be on track to move toward a modified reopening by June 1. Recent data shows hospitalizations and death rates are decreasing in the County.

The following statement was posted on the County Executive's Twitter feed on May 21:

"After reviewing recent data, we are cautiously moving toward a modified phase one reopening by June 1. While the data has improved, we are not out of the woods yet. I urge all Prince Georgians to exercise caution, use good judgement and observe the Stay-at-Home Order this Memorial Day weekend so that we can stay on track to begin reopening by our target date."

Bowie Farmers' Market Open Sundays 8 a.m. to Noon with Social Distancing Precautions in Place

A modified version of the Bowie Farmers' is now open on Sunday mornings with special measures in place to enforce 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.

Memorial Day Holiday

Memorial Day is the day when our nation remembers those members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives in service to our country. Since we cannot honor their memory and their sacrifices this year with wreath laying ceremonies or parades, we encourage you to take a moment to think about all those who stepped up and fought to protect and serve our nation and lost their lives as a result. The President has ordered the US flag to be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2020 in honor and recognition of all fallen heroes.

City government is closed on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day. No trash or recycling collection will take place on that date. There are no makeup dates. The next pickup will be on your next, regularly scheduled day.

(Flags have also been ordered to half-staff through sunset, Sunday, May 24 in remembrance of all Americans who have lost their lives to COVID-19.)

Maryland Launches Expanded Contact Tracing Operations

Next week, expanded contact tracing operations will be fully operational across the state. There will be more than 1,400 case investigators working on investigations statewide.

What Marylanders can expect:

- When the phone rings, the caller ID will read "MD COVID."
- Depending on whether the contact investigator is calling directly from NORC (the organization hired by the state to do tracing), or a local health department, there will also be a list of phone numbers provided to verify the caller's identity.
- The caller will ask about one's health, any potential symptoms, and the duration of those symptoms.

- They may ask about an individual's whereabouts and interactions for a specific period of time.
- Guidance will be provided regarding self-isolation and monitoring for symptoms.
- They will ask for verification of date of birth and additional contact information.
- If an individual has already tested positive for COVID-19, they may request details regarding that test.

Beware of scammers. A contact investigator will never ask for a Social Security number, financial or bank account information, or personal details unrelated to COVID-19. They will not ask for photographs or videos, passwords, or payment.

Maryland Expands Testing

This week, Governor Hogan announced several 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)

Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (beginning 5/22)

Clinton VEIP

7213 Old Alexandria Ferry Road

Clinton, MD 20735

Opening sometime during the week of May 25

For more information about testing at VEIP sites, view [Maryland VEIP Testing FAQ](#).

- ***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.

- **CVS Drive Through Testing**

Another aspect to the state's aggressive effort to expand testing is the addition of drive through self-swab testing at certain CVS locations. Self-swab tests will be available to individuals meeting Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria, in addition to age guidelines.

- Patients must register in advance at CVS.com beginning Friday, May 22 to schedule an appointment.
- Patients will be required to stay in their cars and directed to the pharmacy drive-thru window, where they will be provided with a test kit and given instructions.
- A CVS Pharmacy team member will observe the self-swab process to ensure it is done properly.
- Tests will be sent to an independent, third-party lab for processing and the results will be available in approximately three days.
- Testing will not take place inside any retail CVS locations.

Prince George's County

- CVS Pharmacy, 8201 Annapolis Road, New Carrollton, MD 20784
- CVS Pharmacy, 7600 SE Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
- CVS Pharmacy, 4840 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights, MD 20743
- CVS Pharmacy, 5100 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Anne Arundel County

- CVS Pharmacy, 2600 Annapolis Road, Severn, MD 21076
- CVS Pharmacy, 157 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park, MD 21146

View [press release on launch of CVS testing sites](#) (includes complete list of CVS testing sites).

Today the Governor announced additional testing locations across the state at some Walmart and Rite Aid pharmacies. So far, none of these new sites are in Prince George's County.

Prince George's County is also beginning targeted testing in hotspot areas of the County.

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. It is important to remember 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](#)

Pediatric Inflammatory Syndrome Associated with COVID-19

This week, the CDC issued information for parents on a pediatric syndrome that is thought to be

related to those with COVID-19 or those exposed to the coronavirus. Reported symptoms include inflammation of certain organs or the skin or eyes. Children's National Medical Center reported yesterday that it has treated 23 patients with the syndrome, now known as Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).

The CD also released several other publications yesterday on other topics related to the pandemic, including guidance for pool openings.

[Multi Inflammatory Syndrome in Children – Information for Parents](#)

[Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19](#)

[New CDC Announcements May 20](#)

Primary Election

Primary Election Day is June 2. This election is being 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, postage paid 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 the locations in the County where voting will take place in person on Election Day. Voters can also drop off their completed ballots at the Gym from May 21 to June 2 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. The Bowie Gymnasium is located at 4100 Northview Drive.

The Board of Elections announced recently that English language instructions were omitted from the ballot mailing. The instructions were 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. The deadline for voter registration is May 27, 2020.

Contact the Board of Elections to register or view information about registering to vote at https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html.

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 Business Recovery Initiative (formerly Business Relief Fund) Deadline Extended to May 29

Prince George's County announced this week that its fund to support businesses during the pandemic has been expanded. Officials will use \$20 million from the County's federal CARES Act allocation to support businesses that have been adversely updated by the COVID-19 crisis. Grants of up to \$100,000 will be available to eligible businesses. The new deadline for applications to the

COVID-19 Business Recovery Initiative is May 29, 2020.

[Description of program](#)

[Apply here](#)



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**.



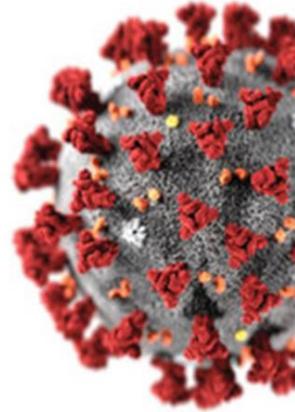
The Census & COVID-19



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).