



# COVID-19 UPDATE

**Tuesday, December 15, 2020**

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## Light Snow is in the Forecast

The National Weather Service is forecasting our first snow tomorrow. It is likely to begin in the morning, before changing over to rain in the afternoon. When the temperatures drop in the evening, the rain may briefly change back to snow before ending overnight. Expected accumulation is approximately one inch. However, a slight shift in the snow/rain line could bring more snow than predicted.

So, while this isn't going to be a major winter event like the northern and western counties will experience, it is a very good reminder that winter is here and it's time to get prepared for a big storm.

The City's Public Works Department has its equipment ready and has lined up contractors to supplement our crews when needed. Residents are also urged to make their own winter weather preparations by doing the following:

- Make sure your car and your furnace are ready for winter weather.
- Have a scraper in your car and a blanket (in case you break down).
- Have canned food and a flashlight on hand at home in case the electricity goes out.
- Make sure you have a snow shovel or line up someone now to do your shoveling.
- Check that your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector are in working order.
- View our [2019 video on how to put together a winter weather emergency kit](#) for your vehicle.
- Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/snow](http://www.cityofbowie.org/snow) for more cold weather tips.

The City's complete Snow Removal Policy is on our website. The most important points to remember are that when the snowfall is less than two inches, only main drives, hills and collector roads are treated. During larger storms and in severe icing conditions, all streets will be plowed/treated beginning with the most heavily traveled roads and progressing through to side streets and cul-de-sacs.

Cars must be removed from the streets when two or more inches are forecast so that plows can clear the streets most efficiently. Clearing sidewalks in front of homes is the responsibility of the resident.

During and after a storm, dangerous road conditions may be reported to 301-809-2344 between the hours of 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. After business hours, dangerous conditions can be reported to the Bowie Police Department Call Center at 240-544-5700.

### **COVID Data Trends**

The rate of new cases in Bowie has slowed down a little this week, but the new case rate per 100K increased today at both the county and state levels. Hospital utilization rates are very high across the state, with some hospitals approaching capacity.

### **Governor Hogan Provides More Details on Vaccine Rollout in Maryland**

Governor Hogan held a press conference this afternoon to update Marylanders on COVID-19 vaccination planning and distribution. Below are some of the key points that were shared by the Governor and Dr. Jinlene Chan, Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health:

#### **Current conditions:**

- There have now been 5,000 COVID deaths in Maryland and over 300,000 in the US.
- State COVID hospitalizations are at their highest rate ever at 1,799.
- Maryland's case rate per 100K is very concerning, but it is the ninth lowest in the US.
- For 42 straight days, Maryland has reported more than 1,000 cases per day.
- The average utilization rate for Maryland hospitals is now at 88%, with some hospitals now reaching capacity.

#### **Actions**

- The Maryland National Guard is being reactivated to provide support to state and local health officials in the distribution of vaccines.
- The Guard will help with logistical support, vaccination clinics, and addressing outbreaks at nursing homes and other long-term facilities.
- The state is ramping up an aggressive public outreach effort on COVID-19 vaccines, including briefing Maryland's elected leaders, faith-based leaders, and community stakeholders and launching public service announcements on the safety and importance of vaccinations.
- Vaccinations have begun in Maryland hospitals.
- Over the next week or two, every hospital in the state will receive vaccinations for their healthcare workers.
- CVS and Walgreens have been allocated vaccines to vaccinate those in nursing homes and that effort will begin in the coming days as well.
- By the end of December, Maryland expects to have received about 300,000 doses of the vaccine for hospital healthcare workers, nursing home residents, and first responders in Phase 1A.
- When more vaccines are available, they will be given to those in the Phase 1B group, including those individuals in high risk categories.

- The state will need to receive almost 1 million vaccines before it can move to the Phase 2 groups, which will include critical essential workers, educators and childcare workers.
- The allocations may change as the federal government is regularly updating its allocation information as more vaccines become available.

