



COVID-19 UPDATE

Thursday, October 8, 2020

We have modified the information that is provided to you each day in this update. We are now focusing 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 were previously reporting, such as hospitalizations, deaths, and the number of patients released from isolation.

COVID-19 Case Tracking							
	20715	20716	20720	20721	Bowie Cases	Prince George's Cases	Maryland Cases
Today	411 (+1)	477 (+1)	516 (+4)	713 (+1)	2,117 (+7)	30,356 (+130)	129,425 (+761)
7-Oct	410	476	512	712	2,110	30,226	128,664
6-Oct	409	476	510	706	2,101	30,153	128,204
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

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	248,813 (+1,562)	4.25%	2,802,303 (+29,023)	2.79%
7-Oct	247,251	4.29%	2,773,280	2.90%
6-Oct	246,114	4.41%	2,752,546	2.95%
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%

Infection Rates		
	County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
6-Oct	1.02	1.03
5-Oct	1.01	1.03
4-Oct	1.01	1.03
3-Oct	1.01	1.02
2-Oct	1.00	1.02
1-Oct	1.00	1.02
30-Sep	0.99	1.01
14-Day Weighted Average	0.98	1.01

Cases per 100K Persons		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
Today	11.50	9.31
7-Oct	11.58	9.20
6-Oct	12.30	9.24
5-Oct	12.47	9.18
4-Oct	12.18	9.09
3-Oct	12.51	9.13
2-Oct	11.47	8.77

Key	
Cases	<i>Represents the daily number of new positive cases.</i>
Positivity Rate	<i>The 7-day positivity rate is a rolling weekly average of the percent of new cases relative to the number of tests conducted. The goal is a positivity rate consistently below 5%.</i>
Cases per 100K persons	<i>Measures how widespread the virus is in a community. The goal is to have fewer than 5 new cases per 100K persons.</i>
Infection rate	<i>Shows how many people are infected by each positive case. The goal is an infection rate at or below 0.9.</i>
Data sources: <i>Except for the infection rate, all data provided here is from the State of Maryland's COVID dashboard. The infection rate is tracked by www.covidactnow.org. It is subject to adjustments and may have a 1-3 day lag time in reporting.</i>	

COVID Data Trends

Maryland saw a jump in new cases today, and 41% of new cases statewide remain under 30 years old. Fluctuations in key County metrics are among the reasons cited by the County Executive for remaining in Phase 2.

Prince George's County Metrics

Key Metrics	Current status*	Goal
Positivity rate	4.25%	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	11.50	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.

County Executive Says Prince George's County Will Remain in Phase 2 for Now

In a press conference this morning, County Executive Alsobrooks announced that due to the current state of the virus here, the county is not ready to move to Phase 3 of Reopening. She cited concerns about the key metrics they have been monitoring and said health officials want to see more stability and, in some cases, reductions in those figures before any further easing of restrictions.

Here are some of the other points made during her speech:

Metrics

- The current infection rate means the virus is still spreading, but it is in a slow and controlled manner. We are not yet at the low risk level of 0.9.
- Cases per 100K have been trending up lately, instead of down.
- The weekly case numbers have not dropped sufficiently yet.

Election

- The safest way to vote is by mail.
- Other options include early voting or Election Day voting at one of 42 voting centers in the county.
- Voter registration deadline is October 13.
- Mail in ballot application request deadline is October 20.

Halloween

- **Strongly recommend against traditional door to door trick or treating or trunk or treat events.**
- No haunted houses are permitted.
- Suggest safer alternatives such as scavenger hunts, pumpkin carving, and other small, socially distanced events.
- Also suggest that municipalities organize drive-thru trick or treating events.

Nursing Homes

- Visiting patients indoors at nursing homes is still forbidden in Prince George's County, even though it is now permitted in other parts of the state.

Childcare Facilities

- Increases in childcare facility capacity authorized at the state level are not in effect for Prince George's County.
- Parents may not enter childcare facilities to pick up or drop off children.

Sports

- Baseball, softball, volleyball, and lacrosse are permitted.
- Soccer and football are not permitted, except for 2 on 2 football.
- Basketball hoops are returning to Park and Planning's outdoor courts, but only drills and practices are permitted in a half court setting. No games or tournaments and no full court practices or drills.

Other

- All residents are strongly encouraged to get their flu shot to prevent the flu and to prevent overwhelming medical facilities this winter.
- As of October 16, the County will begin accepting permits for outdoor movie events.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC published updated information about the risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 for adults and children with certain conditions. Data show that adults are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 if they have a body mass index of 30 or higher; smoke or have a history of smoking; or have underlying conditions such as cancer, heart conditions, Type 2 diabetes, or compromised immune systems.

Children are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 if they have conditions such as asthma, diabetes, severe genetic disorders, and inherited metabolic disorders. However, it is

not yet known who is most at risk for the rare but serious complication from COVID-19 called Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).

Vaccine Trial Information Available on New FDA Webpage

The Federal Drug Administration launched a new webpage at www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines to highlight new information as it becomes available regarding COVID-19 vaccines.

Governor Extends State of Emergency in Maryland

On October 6, Governor Hogan renewed his ***Declaration of State of Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergency - COVID-19*** that was first issued on March 6, 2020. Among other things the declaration authorizes the revised voting procedures that have been put in place for the November election and restates recommendations regarding the use of face coverings in public settings to the extent possible, continued social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings. It also means that all MVA expirations and deadlines for driver's licenses, vehicle registration, vehicle emissions testing remain extended until after the emergency.

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](#)

Other News

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

- 10/13, 7 p.m. – Bowie Advisory Planning Board Meeting re: Encompass Health Facility at Melford
- 10/19, 8 p.m. – City Council Meeting
- 10/21, 7 p.m. – Hall Road Annexation Discussion

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.

October Master Plan Chats:

Bowie-Mitchellville & Vicinity

MASTER PLAN

Community Chat Series

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 for more information.

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

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



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
- 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

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

Election Information

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

Register to VOTE TODAY!

Proud to Vote
Don't Wait • Vote Safe!

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
- 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

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 or call 844-330-2020 to complete it by phone. (Spanish language line: 844-468-2020).

City Government Open Monday, October 12

While other jurisdictions may be closed in observance of Columbus Day or Native American Day on Monday, October 12, it is not a city holiday. The City of Bowie government will be open and operating on a regular schedule. Trash and recycling collection will take place on Monday.