



COVID-19 REOPENING UPDATE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Friday, July 31, 2020

Hurricane Season is Upon Us

Hurricane Isaias is now a Category 1 hurricane currently located 385 miles southeast of Nassau in the Bahamas. Current models predict that the storm could make landfall in Florida on Saturday night or Sunday morning and make its way up the coast. On this track, Bowie might be in for tropical force winds and heavy rain beginning Monday night into Tuesday. However, there is still a lot of uncertainty about the path of this storm. City officials will be monitoring potential impacts to our area all weekend.

Whether or not this is the storm that impacts our area, now is a great time to take some basic steps to prepare for hurricane season:

- Gather emergency supplies that you might need in the event power is interrupted.
- Visit our [hurricane preparedness](#) page.
- [Make or update your emergency kit.](#)

Today's Numbers

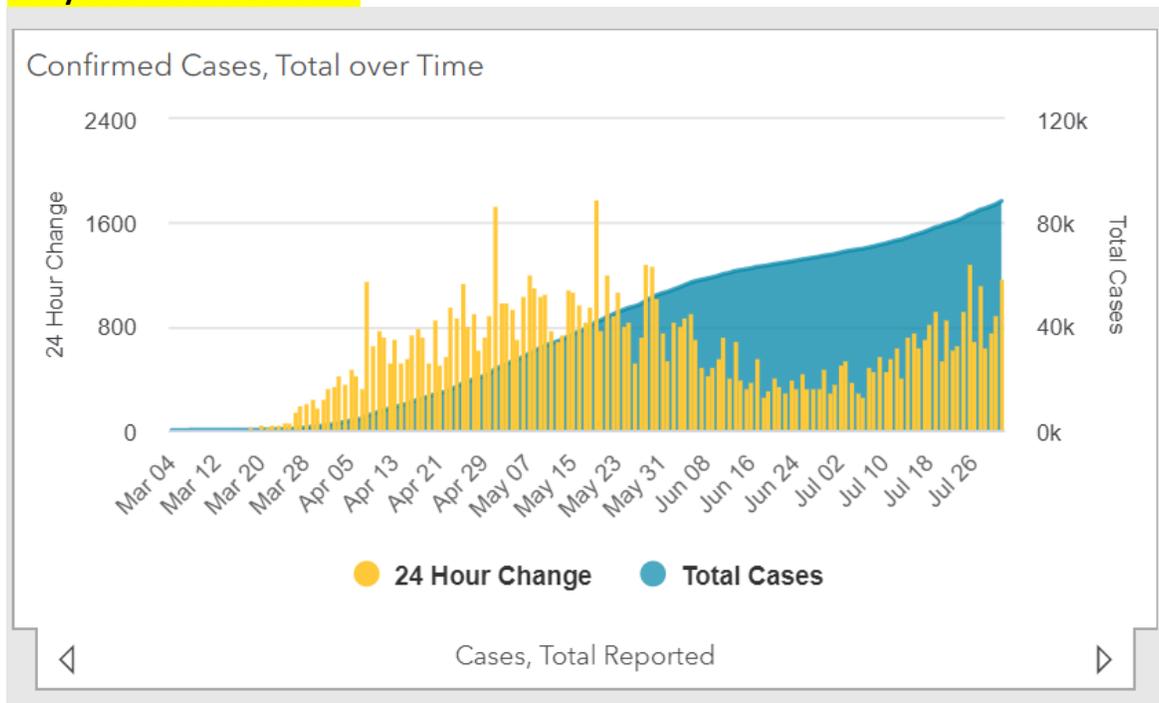
Bowie Confirmed Cases: 1,406 (+13) 20715: 289 (+1) 20716 341 (+3) 20720 348 (+4) 20721 428 (+5)	Prince George's County Confirmed Cases: 22,416 (+233) Total Deaths: 737 (+3) Ever hospitalized: 3,366 (+12) Ranking: 28th in the nation for highest number of cases.	Maryland Confirmed Cases 88,346 (+1,169) Deaths 3,493 (+5) Released from Isolation: 5,592 (+97) = 6%
Testing MD Tests Completed: 1,214,764 (+28,632) Negative Tests: 822,845 (+16,057) MD Positivity Rate: 4.12% PGC Positivity Rate: 6.26%	Maryland Hospitalizations Data Tracker Currently Hospitalized: 590 0.8% Acute Care: 462 3.5% Intensive Care 128 -7.9% Ever Hospitalized 12,593 14.2%	
<i>* These figures represent changes in the last 24-hours.</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 Cases Over Time



Source: State of Maryland. Visit the [Maryland COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to view an interactive version of this chart. Hover over the chart on the state site to see the number of new cases for a specific day.

COVID Testing Information

Testing is being offered at state, county, medical, and retail locations. Some private labs are experiencing delays in processing test results. State officials strongly advise Marylanders concerned about delays in testing turnaround time to use state-operated testing sites, where the turnaround time is generally as low as 24 - 48 hours.

- The **Maryland** website lists all testing locations in the state (including those operated by the state) at covidtest.maryland.gov.
- **Prince George's County** Health Department operates several testing sites in the County. See the current county list at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3472/COVID-19-Testing. You can also call the Health Department at 301-883-6627 for assistance.

Please note: Some outdoor testing sites suspend operations when air temperatures exceed 90 degrees. Check the current status before going to an outdoor testing site.

Recovered COVID Patients Urged to Donate Plasma

The American Red Cross, in coordination with the US Food and Drug Administration, is asking individuals who are fully recovered from COVID-19 to sign up and donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. Those who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that may be able to attack the virus in others who are fighting the disease. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening disease.

