



TODAY'S COVID-19 SNAPSHOT

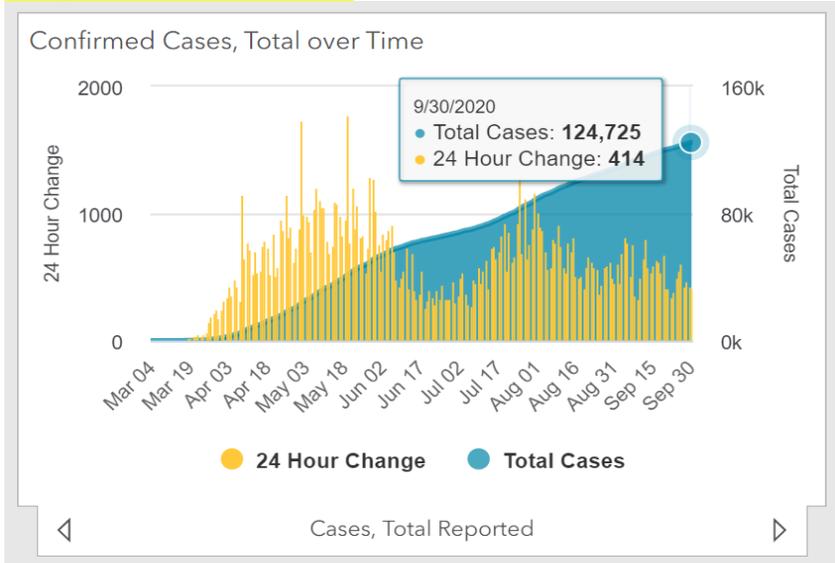
Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Bowie Confirmed Cases: 2031 (+9) 20715: 396 (+1) 20716: 459 (+5) 20720: 494 (+1) 20721: 682 (+2)	Prince George's County Confirmed Cases: 29,494 (+78) Total Deaths: 828 (+0) Ever hospitalized: 4,013 (+5) Case Rate per 100k: 11.01 Ranking: 33 rd in the nation for highest number of cases.	Maryland Confirmed Cases 124,725 (+414) Deaths 3,805 (+3) Case Rate per 100k: 8.03 Released from Isolation: 7,536 (+27) = 6%
Testing MD Tests Completed: 2,605,913 (+17,223) Negative Tests: 1,493,282 (+7,283) MD Positivity Rate: 3.26% PGC Positivity Rate: 4.1%	Maryland Hospitalizations Data Tracker Currently Hospitalized: 334 -2.9% Acute Care: 257 -3.0% Intensive Care: 77 -2.5% Ever Hospitalized: 15,530 12.4%	
* These figures represent changes in the last 24 hours.		

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: Maryland COVID-19 dashboard

COVID Data Trends

As of yesterday, all 24 of Maryland’s jurisdictions are reporting positivity rates below the 5% benchmark. Sixteen are below 3%, seven are below 2%, and two are below 1%. Prince George’s County’s rate is 4.1%.

Prince George’s County Metrics

Prince George’s County remains in Reopening Phase 2. It is not likely to move to Phase 3 for a few more weeks or until three key metrics for COVID suppression show consistent progress.

Key Metrics	Current status	Goal
Positivity rate	4.1%	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	11.01	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	Medium risk	Low risk range (<.9)

About Halloween

Many of you have inquired about whether or not there will be trick or treating in Bowie this year. Halloween trick or treating is a time-honored tradition here and around the country. However, in the past, it has not been something the city has regulated, though we usually do recommend trick or treating hours.

Like so many other things, COVID-19 has complicated this tradition for this year. Last week, the CDC issued guidance that ranks the risks of various activities associated with Halloween. Traditional trick or treating or a trunk and treat events are ranked as high-risk activities. The [CDC Halloween guidance document](#) offers suggestions for some safer alternatives to door-to-door trick or treating.

The City of Bowie is awaiting guidance from the Prince George’s County Health Department about Halloween. When that it is released, we will publicize it widely and will likely recommend that Bowie residents follow whatever the local health officials are advising.

Maryland Courts Update

Beginning Monday, October 5, the Maryland Judiciary will enter into Phase V of its five-phased COVID-19 emergency reopening plan. All courts in the state will resume full operations including jury trials in both criminal and civil cases in circuit court. In a new jury video produced by the Maryland Judiciary’s Administrative Office of the Courts, “Jury Duty COVID-19 Safety Precautions,” members of the public who are called for jury duty can see sanitation efforts and preparations made by the courts before jurors enter a court building. For more information, read the [Maryland Courts press release](#) issued September 29.

County Health Department Testing Update

Effective October 1, the Prince George’s County Health Department will end community COVID-19 testing at three temporary Park and Planning locations and begin expanding the number of partner test sites the department supplies across the County. COVID-19 testing from the Health Department remains free and no appointment is needed.

These sites remain open:

- Prince George’s County Health Center – Cheverly
- D. Leonard Dyer Regional Health Center - Clinton

These sites are closing:

- Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center
- Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Center
- Chillum Rollingcrest Recreation Center

Call the Health Department's Coronavirus Hotline at 301-883-6627, for the testing latest information, weekdays, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. or visit the [County's testing webpage](#).

County's Emerge Stronger Program Helps Business Recover

The Emerge Stronger Small Business Recovery and Resilience program is designed to support the County's small businesses by helping them remain open for business and thrive. Programming includes CEO bootcamps for the retail, restaurant and healthcare industries, mentorship, group counseling, and financial management seminars. There is also an all-Spanish CEO bootcamp. Register today for a free Emerge Stronger Business Recovery and Resilience session hosted by the Economic Development Corporation. Details at www.emgestrongerpgc.com.

Employ Prince George's Offers Gift Cards to Hourly Workers Laid off Due to Pandemic

Employ Prince George's, in partnership with the Greater Washington Community Foundation, continues to accept applications for the Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund. Prince George's County residents who have been laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible for a \$200 EPG Visa Cash Card and can apply at employpgedge.com.

Employ Prince George's is also offering Prince George's County residents whose employment has been affected by the pandemic the opportunity to take advantage of career planning services, free skills training, and job placement and job readiness assistance through the Employ Prince George's COVID-19 Workforce Development Recovery Program. Residents can complete step 1 of this program by submitting their information [here](#).

Maryland Extends Deadline to Apply for Homeowners' and Renters' Property Tax Credits

The Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation is extending the deadline to apply for 2020 Homeowners' and Renters' Property Tax Credits from October 1 to October 31. These two tax credit programs can reduce the tax bills of both homeowners and renters.

The **Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program** provides relief for eligible homeowners by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes owed, based on their income. The **Renters' Property Tax Credit Program** provides tax relief for eligible renters who pay high monthly rent relative to their total income and do not receive federal or state housing subsidies or reside in public housing. The credit is issued in the form of a direct check payment of up to \$1,000.

In addition, Maryland homeowners are encouraged to submit an application for the **Homestead Tax Credit** if they have never done so. Once approved, the Homestead Credit accrues over time by limiting the increase in taxable assessment each year to a fixed percentage. It is a one-time application without a specific filing deadline. For additional questions about these credits, applicants should visit <https://dat.maryland.gov/Pages/Tax-Credit-Programs.aspx> or contact one of the following State program offices:

- Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program: sdatt.homeowners@maryland.gov, 410-767-4433
- Renters' Property Tax Credit Program: sdatt.renters@maryland.gov, 410-767-4433
- Homestead Property Tax Credit Program: sdatt.homestead@maryland.gov, 410-767-4433

Other News

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

- 9/30, 7 p.m. – Master Plan Chat on Housing and Neighborhoods
- 10/1, 6 p.m. – Master Plan Chat on Healthy Communities
- 10/5, 8 p.m. – City Council Meeting (Agenda items: Police Department Update, City Development Policies)

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/calendar.aspx for more information and links to the virtual meetings.

County Seeks Input on Bowie Master Plan Update

The County Planning Department is working on an update to the Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity Master Plan. The Master Plan will carefully examine existing conditions and issues, and revisit the vision for the area. This document will also help to guide development in the area for the next several years. The project team is interested in engaging the community as much as possible in the process through a series of virtual chats on eight different planning elements. Visit www.mncppc.org/4957/Community-Chat-Series for the Zoom links to each chat.

Census Deadline is Approaching

Make sure that every Bowie household is counted. Complete the census now at www.my2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020 to complete it by phone. (Spanish language line: 844-468-2020).

Food Drive for Bowie Pantry – October 4

Help support those in need by donating food and other personal items to the Bowie Pantry. A drive-through food drive takes place 10/4, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Kenhill Center. Monetary donations, made out to the Bowie Interfaith Pantry, will also be accepted.



