



COVID-19 UPDATE

Monday, November 23, 2020

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COVID-19 Information

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- Virtual Meeting re: Jesuit Property
- Leaf Collection is underway
- City government closed 11/26 & 11/27
- City of Bowie job vacancies

COVID Data Trends

The positivity rate dipped slightly today as large numbers of people are getting tested prior to the Thanksgiving holiday; however, the number of cases per 100K persons continues to climb at the county and state levels. The number of new cases across the US is climbing steeply, with about 1 million cases added in the last seven days.

Governor Hogan Press Conference Today

Governor Hogan held a press conference this afternoon to provide an update on the state of COVID-19 in Maryland and to encourage Marylanders to comply with existing orders and advisories.

Conditions in Maryland

- The state has now had 19 straight days with more than 1,000 new cases of the virus, including another 1,658 new cases in the past 24 hours. Today, the statewide 7-day positivity rate is 6.88%.
- COVID hospitalizations have increased by 80% over the past 2 weeks. As of today, 1,276 COVID patients are currently hospitalized. 289 patients are in the ICU (highest level since June 15).
- Some hospitals in Western Maryland are already at their capacity limit, and 29 hospitals across Maryland are at more than 90% capacity.
- Maryland's average case rate has risen to 38.3, up nearly 36% in the past week. 4,293 Marylanders have now died from COVID-19.

The Governor reiterated his previous orders imposed last week:

- A Maryland travel advisory discourages nonessential travel to states with high positivity rates.
- Limitations on visitations to hospitals and nursing homes are back in place to protect patients.
- The statewide masking order remains in effect.
- Restaurants and bars are required to close at 10 p.m., except for food delivery or takeout, which is still permitted.
- Maryland should avoid large gatherings, wear masks, and keep your distance.
- Follow capacity restrictions imposed for restaurants, stores, and other business establishments.

The Governor also announced a **new education, compliance, and enforcement effort** across the state to address the violations being reported.

- The state is launching an all-hands-on-deck compliance, education, and enforcement operation.
- Additional Maryland State troopers will be assigned in every county to work with local officials to investigate any reports of violations of state law.
- Beginning on Thanksgiving-eve, state troopers will support local authorities with compliance checks, with a focus on educating the public about existing orders and protocols, preventing super-spreading events, and assisting in enforcement actions when necessary.

Marylanders who see unlawful behavior are encouraged to report it by calling the Maryland State Police COVID hotline at 833)-979-2266 or send an email to prevent.covid@maryland.gov.

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	601 (+8)	624 (+8)	712 (+3)	945 (+6)	2,882 (+25)	38,985 (+286)	183,797 (+1,658)
22-Nov	+9	+1	+3	+9	+22	+271	+2,168
21-Nov	+8	+13	+6	+13	+40	+375	+2,885
20-Nov	+10	+10	+8	+6	+34	+472	+2,353
19-Nov	+8	+16	+4	+18	+46	+397	+2,910
18-Nov	+8	+6	+8	+8	+30	+279	+2,018
17-Nov	550	570	680	885	2,685	36,905	169,805

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	319,790 (+1,518)	7.99%	4,171,674 (+30,947)	6.88%
22-Nov	+2,098	7.67%	+49,895	6.82%
21-Nov	+2,775	8.09%	+51,510	7.13%
20-Nov	+2,686	8.43%	+41,252	7.17%
19-Nov	+2,424	8.56%	+43,963	7.19%
18-Nov	+1,614	8.26%	+31,801	6.82%
17-Nov	+2,113	8.39%	+27,740	6.85%

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	38.18	38.30	22-Nov	1.24	1.24
22-Nov	37.33	37.53	21-Nov	1.24	1.24
21-Nov	37.50	36.19	20-Nov	1.24	1.24
20-Nov	35.27	35.05	19-Nov	1.24	1.25
19-Nov	32.02	31.66	18-Nov	1.24	1.25
18-Nov	32.19	30.95	17-Nov	1.24	1.25
17-Nov	29.80	29.03	16-Nov	1.24	1.25
			14-Day Weighted Average	1.24	1.25

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

Prince George's County Metrics

Key Metrics	Current status*	Goal
Positivity rate	7.99	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	38.18	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.24	Low risk range (<0.9)

