



COVID-19 UPDATE

Friday, December 11, 2020

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

COVID-19 Information

- [COVID Data Trends](#)
- [New County Restrictions](#)
- [Maryland Announcements](#)
- [Metrics Charts](#)
- [Prince George's County Metrics](#)
- [Maryland hospitalizations](#)
- [Nationwide Trends](#)
- [CDC Quarantine Guidance](#)
- [Vaccine Update](#)
- [Vaccine Benefits](#)
- [Myths about COVID](#)
- [Testing Information](#)
- [Food resources](#)
- [Rental Housing Assistance](#)
- [More County Assistance Programs](#)

Other News

- Upcoming Meetings
- Leaf Collection
- Holiday Happenings
- Community Shredding Event
- Maryland's Electoral College Process

COVID Data Trends

This week, MD new cases averaged 2,700/day, which is down slightly from last week, but still extremely high. The US reported more than 254,000 new cases yesterday.

County Executive Imposes New Restrictions Effective December 16

On December 10, Executive Alsobrooks announced further measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus as the new case rate and the positivity rate continue to climb.

On December 16, 2020 the following changes will go into effect:

- Indoor dining will not be permitted at restaurants. Carryout and delivery service can continue.
- Outdoor dining can continue with capacity reduced to 50%.
- Casinos must reduce their capacity to 25%.
- Retail establishments must limit numbers to 25% of capacity.
- County compliance efforts will increase to ensure that the new restrictions are followed.
- The changes will remain in effect until January 16, 2021.

Health Officer Carter provided an update on the spread of the virus in the County.

- Last week, there were 2,900 new COVID cases in the County, which is a record.
- The average number of new daily cases now exceeds 400.
- Hospitalizations have more than doubled in the last 30 days.
- One out of every ten COVID tests are positive (positive rate is >10%).

- 50% of the County ICU beds are being occupied by patients with COVID-19.
- New cases are trending younger. Because these individuals tend to have less health conditions than those who are older, their cases have not been as serious and they have required hospitalization less often, which has kept the hospitalizations from being higher.

Dr. Carter also reiterated preventive measures for all residents to continue until everyone is vaccinated. These include wearing a mask, staying at least six feet away from others, avoiding gatherings outside your household, staying at home as much as possible, and shopping online.

County Emergency Manager Ronald Gill shared plans for distribution of vaccines just as soon as they are delivered.

- The first groups to be vaccinated will be hospital healthcare workers and nursing homes. Pharmacies, such as CVS and Walgreens will be working with the health department here and around the country to administer vaccines in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
- After these critical groups are vaccinated, the next groups to be eligible for vaccination will be first responders, other healthcare workers, and other high-risk groups. It is likely to be at least a few months before the general population will be eligible to receive vaccinations.

Governor Hogan's Latest COVID Announcements

Governor Hogan also held a press conference on December 10 to provide an update on COVID.

Current COVID conditions in Maryland:

- The post-Thanksgiving surge is upon us.
- All 24 Maryland jurisdictions are now in the "red zone" in terms of the COVID case rate.
- 1,720 patients are currently hospitalized in Maryland with COVID or COVID-related complications, which is the highest number since the pandemic began.
- The virus has now taken the lives of 4,850 Marylanders.
- 88% of staffed acute beds are occupied; 87% of ICU beds are occupied. 143 surge beds are currently in use.
- Officials are monitoring 183 outbreaks at nursing homes, 137 at assisted living facilities, and 359 at schools and at other congregate living facilities in the state. (More than half of the outbreaks involve less than four cases.)
- For more than 20 days, the daily case rate has exceeded 2,000.
- State officials are continuing to monitor all data metrics to determine what additional statewide mitigation actions may be required.

