



COVID-19 UPDATE



Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Note: The next Daily Update will be on Monday, November 30.

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

COVID-19 Information

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Other News

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COVID Data Trends

Daily new cases numbers for Bowie have hit a new record today, with an additional 59 cases reported. The previous record was set on November 19, when 46 cases were reported.

The US reported more than 2,200 virus-related deaths on Tuesday alone, the highest daily total since May 6. The country's seven-day average for new cases has also exceeded 175,000 for the first time.

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 | 628 (+16) | 649 (+16) | 730 (+13) | 969 (+14) | 2,976 (+59) | 39,790 (+493) | 188,161 (+2,697) |
| 24-Nov | +11 | +9 | +5 | +10 | +35 | +312 | +1,667 |
| 23-Nov | +8 | +8 | +3 | +6 | +25 | +286 | +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 | 566 | 592 | 692 | 911 | 2,761 | 37,581 | 174,733 |

| 7-Day Positivity Rates | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | County Tests Completed | County % | State Tests Completed | State % |
| Today | 324,595 (+2,788) | 7.98% | 4,246,351 (+45,515) | 6.52% |
| 24-Nov | 2,017 | 7.95% | +29,162 | 6.60% |
| 23-Nov | +1,518 | 7.99% | +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% |

| Cases per 100K Persons | | | Infection Rates | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | County Cases per 100K | State Cases per 100K | | County Infection Rate | State Infection Rate |
| Today | 37.58 | 37.00 | 24-Nov | 1.17 | 1.13 |
| 24-Nov | 39.26 | 38.14 | 23-Nov | 1.17 | 1.14 |
| 23-Nov | 38.18 | 38.30 | 22-Nov | 1.18 | 1.15 |
| 22-Nov | 37.33 | 37.53 | 21-Nov | 1.18 | 1.16 |
| 21-Nov | 37.50 | 36.19 | 20-Nov | 1.19 | 1.17 |
| 20-Nov | 35.27 | 35.05 | 19-Nov | 1.20 | 1.17 |
| 19-Nov | 32.02 | 31.66 | 18-Nov | 1.20 | 1.18 |
| | | | 14-Day Weighted Average | 1.21 | 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 | 7.98 | Remain below 5% |
| Cases per 100K | 37.58 | New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk) |
| Infection rate | 1.17 | Low risk range (<0.9) |

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

Maryland Hospitalizations

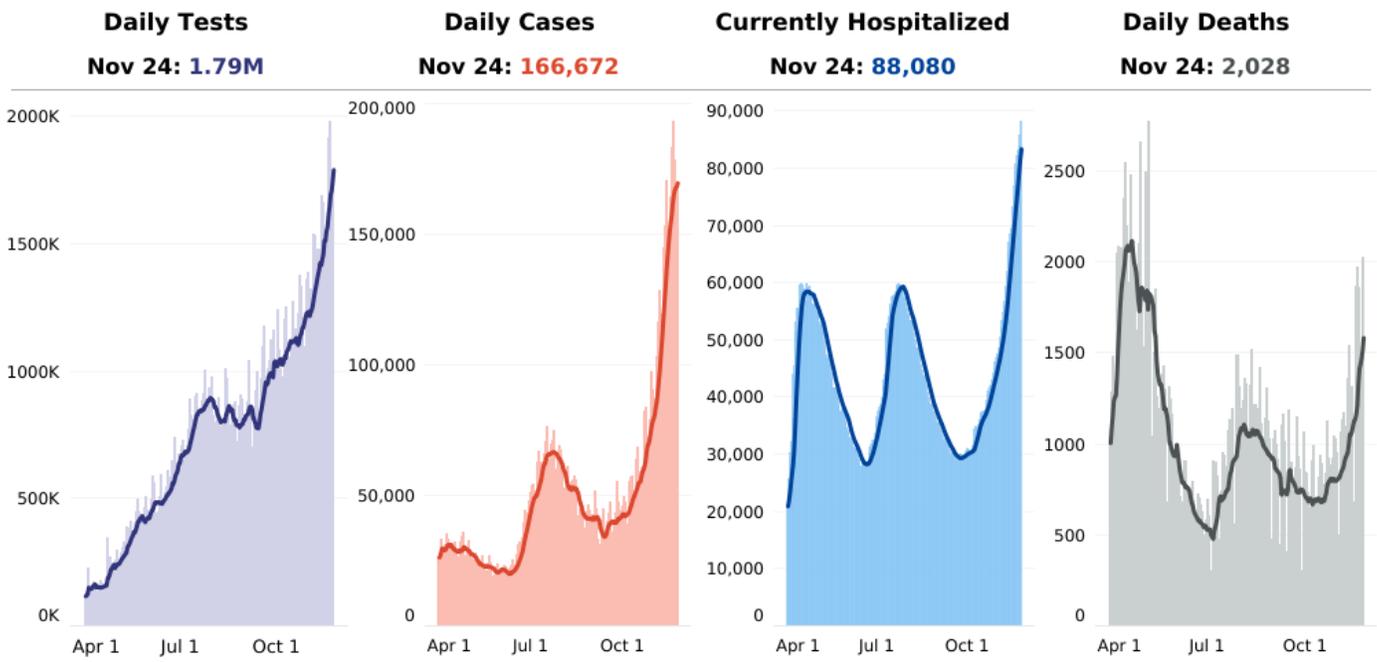
| Hospitalization Data Tracker | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Currently Hospitalized: | 1,406 | 4.8% |
| Acute Care: | 1,098 | 6.9% |
| Intensive Care | 308 | -1.9% |
| Ever Hospitalized | 20,068 | 10.6% |

