Thursday, October 22, 2020

The format of the data in this update has been modified to provide updates 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. On Mondays, we will also provide a weekly summary of hospitalizations and deaths.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 New Case Tracking</th>
<th>20715</th>
<th>20716</th>
<th>20720</th>
<th>20721</th>
<th>Bowie Cases</th>
<th>Prince George's Cases</th>
<th>Maryland Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>448 (+1)</td>
<td>495 (+1)</td>
<td>554 (+5)</td>
<td>755 (+2)</td>
<td>2,252 (+9)</td>
<td>31,844 (+149)</td>
<td>137,979 (+743)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-Oct</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Oct</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>2,187</td>
<td>31,210</td>
<td>134,329</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7-Day Positivity Rates</th>
<th>County Tests Completed</th>
<th>County %</th>
<th>State Tests Completed</th>
<th>State %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>268,405 (+1,554)</td>
<td>3.98%</td>
<td>3,169,302 (+30,427)</td>
<td>3.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-Oct</td>
<td>2,247</td>
<td>4.09%</td>
<td>17,076</td>
<td>3.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Oct</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>5.06%</td>
<td>17,966</td>
<td>3.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>1,023</td>
<td>5.29%</td>
<td>24,671</td>
<td>3.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>1,401</td>
<td>5.39%</td>
<td>29,528</td>
<td>3.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>1,690</td>
<td>5.38%</td>
<td>36,527</td>
<td>3.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>1,446</td>
<td>5.19%</td>
<td>27,647</td>
<td>3.09%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Represents the daily number of new positive cases.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positivity Rate</td>
<td>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%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases per 100K persons</td>
<td>Measures how widespread the virus is in a community. The goal is to have fewer than 5 new cases per 100K persons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection rate</td>
<td>Shows how many people are infected by each positive case. The goal is an infection rate at or below 0.9.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data sources:**
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](http://www.covidactnow.org). It is subject to adjustments and may have a 1 to 3-day lag time in reporting.

### COVID Data Trends

Prince George’s County metrics improved today, with the positivity rate down to 3.98%. Maryland hospitalizations have stabilized over the last couple of days, but state officials continue to monitor this metric closely. Across the state, COVID patients account for 12% of all ICU cases.

#### Prince George’s County Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Metrics</th>
<th>Current status*</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positivity rate</td>
<td>3.98%</td>
<td>Remain below 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases per 100K</td>
<td>11.41</td>
<td>New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection rate</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>Low risk range (&lt;.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

### Maryland Hospitalizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitalization Data Tracker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currently Hospitalized:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute Care:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Hospitalized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Another Way of Looking at the Nationwide Metrics
The COVID Tracking Project is an organization launched by The Atlantic to collect and share COVID data from a variety of sources. Below are four charts they published recently which illustrate the peaks and valleys in the figures since COVID tracking began earlier this year. They show U.S. nationwide trends since March 1 in four key metrics - new tests, new confirmed cases, hospitalizations, and new deaths.

Note that the number of daily tests impacts the number of daily cases that are confirmed.

Governor Hogan Announces More Funding to Help Struggling Economy
Governor Hogan held a press conference this afternoon to provide an update on the status of the recovery and to announce new assistance programs for businesses in the state. Here are some of the key points:

