



COVID-19 REOPENING UPDATE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Friday, July 17, 2020

Bowie Confirmed Cases: 1,223 (+11) 20715: 250 (+5) 20716: 300 (+2) 20720: 306 (+2) 20721: 367 (+2)	Prince George's County Confirmed Cases: 20,302 (+111) Total Deaths: 719 (+0) Ever hospitalized: 3,236 (+14) Ranking: 29th in the nation for highest number of cases.	MD Confirmed Cases 76,371 (+707) Deaths 3,359 (+12) Released from Isolation: 5,286 (+0) = 7%
<p style="text-align: center;">Testing</p> MD Tests Completed: 896,990 (+24,158) Negative Tests: 631,845 (+14,980) MD Positivity Rate: 3.43% PGC Positivity Rate: 6.23% <i>Data current as of 7/17.</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maryland Hospitalizations Data Tracker</p> Currently Hospitalized: 434 (-0.4%) Acute Care: 306 (2.3%) Intensive Care: 137 (-6.5%) Ever Hospitalized: 11,728 = 15.3%	
<i>The figures presented here represent 24-hour changes.</i>		

Source: Maryland COVID-19 dashboard

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.

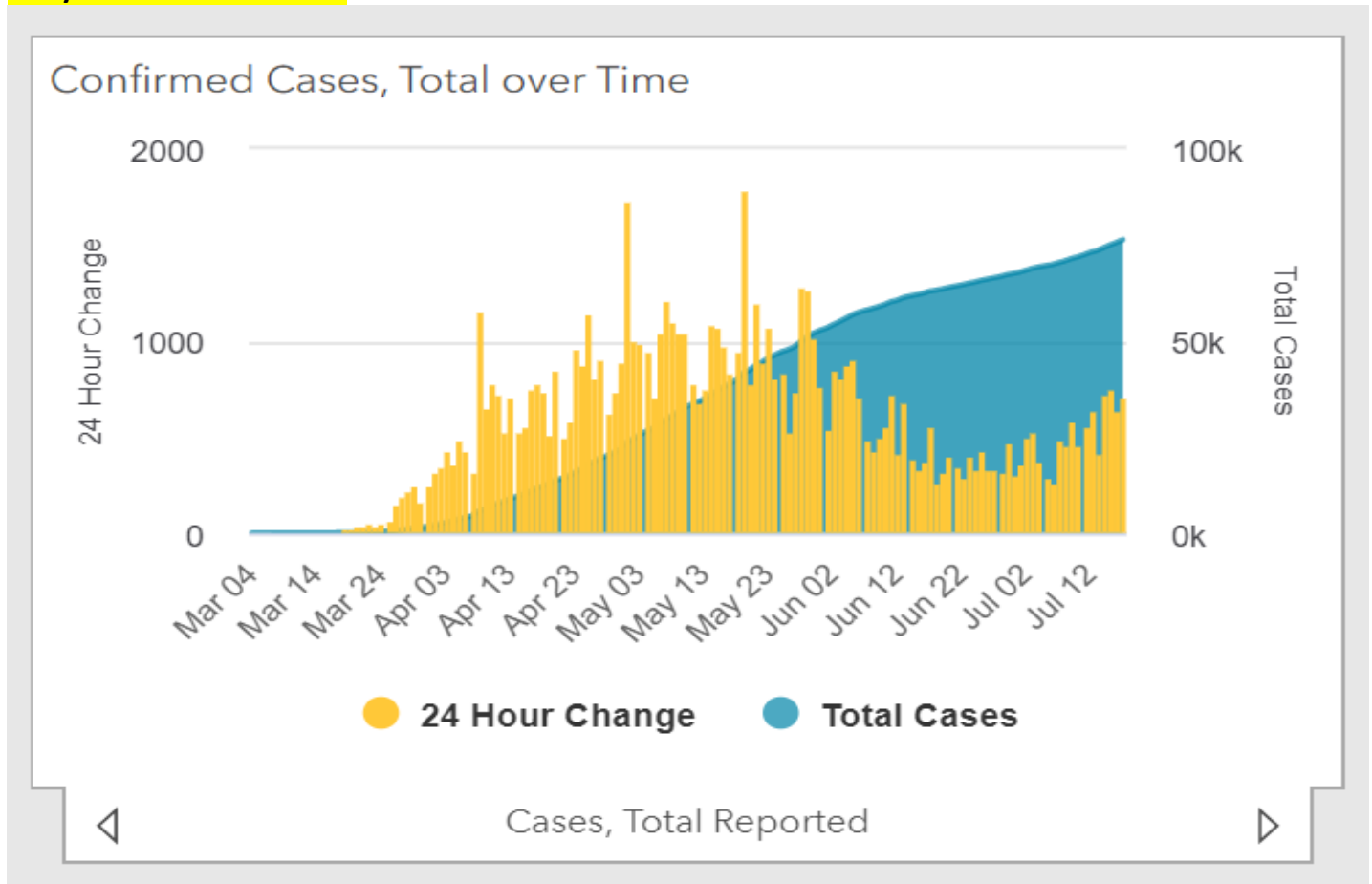
Maryland News

11.5% of Marylanders have been tested for COVID-19 at least once and today's daily positivity rate is down to 3.43%. However, cases are increasing among Marylanders under age 40, especially among young adults. Those under 40 account for 44% of all cases here.

The number of outbreaks in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, and other congregate living facilities has increased recently. Outbreaks are currently reported at 252 facilities across the state.

There were 12 COVID deaths in Maryland since yesterday.

Maryland Cases Over Time



Source: Maryland COVID-19 Dashboard

What's in the Numbers?

Many of us are regularly looking at a variety of data related to COVID-19 and trying to make sense of it all. Case numbers, deaths, positivity rates, tests completed, recovered cases, and hospitalizations all tell a piece of the story, but sometimes it's difficult to see the big picture and assess what is important in the numbers.

Case numbers are cumulative and show how many people have tested positive for the virus. They are a factor of how much testing is being done. The numbers do not include those who had the virus, but did not get tested.

Deaths figures are based on the reported cause of an individual's death. Underlying conditions are a huge determinant of deaths. People of all ages are succumbing to the virus; however, the older one is, the greater one's chances are of losing his or her life to the virus.

