



# COVID-19 UPDATE

**Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

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## Other News

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- City government closed 11/26 & 11/27
- City of Bowie job vacancy

## Governor Hogan Announcing New Measures to Control Rapidly Surging Cases

Governor Hogan held a press conference this afternoon to provide an update on the state of the pandemic in Maryland and to announce new measures to address the deteriorating situation:

### Current Conditions

- We have now had 13 straight days with more than 1,000 new cases of COVID-19, including 2,149 new cases in just the past 24 hours.
- 20 of the state's 24 jurisdictions have positivity rates above the 5% benchmark.
- The average case rate has risen to 29, which is a 46% increase over the past week.
- Today, for the first time since June 7, Maryland has surpassed 1,000 COVID-19 hospitalizations and we have the highest number of ICU patients since June 19.
- Hospital capacity in our state is up 100% since November.
- Even with the additional 6,000 beds that we provided for in our hospital surge plan, Maryland hospitals are now reaching capacity

### New Restrictions

- Hospitals should avoid elective procedures that are not urgent or life-saving.
- Hospitals that are full or nearing capacity are permitted to transfer patients to other facilities that can provide the necessary care.

- Most hospital visitations are prohibited. Exceptions include: some end-of-life care, obstetrics, parents or guardians of minors, and support for people with disabilities.
- Nursing home visits will generally be limited to compassionate care visits, and all visitors must have proof of a negative COVID test result within 72 hours prior to visit.
- Mandatory, twice-weekly testing is now required for all staff at Maryland nursing homes, and mandatory weekly testing is required for all nursing home residents
- Rapid Response Teams can be deployed to nursing homes and other outbreak sites, to triage and to supplement staffing needs.
- All bars, restaurants, and facilities where food and/or alcohol are served will be required to close by 10 p.m. Takeout food service can continue after 10 p.m.
- All businesses and religious institutions statewide will revert to 50% capacity restrictions. \*
- Fans are no longer permitted at collegiate or professional stadium or at racetracks.
- The governor encouraged mask wearing, social distancing, and getting tested after returning home from college, before visiting an older relative, or after returning from any out-of-state travel.

\*More stringent capacity requirements are already in effect in Prince George’s County. The restaurant and bar restrictions and the reduction in capacity orders take effect on November 20 at 5 p.m.

### COVID Data Trends

For the past two weeks, the US has reported more than 100,000 new cases a day. Today the Governor confirmed that there is widespread community spread in every part of the state and Maryland’s case rate per 100K residents is now considered to be in the “red zone” by the CDC. Some Maryland hospitals are nearing capacity.

### 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
<b>Today</b>	<b>550 (+4)</b>	<b>570 (+4)</b>	<b>680 (+11)</b>	<b>885 (+14)</b>	<b>2,685 (+33)</b>	<b>36,905 (+419)</b>	<b>169,805 (+2,149)</b>
16-Nov	+7	+5	+7	+8	+27	+217	+1,726
15-Nov	+2	+1	+5	+7	+15	+217	+1,840
14-Nov	+8	+9	+10	+6	+33	+386	+2,321
13-Nov	+7	+6	+5	+10	+28	+330	+1,869
12-Nov	+2	+2	+3	+4	+11	+190	+1,477
<b>11-Nov</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>2,538</b>	<b>35,146</b>	<b>158,423</b>

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	306,675 (+2,113)	8.39%	3,922,306 (+27,740)	6.85%
16-Nov	+2,270	7.97%	+34,833	6.45%
15-Nov	+217	8.46%	+28,574	6.57%
14-Nov	+1,848	7.83%	+37,627	6.16%
13-Nov	+1,730	7.26%	+32,019	5.87%
12-Nov	+1,221	6.91%	+31,598	5.63%
11-Nov	+1,785	6.76%	+27,257	5.60%

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	29.80	29.03	15-Nov	1.27	1.27
16-Nov	29.61	28.20	14-Nov	1.27	1.27
15-Nov	28.37	26.41	13-Nov	1.26	1.27
14-Nov	25.07	24.25	12-Nov	1.25	1.26
13-Nov	23.80	23.48	11-Nov	1.25	1.26
12-Nov	23.49	22.82	10-Nov	1.24	1.26
11-Nov	21.49	21.13	9-Nov	1.23	1.25
			14-Day Weighted Average	1.22	1.25

Key	
<b>Cases</b>	Represents the daily number of new positive cases.
<b>Positivity Rate</b>	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%.
<b>Cases per 100K persons</b>	Measures how widespread the virus is in a community. The goal is to have fewer than 5 new cases per 100K persons.
<b>Infection rate</b>	Shows how many people are infected by each positive case. The goal is an infection rate at or below 0.9.
<b>Data sources:</b> Except for the infection rate, all data provided here is from the State of Maryland's COVID dashboard. The infection rate is tracked by <a href="http://www.covidactnow.org">www.covidactnow.org</a> . 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
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Positivity rate	<b>8.39</b>	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	<b>29.80</b>	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	<b>1.27</b>	Low risk range (<0.9)