The Governor also announced a series of new or expanded assistance programs, including:

- Emergency Unemployment tax relief to protect businesses from sudden or substantial increases in their unemployment taxes.
- Loan forgiveness for \$75 million in emergency loans awarded to Maryland businesses early in the pandemic. These loans will be converted to grants, which will not need to be repaid.
- \$25 million in low-income housing tax credit projects, which will allow and promote the construction of 2,000 units of high-quality affordable housing.
- \$12 million through the Rental Housing Works Program
- \$94 million in the new grants and investments to help treat those with diabetes, which is the number one comorbidity for serious illness from COVID-19.
- \$10 million in funding for PPE and protective barriers for district courts, testing equipment for Maryland State Police, and additional resources to increase internet access for Baltimore City youth.

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	806 (+7)	791 (+10)	873 (+6)	1,156 (+6)	3,627 (+29)	46,335 (+464)	228,471 (+2,616)
10-Dec	+9	+7	+11	+16	+43	+526	+3,202
9-Dec	+7	+15	+13	+9	+44	+451	+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	755	729	805	1087	3,325	43,635	212,384

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	357,872 (+2,487)	9.91%	4,904,152 (+48,197)	7.49%
10-Dec	+2,753	10.01%	+49,110	7.71%
9-Dec	+2,679	9.99%	+36,013	7.74%
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%

Infection Rates			Cases per 100K Persons		
	County	State		County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
	Infection Rate	Infection Rate			
10-Dec	1.14	1.11	Today	53.62	48.34
9-Dec	1.13	1.11	10-Dec	49.57	45.60
8-Dec	1.13	1.11	9-Dec	47.71	44.49
7-Dec	1.13	1.10	8-Dec	48.78	44.80
6-Dec	1.12	1.10	7-Dec	46.97	43.90
5-Dec	1.12	1.10	6-Dec	44.59	42.38
4-Dec	1.12	1.09	5-Dec	39.61	38.59
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	9.91	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	53.62	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.14	Low risk range (<0.9)

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

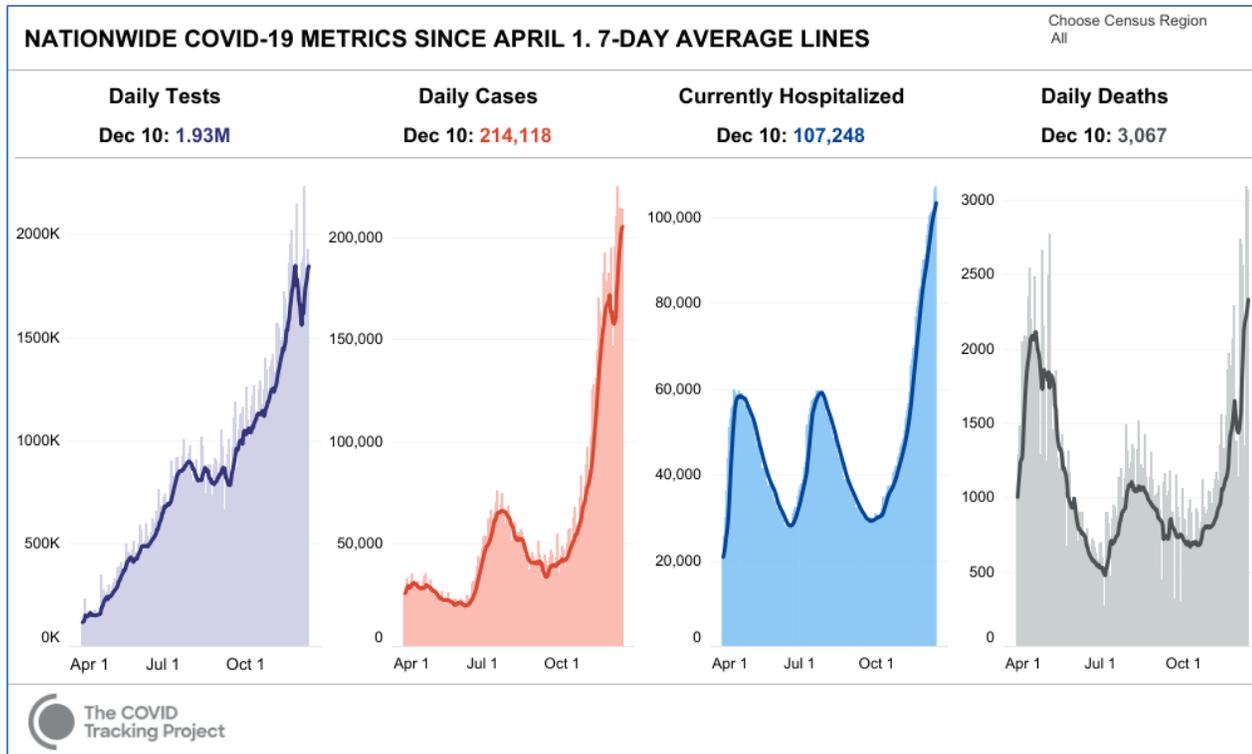
Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1,729	0.5%
Acute Care:	1,313	0.6%
Intensive Care	416	0.0%
Ever Hospitalized	23,009	10.0%

