



COVID-19 UPDATE

Friday, October 9, 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. Once a 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	413 (+2)	479 (+2)	519 (+3)	719 (+6)	2,130 (+13)	30,502 (+146)	130,159 (+734)
8-Oct	411	477	516	713	2,117	30,356	129,425
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

7-Day Positivity Rates

	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	250,293 (+1,480)	4.42%	2,829,423 (+27,202)	2.87%
8-Oct	248,813	5.60%	2,802,303	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%

Infection Rates		
	County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
8-Oct	0.99	1.05
7-Oct	1.00	1.05
6-Oct	0.99	1.05
5-Oct	0.99	1.04
4-Oct	0.99	1.04
3-Oct	0.99	1.04
2-Oct	0.99	1.03
14-Day Weighted Average	0.99	1.03

Cases per 100K Persons		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
Today	11.61	9.25
8-Oct	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

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

In the US, there are only a handful of states where COVID cases are declining. Maryland's case number are up a bit this week, but it is one of about 20 states that is considered to be holding steady. The remainder are seeing increases, including 10 states that saw their highest number of new cases ever on October 8.

Prince George's County is reporting no new COVID-related hospitalizations or deaths today.

Prince George's County Metrics

Key Metrics	Current status*	Goal
Positivity rate	4.42%	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	11.61	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.

Halloween 2020

The City of Bowie will follow the recommendations of the CDC and the Prince George's County regarding Halloween. This means **we strongly recommend against traditional door-to-door trick or treating or trunk or treat events this year.**

Instead, the County Health Department has come up with some tips and suggestions for a safe Halloween and the City is working on some virtual activities/contests for families, including a costume contest, scarecrow making, and a pumpkin carving competition. More details will be coming soon, but you can get an idea about what's planned at www.cityofbowie.org/fallfun.

- [Ideas for a Safe Halloween](#)
- [CDC Guidance on Halloween](#)

Maryland Wants to See Your Mask

Governor Larry Hogan announced the launch of the #MasksOnMaryland Challenge in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health. To support the State's ongoing health and economic recovery, Governor Hogan is challenging all residents, communities, local organizations, and businesses to participate by posting a picture or video wearing a mask to social media with the hashtag #MasksOnMaryland.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Walktober

Did you know that walking is the state exercise of Maryland and that the Governor has proclaimed this month as *Walktober*? It's a great time to be outdoors, enjoying the changing scenery, and getting some exercise. There are wonderful trails all over Maryland to explore, including many right in our own backyard.

To help you explore what's nearby, we've created two videos:

- [Walking in Bowie Parks](#)
- [Washington Baltimore & Annapolis \(WBA\) Trail](#)

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

Post 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 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
- 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!

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).