- Overall, Maryland’s key health metrics continue to remain low and stable.
- State health officials are closely monitoring an uptick in hospitalizations over the past two weeks.
- According to the CDC, Maryland currently has one of the lowest death rates in the country with 0.7 new deaths per 100,000 people.
- While Maryland is making steady progress, spiking numbers in our region and across the country are an important reminder that this crisis is far from over.
- Contact tracing continues to show that social gatherings remain the most likely source of transmission. Family gatherings and house parties are the top activities of those who have tested positive.
- Masks and distancing remain our most effective mitigation strategies. Remain vigilant and don’t let down your guard. Avoid large crowds, gatherings, and congregate settings as much as possible.
- To assist struggling businesses, particularly in the absence of new federal aid, a new ‘Maryland Strong: Economic Recovery Initiative’ is established. It includes $250 million investment from the state’s Rainy Day Fund for a total economic relief package of $500 million to expand or establish programs, including:
  - SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS. $50 million for the ‘Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Fund’ to fully fund the backlog of grant applications already received and reviewed by the Maryland Commerce Department.
o **RESTAURANT RELIEF.** $50 million in direct grant relief for the state’s more than 11,500 restaurants. Funds can be used for working capital, sanitization services, payroll and rent, purchase of PPE, upgraded technology, and infrastructure improvements.

o **DIRECT RELIEF FOR MAIN STREETS.** $20 million through the state Department of Housing and Community Development to hard-hit business and local entertainment venues within Main Street Maryland organizations and Baltimore Main Street programs.

o **WORKFORCE RETENTION.** $20 million for the state’s ‘COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Fund’ which has already helped small businesses with an average of 20 employees stay open.

o **SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESS LOW-INTEREST LOANS.** $5 million to double funding for low-interest loans to small and minority businesses.

o **HOMETOWN TOURISM PROGRAM.** $2 million to support hometown tourism efforts that promote our restaurants and local attractions and shops.

o **ARTS ORGANIZATION FUNDING.** An additional $3 million for the Maryland State Arts Council’s Emergency Grant Program.

o **RAPID RESPONSE FUND.** $100 million for a new rapid response fund that will be available to immediately deploy to other areas of economic need.

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**CDC Updates Guidance on Quarantining and on the Wearing of Masks**

The CDC has updated its definition of who is considered a “close contact” of an infected person. According to the agency, this change was made to accommodate new scientific evidence, evolving epidemiology, and the need to simplify risk assessment. Contact tracers rely on this definition when making their determinations as to who is at risk of exposure. Close Contact is defined as someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (e.g., three five-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes), starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. The CDC had previously defined a “close contact” as someone who spent at least 15 consecutive minutes within 6 feet of a confirmed coronavirus case.

Individuals who have had close contact of an infected person are recommended to stay at home until 14 days after last exposure, self-monitor for symptoms, avoid contact with people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

The CDC also issued recommendations that all passengers and employees on public and mass transit, including airplanes, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-share vehicles, wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 both in transit and at transportation hubs such as airports and train stations.

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**Pop Up Testing Site – 10/23 in College Park**

The Prince George’s County Health Department will host a pop-up testing site at 7878 Diamondback Drive, College Park on Friday, 10/23 from 9 to 11 a.m. Tests are free and no appointments are required.

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**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.**

Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/fallfun](http://www.cityofbowie.org/fallfun) for some safer alternatives for Halloween this year and read about our Costume Contest, the Pumpkin Decorating Contest, and a Scarecrow Making contest. Also be sure to read Prince George’s County’s suggested [Ideas for a Safe Halloween](http://www.cityofbowie.org/fallfun).

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**Food Giveaways**
Over the next several weeks, the City of Bowie will be distributing emergency food supplies to those in need at five upcoming events. The next event is this Saturday, October 24 at Bowie Marketplace from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. or until all food is given away. Each family will receive non-perishable items, including ingredients for a selection of meals. Funding for this program comes from the CARES Act.

Recipients should bring identification, a piece of mail addressed to your City of Bowie address, and a mask and remain in their vehicle when they arrive. Staff will verify eligibility, and volunteers will load food into vehicles. For your safety, volunteers will wear masks and gloves.

*Note: Only City of Bowie residents are eligible for this program. Each recipient will be required to show identification and a piece of mail with a Bowie address on it in order to participate.*

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### Food Programs

There are a variety of programs underway in Bowie and in the surrounding community to help make sure that no one goes hungry during these uncertain times. We have gathered the information together on a new page on our website so that it easy to find and easy to navigate. If you are in need of food or know someone who is experiencing food insecurity, we encourage you to visit [www.cityofbowie.org/food](http://www.cityofbowie.org/food).

