



COVID-19 UPDATE

Thursday, November 12, 2020

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COVID-19 Information

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Other News

- List of upcoming meetings and events
- Free flu shot clinic – 11/13
- Leaf Collection is underway

COVID Data Trends – The Fall Surge is Here

Over the last week, the number of COVID cases in the National Capital Region has increased by an average of 40%.

Maryland has recorded 1,000+ cases each day for the last nine days. The case rate per 100K is now over 20 per 100K persons, double the WHO and CDC goal to keep under 10 per 100K. At this rate, Maryland is considered to be in the red zone for number of cases. Hospitalizations are also near record levels.

Prince George's County metrics are also very concerning. The positivity rate is above 6%, the infection rate is 1.15, and the case rate is 23 per 100K, which is considered to be in the high risk category.

The COVID Tracking Project is now reporting that the number of COVID-related hospitalizations in the US stands at 62,000. That exceeds the previous record high hospitalizations rates of earlier this year.

Key Metrics Charts

These charts provide data for the last seven days on key COVID-19 metrics that are being tracked and analyzed to identify trends and to make reopening decisions.

COVID-19 New Case Tracking							
	20715	20716	20720	20721	Bowie Cases	Prince George's Cases	Maryland Cases
Today	522 (+2)	545 (+2)	642 (+3)	840 (+4)	2,549 (+11)	35,336 (+190)	159,900 (+1,477)
11-Nov	+1	+5	+12	+12	+30	+290	+1,714
10-Nov	+6	+4	+8	+4	+22	+267	+1,338
9-Nov	+10	+4	+5	+4	+23	+294	1,375
8-Nov	+4	+2	+6	+7	+19	+138	+1,081
7-Nov	+2	+3	+3	+6	+14	+176	+1,410
6-Nov	497	525	605	803	2,430	34,070	151,505

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	298,497 (+1,221)	6.91%	3,761,513 (+31,598)	5.63%
11-Nov	+1,785	6.76%	+27,257	5.60%
10-Nov	+1,773	6.32%	+24,549	5.24%
9-Nov	+1,072	6.23%	+23,650	5.05%
8-Nov	+1,371	5.52%	+30,266	4.62%
7-Nov	+1,282	5.55%	+36,496	4.54%
6-Nov	+1,846	5.39%	+35,366	4.37%

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	23.49	22.82	10-Nov	1.19	1.21
11-Nov	21.49	21.13	9-Nov	1.18	1.21
10-Nov	19.31	19.79	8-Nov	1.18	1.21
9-Nov	17.85	18.55	7-Nov	1.17	1.21
8-Nov	17.83	18.04	6-Nov	1.17	1.20
7-Nov	17.80	16.99	5-Nov	1.16	1.20
6-Nov	16.04	15.54	4-Nov	1.16	1.20
			14-Day Weighted Average	1.15	1.19

Key	
Cases	Represents the daily number of new positive cases.
Positivity Rate	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%.
Cases per 100K persons	Measures how widespread the virus is in a community. The goal is to have fewer than 5 new cases per 100K persons.
Infection rate	Shows how many people are infected by each positive case. The goal is an infection rate at or below 0.9.
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 . It is subject to adjustments and may have a 1 to 3-day lag time in reporting.	

Prince George's County Metrics

Key Metrics	Current status*	Goal
Positivity rate	6.91%	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	23.49	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.19	Low risk range (<.9)