### 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	845 (+3)	822 (+7)	914 (+9)	1,204 (+13)	3,785 (+32)	48,232 (+550)	239,362 (+2,401)
14-Dec	+14	+5	+11	+15	+45	+394	+2,314
13-Dec	+12	+9	+14	+4	+39	+411	+2,638
12-Dec	+10	+10	+7	+15	+42	+542	+3,538
11-Dec	+7	+10	+6	+6	+29	+464	+2,616
10-Dec	+9	+7	+11	+16	+43	+526	+3,202
9-Dec	790	774	856	1135	3,555	45,345	222,653

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	367,796 (+2,615)	9.23%	5,094,572 (+33,185)	7.53%
14-Dec	+1,982	9.49%	+40,010	7.46%
13-Dec	+2,296	9.37%	+51,393	7.41%
12-Dec	+3,031	9.45%	+65,832	7.42%
11-Dec	+2,487	9.91%	+48,197	7.49%
10-Dec	+2,753	10.01%	+49,110	7.71%
9-Dec	+2,679	9.99%	+36,013	7.74%

Infection Rates			Cases per 100K Persons		
	County	State		County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
	Infection Rate	Infection Rate			
13-Dec	1.12	1.10	<b>Today</b>	<b>51.53</b>	<b>46.40</b>
12-Dec	1.12	1.10	14-Dec	50.76	46.39
11-Dec	1.12	1.10	13-Dec	50.93	46.40
10-Dec	1.12	1.10	12-Dec	52.39	45.60
9-Dec	1.12	1.10	11-Dec	53.62	48.34
8-Dec	1.11	1.10	10-Dec	49.57	45.60
7-Dec	1.11	1.09	9-Dec	47.71	44.49
<b>14-Day Weighted Average</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>1.09</b>			

Key	
<b>Cases</b>	Represents the daily number of new positive cases.
<b>Positivity Rate</b>	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%.
<b>Cases per 100K persons</b>	Measures how widespread the virus is in a community. The goal is to have fewer than 5 new cases per 100K persons.
<b>Infection rate</b>	Shows how many people are infected by each positive case. The goal is an infection rate at or below 0.9.
<b>Data sources:</b> Except for the infection rate, all data provided here is from the State of Maryland's COVID dashboard. The infection rate is tracked by <a href="http://www.covidactnow.org">www.covidactnow.org</a> . 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	9.23	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	51.53	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.12	Low risk range (<0.9)

