



# COVID-19 UPDATE

**Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

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

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## **Other News**

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- Leaf Collection
- Holiday Happenings
- Community Shredding Event

## **COVID Trends**

Prince George's County metrics remain very concerning as hospitalizations and the new case rate continue to increase. County Executive Alsobrooks will provide a COVID update at a press conference on Thursday morning at 11 a.m.

Some local jurisdictions have already announced new steps to control the spread of the coronavirus. Montgomery County and Baltimore City will be temporarily banning indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants and bars and will be further reducing capacities at malls, religious institutions, casinos, gyms, and other facilities soon. An Anne Arundel County announcement is expected by the end of the week and more announcements are likely to follow.

## **Governor Hogan Provides Details on Vaccine Distribution**

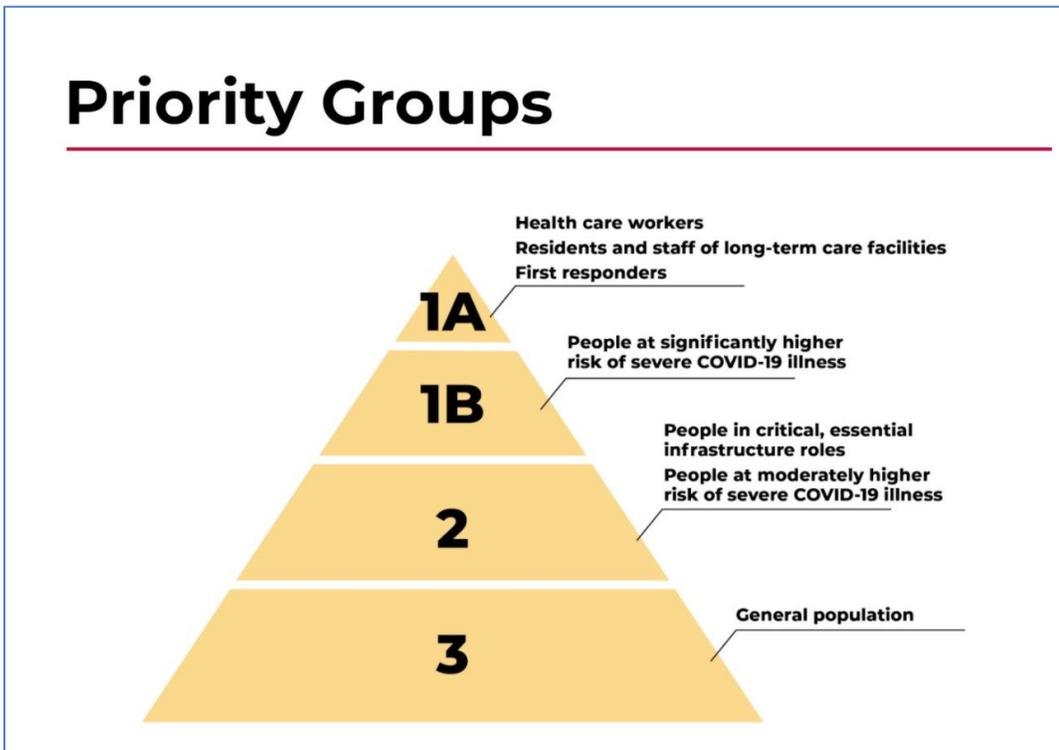
On December 8, the Governor held a press conference to discuss the current state of affairs in Maryland as it relates to COVID-19 and to provide an update on how the vaccines will be prioritized and distributed.

- The initial allocation for Maryland will be 155,000, with the possibility of receiving a total of 300,000 by year's end.
- Supplies are expected to increase when manufacturing expands after the Emergency Use Authorization approvals are granted.
- The graphic below shows the prioritization plan for vaccinations.
- The first vaccinations will go to critical health care workers, residents and staff of long-term care facilities, as well as first responders.
- More federal guidance on prioritization is expected soon.

- The two initial vaccines candidates – Pfizer and Moderna, both require two doses. It will be important for residents to receive the same brand of vaccine both times.
- To help with distribution and tracking of vaccines, the state will eventually launch an online portal for residents.

Governor Hogan concluded his briefing by saying, “The calvary is coming, a vaccine is on the way, but it is absolutely critical that we continue to fight this virus with everything we’ve got, and we need to keep doing all the things that we know will help keep us safe.”

