



COVID-19

REOPENING UPDATE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Friday, August 7, 2020

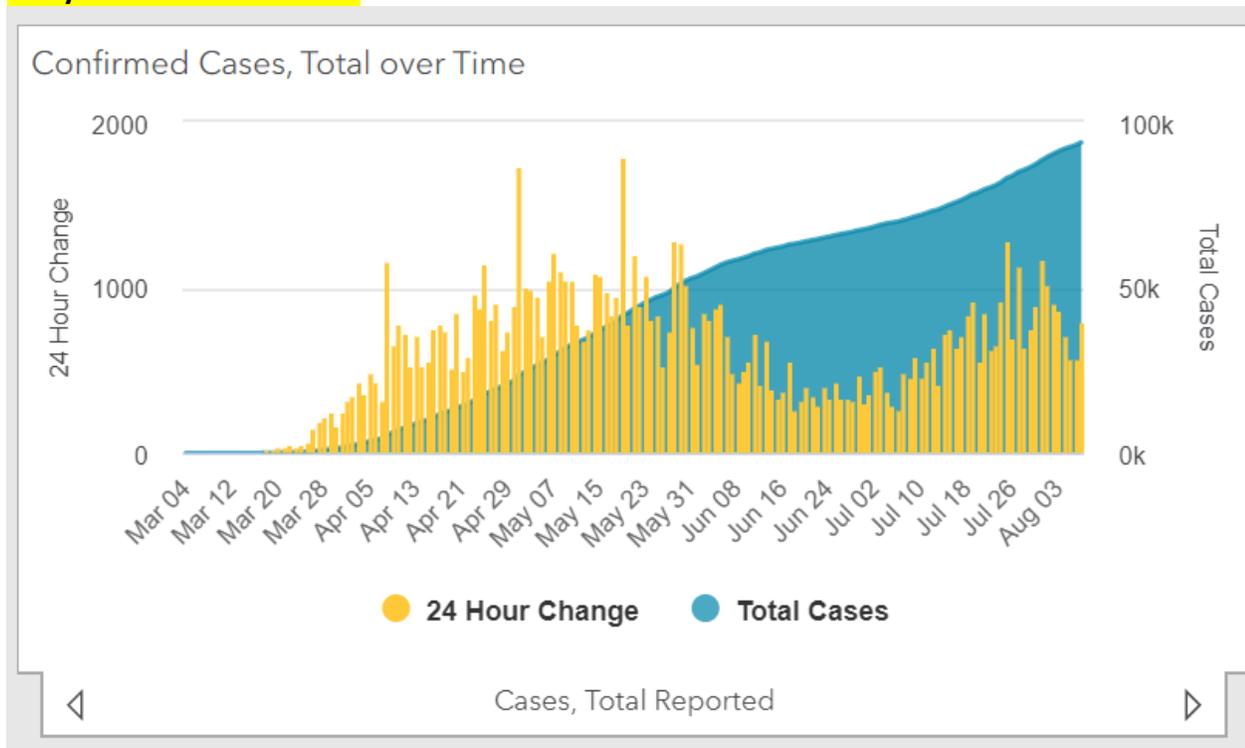
Today's COVID-19 Numbers

Bowie Confirmed Cases: 1,488 (+9) 20715: 296 (+1) 20716 358 (+1) 20720 374 (+4) 20721 460 (+3)	Prince George's County Confirmed Cases: 23,372 (+147) Total Deaths: 749 (+1) Ever hospitalized: 3,452 (+7) Ranking: 28th in the nation for highest number of cases.	Maryland Confirmed Cases 93,806 (+801) Deaths 3,565 (+14) Released from Isolation: 5,838 (+48) = 6%
Testing MD Tests Completed: 1,377,459 (+28,579) Negative Tests: 913,018 (+13,882) MD Positivity Rate: 3.23% PGC Positivity Rate: 5.8%	Maryland Hospitalizations Data Tracker Currently Hospitalized: 528 -1.3% Acute Care: 393 -0.7% Intensive Care 135 -2.8% Ever Hospitalized 13,047 13.9%	
<p><i>* These figures represent changes in the last 24-hours.</i></p>		

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.

Some Good News in Today's Numbers

Today's daily positivity rate is 3.23% and the seven-day COVID-19 positivity rate has fallen below 4% for the first time, to 3.90%. Statewide hospitalization numbers have also declined slightly to 528. The number of Prince George's County cases have decreased 7% over the last week.

Getting Tested and Getting Results in a Timely Manner Can Be Challenging

The need for testing has exploded across the nation. This increased demand for testing has caused delays in obtaining results, as the major lab companies have been flooded with processing COVID-19 tests, in addition to keeping up with their regular workloads.