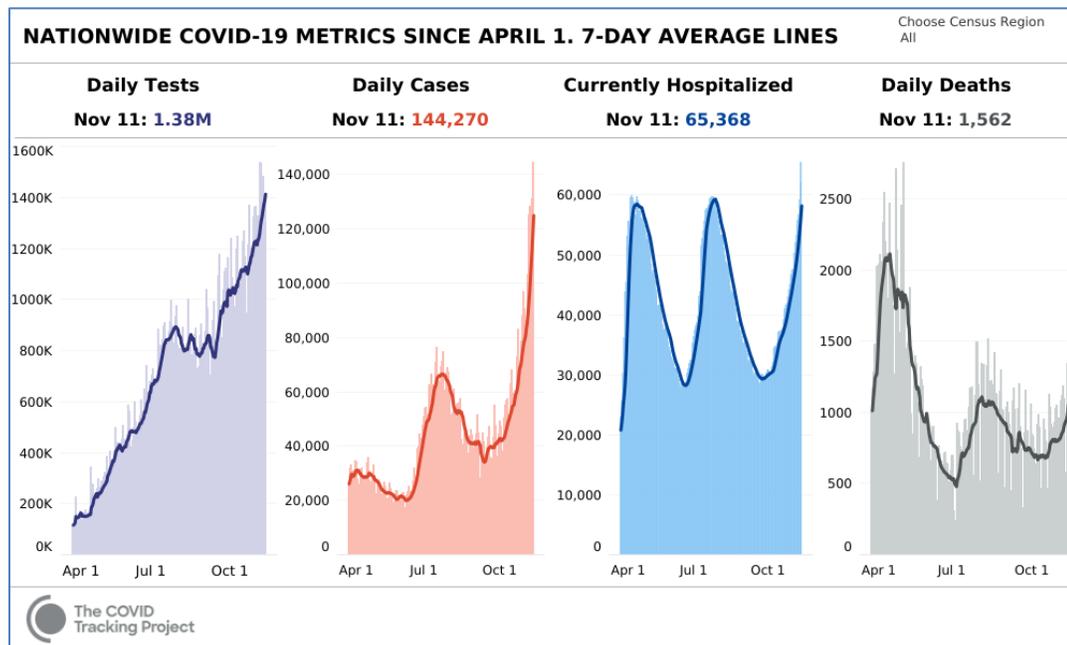
(*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	863	7.2%
Acute Care:	664	8.4%
Intensive Care	199	3.1%
Ever Hospitalized	18,139	11.3%

A Look at Nationwide Metrics

The graphic below provides a nationwide look at four key metrics - new tests, new confirmed cases, hospitalizations, and new deaths.



County Executive Says, "It's Time to Hunker Down" Against COVID-19

In response to steadily deteriorating metrics about the spread of the coronavirus in Prince George's County, County Executive Alsobrooks held a press conference this morning and announced that the following changes will go into effect on Sunday, November 16:

- Masks must be worn when you leave your home (except during vigorous exercise).
- Indoor social gatherings are limited to 10 people.
- Outdoor social gatherings are limited to 25 people.
- Essential businesses (grocery stores, big box stores, and specialty food stores) and retail stores can

operate at no more than 50% of capacity and with no more than one person for every 200 square feet of space.

- Other indoor public businesses or establishments open under Phase 2 must operate at a reduced capacity of no more than 25% of capacity and one person per every 200 square feet of space.
- Businesses must step up preventive measures, including sanitizing surfaces, enforcing the wearing of masks, and controlling capacity.
- Indoor seating for restaurants is limited to 25% of capacity.
- Outdoor restaurant seating is capped at 50% of capacity.

At the same press conference, County Health Officer Ernest Carter expanded upon the County Executive's directives with these comments:

- Make smart choices.
- Wear a face mask when you leave your house.
- Stay six feet away from those who don't live with you and keep your mask on.
- Avoid family gatherings and house parties since these are among the most common ways of contracting the virus.
- No more than 10 people can gather indoors and there should be 200 feet of space for each person present.
- Don't travel for Thanksgiving. If you absolutely must travel, drive yourself.
- Don't travel if COVID positive, waiting for results, or you feel sick, or have been exposed to someone with the virus.
- People must go to work, but they must be protected. Wear masks at all times and maintain six feet distance. Each hour, clean surfaces at work and wash hands thoroughly.