There are reports that the death rates are declining in Maryland and other locations. Some of the explanations for this are that 1) health professionals have gained more experience on how best to treat their COVID patients, 2) medical equipment, like ventilators, is more readily available in some locations, and 3) young people, while not invincible, are less likely to be hospitalized or to die as a result of the disease. Even though they are now a growing segment of those contracting the virus, they have a better chance of successfully recovering from it because they have fewer underlying medical conditions to cause

complications.

Testing helps medical providers, government officials and the public learn how widespread the virus is in a particular jurisdiction. It is dependent on testing availability and who chooses to get tested. Maryland has made it a goal to test at least 10% of the population to help determine who has the virus and how fast it is spreading.

Positivity rates are based on the percentage of positive cases out of all those being tested during a specific timeframe. A downward moving positivity rate is an indicator of declining spread of the disease and a climbing positivity rate shows the infection rate is increasing.

So, for Maryland, there is some good news and some mixed news. Positivity rates are declining as more tests are conducted. Hospitalization rates are jumping around a bit. Case numbers are higher than they were a few weeks ago, but fewer people are dying from the disease. Overall Maryland is in better shape than many other parts of the country, but it is only through continued vigilance, social distancing, wearing masks, and good hygiene that we can prevent another surge in our state.

COVID-19 Information for Young Adults (Ages 15 - 21)

The CDC has produced a series of fact sheets for young adults, ages 15-21. The fact sheets cover a variety of topics, including what test results mean, how to stay safe at the pool or beach, how to wear a face covering and other preventive measures.

- [Wear a Cloth Face Covering to Protect You and Your Friends](#)
- [Help Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19](#)
- [What Your Test Results Mean](#)
- [Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)
- [Do it for Yourself and Your Friends](#)
- [Stay Safe at the Pool/Beach](#)

While the information in these publications is directed toward young adults, there is good information in them for everyone.