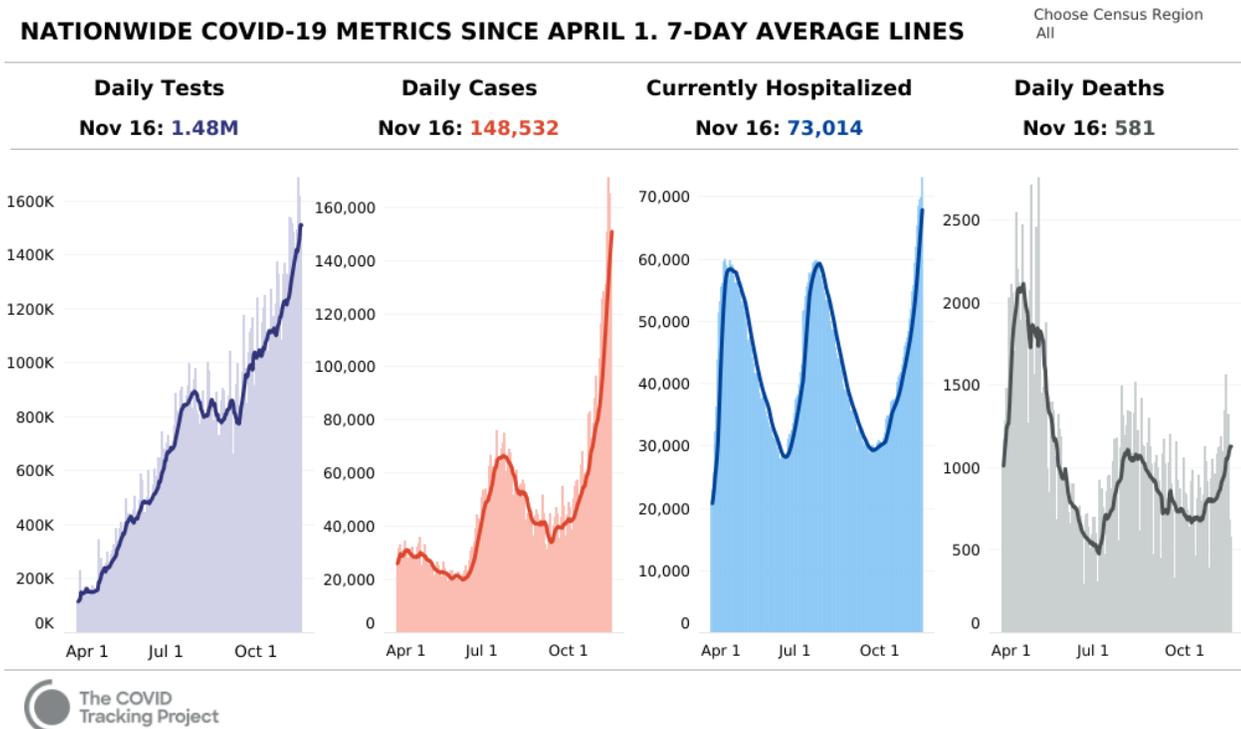
(\*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

### Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1046	6.1%
Acute Care:	791	5.7%
Intensive Care	255	7.5%
Ever Hospitalized	18,812	11.0%

### 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 Orders More Restrictions to Address Surging Cases

The following new orders are now in effect in Prince George's County:

- Face coverings required outside the home

Face coverings are now required whenever you leave your home (both indoors and outdoors). The only exceptions are for children under age 5 (recommending for ages 2 to 4) and during vigorous outdoor exercise.

- **Essential businesses – 50% capacity**  
Essential businesses, such as grocery stores, food stores, and big box stores, may operate at 50% of capacity.
- **Non-essential businesses – 25% capacity or 1 per 200 feet**  
All other businesses, currently open in Phase 2, must limit occupancy to 25% of capacity or 1 person per 200 square feet, whichever is less.
- **Business must follow all safety orders and guidance**  
All businesses must follow and enforce mask wearing, social distancing, and other safety guidance at their establishments.
- **Restaurants – 25% capacity indoors and 50% capacity outdoors**  
Restaurants are limited to 25% capacity indoors and 50% outdoors. All persons must be seated to be served.
- **Gyms – 25% capacity or 1 per 200 feet, whichever is lower**  
Gyms and fitness centers may operate at 1 person per 200 square feet or 25% of capacity up to a maximum of 50 people. Masks are required while working out at fitness centers.
- **Indoor gatherings – 10-person limit or 1 per 200 feet, whichever is lower**  
Indoor gatherings, whether in public or private locations, are limited to 1 person per 200 square feet or 10 persons, whichever is less.
- **Outdoor gatherings – limited to 25 persons**  
Outdoor gatherings are limited to 25 persons.

These measures are in addition to existing State of Maryland orders, advisories, and guidance. If there is a difference between Prince George's County and State directives, the stricter orders shall apply.