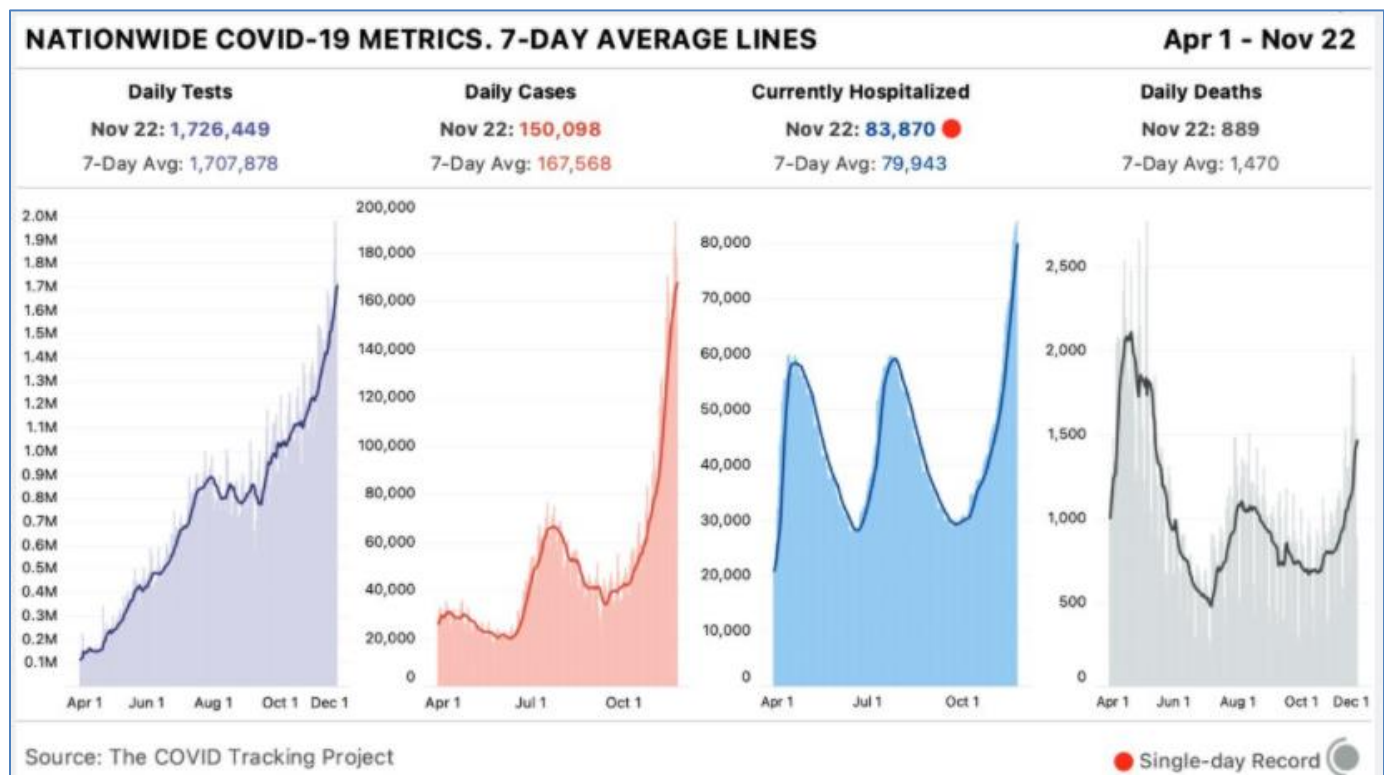
(*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

Maryland Hospitalizations

Weekly Summary of Hospitalizations and Deaths					
	Prince George's Hospitalizations to Date	Maryland Hospitalizations to Date	Currently Hospitalized in Maryland	Prince George's County Deaths	Maryland Deaths
Today	4,275 (+13)	19,769 (+133)	1,276 (+3.1%)	907 (+0)	4,448 (+14)
22-Nov	+0	+202	1,237 (+0.6%)	+1	+19
21-Nov	+9	+152	1,229 (+1.8%)	+4	+17
20-Nov	+9	+148	1,207 (+1.2%)	+0	+26
19-Nov	+36	+175	1,192 (+4.1%)	+3	+21
18-Nov	+4	+147	1,144 (+9.3%)	+5	+16
17-Nov	4,163	18,812	1,046	894	4,335

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.