[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	790 (+7)	774 (+15)	856 (+13)	1,135 (+9)	3,555 (+44)	45,345 (+451)	222,653 (+2,692)
8-Dec	+3	+8	+13	+12	+36	+492	+2,632
7-Dec	+7	+9	+10	+17	+43	+345	+2,302
6-Dec	+18	+13	+15	+10	+56	+422	+2,643
5-Dec	+16	+9	+14	+12	+51	+635	+3,193
4-Dec	+21	+11	+14	+10	+56	+542	+3,792
3-Dec	718	709	777	1065	3,269	42,458	205,399

## 7-Day Positivity Rates

	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
<b>Today</b>	<b>352,632 (+2,679)</b>	<b>9.99%</b>	<b>4,806,845 (+36,013)</b>	<b>7.74%</b>
8-Dec	+2,043	9.97%	+40,400	7.61%
7-Dec	+1,746	9.87%	+44,956	7.89%
6-Dec	+2,125	10.09%	+48,348	8.14%
5-Dec	+2,927	9.82%	+53,900	8.04%
4-Dec	+2,396	9.65%	+55,912	8.00%
3-Dec	+1,297	9.61%	+31,305	7.68%

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
<b>Today</b>	<b>47.71</b>	<b>44.49</b>	<b>7-Dec</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>1.10</b>
8-Dec	48.78	44.80	6-Dec	1.11	1.10
7-Dec	46.97	43.90	5-Dec	1.11	1.10
6-Dec	44.59	42.38	4-Dec	1.11	1.09
5-Dec	39.61	38.59	3-Dec	1.10	1.09
4-Dec	37.12	35.25	2-Dec	1.10	1.08
3-Dec	37.70	35.97	1-Dec	1.10	1.08
			<b>14-Day Weighted Average</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>1.08</b>

### Key

<b>Cases</b>	<i>Represents the daily number of new positive cases.</i>
<b>Positivity Rate</b>	<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>
<b>Cases per 100K persons</b>	<i>Measures how widespread the virus is in a community. The goal is to have fewer than 5 new cases per 100K persons.</i>
<b>Infection rate</b>	<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:**

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](http://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	<b>9.99</b>	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	<b>47.71</b>	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	<b>1.11</b>	Low risk range (<0.9)

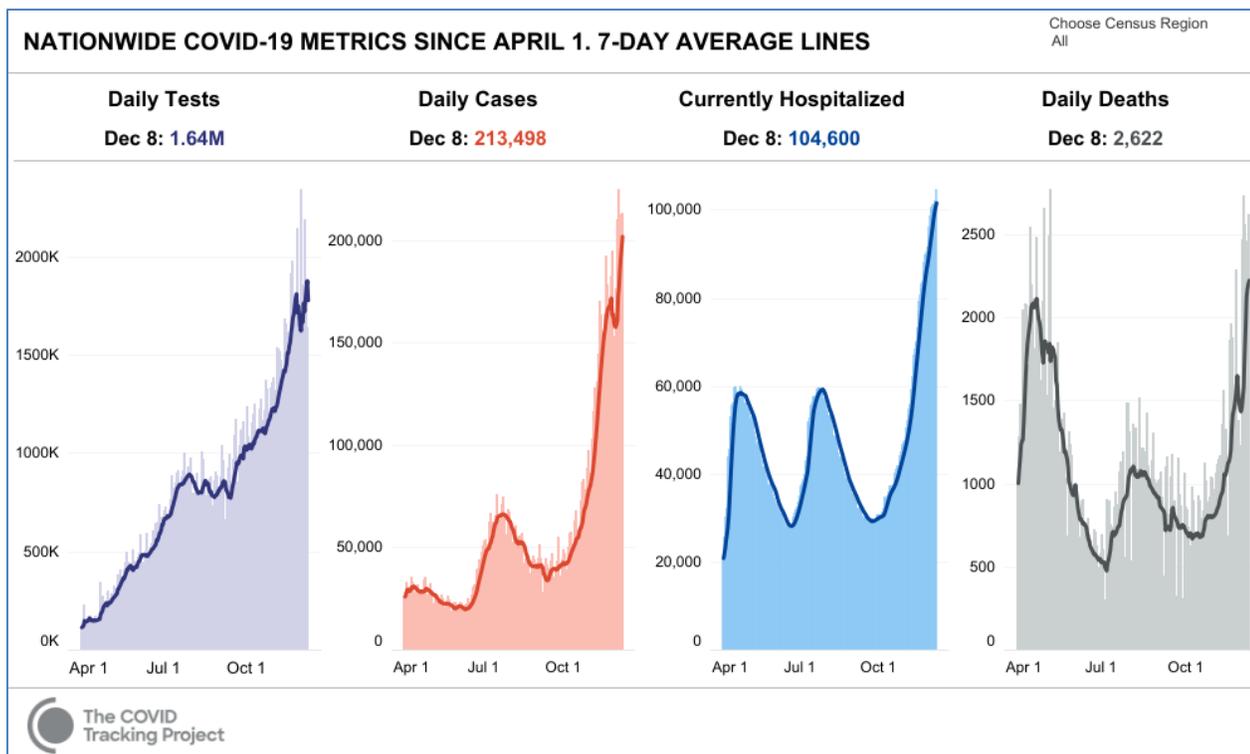
(\* ) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

### Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1,715	<b>3.7%</b>
Acute Care:	1,299	<b>3.3%</b>
Intensive Care	416	<b>5.0%</b>
Ever Hospitalized	22,622	<b>10.1%</b>

### 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.



### CDC Expands and Updates its Guidance and Strategies to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

On December 4, the CDC released a statement about the steps needed now to address the growing number of COVID cases. It said,

*“With colder weather, more time spent indoors, the ongoing U.S. holiday season, and silent spread of disease, with approximately 50% of transmission from asymptomatic persons, **the United States has entered a phase of high-level transmission where a multipronged approach to implementing all evidence-based public health strategies at both the individual and community levels is essential.**”*

Individual persons, households, and communities should take these actions now to reduce transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19:

1. universal face mask use,
2. maintaining physical distance from other persons and limiting in-person contacts,
3. avoiding nonessential indoor spaces and crowded outdoor spaces,
4. increasing testing to rapidly identify and isolate infected persons,
5. promptly identifying, quarantining, and testing close contacts of persons with known COVID-19,
6. safeguarding persons most at risk for severe illness or death from infection,
7. protecting essential workers with provision of adequate personal protective equipment and safe work practices,
8. postponing travel,
9. increasing room air ventilation and enhancing hand hygiene and environmental disinfection, and
10. achieving widespread availability and high community coverage with effective COVID-19 vaccines.

[View the guidance](#)

### **Quarantine Guidance from the CDC**

In a statement issued December 2, the CDC said local public health authorities determine and establish the quarantine options for their jurisdictions. The CDC still recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, CDC guidance now provides two additional options that local jurisdictions can use to decide how long quarantine should last.

These options for shortened quarantine are for people without symptoms:

- On day 10 without testing
- On day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

After stopping quarantine, you should

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.
- Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to [prevent the spread of COVID-19](#).

Read the updated [When to Quarantine](#) guidance.

## Vaccine Update

The United Kingdom will begin administering the Pfizer vaccine to residents of nursing homes and their staff first, followed by people aged over 80, and healthcare workers. The FDA is scheduled to review two leading vaccine candidates this month.

Vaccine Manufacturer	Status	Details
Pfizer-BioNTech	Emergency Use Authorization submitted. To be reviewed by FDA at meeting on 12/10. On 12/8 the FDA confirmed the results of the Phase 3 testing.	Ages 16+, patients need 2 doses, 21 days apart
Moderna	Emergency Use Authorization submitted. To be reviewed by FDA at meeting on 12/17.	Ages 18+, patients need 2 doses, 28 days apart
Johnson & Johnson	A second phase 3 trial is underway.	
Astra Zeneca/Oxford	Phase 3 trials underway.	
Novavax	Phase 3 trials beginning soon.	

## 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](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

## COVID Testing

Tests are no longer provided at the Cheverly Health Center. The site's testing operations will transition to the County Health Department Headquarters' rear parking lot at 1701 McCormick Drive, in Largo, on December 14.

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.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)



**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

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### 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:ejarchie@co.pg.md.us).

### COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program May Be Able to Help Pay Your Rent for up to Three Months

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.

The program is now expanded to **pay up to three months past-due rent**. Delinquent rent payments will be paid directly to the landlords for eligible and qualified applicants. **If you think you might be eligible, don't delay. You must apply before December 16, 2020.** Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/cobcares](http://www.cityofbowie.org/cobcares) for all the details and an application. Paper copies of the application can be picked up at the front desk at Bowie City Hall. For questions or additional information, contact Emergency Rent Assistance Specialist Paola Villatoro, at [era@hiphomes.org](mailto:era@hiphomes.org) or go to [www.hiphomes.org/bowieERA](http://www.hiphomes.org/bowieERA).

### County Assistance Programs

**Childcare** - The Prince George's County Childcare Provider Recovery Program will accept applications until December 11 at 5 p.m. If you are a childcare provider impacted by the pandemic, visit the link below to

see if you qualify.

