



# COVID-19 UPDATE

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

Here's what you will find in today's update:

## COVID-19 Information

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## Other News

- Leaf Collection is underway
- City government closed 11/26 & 11/27
- City of Bowie job vacancies
- Hourly Workers Relief Fund

## COVID Data Trends

Total COVID hospitalizations in Maryland have more than tripled since the beginning of October and some hospitals are nearing capacity. More than 500 nursing homes and other congregate living locations in the state are reporting cases at their facilities. For the second day in a row, there have been at least 30 cases reported in Bowie, however there was a slight decrease in the County positivity rate today.

## 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	558 (+8)	576 (+6)	688 (+8)	893 (+8)	2,715 (+30)	37,184 (+279)	171,823 (+2,018)
17-Nov	+4	+4	+11	+14	+33	+419	+2,149
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	522	545	642	840	2,549	35,336	159,900

## 7-Day Positivity Rates

	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	308,289 (+1,614)	8.26%	3,954,107 (+31,801)	6.82%
17-Nov	+2,113	8.39%	+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%

### Cases per 100K Persons

	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
Today	32.19	30.95
17-Nov	29.80	29.03
16-Nov	29.61	28.20
15-Nov	28.37	26.41
14-Nov	25.07	24.25
13-Nov	23.80	23.48
12-Nov	23.49	22.82

### Infection Rates

	County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
16-Nov	1.24	1.25
15-Nov	1.24	1.25
14-Nov	1.23	1.25
13-Nov	1.23	1.25
12-Nov	1.23	1.25
11-Nov	1.23	1.25
10-Nov	1.22	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
Positivity rate	8.26	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	32.19	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.24	Low risk range (<0.9)

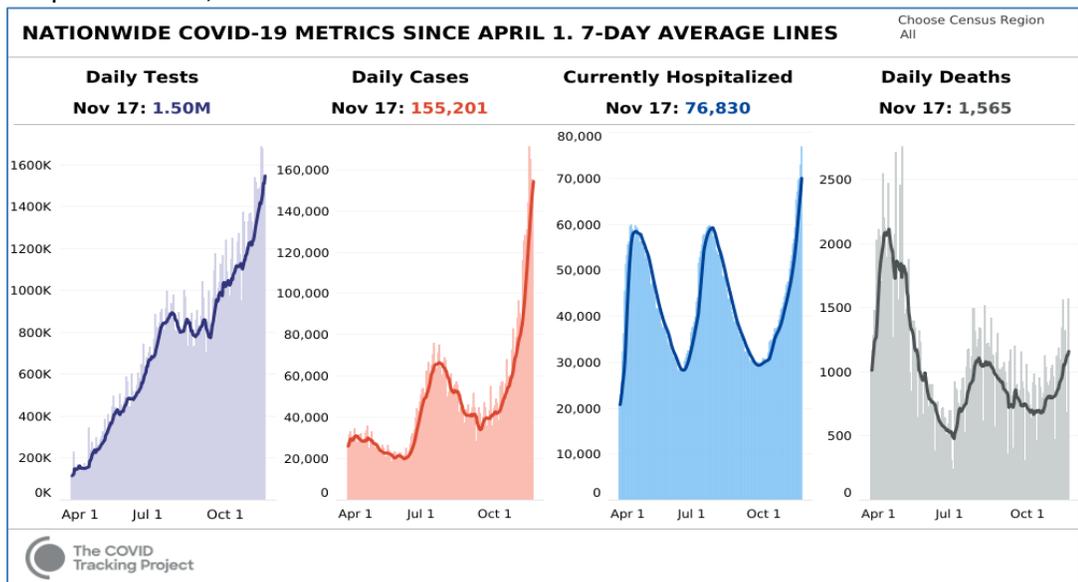
(\* ) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

### Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1,144	9.3%
Acute Care:	874	10.4%
Intensive Care	270	5.8%
Ever Hospitalized	18,959	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.