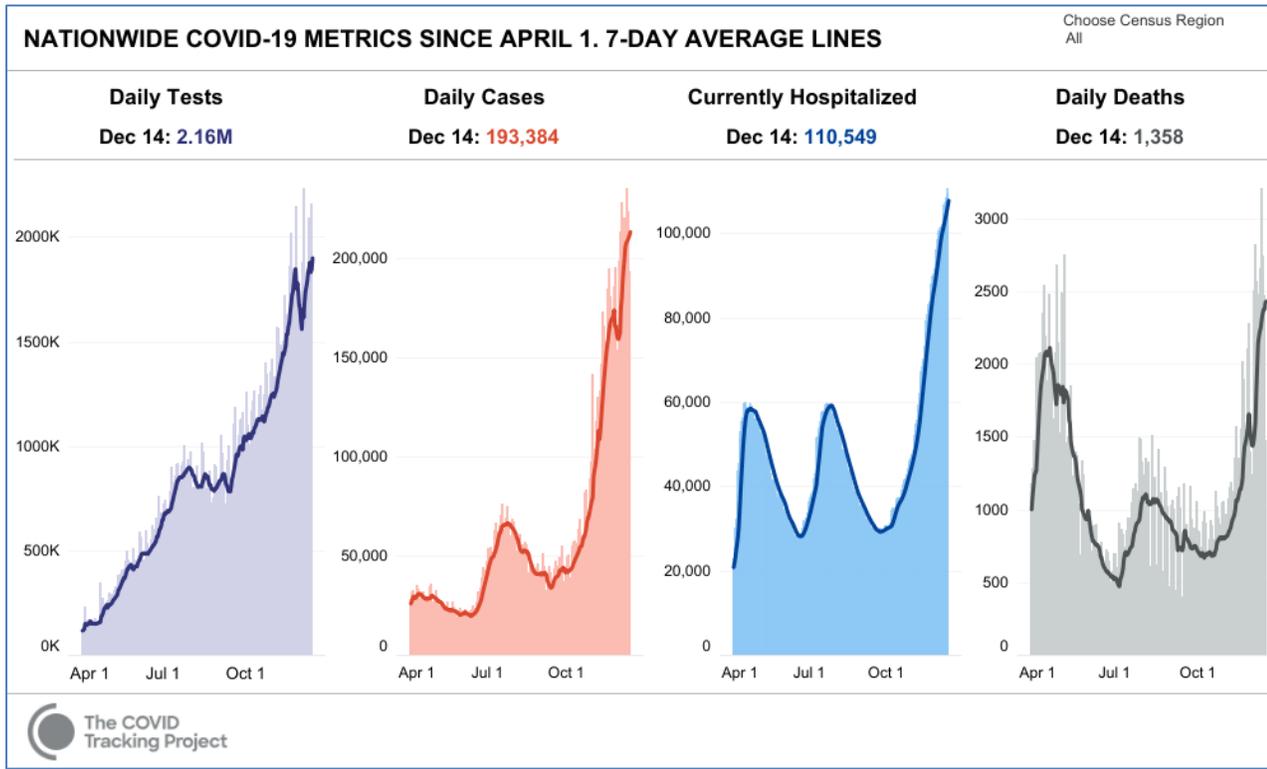
(\*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

### Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1,799	3.2%
Acute Care:	1,388	3.7%
Intensive Care	411	1.7%
Ever Hospitalized	23,711	9.9%

## 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.



### New Prince George's County Restrictions Go into Effect This Week

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.

### 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 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for use in persons aged 16 years and up for the prevention of COVID-19. According to the CDC, “[consistent high efficacy](#) (≥92%) was observed across age, sex, race, and ethnicity categories and among persons with underlying medical conditions as well as among participants with evidence of previous COVID-19 infection.” The US is the fifth country to approve use of the Pfizer vaccine. The others are Canada, the United Kingdom, Bahrain, and Mexico.

The nation’s first COVID-19 vaccines have started arriving at 150 designated locations across the nation and today, some hospital workers began receiving the Pfizer vaccine, including an ICU nurse in Queens, New York who is reported to be one of the first healthcare workers to receive the shot.

Both UPS and FedEx are scheduled to deliver the vaccine to another 425 sites on December 15, and the final 66 sites on December 16; which will complete the initial delivery of the Pfizer orders for the vaccine. Locations include hospitals and sites meeting the ultra-cold storage requirements for the vaccine. Within three weeks the vaccine should be delivered to local pharmacies and other locations.

The federal government is projecting that 20 million people can be vaccinated in December, 30 million people in January, and 50 million people in February. By the first quarter of 2021 potentially 100 million people could be immunized, which is approximately the size of the U.S. significant at-risk population (elderly/65 and older, healthcare workers, first line workers, and people with comorbidities).

Vaccine Manufacturer	Status	Details
Pfizer-BioNTech	Emergency Use Authorization approved.	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.	