The Prince George's County Health Department Order provides more specific information about restrictions for various types of establishments and locations. Read the full documents at the links below:

- [County Press Release About New Orders](#) (issued 11/12/20)
- [Prince George's County Health Department Order](#) (issued 11/12/20/effective 11/15/20)
- [County Guidance about the Holidays](#)



## WEAR A MASK - It's the Law \*

- When you go for a walk
- When you're chatting with a neighbor
- In line outside the grocery store
- When you're pumping gas
- On public transport
- Indoors at businesses, stores, and public spaces








...and in just about every other indoor and outdoor setting

**The bottom line is masks are required anytime you leave your home.**

\* Exceptions: during vigorous exercise outdoors and for children under 5 (recommended for ages 2-4)

### A Word About Enforcement

Widespread community transmission of the coronavirus is now occurring in Maryland and the state is perilously close to uncontrolled spread. These measures have been put in place to reduce the spread, alleviate the growing strain on hospitals, keep our economy open, and to protect all Marylanders. If they are not enough, the Governor has indicated that he will take stronger measures if necessary.

The current State of Maryland and the Prince George's County orders and directives carry the weight of law. The Governor has directed police departments, including the Bowie Police Department, and other state and local officials to enforce these orders.

The first priority of the City of Bowie government is to protect the health and safety of all who live and work here. We will work to educate the public about these changes, to encourage compliance, and ultimately to enforce the law.

Please help us in this effort by wearing a face covering when you leave your home, staying six feet apart from those outside your household, following capacity restrictions, and by reporting establishments or gatherings that are disregarding or not closely following these orders.

Violations should be reported to Prince George's County at 3-1-1 or email [covidcompliance@co.pg.md.us](mailto:covidcompliance@co.pg.md.us). The County has a COVID-19 Ambassador Compliance Team that will investigate businesses to ensure they are enforcing all safety protocols and will take appropriate action as necessary. You can also contact the Bowie Police Department at 240-544-5700.

### 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](#).

### **Vaccine News**

The biotech company Moderna, Inc., said that its experimental vaccine was 94.5% effective in preventing disease, according to an analysis of its clinical trial. The news comes a week after Pfizer and BioNTech said their vaccine was more than 90% effective.

### **Pediatric COVID Cases**

More than 1 million children have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Children make up approximately 11.5% of the total cases. The American Academy of Pediatrics believes the numbers of reported COVID-19 cases in children are likely undercounted because children's symptoms are often mild, and they may not be tested for every illness.

### **CDC Updates Mask Guidance**

According to the latest CDC guidance on masks, individuals age 2 and up should wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in their household. Masks offer some protection to you and are also meant to protect those around you, in case you have COVID-19, but don't know it. A mask is NOT a substitute for social distancing and should still be worn in addition to staying at least 6 feet apart from others.

[View Considerations for Wearing Masks Guidance](#) (updated 11/12/20)

### **Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19**

The CDC says the length of time a person has immunity to COVID-19 remains under investigation. Based on what they know from other related human coronaviruses, people appear to become susceptible to reinfection around 90 days after initially being infected. For people who have recovered from COVID-19, a positive COVID-19 test without new symptoms during the 90 days after initial infection more likely represents persistent shedding of viral RNA than reinfection. If such a person remains asymptomatic (or does not have symptoms) during this 90-day period, then any re-testing will not likely provide useful information, even if the person had close contact with an infected person

[View Isolation Guidance for Reinfection](#) (updated 10/19/20)

### **Case Data for Maryland Schools**

Last week the State of Maryland began reporting on COVID outbreaks in public and non-public K-12 schools in the state. The data comes from local health department reports to the Maryland Department of Health. It does not include childcare facilities or institutions of higher education.

[View outbreak data for schools](#)

### **COVID Testing**

Please visit the Prince George's County [COVID-19 testing webpage](#) for site locations and testing schedules. You'll also find links there to information about [State of Maryland testing locations](#). If you have additional questions about the County's testing program, call the coronavirus hotline at 301-883-6627 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.



**JOIN THE TEAM**

**GET TESTED FOR COVID-19**

- Wear Your Mask Properly
- Locate Your Testing Site: Dial 311
- Physically Distance for Safety
- Avoid Social Gatherings
- Wash Your Hands Frequently

  **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
Prince George's County

### **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>.

### **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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/food).

### **City of Bowie Launches COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program**

On November 11, the City of Bowie is launching 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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/cobcares) for more information.

### **Maryland Courts Take a Step Back**

Effective today, the Maryland Judiciary will restrict operations to Phase III of its five-phased reopening plan in response to the surge in COVID-19 cases. In Phase III, courts will hear a broad range of matters,

including certain non-jury trials. Clerks' offices in the District Court of Maryland and Circuit Courts throughout the state will remain open to the public, with limited in-person services being offered. The Judiciary had resumed full operations under Phase V, including jury trials on October 5.

## Other News

### Leaf Collection Underway

The City of Bowie Curbside Vacuum Leaf Collection Program 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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/leaves) to see which two weeks your neighborhood will have leaf collection.

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](http://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.

Please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344 if you have questions about the Curbside Leaf Collection Program. 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).



### City of Bowie Job Vacancy

Administrative Assistant – Public Works Department (closes 11/27/2020)

View job description at [www.cityofbowie.org/jobs](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs)