



COVID-19 UPDATE

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

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Governor Hogan Takes Steps to Address Surge in Hospitalizations

At a late afternoon press conference today, the Governor outlined new measures to make sure that there is enough hospital capacity to handle the rapidly growing number of COVID cases.

Below is a summary of his comments:

Current conditions in Maryland

- Today, Maryland has 201,135 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,765 new cases in the past 24 hours.
- The state's 7-day statewide positivity rate is 7.33%, and the case rate is now 34.4.
- COVID hospitalizations have increased 51% over the past 2 weeks, and according to state modeling, are expected to reach a new record high for hospitalizations in the coming days.
- More than 130 surge beds are currently in use at the expansion sites added in the spring. More will be needed.
- 1,583 COVID patients are hospitalized in Maryland today and 350 Marylanders are currently in the ICU.
- 21 hospitals in the state have already reached more than 90% capacity.
- The virus has taken the lives of 4,516 Marylanders, including a one-year old boy yesterday.

To address the growing need for healthcare workers and medical support personnel, Maryland has already:

- Provided broader authority to credential emergency medical technicians and paramedics to work in clinics and field hospitals.

- Activated the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps and allowed medical and nursing students to become part of this staffing surge.
- Increased the capacity of alternative care sites, provided additional clinical care and staffing support to nursing homes, and issued an order limiting hospital visitation and guidance on elective procedures.

The following additional steps are being taken today to address the increasing surge and to alleviate the workload and strain on healthcare workers:

- A new staffing effort, called MarylandMedNow, is being launched to staff up hospitals, nursing homes, testing sites, and vaccination clinics across the state. The goal is to hire 2, 000 – 3,000 more clinical workers. Visit www.marylandmednow.com for more information.
- Colleges and universities should immediately develop policies to award academic credit to students who are willing to serve in healthcare during this pandemic.
- Colleges and universities are also encouraged to allow healthcare students who are in their final semester and have satisfied graduation requirements to be eligible for “early exit” in order to quickly enter the workforce.
- Counties are encouraged to use non-deployed school nurses, health services staff, and other county employees to help staff the state’s testing and vaccination sites.
- Hospitals and nursing homes are urged to being utilizing unlicensed individuals to perform certain less critical tasks in order to free up nursing staff.
- Effective immediately, hospitals are required to submit a Patient Surge Plan with strategies to expand hospital beds and make staffing surge adjustments
- Hospitals should immediately begin adding or redeploying staff, reducing noncritical elective procedures that require a bed or ventilator, and transferring patients to other appropriate treatment facilities.
- 6,816 Marylanders are currently in our state’s hospitals. If, and when, that number reaches 8,000 hospitalizations statewide, all hospitals will be required to expand their staffed bed capacity by 10% within 7 days.

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	701 (+22)	702 (+12)	765 (+8)	1,049 (+19)	3,217 (+61)	41,857 (+560)	201,135 (+2,765)
30-Nov	+8	+13	+2	+13	+36	+230	+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	628	649	730	969	2,976	39,790	188,161

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	335,714 (+2,202)	9.47%	4,460,445 (+30,696)	7.33%
30-Nov	+1,226	9.21%	+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%