## **Governor Hogan Announces New Measures to Control Rapidly Surging Cases**

The governor has issued an *Emergency Order*, effective November 20 at 5 p.m., which returns the State to Stage Two of the *Roadmap to Recovery*, and mandates that the following actions/measures be taken in order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19:

- **Bars and Restaurants:**  
All bars, restaurants, and venues serving food and alcohol must close between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., except for the purposes of carryout and delivery.
- **Retail Establishments and Religious Facilities:**  
Capacity at retail establishments and religious facilities will be reduced to 50% (Prince George's County has already reduced capacity to 25%).
- **Racetracks and Stadiums:**  
No fans/spectators will be permitted at racetracks or professional and collegiate stadiums.
- **Hospitals:**
  - Hospital visits are prohibited with some exceptions, including end-of-life care, obstetrics, parents or guardians of minors, and support for people with disabilities.
  - Hospitals that are either full or nearing capacity limits are now allowed to transfer patients to hospitals that are equipped to provide the required care, alleviating overcrowded hospitals in some areas of the state, and placing patients in hospitals where beds are available.
  - Hospitals and other medical facilities are to avoid any elective procedure admissions that are not urgent or life-saving, especially those likely to require prolonged artificial ventilation, ICU admissions, or may have a high probability of requiring post-hospital care in a skilled nursing facility.
- **Nursing Homes:**
  - Indoor visitation will generally be limited to compassionate care, and all visitors must have proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours prior to visiting.
  - Nursing home staff will be required to be tested twice a week and patients will be tested weekly.

### **Links:**

[Press Release issued by Governor's Office](#) (11/17/20)

[Executive Order issued by Governor Hogan](#) (11/17/20)

## **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](#)

### **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](#).

### **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)

### **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

Prince Georges Proud  
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.

### Prince George's County Rapid Re-Employment Grants

County businesses that hire unemployed Prince Georgians are eligible to receive Rapid Re-Employment Grants. Learn more at the [Employ Prince George's website](#) or email [BusinessServices@co.pg.md.us](mailto:BusinessServices@co.pg.md.us). Businesses must hire by December 15 to receive the maximum eligible grant.

## Other News

### Upcoming Meetings

12/1 – Stakeholders Meeting re: proposal for Religious Retreat Center on the Jesuit Property

12/17 – Millbranch Crossing Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing

### 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 Vacancies

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

Accountant II – Finance Department (closes 12/11/20)

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



The poster features a background of US dollar bills. On the left, a person in a red shirt is handing a white envelope into a car's window. The top left corner contains the Prince George's County logo and the text 'PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COVID-19 HOURLY EMPLOYEE RELIEF FUND'. The main heading reads 'PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RESIDENTS!'. Below this, a paragraph explains the fund's purpose. A central section titled 'How To Apply:' lists five steps with corresponding icons: a paper plane for Step 1, a globe for Step 2, a person at a computer for Step 3, a rocket for Step 4, and an envelope for Step 5. A large red banner on the left side of the steps section contains text about reapplying for a \$300 cash card. The bottom of the poster includes a paragraph about the fund's funding sources, a call to action for donations, and contact information including a QR code, phone number, website, and email address.

 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
**COVID-19**  
HOURLY EMPLOYEE  
RELIEF FUND

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RESIDENTS!**

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Employ Prince George's and Prince George's County Government have partnered to provide **\$300** cash cards to **Prince George's County** residents who were recently laid off due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**How To Apply:**

**Step 1**  
Visit [www.employpgedge.com](http://www.employpgedge.com) and register with Employ Prince George's

**Step 2**  
Select "Apply for Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund"

**Step 3**  
Complete the required applicant questionnaire

**Step 4**  
Upload the required documentation to confirm your layoff is due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

**Step 5**  
Confirm and monitor your email updates

**Prince George's County residents who received a \$200 Visa cash card previously, are eligible to reapply to receive a \$300 cash card.**

**Employ Prince George's** assesses all **Prince George's County** applicants of the Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund applications one by one. There are limited financial resources available and priority will be given to hourly workers who earned \$19 or less prior to being laid off due to the pandemic.

The Prince George's County Hourly Employee Relief Fund is made possible by generous contributions from the Employ Prince George's Board of Directors, Prince George's County Government, Prince George's County Businesses, and community members. Through these economic hardships, Employ Prince George's is dedicated to partnering with and meeting the needs of those adversely affected by this pandemic.

Join our efforts and make your donation at [www.employpg.org/how-you-can-help/](http://www.employpg.org/how-you-can-help/).

**Employ PRINCE GEORGE'S** **#WeAreEPG**

**Contact Us Today**

Call: (301) 618-8403  
[www.employpg.org/COVID19](http://www.employpg.org/COVID19)  
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