



# COVID-19 UPDATE

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

For more than six months, we have provided a daily update on COVID-19 every weekday. The data and guidance we have shared has evolved as officials gained experience with the virus and how best to measure its impact on society.

Beginning with today's update, we are making changes to what data is shared. We will be focusing each day on the key metrics that are being tracked and analyzed to identify trends and to make reopening decisions. These metrics include case numbers, positivity rates, infection rate, and cases per 100,000 residents. At the end of each week, we will provide updates and cumulative totals on other data sets that we have been reporting, such as hospitalizations, deaths, and the number of patients released from isolation. We hope that you will find these changes useful in understanding the progress of this disease in our community, our county and our state.

As some level of operations have resumed, we have also sought to keep you informed about other matters unrelated to the virus, such as virtual meetings organized by the city government, the election process, and resources for those that have been impacted in some way by COVID-19. We will continue to include that information in our updates as well.

COVID-19 Case Tracking							
	20715	20716	20720	20721	Bowie Cases	Prince George's Cases	Maryland Cases
<b>Today</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>30,153</b>	<b>128,204</b>
5-Oct	407	473	509	702	2,091	30,088	127,791
4-Oct	406	469	509	702	2,086	30,004	127,290
3-Oct	405	468	509	697	2,079	29,905	126,819
2-Oct	401	463	505	694	2,063	29,791	126,222
1-Oct	398	461	498	686	2,043	29,617	125,510
30-Sep	396	459	494	682	2,031	29,494	124,725

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	Tests Completed	County %	Tests Completed	State %
<b>Today</b>	<b>246,114</b>	<b>4.41%</b>	<b>2,752,546</b>	<b>2.95%</b>
5-Oct	245,162	4.78%	2,734,800	3.02%
4-Oct	243,999	4.85%	2,715,230	3.01%
3-Oct	242,827	4.63%	2,688,866	2.98%
2-Oct	241,539	4.53%	2,629,898	2.93%
1-Oct	239,687	4.34%	2,605,913	2.88%
30-Sep	238,336	4.10%	2,588,690	2.68%

Cases per 100K Persons		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
<b>Today</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>9.24</b>
5-Oct	12.47	9.18
4-Oct	12.18	9.09
3-Oct	12.51	9.13
2-Oct	11.47	8.77
1-Oct	11.15	8.10
30-Sep	11.01	8.03

Infection Rates		
	County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
<b>4-Oct</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>1.07</b>
3-Oct	1.06	1.06
2-Oct	1.05	1.05
1-Oct	1.04	1.04
30-Sep	1.03	1.04
29-Sep	1.02	1.03
28-Sep	1.01	1.02

*The daily figures represent a 14-day rolling average and lags behind by 3 days.*

### COVID Data Trends

Prince George’s County’s new case rate remains low. The positivity rate is down slightly, and the case per 100K population and infection rate are higher than the goals, but are fairly steady. Overall, the county remains at medium risk level for COVID-19.

The number of hospitalizations and the new case rate in Maryland remain low. The 7-day rolling positivity rate has fallen back under 3%, while the case rate per 100K population remains in the 9 range after reaching a low of 7 a few weeks ago. The number of individuals getting tested has begun to plateau, which is concerning to health officials, who are planning new campaigns to encourage more testing.

### 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 and sustained progress.

Key Metrics	Current status*	Goal
Positivity rate	4.41	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	12.30	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	Medium risk	Low risk range (<.9)

(\*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red would represent an increase.

### CDC Acknowledges Virus Can Spread Through Airborne Transmission

The CDC released updated guidance this week regarding “How COVID-19 Spreads”, which includes data

supporting that COVID-19 can sometimes be spread by airborne transmission. There is evidence that under certain conditions, people with COVID-19 seem to have infected others who were more than 6 feet away. These transmissions occurred within enclosed spaces that had inadequate ventilation. Sometimes the infected person was breathing heavily, for example while singing or exercising. The people who were infected were in the same space during the same time or shortly after the person with COVID-19 had left.

[Updated guidance](#)

### **Restrictions Eased on Nursing Home Visits and Childcare Facilities**

Governor Hogan ordered changes for nursing homes and childcare facilities last week:

- **Indoor visitation can resume at nursing home facilities** where no new cases have been reported in 14 days or more. Compassionate care visits in support of residents in need of emotional and spiritual support may also resume. Rapid antigen tests can be used to screen visitors. The state will commit an additional \$6 million to help facilities cover the cost of nursing home staff testing.
- **Childcare providers in Maryland** are now able to return to the full teacher to child ratios and capacities for which they are licensed. Childcare centers can now serve up to 20 three- and four-year-olds in a room with a ratio of one teacher to 10 students and up to 30 school-age students with a ratio of one teacher to 15 students.

[View announcement](#)

## **Other News**

### **Upcoming Virtual Meetings**

- 10/13, 7 p.m. – Bowie Advisory Planning Board Meeting re: Encompass Health Facility at Melford
- 10/18, 8 p.m. – City Council Meeting
- 10/21, 7 p.m. – Hall Road Annexation Discussion

Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/calendar.aspx](http://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](http://www.mncppc.org/4957/Community-Chat-Series) for the Zoom links to each chat.

### **October Master Plan Chats:**

# Bowie-Mitchellville & Vicinity

MASTER PLAN

## Community Chat Series

**October 1, 2020**  
6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Healthy Communities

**October 6, 2020**  
7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Economic Prosperity

**October 8, 2020**  
6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Natural Environment

**October 12, 2020**  
7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Community Heritage,  
Culture & Design

**October 14, 2020**  
6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Transportation and Mobility

*Past chats will be available on the website (see link to the right).*

During these **virtual sessions**, planning staff will lead/facilitate discussion of the eight key planning elements highlighted in the upcoming master plan.

Visit [mncppc.org/4957/Community-Chat-Series](http://mncppc.org/4957/Community-Chat-Series) for more information.



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
Prince George's County Planning Department

### Meals Giveaway for Seniors Age 60+

County Council Chair Todd Turner and the Prince George's County Department of Family Services have teamed up to provide meals to seniors who live in County Council District 4 (Bowie/Greenbelt).

- Meals are provided by Martin's Catering.
- Seniors must preregister to be eligible for this giveaway. [Registration form](#)
- All information requested on the form must be provided
- Then scan and return form to [ejarchie@co.pg.md.us](mailto:ejarchie@co.pg.md.us)
- Or contact Evelyn Archie to apply by phone or text a picture of the completed form to her at 240-619-9775
- Registration deadline is October 9
- The Bowie pickup date: October 16 at the Bowie Senior Center
- Masks must be worn at pickup

### About Halloween

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.

### 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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/flushing) for more information

## Election Information

Are you registered to vote? You still have time register if you have not already done so.

**Register to VOTE! TODAY!**

The deadline to register to vote in the 2020 General Election is **October 13, 2020**. Don't wait to register and make your voice heard!

**Registering to vote is easy:**

- GO ONLINE** to [elections.maryland.gov](http://elections.maryland.gov)
- TEXT VOTE** to 77788
- CALL** (301) 341-7300 to have a form mailed to you
- FILL OUT** an application in person at the County Board of Elections

**County Board of Elections**  
 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A  
 Largo, MD 20774  
 Monday-Friday | 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
[elections.mypgc.us](http://elections.mypgc.us)

## Mail-in Voting

- If you have already requested a mail-in ballot:
- Monitor your mailbox. The mailing of mail-in ballots is underway.
- 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

**Get Counted Bowie!**

As a result of a federal court order, the census deadline has been extended to October 31. If you have not completed your census, please do it now. It only takes 10 minutes! Make sure that every Bowie household is counted. Complete the census now at [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) or call 844-330-2020 to complete it by phone. (Spanish language line: 844-468-2020).