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	36.32	34.44	29-Nov	1.04	1.01
30-Nov	37.20	33.81	28-Nov	1.05	1.02
29-Nov	37.22	34.21	27-Nov	1.06	1.03
28-Nov	38.11	37.27	26-Nov	1.07	1.04
27-Nov	39.50	37.21	25-Nov	1.08	1.05
26-Nov	40.94	38.54	24-Nov	1.09	1.06
25-Nov	37.58	37.00	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)
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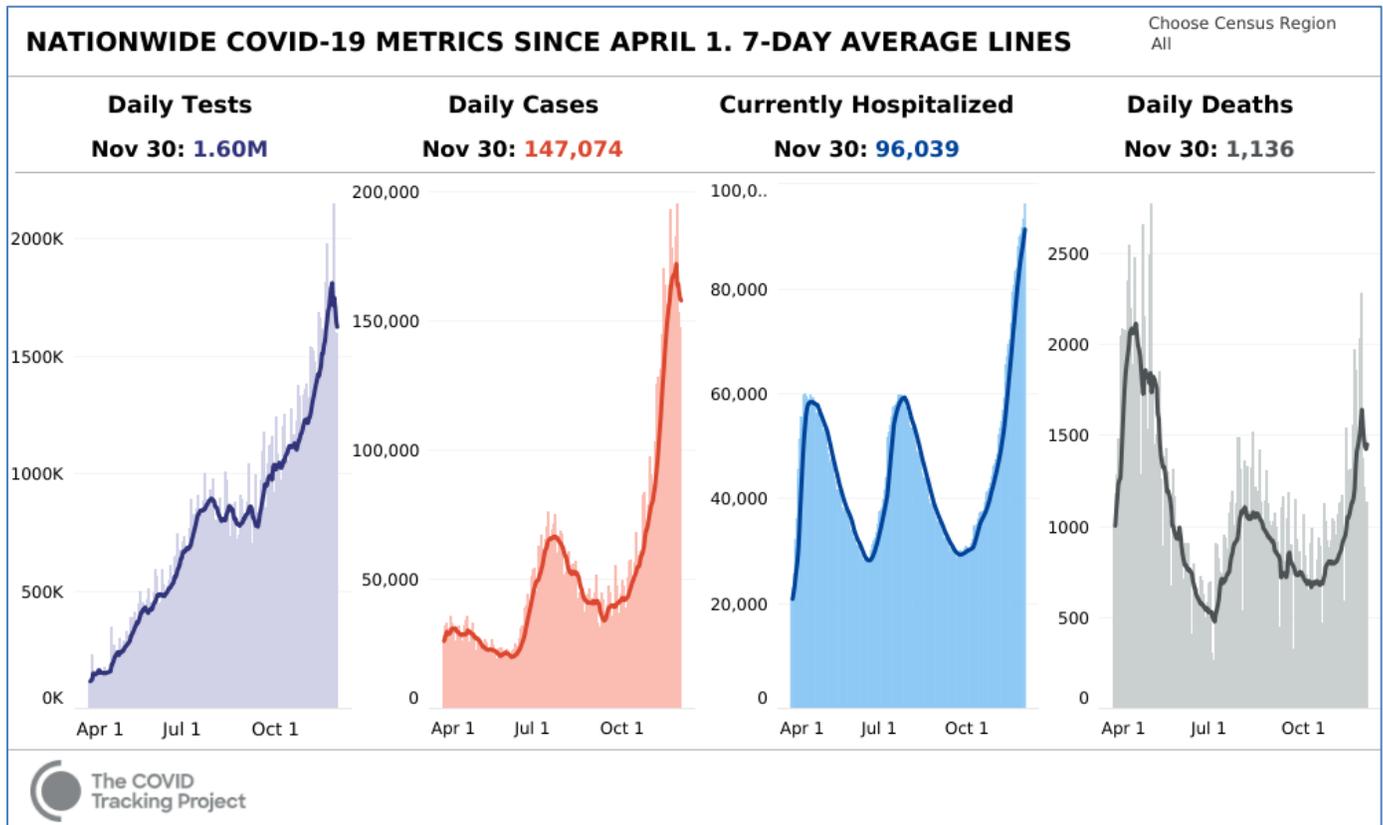
(*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1,583	3.6%
Acute Care:	1,233	4.2%
Intensive Care	350	1.7%
Ever Hospitalized	21,206	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.



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

Today the CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices conducted an emergency meeting today to discuss how initial supplies of the vaccines should be allocated among the population, once vaccines are authorized. No public recommendation has been announced yet.

On December 10, the FDA is scheduled to review the Pfizer-BioNTech Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) application for its vaccine. Moderna submitted its EUA application yesterday and the FDA will review it at a meeting on December 17.

Novavax, a Maryland company, announced that clinical trials for its COVID-19 vaccine will begin in the US and Mexico in the coming weeks. This will be the fifth COVID-19 vaccine to enter late-stage clinical trials in the US.

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.

Holiday Meals for Seniors

County Council Chair Todd Turner and the Prince George's County Department of Family Services will host a drive up "Senior Grab & Go" holiday meal giveaway for his constituents in the parking lot of the Bowie Senior Center on December 18, from 10 to 11 a.m.

To be eligible for the giveaway, you must register for the event. The registration deadline is December 11. You can find a link to the registration form at www.cityofbowie.org/food. Registration can also be taken over the telephone by calling Evelyn Archie in the Chair Turner's Office at 240-619-9775 or email ejarchie@co.pg.md.us.

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 – Mill Branch Crossing - Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

Virtual Stakeholders Meeting on New Concept for the Jesuit Property - Tonight

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