Maryland Imposes New Restrictions to Reduce Spread

On November 10, Governor Larry Hogan announced a series of new statewide public health measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. Some of the new measures went into effect then, others became effective on November 11. Key measures include, but are not limited to the following:

- [Indoor dining capacity reduced to 50%](#)
- [New Public Health Advisory limits indoor gatherings to 25 or fewer people](#)
- Expanded Out-of-State Travel Advisory: Residents advised against traveling to any state with a positivity rate above 10% or any state with average case rates above 20 per 100K
- State [government offices will return to mandatory teleworking](#); All businesses encouraged to expand telework.
- Emergency Order expands hospital surge capacity.
- New guidance was issued for slowing the spread of COVID-19 at nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

In another press conference this afternoon, Governor Hogan announced a \$70 million package of assistance programs to help businesses and individuals affected by the pandemic and to support COVID response efforts.

He also said that while Maryland is doing better than most of the US, the numbers in Maryland are very concerning and the months ahead will be very difficult. The measures that state and local governments are taking now and the actions that individuals take to follow orders and guidance can change the trajectory of pandemic and determine our future.

- [Governor's Executive Order \(11/11/20\)](#)

- [Public Health Advisory on Large Gatherings, Essential Travel, Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Programs](#) (11/10/20)
- [Press Release on New State Measures to Control Spread of COVID-19](#) (11/10/20)

COVID Testing and Seasonal Flu Shots Friday in Bowie

Prince George's County Health Department is offering COVID testing tomorrow at the Senior Center, as well as free flu shots.

Free drive-thru COVID testing will begin at 9 a.m. and run until 11 a.m. or sooner if testing supplies are exhausted.

- Tests are available **for individuals with or without symptoms** that have been exposed to or suspected to have been exposed to a COVID-19-positive person.
- No appointments or doctor's referral is needed.
- Patients must present identification and proof of insurance (if you have coverage).
- Testing is provided free of charge (no out-of-pocket cost or co-payment regardless of insurance).

To receive more than one test from the Prince George's County Health Department, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- have a known/suspected exposure to a positive case
- have [symptoms](#)
- are part of a County contact tracing case investigation and were directed to be tested

The Health Department also considers other retest requests on a case-by-case basis. The on-site registered nurse will assess and determine if retesting outside of the above criteria meets [CDC guidelines](#). Testing at a Health Department location is limited to residents 10 years of age and older.

Call the **coronavirus hotline at 301-883-6627** between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 pm. if you have questions about the County's testing program or visit health.mypgc.us/COVIDtesting.

The Department will also be providing **free seasonal flu shots at the Senior Center between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.** Vaccines are available for any individual age 6 months and older.

Details:

Friday, November 13

- COVID Testing – 9 to 11 a.m.
- Flu Shots – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bowie Health Center
14900 Health Center Drive

There will be separate lines for each service.

**FIGHT THE
FLU**
AND TEST FOR COVID

**FREE DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOT
& COVID TESTING CLINIC**

November 13, 2020
Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Dr., Bowie, MD

FLU SHOTS **COVID TESTING**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Hosted by the Prince George's County Health Department.

Maryland Travel Advisory

The Maryland Department of Health has issued a new travel advisory that strongly encourages Marylanders to avoid nonessential travel and that specifically advises against traveling to states with positivity rates of 10% or higher or states where the case rate per 100K is more than 20.

It is important to note that [positivity rates are being calculated differently](#) by different agencies and organizations, which sometimes makes it difficult to compare data. The CDC Tracker provides case trends, testing, and other information. Cumulative positivity rates can be found on the [testing page](#). The [case trends page](#) provides a good representation of cases per 100K and where the spread has been most active over the previous seven days.

The Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center also tracks testing trends. You can view the percentage of new tests that are positive using a seven day rolling average on their [percentage positive tracker map](#).

