



COVID-19 UPDATE

Thursday, November 19, 2020

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COVID-19 Information

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COVID Data Trends

Today, Bowie has 46 new cases, which surpassed the previous daily record set in the spring. The number of cases in Prince George's County cases has grown by 39% in the last seven days.

The steep climb in cases before the holidays is concerning to health officials. The CDC is urging all Americans **NOT TO TRAVEL** this Thanksgiving weekend and to only celebrate the holiday with those in your immediate household.

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	566 (+8)	592 (+16)	692 (+4)	911 (+18)	2,761 (+46)	37,581 (+397)	174,733 (+2,910)
18-Nov	+8	+6	+8	+8	+30	+279	+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	529	551	647	850	2,577	35,666	161,769

7-Day Positivity Rates

	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	310,713 (+2,424)	8.56%	3,998,070 (+43,963)	7.19%
18-Nov	+1,614	8.26%	+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%

Cases per 100K Persons

	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
Today	32.02	31.66
18-Nov	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

Infection Rates

	County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
18-Nov	1.25	1.24
17-Nov	1.25	1.24
16-Nov	1.25	1.24
15-Nov	1.25	1.24
14-Nov	1.25	1.25
13-Nov	1.25	1.25
12-Nov	1.24	1.25
14-Day Weighted Average	1.24	1.24

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	8.56	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	32.02	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.25	Low risk range (<0.9)

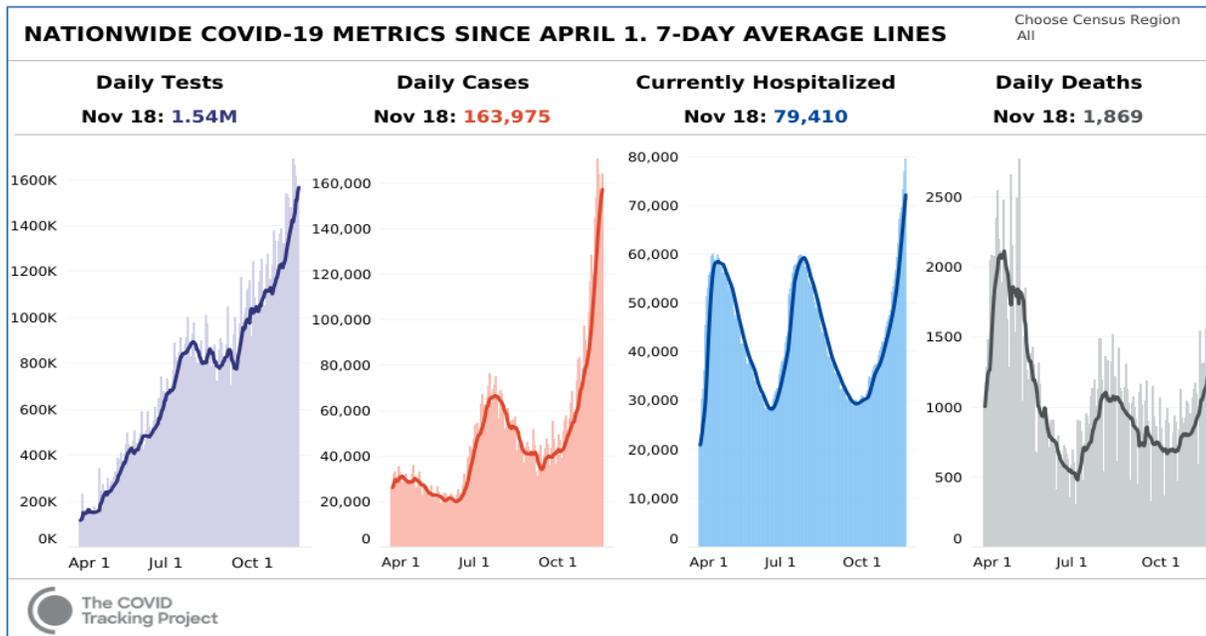
(*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1,192	4.1%
Acute Care:	932	6.6%
Intensive Care	260	-3.7%
Ever Hospitalized	19,134	10.9%

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. 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.

Vaccine Update

Pfizer and Biontech have been working together on a vaccine. They announced recently that they have concluded the Phase 3 Study of their COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Results show it to be 95% effective against COVID-19 beginning 28 days after the first dose. Efficacy was consistent across age, gender, race and ethnicity demographics; and in adults over 65 years of age. The study reports that no serious safety concerns were observed. The companies plan to submit an Emergency Use Authorization application to the FDA soon.