Please join County Council Chair Todd M. Turner as he partners with Senator Douglas Peters, Delegates Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Marvin E. Holmes and Ronald Watson, and the City of Bowie for a

FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION

TO SUPPORT BOWIE FOOD PANTRY

NECESSARY ITEMS FOR COLLECTION:

- Canned Soup
- Dry Goods
- Fresh Produce
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Travel size Items
- Regular size shampoo
- Lotion
- Soap and Deodorant

Sunday, October 4, 2020 • 9 am - 12 pm
Kenhill Center • 2614 Kenhill Drive • Bowie, MD 20715

For additional information or questions for a full list of collectible items, please contact The Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund
ph: 301-262-6765
<http://bowiefoodpantry.org>

(301) 952-3094 • District4@co.pg.md.us • pgccouncil.us/district4

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COMMUNITY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

Hydrant Flushing Underway

The City of Bowie Public Works Department will begin the annual fire hydrant flushing and testing program in areas served by City water. Hydrant flushing began **September 28, 2020** and will take place Monday through Friday from approximately **9 a.m. until 3 p.m.** in accordance with the following schedule:

Hydrant Flushing

Hydrant flushing will take place in areas served by Bowie Water, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., according to the schedule below:

DATES	NEIGHBORHOODS
SEPT 28 & 29	Buckingham, Derbyshire, & Forest Dr
SEPT 30 & OCT 1	Somerset & Bowie Forest
OCT 1 & 2	Tulip Grove
OCT 5 & 6	Foxhill & Long Ridge
OCT 7, 8 & 9	Kenilworth
OCT 12	Heather Hills
OCT 13, 14 & 15	Meadowbrook
OCT 16	Gradys Walk & Glenridge
OCT 19	Chapel Forge
OCT 20	Victoria Heights & Race Track Rd Townhouses
OCT 21	Idlewild
OCT 22	Yorktown & Overbrook
OCT 23	Whitehall
OCT 26	Rockledge

Flushing may cause some discoloration of the water for up to 24 hours.
Clothes washing should be avoided during this time.

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/flushing for more information

Nature Discovery Trail at Whitemarsh Park Needs Updating

Volunteers are needed to help update descriptive trail markers at Whitemarsh Park. Over 20 years ago, a nature trail was created at the park to honor Bowie resident and long-time nature activity Ben Bereskin. When it was installed, the markers contained information about what could be seen at that location on the trail. A marker might have been a particular kind of tree, or plant, or the wildlife that lived nearby. Over the years, some of the markers have disappeared and the landscape has changed – trees have fallen and new plants have replaced old ones, making some of the markers obsolete.

The City is looking for a small group of volunteers who would be interested in re-imagining the wording on the markers and making the trail more relevant for a new generation of nature lovers. If you are interested in learning more and perhaps putting your creativity to work and your boots on the ground for this trails project, please contact Community Services Director Sally Hein at shein@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3014.

Whitemarsh Park, located off of MD Route 3, is one of the lesser known jewels of the city's park system. It offers a sports themed playground, restrooms, and is home to one of the City's artificial turf ballfields.

Tucked away at the rear of the park is a large picnic pavilion, the Bowie Playhouse (currently closed due to the pandemic) and several miles of hiking/biking trails. You can learn more about the trails at Whitemarsh and other city parks in our new [City Trails video](#) or visit www.cityofbowie.org/parks.

Election Information

Last week, the State Board of Elections began sending out mail-in ballots to those who applied for them. Ballots can be returned in the mail (no postage necessary) or at a voting drop box. The deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot is October 20.

If you have already requested a mail-in ballot:

- Monitor your mailbox in the coming days.
- Once you receive your ballot, fill it out completely, place it in the return envelope, sign the voter oath on the envelope, and seal the envelope.
- Return it to a secure ballot drop box located throughout the County by 8 p.m. on November 3, or via mail with a postmark on or before November 3. A secure ballot drop box has now been placed outside the City Gymnasium and is being guarded 24/hours a day.

Links to more information

- [List of Ballot Drop Boxes](#) (not all boxes have been delivered yet)
- [List of Election Day Vote Centers and Early Voting locations](#) for Prince George’s County.
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(and Answers\)](#) about the Election
- [Prince George’s County Board of Elections](#) 301-341-7300
- [Maryland Board of Elections](#) 410-269-2840
- [Prince George’s County FAQ page](#) about the General Election