[Details on the Plasma Donation Program](#)

[FDA Information on Plasma Program](#)

CDC Updates

The CDC has updated the [list of conditions that increase a person's risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#). New to the list of conditions that extensive studies have shown can result in severe illness are those with cancer and those with a body mass index of 30 or more. The previous version of this list said the risk was severe at a BMI of 40 or more. (7/28/2020)

Also the CDC has issued [New guidance for employers on Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#) (7/28/2020).

Prince George's County Compliance Efforts

More than 80 inspectors from various County agencies are working to ensure compliance with State and County orders regarding social distancing, large gatherings, and the wearing of masks. Yesterday County Executive Alsobrooks announced that while education and compliance are preferred, the County will be imposing fines and other penalties on those who are willfully ignoring the orders.



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Prince George's County Ambassador Compliance Team



A compliance team comprised of County employees and partners will be visiting retail and business establishments throughout the County.

Our goal is to make sure that businesses are in compliance with the safety measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as capacity limits, face coverings and social distancing.



Beginning Saturday, July 18, 2020



First Visit

Ambassadors will visit to ensure businesses are in compliance.

Second Visit

If a business is not in compliance when the Ambassadors return, then a \$1,000 fine is issued and a corrective compliance form must be submitted.



Third Visit

If a business remains non-compliant, they will be closed until they can come into compliance, with a full reopening plan and inspection required.

Information regarding applicable rules remains available at: mypgc.us/reopen

Warning About Mailed Seeds

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a [warning](#) yesterday regarding people across the country receiving suspicious, unsolicited packages of seed that appear to be coming from China. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with other federal agencies and state departments of agriculture to investigate the situation.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has reported that several Virginia residents have received unsolicited packages containing seeds that appear to have originated from China. The types of seeds in the packages are unknown at this time and may be invasive plant species. The packages were sent by mail and may have Chinese writing on them. Officials in other states, including Louisiana, Utah, Minnesota, and Washington, as well as Canada, have reported similar situations.

At this time, USDA has no evidence indicating this is something other than a “brushing scam” where people receive unsolicited items from a seller who then posts false customer reviews to boost sales. USDA is currently collecting seed packages from recipients and will test their contents and determine if they contain anything that could be of concern to U.S. agriculture or the environment.

Anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds should contact Maryland Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Weed Management program at ppwm.mda@maryland.gov or 410-841-5920. Recipients are asked to hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from the State department of agriculture or APHIS contacts them with further instructions. Recipients should not plant seeds from unknown origins.

COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund

Employ Prince George's (EPG) provides financial assistance to hourly workers who were making less than \$19 an hour before they lost their job due to the pandemic. Assistance is in the form of a \$200 EPG Visa Cash Card. Learn more about this program and how to apply at www.employpg.org/covid19. The Bowie City Council recently voted to make a \$20,000 donation to this fund.

Evictions Remain on Hold in Maryland and Shutoffs Banned Through August

In March, Governor Hogan issued an emergency order that prohibits Maryland courts from ordering the eviction of any tenant who can demonstrate that their inability to pay rent was the result of COVID-19—for example, because of lost or reduced employment, or needing to care for a school-aged child—or because they are diagnosed with, or under investigation for, COVID-19. The order remains in place during the state of emergency. The District Court of Maryland has delayed any hearings on failure to pay rent cases until August 31.

Today, the Governor also extended the emergency order prohibiting utility providers from shutting off or charging late fees for residential services, including electricity, water, phone, and internet, through September 1.

[View the order](#)

Maryland Unemployment Program

Maryland has announced that 223 businesses have been approved to participate in the State's Department of Labor Work Sharing Unemployment Insurance Program. This program preserves jobs by providing employers with a flexible alternative to layoffs. Employers who participate in the Work Sharing Program can retain employees by temporarily and equally reducing the hours of work by 20% to 50%, so they can

resume business operations safely and effectively without the challenge of recruiting, hiring, and training employees. Employees keep their current job, and often health and retirement benefits, while receiving partial unemployment insurance benefits to supplement their wages.

The state also announced today that it would be extending unemployment benefits for claimants who have exhausted both their 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits and 13 weeks of the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) assistance.

[View announcement](#)

Food Giveaways

Food giveaways are taking place regularly in different parts of Prince George's County. If you are in immediate need of groceries, please call 311 to find out when the next event is scheduled. You can also visit the Bowie Pantry (located behind the Kenhill Center) on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings from 9 - 11 a.m. (and on the evening of 7/28). More information about the Pantry can be found at www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative Application Deadline Extended to August 4, 2020

Eligible nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can receive up to \$50,000 in grant assistance through the Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative (NORI). The initial round of NORI assistance includes \$30 million for nonprofit organizations supporting economic recovery, health and human services, and housing in underserved communities. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has extended the application deadline for the initial round of assistance. Applications may be submitted until 12 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

For more information, FAQs, and to apply for NORI assistance, visit:

<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/MarylandNonprofitRecoveryInitiative.aspx>



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

BROWN STATION ROAD SANITARY LANDFILL



FULL REOPENING AUGUST 3

FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS



Brown Station Road
Sanitary Landfill
11611 White House Road,
Upper Marlboro

MONDAY - SATURDAY
Closed Sunday
7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

NOW AVAILABLE

(reopened June 11)

Household Hazardous
Waste Acceptance Site

Electronics Acceptance
Recycling Site

Thursday, Friday and Saturday ONLY
8 am - 3:30 pm

*Customers are required to follow all
mandated COVID-19 social distancing
protocols and to wear a face
covering or mask onsite.*