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.



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

Once COVID-19 vaccines are authorized and available, federal and state governments will be working with CVS Health to provide on-site vaccination clinic services to long-term care facilities. Rite Aid and Walgreens will also be working with the CDC on vaccine distribution to high priority groups.

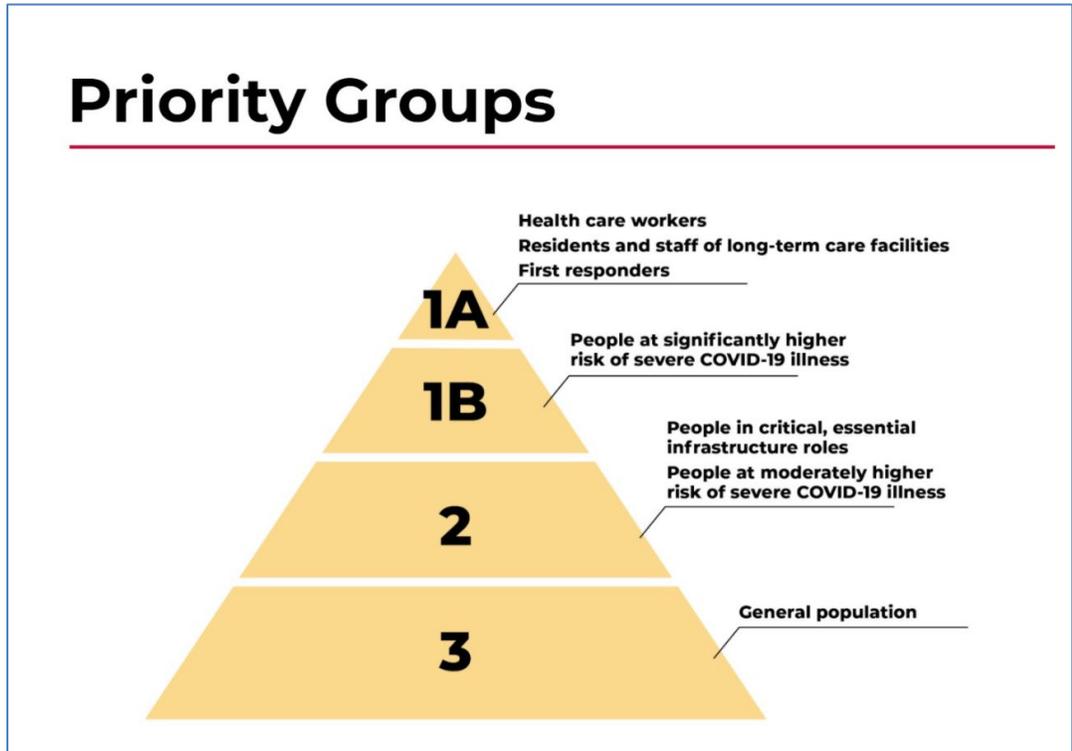
Vaccine Manufacturer	Status	Details
Pfizer-BioNTech	FDA Advisory Committee recommends approval of Emergency Use Authorization approval. FDA approval is pending but expected soon.	Ages 16+, patients need 2 doses, 21 days apart
Moderna	Emergency Use Authorization submitted. To be reviewed by FDA at meeting 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 FDA’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC), met on December 10 to discuss Pfizer’s request for Emergency Use Authorization and voted to recommend approval of the EUA application. The FDA has notified Pfizer that the official agency approval will be forthcoming very quickly. Once the approval is issued, shipments are expected to begin within 24 hours.

