



COVID-19 UPDATE

Thursday, December 3, 2020

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COVID-19 Information

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COVID Trends

Some key metrics for Maryland and Prince George's County are down slightly today but are still considered to be very high. It remains to be seen if the steep increases of the last several days were an anomaly due to the holiday, or if the numbers will continue to worsen throughout December as is being projected.

Governor Hogan Takes Steps to Address Surge in Hospitalizations

On December 1, Governor Hogan outlined new measures to address the growing number of COVID hospitalizations statewide and to ensure that there is adequate hospital capacity and healthcare staffing as the demand continues to increase.

- 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 to 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 be 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.

[View press release](#)

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	718 (+10)	709 (+2)	777 (+6)	1,065 (+7)	3,269 (+25)	42,458 (+268)	205,399 (+2,044)
2-Dec	+7	+5	+6	+9	+27	+333	+2,220
1-Dec	+22	+12	+8	+19	+61	+560	+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	641	660	740	990	3,031	40,479	192,858

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	338,716 (+1,297)	9.61%	4,527,316 (+31,305)	7.68%
2-Dec	+1,705	9.56%	+35,566	7.52%
1-Dec	+2,202	9.47%	+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%

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	37.70	35.97	2-Dec	1.04	1.01
2-Dec	40.22	37.03	1-Dec	1.05	1.01
1-Dec	36.32	34.44	30-Nov	1.05	1.01
30-Nov	37.20	33.81	29-Nov	1.06	1.02
29-Nov	37.22	34.21	28-Nov	1.06	1.02
28-Nov	38.11	37.27	27-Nov	1.07	1.03
27-Nov	39.50	37.21	26-Nov	1.07	1.04
			14-Day Weighted Average	1.08	1.05

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	9.61	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	37.70	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.04	Low risk range (<0.9)

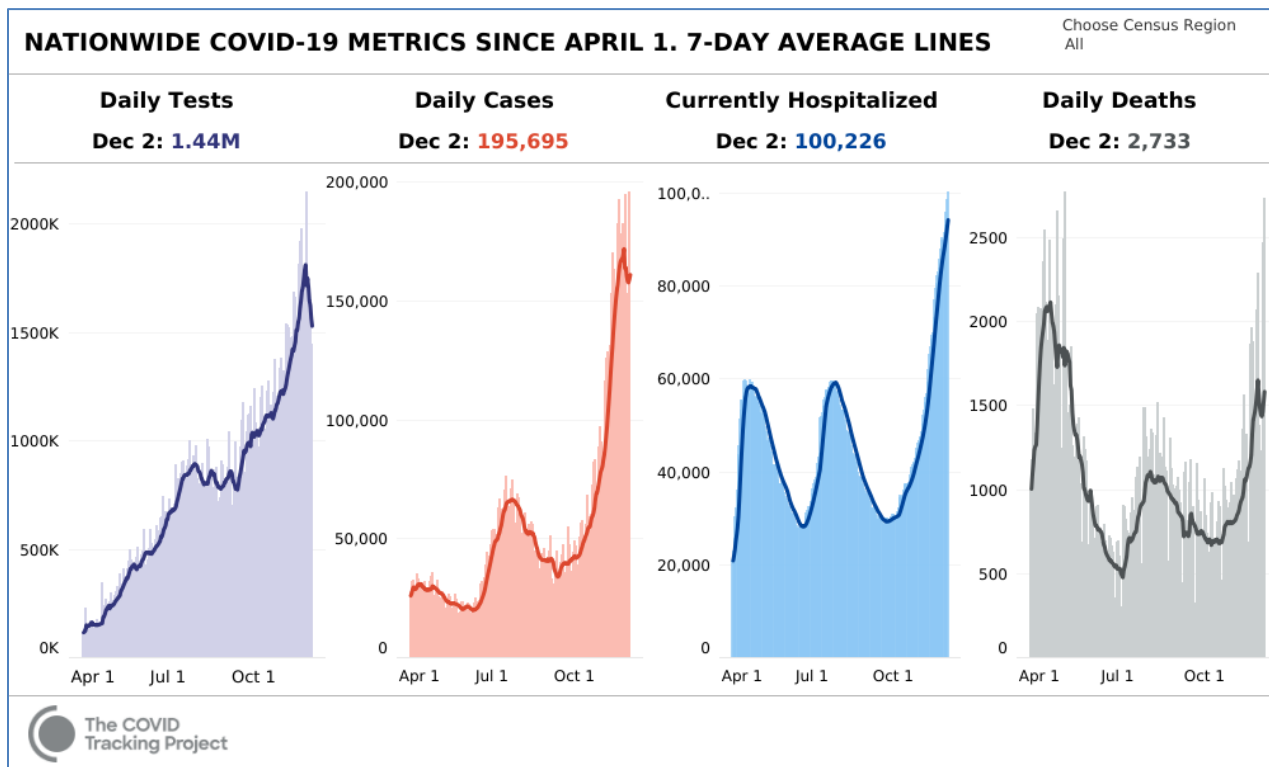
(* Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1,573	-0.3%
Acute Care:	1,209	-0.8%
Intensive Care	364	1.3%
Ever Hospitalized	21,558	10.4%