COVID Testing Information

- Find a testing site on the **Maryland** website – covidtest.maryland.gov
- See where **Prince George's County** is currently operating testing sites - health.mypgc.us/covidtesting or call 301-883-6627

Prince George's County Schools Announce Decision for Fall

Today, Schools CEO Monica Golson announced that PGPCS school buildings will not reopen to students in the fall. Instead they will begin the school year with distance learning. For at least the first and second quarters, instruction will be done remotely through a combination of approaches, including recorded lessons and live online sessions. PGPCS will provide devices and internet connectivity for those that need it and the system is developing a means of providing instructional and technical support to families. Additionally, all schools will serve as student meal sites and offer twice-weekly pickups. View the full announcement at www.pgcps.org.

Hand Sanitizer Brands to Avoid

New brand names have been added to the [Food and Drug Administration's \(FDA\) list of hand sanitizers that should be avoided](#) due to the use of the toxic ingredient methanol. Many of these brands list ethanol (or

ethyl alcohol) among their ingredients, but have tested positive for methanol, which can have many toxic effects, such as changes in vision, vomiting, nausea, headache, or neurological symptoms. Consumers who may have been exposed to methanol and are experiencing these symptoms should seek medical attention immediately. The public is strongly urged to review and discontinue use of any products that appear on the FDA list.

The FDA also reminds the public that some hand sanitizers do not contain the minimum 60% ethyl alcohol required for effectiveness, and some brands are making misleading claims that their products are FDA approved or that hand sanitizers offer prolonged protection from bacteria or viruses. Hand sanitizer should only be used to replace hand washing when water and soap are not available.

COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund

Prince George's County Council Chair, Councilman Todd M. Turner (District 4) has partnered with Employ Prince George's (EPG) to provide economic relief to District 4 residents who were recently laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. \$200 EPG Visa Cash Cards will be distributed to qualified District 4 applicants in the coming weeks.

EPG will review the COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund District 4 applicants individually. Cash cards are based on the availability of funding, and priority will be given to District 4 hourly workers who earned \$19 or less prior to being laid off due to the pandemic. Apply for a cash card or make a donation to the fund at www.employppedge.com.

Meals Giveaway for Seniors Age 60+

County Council Chair Todd Turner and Prince George's County Department of Family Services have teamed up to provide meals to seniors who live in County Council District 4 (Bowie/Greenbelt).

- Each resident will receive a box with a breakfast and three (3) lunches ready to go.
- Meals are provided by Martin's Catering.
- Seniors must [preregister online](#) or contact Evelyn Archie to be eligible for this giveaway.
- Call Evelyn Archie at 240-619-9775 or email her at ejarchie@co.pg.md.us.
- Registration deadline is Wednesday, July 22.
- A meal box can be picked up on behalf of a registered senior by another driver/walk up person with identification or a copy of senior's registration form.
- Bowie date: July 31 at the Bowie Senior Center.
- Greenbelt date: July 29 at the Greenbelt Community Center.
- On pickup dates, those picking up meals must
 - Wear a mask.
 - Check - in at the registration station.
 - Remain inside their vehicle and staff will place meals in the back seat or trunk.

City of Bowie Gymnasium Open to Members for Basketball Skill Building and Walking

The City Gym reopened to resident members on July 7 for basketball shootarounds and skill building sessions. No games are allowed, because they would involve close contact with others. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Masks are required when not on the court and COVID-19 waivers must be signed before using the facility. Members are encouraged to call ahead to reserve a time slot. More details can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/gym or by calling 301-809-2388.

Starting July 21, members can escape the heat and do their daily walks around the interior perimeter of the Gym. Eleven times around equals one mile. Hours are noon to 1:30 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Census Completion and Drive-up Event

As part of the County Executive's 100 Events of Summer, the Office of Community Relations is hosting *Census Completion and Drive-Up Distribution* events throughout the County. The second event will take place on *Saturday, July 18, 2020, from 12:00pm-2:00pm at the Oakcrest Community Center*. There will be free meals, back packs, personal protective equipment, census swag items and most importantly an opportunity to complete the Census on the spot. Special guest artist Kenny Sway will perform while participants drive thru safely.

This event is open to all residents, even if you have already completed your census. Please come early as there is a limited supply and it is a first come first served event.

Census Completion and Drive-Up Distribution - Oakcrest Community Center

Saturday, July 18, 2020

12 – 2 p.m.

1300 Capitol Heights Boulevard, District Heights