



COVID-19 UPDATE

Monday, November 30, 2020

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COVID-19 Information

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COVID Data Trends

New case numbers remain high across the US and locally. The Maryland hospitalization rate is comparable to levels seen in the late spring, and in the last week 160 Marylanders have lost their lives due to COVID.

Prince George's County's positivity rate climbed to over 9% today, while the Maryland positivity rate continues to hover in the 6 - 7% range. Health officials are bracing for a projected post-Thanksgiving spike in cases.

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	679 (+8)	690 (+13)	757 (+2)	1,030 (+13)	3,156 (+36)	41,297 (+230)	198,370 (+1,923)
29-Nov	+12	+11	+8	+18	+49	+270	+1,999
28-Nov	+18	+6	+7	+9	+40	+318	+1,590
27-Nov	+13	+10	+5	+12	+40	+384	+2,378
26-Nov	+0	+1	+5	+9	+15	+305	+2,319
25-Nov	+16	+16	+13	+14	+59	+493	+2,697
24-Nov	612	633	717	955	2,917	39,297	185,464

7-Day Positivity Rates

	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	333,512 (+1,226)	9.21%	4,429,749 (+27,350)	6.86%
29-Nov	+1,854	8.95%	+39,249	6.53%
28-Nov	+1,964	8.70%	+27,708	6.38%
27-Nov	+2,134	8.33%	+47,320	6.30%
26-Nov	+1,739	8.25%	+41,771	6.38%
25-Nov	+2,788	7.98%	+45,515	6.52%
24-Nov	+2,017	7.95%	29,162	6.60%

Cases per 100K Persons

	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
Today	37.20	33.81
29-Nov	37.22	34.21
28-Nov	38.11	37.27
27-Nov	39.50	37.21
26-Nov	40.94	38.54
25-Nov	37.58	37.00
24-Nov	39.26	38.14

Infection Rates

	County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
29-Nov	1.04	1.01
28-Nov	1.05	1.02
27-Nov	1.06	1.03
26-Nov	1.07	1.04
25-Nov	1.08	1.05
24-Nov	1.09	1.06
23-Nov	1.10	1.08
14-Day Weighted Average	1.11	1.09

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	9.21	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	37.20	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.04	Low risk range (<0.9)

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

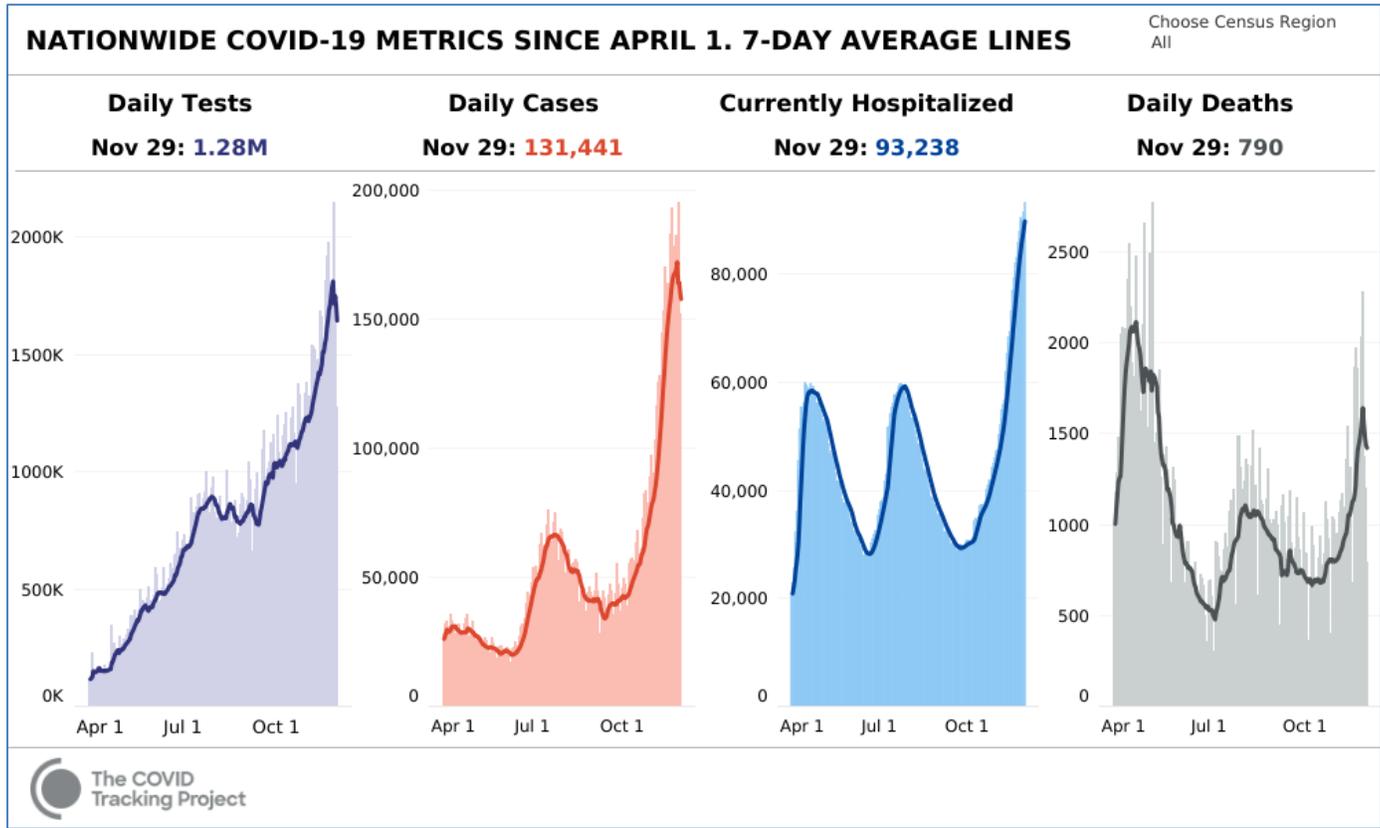
Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1,527	8.6%
Acute Care:	1,183	7.7%
Intensive Care	344	11.6%
Ever Hospitalized	21,051	10.6%

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	4,355 (+10)	21,051 (+174)	1,527 (+4.5%)	931 (+4)	4,641 (+16)
29-Nov	+0	+164	1,461 (+1.0%)	+2	+23
28-Nov	+10	+201	1,446 (+0.7%)	+2	+33
27-Nov	+0	+232	1,435 (-1.2%)	+2	+22
26-Nov	+44	+212	1,453 (+3.3%)	+8	+29
25-Nov	+11	+154	1,406 (+4.8%)	+4	+37
24-Nov	4,280	19,914	1,341	909	4,481

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.



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.

- [County Council Resolution CR125](#)
- [County Council Resolution CR 125 Attachment A](#)

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. 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.

Vaccine Update

On December 1, the CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices will conduct an emergency meeting to recommend and vote on how initial supplies of the vaccines should be allocated among the population, once vaccines are authorized.

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.

Moderna announced that it will be submitting its Emergency Use Authorization application this week.

CDC Guidance on Masks

The CDC has issued updated guidance on masks. It includes information on how to wear a mask correctly and how to properly care for your mask

[How to Select, Wear, and Clean Your Mask](#)

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.

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 Offers COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program

The City of Bowie has 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

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

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

View job description at www.cityofbowie.org/jobs