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.



Vaccine Update

On December 1, the CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices conducted an emergency meeting to discuss how initial supplies of the vaccines should be allocated among the population, once vaccines are authorized.

Their recommendation is that healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents should be the first to receive any COVID-19 vaccine that gets emergency authorization. The guidance acts as a framework, as states have the final say in how to distribute its vaccines. It is expected to take three weeks to vaccinate health care workers in most states and local jurisdictions.

The first shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine are set to be delivered on December 15, if the FDA grants approval to the Emergency Use Authorization application on December 10. Moderna is scheduled to have its Emergency Use Application reviewed on December 17. It plans to be able to ship its vaccines by December 22.

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.

The Pfizer vaccine was granted emergency use authorization in the United Kingdom on December 2, which will make the country one of the first to begin mass inoculation of its population.

The Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines are in the final stages of approval for distribution to the public. The CDC has published information about the many benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine once they become available.

Vaccines help the body develop natural protection against the virus by triggering an antibody response to the virus. The various vaccine candidates awaiting approval are not live vaccines, which means they will not cause recipients to become infected with the virus. Vaccinations protect the recipient and will help to prevent the spread of the disease.

[View the CDC's Facts on COVID Vaccination](#)

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.

COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program May Be Able to Help Pay Your Rent

Are you having trouble meeting your monthly rent? 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. **If you think you might be eligible, don't delay. Act now while funds are still available and visit www.cityofbowie.org/cobcares for all the details.**

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

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

12/15 – Mill Branch Crossing - Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

View the December 1 Virtual Stakeholders Meeting on 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 virtual stakeholders meeting was held last night. You can view a video of the meeting at either of the following links:

- Bowie website: www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyXdyQBq3Hg

Please contact the Planning Department at 301-809-3045 with any questions.

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

Virtual Holiday Happenings

This year, celebrate the holidays with a variety of festive City-sponsored virtual events:

- **Holiday Tree Lighting** Broadcast Sunday, December 6, 7 p.m. The tree lighting will be prerecorded and will showcase the lighting of multiple trees and sites throughout the City.
- **Santa Calling** Parents, complete an online request for Santa or Mrs. Claus to call your child (aged 8 or younger).
- **Breakfast with Santa** Saturday, December 12 at 9 a.m. Join a Santa broadcast. Have breakfast at home and enjoy Santa's reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, then join Mrs. Claus in creating holiday crafts (pick up free craft kits now available at City Hall during regular business hours).
- **Letter to Santa Mailbox** Children may send an electronic letter to Santa and receive a response from the North Pole.
- **December Read Aloud** Community members read seasonal books for our youngest residents. Enjoy stories celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah & Kwanzaa at www.cityofbowie.org/bowiereadsaloud.

Watch the broadcasts on:

- Bowie Government TV - FIOS 10 or Xfinity 71 or 996
- YouTube - @CityofBowieMD
- On the web - www.cityofbowie.org/broadcasts

The videos will remain available for viewing on the City website and on YouTube after the broadcast dates listed above.