



COVID-19

REOPENING UPDATE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Monday, August 24, 2020

Today's COVID-19 Numbers

Bowie Confirmed Cases: * 1,704 (+25) 20715: 335 (+5) 20716 398 (+7) 20720 441 (+10) 20721 530 (+3)	Prince George's County * Confirmed Cases: 25,537 (+340) Total Deaths: 780 (+7) Ever hospitalized: 3,670 (+47) Ranking: 31th in the nation for highest number of cases.	Maryland Confirmed Cases * 104,669 (+1,770) Deaths 3,694 (+20) Released from Isolation: 6,047 (+0) = 6%
Testing * MD Tests Completed: 1,794,703 (+22,047) Negative Tests: 1,142,924 (+14,103) MD Positivity Rate: 3.10% PGC Positivity Rate: 4.69%	Maryland Hospitalizations Data Tracker * Currently Hospitalized: 407 0.0% Acute Care: 304 -1.2% Intensive Care 103 4.0% Ever Hospitalized 14,007 13.3%	
<i>* These figures represent changes since Friday, 8/21 (3-day change).</i>		

Daily breakdown in cases since Friday, 8/21:

	MD Cases	PG Cases	Bowie Cases
8/21	102,899	25,197	1,679
8/22	+624	+146	+10
8/23	+579	+83	+9
8/24	+567	+111	+6
	104,669	25,537	1,704

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

The Prince George's County positivity rate has been below 5% for five days and the number of COVID-related deaths in the county has continued to trend lower since the end of June. The US positivity rate remains at 9% according to the CDC.

COVID Research in Maryland

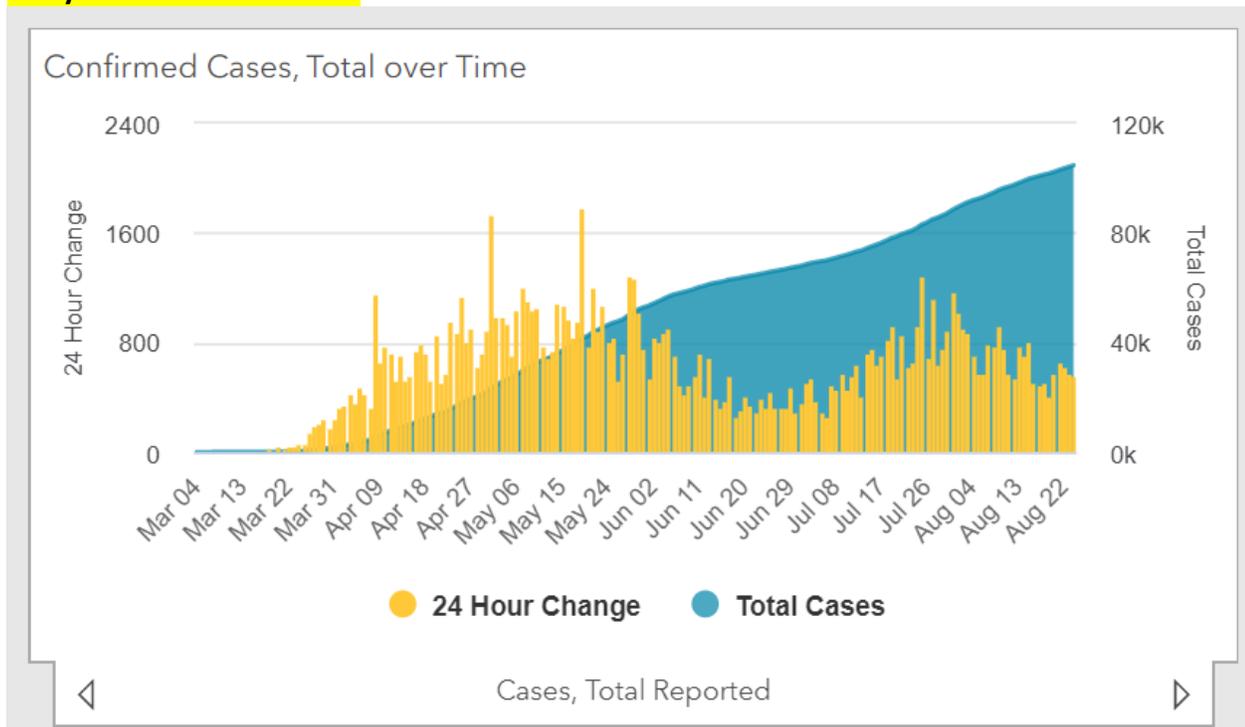
According to a [press release](#) issued today by the Governor's office, nearly 40 Maryland companies are working on developing and manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, improving diagnostic tests, and providing clinical research and technological support to ensure safe and effective health care delivery.

"The University of Maryland School of Medicine recently began phase 3 trials of a COVID-19 vaccine. The University System of Maryland faculty are working to develop a rapid COVID-19 test and are conducting a clinical trial of experimental stem cell therapy to reduce death in the sickest patients. The University of Maryland School of Medicine will receive up to \$3.6 million over the next year from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to rapidly test hundreds of drugs, approved and marketed for other conditions, to see if any can be repurposed to prevent and treat COVID-19.

Johns Hopkins dedicated \$6 million in funding to support about 260 scientists and researchers working on more than two dozen projects related to COVID-19. In addition, Hopkins' School of Medicine is conducting more than 100 clinical studies to develop COVID-19 diagnostics and, with \$35 million from the U.S. Department of Defense, is working with the Bloomberg School of Public Health to test the efficacy of blood plasma from COVID-19 survivors as a treatment option."

Also, in September, Anne Arundel Medical Center and Doctors Community Hospital will begin a COVID-19 vaccine trial with a potential vaccine developed by Oxford University. The vaccine has shown promising results in early clinical trials. (Source: [Anne Arundel Medical Center website](#))

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.

Prince George's County Health Department CoVID-19 Testing Policy

The Prince George's County Health Department offers **FREE COVID-19 tests for individuals with or without symptoms** that have been exposed to or suspected to have been exposed to a COVID-19-positive person.

Patients do not need an appointment, a doctor's prescription, or insurance to get tested. All County-run testing sites accommodate testing for those in a car or on foot. To receive more than one test from the Prince George's County Health Department, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- have a known/suspected exposure to a positive case
- have symptoms
- are part of a County contact tracing case investigation and were directed to be tested

The Health Department also considers other retest requests on a case-by-case basis. The on-site registered nurse will assess and determine if retesting outside of the above criteria meets [CDC guidelines](#).

Call the **coronavirus hotline at 301-883-6627** between the hours of **8 a.m. and 8 p.m.** if you have questions about the County's testing program.

Please visit the [Health Department's website](#) for a list of the current sites where testing is being offered or call 3-1-1.

Back to School Will Bring New Challenges

Wherever your child will be learning this fall, this school year is sure to be like no other. Here are links to two articles that may provide some helpful tips for the student and for the parents and caregivers who will be coping with a new normal.

- [Tips for parents and caregivers during COVID-19](#) (*from the Fairfax County website*)
- [How to give kids a sense of routine and stability in a school year that is anything but normal](#) (*Washington Post article*)

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.

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](#).

STOP COVID-19 SCAMS

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 vote on Election Day or during the early voting period.

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](#).

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**