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.

NATIONWIDE COVID-19 METRICS SINCE APRIL 1. 7-DAY AVERAGE LINES

Choose Census Region
All



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.

Clarification on County Face Covering Order Now in Effect

Several questions have been raised recently on our social media sites about the Prince George's County mandatory face covering order that is now in effect. The mask order was enacted by the County Council on November 18 and is law.

It says face coverings are required in public. The Prince George’s County Health Officer has publicly said that means whenever you leave home. We requested and received a clarification from the County about this part of the order. Masks are not required when you are on your own property, but they are required most other places, both indoors and outdoors.

The law contains a few exceptions, including for vigorous exercise outdoors, for children under the age of five (masks are recommended for ages 2 - 4), and if a person has a bona fide disability or medical condition that would make it unsafe for the person to wear a face covering. Other exceptions are listed in Section II, F of CR 125, Attachment A.



WEAR A MASK - It's the Law *

- When you go for a walk
- 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 property.

*Mask exceptions: during strenuous outdoor activity, for those under 5 (recommended for ages 2 - 4), and for those with certain medical conditions.

Maryland Steps Up Enforcement of COVID Restrictions

On November 23, Governor Hogan announced the launch of a wide-scale compliance, education, and enforcement operation, effective November 25, to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to address the violations that are being reported.

- 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.
- High Visibility Compliance Units' will be detailed to several downtown areas including Bel Air, Bethesda, Fells Point in Baltimore City, Salisbury, Silver Spring, Towson, and to Allegany County.

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.

The Governor also reiterated federal and state guidance advising against holiday travel and strongly recommended that families limit the size of their Thanksgiving gatherings to members of their immediate household this year. To help reinforce the messages about prevention and compliance, the state will be issuing a statewide Wireless Emergency Alert to all cell phones on Wednesday at 5 p.m.

[View press release](#)

Vaccine Update – Pfizer Vaccine to be Reviewed by FDA This Month

The US vaccine program, known as Operation Warp Speed is planning to release 6.4 million COVID-19 vaccine doses in an initial distribution after the vaccine is cleared for emergency use. States have been informed of their estimated vaccine allocations so they can begin planning how to distribute to their high-risk populations. The FDA is scheduled to review the Pfizer Emergency Use Authorization application vaccine on December 10. Officials are hopeful that some vaccinations can begin before the end of the year.

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. An Emergency Use Authorization application for this vaccine has been submitted to the FDA.

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. Many testing sites are operating on a reduced schedule due to the holiday. It's best to call ahead before visiting any testing site this week.



Have You Gotten a Flu Shot?

Health officials say it is critical for people to get a flu shot this year. The CDC warns with more than 200,000 COVID-19 related deaths already in the United States, another respiratory illness could increase the chances of residents catching both diseases at once.

Flu symptoms are similar to those of COVID-19. Both viruses are more severe for the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. Getting a flu shot to prevent the flu allows healthcare professionals to better manage the COVID-19 pandemic and preserve health care resources.

Get a flu shot today by visiting your primary care provider, a local pharmacy, or one of the County Health Department flu clinics.

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

Update to Operations at the City Gymnasium

The City Gym is open for volleyball, pickleball and walking. Per current orders and guidance issued by Prince George's County, indoor basketball activity of any kind is **not permitted** at this time. Please visit the Gym's webpage for more information about operations, hours, and COVID precautions or contact Gym Manager Duncan Churches at 301-809-2384 or email dchurches@cityofbowie.org.

Basketball skills development or shootarounds are permitted on outdoor courts; however, basketball games are prohibited on outdoor courts.

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.

12/15 – Millbranch Crossing Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing

Holiday Happenings – 2020 Style



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.

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