[Childcare Provider Recovery Program](#)



**UPDATED GUIDELINES**

**The CHILD CARE PROVIDER RECOVERY PROGRAM eligibility has been extended!**

All licensed centers in Prince George's County are eligible to apply for grants up to \$20,000 before the December 11th deadline.

**APPLY TODAY:**  
[pgcedc.com/covid-child-care-recovery](http://pgcedc.com/covid-child-care-recovery)

Logos for Prince George's County, Prince Georges Proud, Prince Georges Economic Development, and FSC First.

**Creative Arts Relief** - The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) has created the Prince George's County Arts Community Emergency Relief Fund to support the creative community during the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund will help sustain the county's arts small businesses, arts non-profits and creative professionals whose income has been impacted by COVID-19. The grant application deadline has been extended until December 16, 2020. To apply, please [click here](#).

**Restaurant Resiliency Fund** - The Prince George's County COVID-19 Restaurant Resiliency Fund was established to assist restaurants and food service establishments adversely affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Businesses may receive a grant up to \$25,000 to support COVID-related costs including personal protection equipment (PPE), winterization for outdoor seating, interior improvements to support social distancing, expenses to create or expand takeout and/or delivery services, marketing, and operating expenses (rent, payroll, inventory, insurance, utilities). Apply today before the December 18 deadline. To apply, please [click here](#).



**COVID -19 RESTAURANT RESILIENCY FUND**

Brick & Mortar | Food Trucks | Catering | Farm Stands

Grants up to \$25,000  
Applications Accepted November 13th - December 18th

[www.PGCEDC.com/RestaurantFund](http://www.PGCEDC.com/RestaurantFund)

Logos for Prince George's County, Prince Georges Proud, Prince Georges Economic Development, and FSC First.

## Other News

### Upcoming Meetings

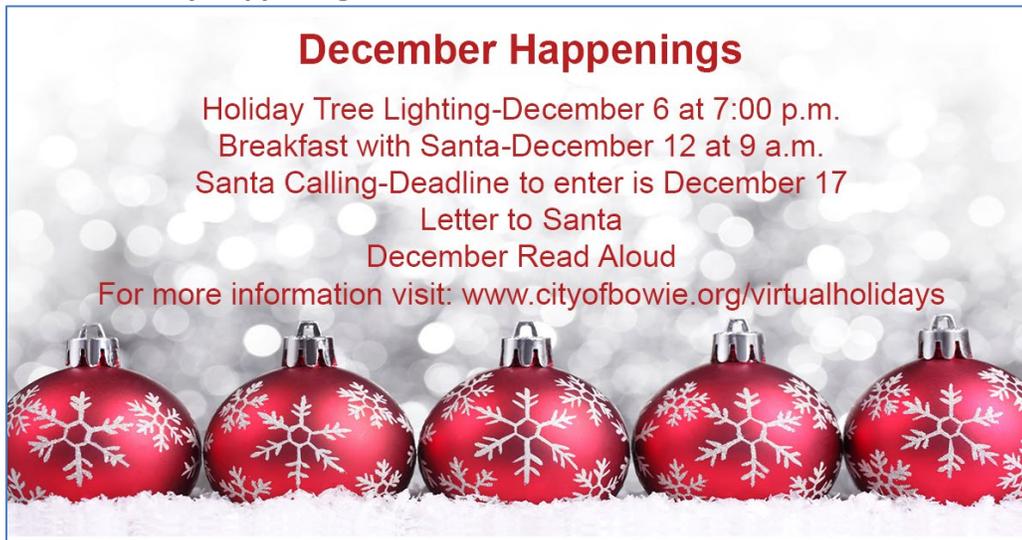
12/15 – Mill Branch Crossing - Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

### 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](http://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).

### Virtual Holiday Happenings



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

- **Holiday Tree Lighting**  
The debut broadcast was Sunday, December 6, 7 p.m. The tree lighting was prerecorded. It showcases 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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/bowiereadsaloud).
- **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](mailto: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](mailto:CSAdminStaff@cityofbowie.org).

Watch the broadcasts on:

- Bowie Government TV - FIOS 10 or Xfinity 71 or 996
- YouTube - @CityofBowieMD
- On the web - [www.cityofbowie.org/broadcasts](http://www.cityofbowie.org/broadcasts)

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

### **Mark Your Calendars for our Free Community Shredding Event**

The next free Community Shredding Day and Styrofoam Recycling Event will take place on Saturday, January 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please note that there is a new location:

January 23, 2021  
City of Bowie Public Works Yard  
16300 Annapolis Road