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### Other News

**Upcoming Virtual Meetings & Other Events**

- 10/24, 10 a.m. – Drug Takeback Day at the Bowie Police Department
- 10/24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Emergency Food Giveaway at Bowie Marketplace
- 10/26, 6 p.m. – Mayor Adams’ Virtual State of the City Address
- 10/27, 7 p.m. – “Bowie Speaks Community Conversation on Social Justice – details below

Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/calendar.aspx](http://www.cityofbowie.org/calendar.aspx) for more information and links to the virtual meetings.

**Bowie Speaks Community Conversation**

The City of Bowie Diversity Committee and the City of Bowie Community Outreach Committee have teamed up to bring a discussion on social justice to the Bowie community. This session will examine the “isms” that are present in our society. The discussion will be moderated by committee members and will
include panelists from Bowie State University, the Prince George’s Chapter of the NAACP, and the Prince George’s County Human Relations Commission. This conversation will take place via Zoom. Attendees may submit comments/questions during the event using the Q & A feature of Zoom. Please register at http://bowie.fyi/bowiespeaks.

Election Information

Mail-in Voting:
When 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. No postage needed.

Ballot box locations in the Bowie area:
City of Bowie Gymnasium
4100 Northview Drive, Bowie

Bowie High School
15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie

Bowie State University – James Gym
14000 Jericho Park Road

South Bowie Community Center
1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie

Glenn Dale Community Center
11901 Glenn Dale Road, Glenn Dale

Links to more information
• List of Ballot Drop Boxes
Mayor’s Virtual State of the City Presentation – October 26, 6 p.m.
It has been tradition for the Mayor to speak to business leaders each year about the financial state of the city, provide updates on major projects, and discuss the goals and challenges ahead.

This year’s State of the City event is still sponsored and moderated by the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, but like everything else in 2020, it will be a different kind of event. Mayor Adams will talk directly to all of Bowie – residents, business owners, and those who work here, about where the city stands today and about the goals that he and other Councilmembers have for the coming year.

The address, entitled One City One Bowie: Standing Strong Together will take place via Zoom. Those who register to participate on Zoom will be able to submit written questions through Zoom during the event. The presentation will also be broadcast live on the Bowie Government Channel, on YouTube, and on the City website.

Viewing options:

- Zoom: bowie.fyi/stateofthecity
- Bowie Government Channel: 10 (FiOS)/71 & 996 (Xfinity)
- Website: www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings
- Youtube: @cityofbowieMD
EZ Storage Facility on Gallant Fox Lane Files Application to Expand

The Planning Department has received an application from the owner of the EZ Storage facility to construct an addition to the existing EZ Storage facility on Gallant Fox Lane. The applicant is proposing a 3-story/48,708 sq.
ft./478-unit addition on the 4.3-acre property, which is zoned I-1 (Light Industrial). According to the City’s Development Review process, the following virtual meeting and public hearing dates are scheduled:

- **Stakeholders Meeting**: Thursday, October 29, 7 p.m.
  Link: [http://bowie.fyi/ezstorage](http://bowie.fyi/ezstorage)
- **Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing**: Tuesday, November 10, 7 p.m.
  Link: [http://bowie.fyi/bapbmeeting1110](http://bowie.fyi/bapbmeeting1110)
- **City Council Public Hearing**: Monday, November 16 at 8 p.m. View the meeting live on Bowie Government TV (FIOS 10/Xfinity 71 & 996), [www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings](http://www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings), or on YouTube @CityofBowieMD. Testimony may be submitted in writing to ahernandez@cityofbowie.org by 7 p.m. on 11/16.

**Hydrant Flushing Underway**
The City of Bowie Public Works Department is doing 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.** according to the following schedule:

![Hydrant Flushing Schedule](image)

Flush 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.