



COVID-19

REOPENING UPDATE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Friday, August 21, 2020

Today's COVID-19 Numbers

Bowie Confirmed Cases: 1,679 (+11) 20715: 330 (+1) 20716: 391 (+1) 20720: 431 (+6) 20721: 527 (+3)	Prince George's County Confirmed Cases: 25,197 (+139) Total Deaths: 773 (+1) Ever hospitalized: 3,627 (+10) Ranking: 31th in the nation for highest number of cases.	Maryland Confirmed Cases 102,899 (+670) Deaths 3,674 (+5) Released from Isolation: 6,047 (+7) = 6%
<p style="text-align: center;">Testing</p> MD Tests Completed: 1,722,957 (+29,386) Negative Tests: 1,101,368 (+15,921) MD Positivity Rate: 2.71% PGC Positivity Rate: 4.59%	<p style="text-align: center;">Maryland Hospitalizations Data Tracker</p> Currently Hospitalized: 455 0.0% Acute Care: 353 1.4% Intensive Care: 102 -4.6 % Ever Hospitalized: 13,823 13.4%	
<p><i>* These figures represent changes in the last 24-hours.</i></p>		

Source: Maryland COVID-19 dashboard

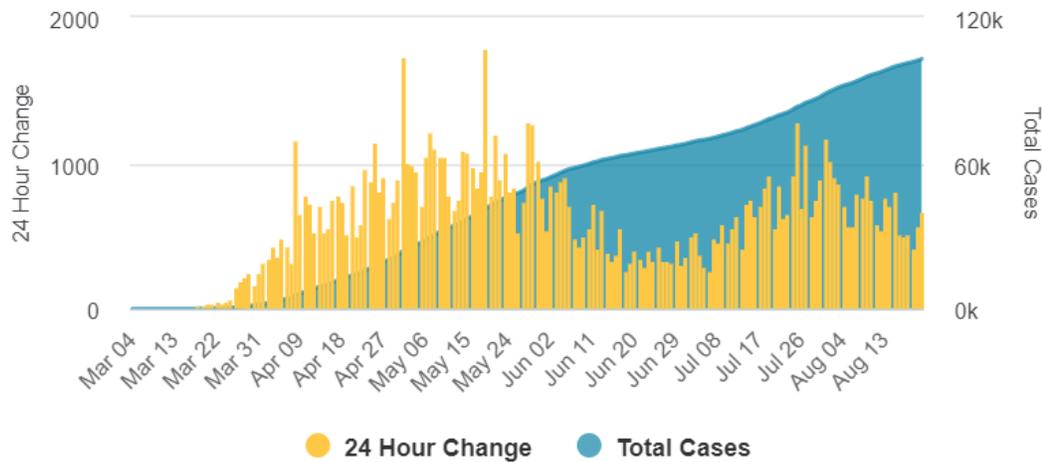
Visit the [Prince George's County COVID-19 dashboard](#) to view data for all zip codes in the County and the [Maryland dashboard](#) for statewide data.

COVID-19 Data

Maryland's seven-day average positivity rate fell to 3.08% today, the lowest level reported since the pandemic began. The daily positivity rate is 2.71%. The statewide positivity rate has been under 5% since June 25. The positivity rate among Marylanders under 35 has declined by 47.3% since July 23, to 3.58%. The positivity rate among Marylanders 35 and older is 2.76%.

Maryland Cases Over Time

Confirmed Cases, Total over Time



Cases, Total Reported

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.

Prince George’s County Fund Helps Small Businesses Impacted by the Pandemic

Prince George’s County is accepting applications for the Legacy Fund, a \$1 million grant from the Greater Washington Community Foundation. The grant provides access to capital for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The application period ends on August 28. Grants are for up to \$10,000, and can be used to support operating expenses including payroll, suppliers, rent, and other business costs. For more information, visit <https://fscfirst.com/legacy-fund/>

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 losing their job due to the pandemic. Assistance is in the form of a \$200 EPG Visa Cash Card. The Bowie City Council recently voted to make a \$20,000 donation to this fund. The next gift card giveaway in Bowie will be in late September, but you must apply now to be eligible. Learn more about this program and how to apply at www.employpg.org/covid19.

Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative Application Deadline Extended

The State of Maryland has extended the application deadline for the second round of the Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative (NORI) and will accept applications until Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

Eligible nonprofit organizations can receive up to \$50,000 in grant assistance for operational support. The second round expanded eligibility to allow nonprofits of any size and with budgets over \$5 million to apply for assistance. For more information, including eligibility requirements and application guidelines, visit the [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development website](#).

Why is Maryland’s coronavirus positivity rate always lower than what Johns Hopkins says it is?

For almost two months now, Governor Hogan and Maryland health officials have pointed to a shrinking testing positivity rate as a sign of the state’s improvement. According to Maryland data, the state’s seven-day average testing positivity rate has been below 5% for well over 50 days now; however, that figure is lower than the positivity rate on the Johns Hopkins University’s coronavirus resources center.

Why do Maryland and Johns Hopkins have two different positivity rates? To put it simply, there are multiple

ways one can calculate the positivity rate, one using total tests administered vs. the other using people tested. The state uses the first, which is the CDC's recommended method, taking the number of new positive tests each day and dividing it by the number of total tests performed that day. Hopkins uses the second, dividing the number of cases by number of people tested.

There are a few other reasons for the different methodologies, such as Hopkins reporting data from other states which do not provide the same data as Maryland. At the end of the day, health experts recognize that no metric is perfect. There is no single number that tells us how we're doing. What is more important than the exact number is the trend those numbers show.