Health officials are investigating two reports of apparent allergic reactions to the vaccination in the UK after they began vaccinations there this week.

Priority Groups for Vaccine Distribution in Maryland

Based on the Maryland Vaccination Plan, vaccines will be distributed in the state according to the information provided in the graphic below.



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](#)

Myths about COVID-19

There are still a lot of myths circulating about COVID and how it spreads or how it can be prevented. Here's a quick rundown of some of the more popular ones circulating on the internet:

- **5 G** does not cause COVID-19. A virus does.
- **Gargling bleach** will not kill the virus and can be very harmful.
- **Ultraviolet (UV) light or lamps** should not be used to disinfect your skin. UV radiation can irritate or harm your skin and eyes.
- **Drinking alcohol** will not kill the virus and in fact, heavy use can weaken your immune system.
- **The flu and COVID-19** are not the same. COVID-19 can be much more serious than the flu. Though some symptoms may be similar, they are very different, and the mortality rate is much higher with COVID-19.

Learn more at these links:

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Mayo Clinic website](#)
- [Virginia Department of Health](#)

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

prince georges *Proud* HEALTH DEPARTMENT Prince George's County

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.

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 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 or go to www.hiphomes.org/bowieERA.

County Assistance Programs

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](#).



Other News

Upcoming Meetings

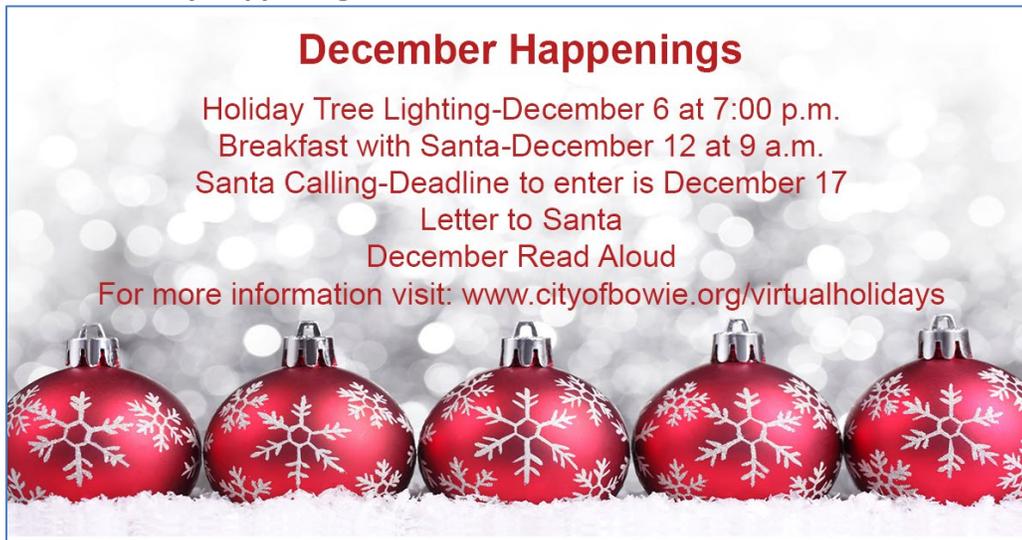
12/15 – Mill Branch Crossing - Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

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 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.
- **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.

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.

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

Maryland's Electoral College Process

The Maryland State Board of Elections has asked local governments and schools to share information about the upcoming meeting of Maryland's Presidential Electors. It takes place on December 14 at 12 p.m. The meeting can be viewed live at <http://elections.maryland.gov/electoralcollege>. An ASL sign language interpreter will be translating for the live stream and a recording will be available at the same [live stream link](#) following the event. Visit the [Board of Elections site](#) to learn more about the Electoral College in Maryland.