Moderna and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are also working on development of a vaccine. They are reporting very encouraging progress with their vaccine candidate trial. On November 16, the company announced that preliminary analysis of the trial indicated that the vaccine was 94.5% effective. The trial will continue to gather more results. Moderna says it plans to submit an application for an Emergency Use Authorization within the next few weeks.

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.

Due to the increasing number of cases and the approaching holiday, more people are getting tested. You may experience longer lines at testing locations, and it may take longer than two days to receive your results.

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.

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 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. Businesses must hire by December 15 to receive the maximum eligible grant.

Other News

Upcoming Meetings

11/21 – Virtual City Council Meeting, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Agenda items: Financial Overview, Discussion of Capital Project Needs

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

12/7 – Virtual City Council Meeting, 8 p.m.

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

New Traffic Signal Coming to Route 3 Southbound at Forest Drive – Intermittent Road Closures Tonight

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) will be installing overhead signage on MD 3 (Crain Highway) between MD 450 (Defense Highway) and Governor Bridge Road this evening. The work will begin at 8 p.m. and will require several 15-minute closures until 5 a.m. Friday.

Crews are also working on storm water management and widening the shoulders of the roadway as part of the \$2.9 million MD 3 at Forest Drive improvement project. The full project is expected to be complete

by summer 2021. As part of this project, a new traffic signal was installed at MD 3 at Sylvan Drive. The signal will go live on November 20.

Mental Health Matters!

Mental health concerns have been prevalent in our community as pressures on kids, teens and parents have increased.

According to the Center for Disease Control, more than more than 40% of respondents in a recent study reported mental health symptoms related to the current pandemic. Teens and young adults, in particular, were found to be at increased risk.

Here's some signs of stress that may indicate a need for help:

- Changes in mood,
- Lack of interest in once-loved activities,
- Changes in friendships,
- Changes in eating and sleep patterns,
- Less attention to personal hygiene,
- Alcohol or other drug abuse.

Please know that you are not alone. If you are concerned for yourself or a loved one, affordable and confidential help is available.

- **City of Bowie Youth & Family Services:** - 1-513-817-3158
- **Prince George's County Hotline:** 301-864-7161
- **Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-SUICIDE
- **Prince George's County Crisis Response Hotline:** 301-429-2185

Virtual Stakeholders Meeting on New Concept for the Jesuit Property

Discussions are underway about a possible new concept for the property owned by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) next to Sacred Heart Church on MD 450. The owners would like to build a retreat center on the site.

The Jesuits approached the City requesting that they host this meeting, as they would like to ensure that the community is aware of their plans and are given an early opportunity to ask questions and present feedback. This meeting will serve as an introduction to the concept of the retreat center, review its proposed programming, discuss traffic impacts, examine conceptual layouts of the site as well as discuss the regulatory and zoning process that would be utilized, if the proposal were to move forward.

The Virtual Stakeholders Meeting will take place on Zoom on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7 p.m. Participants can register to join the call visiting: <https://bowie.fyi/retreatctr>. All attendees will participate in "listen only" mode but may ask questions during the meeting using the Q&A function in Zoom. City staff will read the submitted questions, as time allows. The meeting will also be streamed live on the City government TV channel, on the City website, and will be broadcast live on the City's YouTube channel.

This is an important first meeting about a major open space property in Bowie and we encourage you to tune and learn about what is being considered. Please contact the Planning Department at 301-809-3045 with any questions.

Ways to watch the December 1, 7 p.m. Stakeholders Meeting

- Zoom - <https://bowie.fyi/retreatctr>
- Web – www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings
- YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofbowiemd>
- Bowie Government Channel – FIOS 10 / Xfinity 71 & 996

Leaf Collection

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 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. 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

Bowie Police Department Receives CALEA Accreditation

After a lengthy preparation period and a very thorough inspection process, the Bowie Police Department was awarded full accreditation by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) accreditation status today, November 13, 2020.

CALEA accreditation is the gold standard in public safety. Chief John Nesky is proud of his department's accomplishment but acknowledged that the work is ongoing. He said, "the Bowie Police Department will continue to strive to provide the highest quality service to the residents and visitors of the City of Bowie."

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. was established as an independent accrediting authority in 1979 by four major law enforcement membership associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); National Sheriffs' Association (NSA); and Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). The executive directors of these four associations annually appoint members to the commission. Each serves a three-year voluntary term.

You can hear the chief talk about this recognition and about enforcement of the latest COVID restrictions on his latest Chief Chat video. View it at <https://youtu.be/BBe3UPfuUUg>.



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.employpgedg.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/.



#WeAreEPG



Contact Us Today



Call: (301) 618-8403



www.employpg.org/COVID19



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