MD Contact Tracing – “Answer the Call”

Contact tracing is a critically important weapon in our battle against COVID-19. But **your response** is the most important part of this process. Marylanders are encouraged to cooperate with the state's contact tracing efforts by answering calls from 'MD COVID,' or 240-466-4888. Learn more about COVIDLink and [contact tracing in Maryland](#).

You would receive a call if you were identified as having been in close contact with somebody who has COVID-19. The goal of a contact tracer is to identify your whereabouts and interactions during the COVID infectious period. While the information is not anonymous, it is confidential.

What can you expect from a contact tracing call?

- 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 your health, any potential symptoms, and the duration of those symptoms.
- They may ask about your 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 your date of birth and additional contact information.
- If you have 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.

STOP COVID-19 SCAMS



Angela D. Alsbrooks
County Executive

Now is the time to be mindful of scams that may occur through email, text, phone calls, mail or in-person. Here are tips to help you remain vigilant:



There are no door-to-door coronavirus tests being offered



Before donating to a charity, check with the Maryland Secretary of State's Office at 410-974-5521 to make sure a charity is registered



WATCH FOR FAKE PRODUCTS – there are no vaccines for coronavirus at this time



Utility companies or your bank will never call you for your personal information



The Social Security Administration will never call you asking for money



IF IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, THEN IT LIKELY IS

GET HELP: Call (410) 576-6300 **LEARN MORE:** Visit www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/

Other News

2020 Presidential General Election Mail-in Voting

The Prince George's County Board of Elections encourages everyone to vote by mail during the COVID-19 pandemic. Any registered voter may vote by mail-in ballot. You don't need a reason to vote in this manner. It's simply another way to vote if you don't want to or can't go to an early voting center or your polling place.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, every registered voter will be mailed a mail-in ballot application. This is different from the primary election in June when voters received their ballots by mail. For the General Election in November, you must apply to receive a mail-in ballot. The State Board of Elections expects to mail these applications to voters during the week of August 24, 2020 to August 31, 2020. You may also request a mail-in ballot application on the [State Board of Elections' website](#) at any time. All mail-in ballot requests must be received by the Board of Elections by October 20, 2020.

Finally, you may also complete a mail-in ballot application in person at the Prince George's County Board of Elections, 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, in Largo. Currently, the office is open to the public by appointment only; call 301-341-7300 to make an appointment.

Once you have received and completed your mail-in ballot, you must mail or hand deliver your ballot to a voting location, a ballot drop-off box, or the Prince George's County Board of Elections (at the above mentioned address). You cannot email or fax your voted mail-in ballot.

Important Dates and Information:

- **General Election:** November 3, 2020, polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- **General Election Early Voting:** Monday, October 26, 2020 - Monday, November 2, 2020, polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- The City of Bowie Gymnasium will be a voting site for Early Voting and Election Day Voting.
- The full list of Election Day Vote Centers, Early Voting Sites and Drop-off Box locations will be shared as soon as the information is available.
- More information can be obtained from:
 - [Maryland Board of Elections website](#)
 - [Prince George's County Board of Elections website](#) or call 301-731-7300

Reminder: Childhood Immunizations Still Required for Students

Although Prince George's County Public Schools will be doing distance learning for the first semester, students must meet state immunization requirements. Maintaining overall health is an important aspect of combatting the pandemic. Starting next month, PGCPs will host free immunization clinics at multiple school sites to assist families with meeting immunization requirements. These services are offered in collaboration with the Prince George's County Health Department and the Maryland Partnership for Prevention.

Immunizations will be offered by appointment only in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines; masks will be required. Temperatures will be taken upon arrival. Dental services and flu shots will also be available. Details will be published on the [PGCPS website](#).

Metro Expands Bus Service

On August 23, new Metrobus schedules will take effect across the region, including the restoration of bus service on routes that have not had service in months due to the pandemic. Details at www.wmata.com.

Jobs

The City of Bowie is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Accountant – Finance Department (closes 8/28/20)
- Accounting Technician, Senior – Finance Department (closes 8/28/20)
- Administrative Associate – City Manager's Office (closes 8/28/20)
- Permits Stormwater Management Inspection Specialist – Public Works Department (closes 8/28)
- Code Compliance Officer Trainee/Code Compliance Officer – (closes 9/4/20)

- Temporary Laborer (Seasonal) – Parks & Grounds Division (closes 8/28/20)
- Temporary Streets Maintenance Worker – Public Works Department (closes 8/28/20)
- Equipment Operator – Utilities Division, Public Works Department (closes 8/28/20)
- Entry Level Police Officer (open)
- Communications Specialist II – Police Department (open)

Details and application form at www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

Sears Property Redevelopment – Virtual Town Hall Meeting August 26

The City Council invites you to participate in a discussion about redevelopment of the former Sears property before they vote on the matter at their next meeting on Tuesday, September 8. The discussion will take place on Zoom on **Wednesday, August 26 at 7 p.m.** You must register for the meeting at the link below.

Residents are encouraged to submit written questions or comments in advance to publicinfo@cityofbowie.org or during the meeting via Zoom. After brief introductory remarks, the majority of the meeting will be set aside to address questions and comments from the public.

If approved by the County, the Sears developer would be given permission to build up to 800 residential units, including multifamily and townhouses; the redevelopment plan may also include restaurants, shops, a hotel, and/or offices. Learn more at www.cityofbowie.org/sears.

Link to register for Zoom meeting: <https://bowie.fyi/sears>

 **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**