About the Numbers We Report

The figures that are provided in this daily COVID update come from a variety of sources, including the State of Maryland, Prince George's County, and the COVID Tracking Project. City staff use these published sources to track changes in key metrics each day to monitor the current state of the pandemic in our community, and in Prince George's County and Maryland and to monitor trends over time. City officials do not collect or receive patient level information.

Some residents have asked us to report number of cases recovered or the active number of cases at a given time. We cannot share that information because it is not reported on the State or County COVID dashboards. This is likely because of the challenges and effort involved in tracking the recovery of individual patients. In the absence of recovery information, the best way to monitor the current state of COVID-19 in Bowie or in any jurisdiction is to follow the number of new cases being reported each day.

Astra Zeneca/Oxford University Vaccine Update

Following good news about two vaccine trials last week, today, the Astra Zeneca/Oxford University vaccine trial group announced positive results. Their vaccine was shown to be up to 90 percent effective in trials, depending on the dosage given. One advantage of this vaccine is that it requires refrigeration, rather than the deep freeze requirements of the Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines.

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.

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

  **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.

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

Other News

Upcoming Meetings

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

Virtual Holiday Happenings

Each year, the City typically holds several special holiday contests and events. Although the circumstances are different this year, we are working hard to provide a different, and mostly virtual, taste of the holiday spirit. Here's a list of what we have planned for this month:

- **Thanksgiving Turkey Hunt**
We invite you and your family to go on a scavenger hunt around Bowie to find all our hidden Bowie Turkeys. Be sure to bring a phone or camera and take a picture with the turkeys. You can share your pictures on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram using the hashtag #BowieTurkeyHunt. The list of hints can be found on the [Virtual Holiday Happenings page](#).
- **Thanksgiving Coloring Contest**
Color in and submit the provided child or adult coloring page, or submit your own colored drawing, by November 30 for a chance to win small prizes. There are several age categories. Submit your scanned entry to CSAdminStaff@cityofbowie.org or submit a printed coloring page at City Hall.
- **Gratitude Board**
With everything going on in the world, we could all use a reminder about the little things we're all

grateful for - friends, family, pets, coworkers, neighbors, and more! Send us a brief message and/or photo that expresses your gratitude via email to CSAdminStaff@cityofbowie.org. Please limit messages to no more than 15 words. Messages and/or photos will be posted on our Virtual Holiday Happenings page, and some will be featured in an album on our [Facebook page](#).

- **Holiday Recipe Cookbook**

Are your holiday recipes the talk of the family? Share your favorite appetizer, side dish and dessert recipes to be included in our online *Holidays in Bowie* cookbook. Email your pictures and typed recipes to CSAdminStaff@cityofbowie.org.

- **November Read Aloud Videos**

As part of the *Bowie Reads Aloud* program, our community guests read fall and Thanksgiving themed books for the whole family to enjoy. Follow the links on our Virtual Holiday Happenings page to the read aloud videos.

Here's a sampling of what is planned for December:

- Holiday House Decorating Contest
- Virtual Breakfast with Santa (with Holiday crafts and a Santa read-aloud)
- Virtual Holiday Tree Lighting
- Santa Calling
- Electronic "Letters to Santa" Mailbox
- December Read Aloud Books

Look for details about the December events next week. Visit our Virtual Holiday Happening page at www.cityofbowie.org/virtualholidays for more information.

A promotional banner for "Virtual November Happenings". The top section features the text "VIRTUAL November HAPPENINGS" in white and yellow, with a pumpkin icon. Below this, on a dark red background, are five items listed with icons: a magnifying glass for "Thanksgiving Turkey Hunt", a turkey for "Thanksgiving Coloring Contest", a heart for "Gratitude Board", an open book for "Holiday Recipes", and a stack of books for "November Read Aloud". At the bottom, a black bar contains the website address "WWW.CITYOFBOWIE.ORG/VIRTUALHOLIDAYS" in white capital letters.

VIRTUAL November HAPPENINGS

- 🔍 Thanksgiving Turkey Hunt
- 🦃 Thanksgiving Coloring Contest
- ❤️ Gratitude Board
- 📖 Holiday Recipes
- 📚 November Read Aloud

WWW.CITYOFBOWIE.ORG/VIRTUALHOLIDAYS

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.

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