COVID Link

The Maryland Department of Health launched a new COVID website and a new tool to help notify Marylanders if they have been exposed to the coronavirus. The new COVID-19 Exposure Notifications system is called *MD COVID Alert*. It uses Bluetooth Low Energy technology to quickly notify mobile phone users who might have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 with the goal of reducing infections in Maryland. You can view the new COVID website and learn more about the alerting tool at <http://covidlink.maryland.gov>.

Vaccine Updates

By the third week of November, **Pfizer and BioNTech** expect their vaccine candidate to achieve the required safety milestone for Emergency Use Authorization approval by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA). The announcement early Monday morning follows initial test results showing it is 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 in participants with no evidence of prior infection during Phase 3 trials that began on July 27.

The Gaithersburg-based company, **Novavax**, is on track to begin a delayed US-based late-stage study of its experimental coronavirus vaccine later this month. It is [currently testing the drug](#) in a late-stage study in the United Kingdom. Last month, it postponed the start of the US trial by roughly a month, due to delays in scaling up the manufacturing process.

You can track the status of various vaccine candidates at the [FDA website](#) or on the [New York Times](#)

[coronavirus vaccine tracker webpage.](#)

Food Giveaways

The City of Bowie's final food distribution event is this **Saturday, November 14 at Grace Lutheran Church on Belair Drive 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.

Food Giveaway for Seniors

County Council Chair Todd Turner will host a "Senior Grab & Go" Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway for his constituents on Thursday, November 19 in the parking lot of the Bowie Senior Center. Hours are 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. To be eligible for the giveaway, you must register for the event. The registration deadline is Thursday, November 12, 2020. You can find a link to the registration form at www.cityofbowie.org/food. Registration can also be taken over the telephone by calling Evelyn Archie in the Chair Turner's Office at 240-619-9775.

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 is 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.

City of Bowie Launches COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program

On November 11, the City of Bowie launched a COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program for tenants who have suffered a loss of income due to the pandemic. The Rental Assistance Program will provide short term assistance to low- and moderate-income families who meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income limit guidelines. If eligible, approved households may receive a maximum of one month's rent (one-time only) paid directly to their landlord.

The COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program is funded through the CARES ACT as a HUD Community Development Block Grant to "prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)". The City has decided to use part of these funds to help those affected by the pandemic to meet their housing obligations and to avoid eviction. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or qualified aliens, (8 U.S.C. 1641), and City of Bowie residents. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/cobcares for more information.

Other News

Upcoming Virtual Meetings & Other Events

- 11/12 – Master Plan Update meeting
- 11/13 – Free drive thru testing and flu vaccination clinic at the Senior Center

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

Bowie Reads Aloud

We've added a new video to our [Bowie Reads Aloud webpage](#). This one is called "Under My Hijab" and it is read by District 4 Councilmember Roxy Ndebumadu. More book videos are coming soon!

Leaf Collection Underway

The City of Bowie Curbside Vacuum Leaf Collection Program begins November 2 and runs through mid-December. Every single-family neighborhood will have two collections during that time.

The schedule is posted by week this year, rather than by specific date. You can view the 2020 schedule at www.cityofbowie.org/leaves to see which two weeks your neighborhood will have leaf collection.

Due to limited availability of the equipment the city usually leases for this program, crews will be working longer hours on more days to get the job done. By assigning a pickup week rather than a pickup date, the crews can be more efficient with their time and will have more flexibility in how they move through the neighborhoods during each week.

Leaves should be raked to the curb (but not in the street), by 7 a.m. on Monday of your scheduled week. Each afternoon, the progress will be posted on the city website at www.cityofbowie.org/leaves. It will show each neighborhood scheduled for that week and whether it has been completed. Please note that once the truck passes through your street, they will not return to it again that week.

We appreciate your understanding as we adapt to another modification in service for this year. Please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344 if you have questions about the Curbside Leaf Collection Program.

Please note: If you prefer to bag your leaves, they will be picked up on Wednesdays with yard waste. Use paper yard waste bags (no plastic bags).

View the collection schedule at www.cityofbowie.org/leaves.