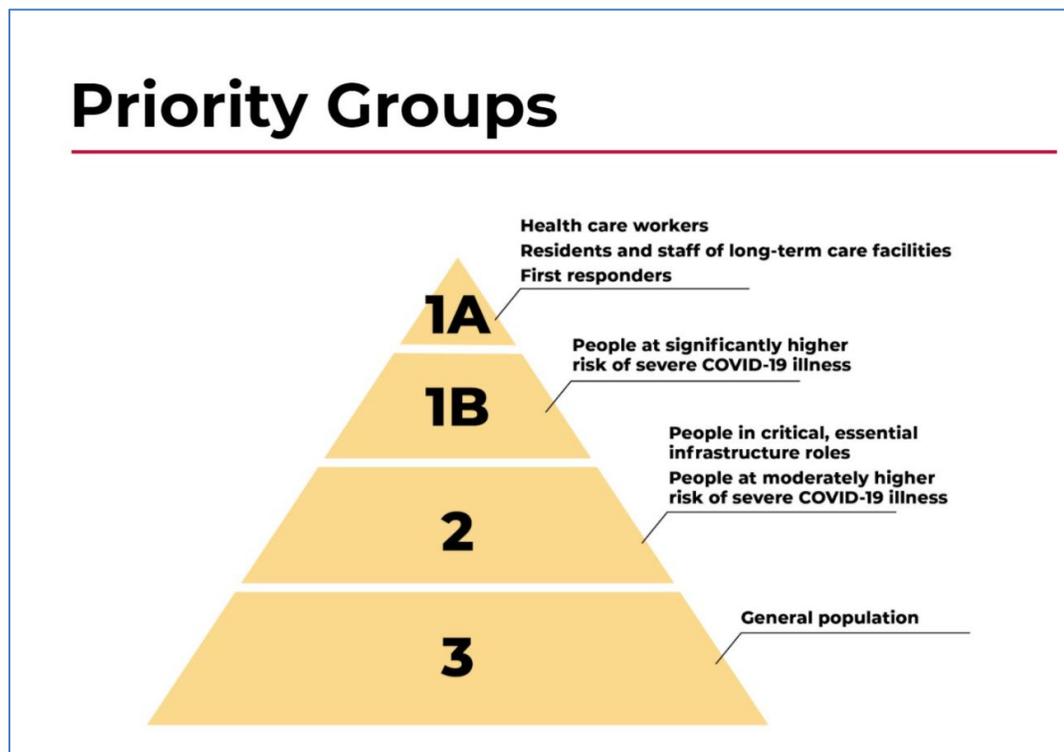
### Prince George’s County Town Hall on Vaccinations

One of the major challenges going forward with COVID will be to convince all segments of the population that they should get the vaccine when it is available. To address this, Prince George’s County is launching a “Proud to be Protected” campaign to educate and motivate county residents to get vaccinated. One of the first steps in this effort will be a town hall meeting on Wednesday, December 17 at 7 p.m. to educate the public about who can get the vaccine, how it will be administered, the need for two doses of the vaccine, and how the County’s plans to roll out the vaccines. Participants will be able to ask questions of the panel of experts and voice their concerns on the call. To register for the tele-town hall, or to submit your questions or concerns, please [click here](#).

### 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.



## COVID-19 Vaccine Benefits and What to Expect after Vaccination

Vaccines help the body develop natural protection against the virus by triggering an antibody response to the virus. The Pfizer vaccine and 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.

The CDC has published an article, [What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#), highlighting key facts with a list of common side effects and helpful tips.

The agency has also published the following COVID-19 updates:

- [Post Vaccine Considerations for Residents](#)
- [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, beginning 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.



## 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

- **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](#).



### Reminder: Healthcare Enrollment Deadline is December 15

Today is the last day for open enrollment through the State of Maryland for residents requiring health insurance plans for 2021. Visit the [Maryland Health Connection website](#) to enroll.

## 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. The tree lighting was prerecorded and can be

viewed on YouTube and the city website. The video showcases the lighting of multiple trees and sites throughout the City, a message from the Mayor, and some holiday music.

- **Santa Calling** Parents, complete an online request for Santa or Mrs. Claus to call your child (aged 8 or younger).
- **Breakfast with Santa** video. Children can 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:

- YouTube - @CityofBowieMD
- On the web - [www.cityofbowie.org/broadcasts](http://www.cityofbowie.org/broadcasts)

### **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