Unfortunately, Maryland has not been spared these growing response times, as is evidenced by news articles and social media posts complaining of days, or even weeks, of waiting for test results. These wait times are not only stressful for residents who are often isolating until they receive their results, but they also hinder the ability of the contact tracers to do their jobs effectively.

Marylanders have two options when choosing where to get a test: private companies and government sponsored sites. Private companies are conducting tests and sending them out to their own contracted labs. Some of these companies have quick turn-around times; others are struggling to keep up. Unfortunately, there is no way to know for sure how quickly your results will be returned when you are selecting one of these private testing sites.

Testing sites operated by the state of Maryland or a local government can often return results within 5 days, sometimes sooner. These are the sites being operated at locations like Six Flags, the convention centers in Baltimore and Ocean City, Vehicle Emissions (VEIP) facilities and other "pop up" sites around the state. The downside is that in some cases, testing is not offered every day, and sometimes the hours are

limited.

You can find a list of all COVID-19 testing sites in Maryland at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>. You can also call the Prince George's County Health Department testing line for information about County testing locations at 301-883-6627.

Maryland Health Exchange Reopens to Allow New Applicants

Today Maryland announced the reopening of the coronavirus emergency special enrollment period for health insurance. The Maryland Health Connection plans will cover testing, visits relating to testing, and treatment of COVID-19, as well as other medical conditions. Consumers will not be billed for a copay, coinsurance, or deductible for services to test, diagnose, and treat COVID-19. Marylanders do not need to be sick to enroll in coverage. This special enrollment is for private health plans only. Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll any time of year.

To enroll, visit MarylandHealthConnection.gov or download the free "Enroll MHC" mobile app. For free consumer assistance, call 855-642-8572 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. Help is available in more than 200 languages through the call center, as well as relay service for the deaf and hard of hearing. Trained navigators and brokers statewide offer free help enrolling by phone.

Maryland Insurance Administration Moves to Restrict Health Insurance Cancellations

Maryland Insurance Administration is using emergency powers to prevent health insurance companies from canceling or refusing to renew individual health benefit plan policies for nonpayment of premiums for the next sixty days. Individual health benefit plan policies that were scheduled to terminate due to unpaid premiums on or after July 31, will remain in effect through September 30. This action will help keep Marylanders who are unable to pay health insurance premiums covered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

Last week, 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](#)

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. Call 3-1-1 to report a violation or email covidcompliance@co.pg.md.us.

FDA Adds Additional Products to Hand Sanitizer Warning List

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning that certain brands of hand sanitizer contain [insufficient amounts of ethyl or isopropyl alcohol](#) to effectively deactivate the virus that causes

COVID-19. This warning follows others regarding brands that contain the toxic chemical methanol. As a result, the [list of hand sanitizer brands](#) that are [banned from being imported](#) into the United States from Mexico continues to grow. Hand washing for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing the nose, remains the best method for prevention. Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% ethyl alcohol (or ethanol) should only be used when soap and water are not available. The FDA requests that health care professionals, consumers, and patients report adverse events or quality problems with hand sanitizers to their [MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting](#) program, providing as much information as possible to identify the product.

(Source: City of Alexandria COVID update)

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](#)

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. More information about the Pantry can be found at www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Other Food Resources

- [Capital Area Food Bank Food Assistance](#)
- [Prince George's County Senior Nutrition Program](#)
- [United Communities Against Poverty Food Pantry](#)
- [Maryland Meals Site Search](#)
- [Prince George's County Public Schools Meal Sites](#) (for PGCPs Children)

Bowie Census Update

Bowie residents are making great progress on getting counted in the 2020 census. The city has now surpassed its response rate from 2010, but we're still a long way from 100% participation. Whether you live in a single home, a townhouse, a condominium, or an apartment, or a senior living facility, it's important that every household completes the census. Every person counted equals approximately \$18,500 in funding over the next ten years for schools, public safety, and public health. Make sure that Bowie gets counted and that our area receives all of the funding and representation that it is entitled to.



COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS NOW
DOOR-TO-DOOR FOLLOWUP HAS BEGUN

**THERE IS STILL TIME
TO SELF-RESPOND**

Beat the knock at the door by completing your Census NOW

Call **1-844-330-2020** or visit **My2020Census.gov**

**PROUD TO
BE COUNTED**



FIND OUT MORE AT www.PGCensus2020.org OR www.2020Census.gov



prince george's county
Office of Community Relations
connecting people, connecting resources

Angela D. Ahobrewka
County Executive

#ProudtobeCounted



U.S. CENSUS 2020

DRIVE-UP

COMPLETION & DISTRIBUTION EVENT

Saturday, August 8th • 11AM-1PM

Ebenezer Church of God
7550 Buchanan Street
Hyattsville, MD 20784

