



COVID-19 UPDATE

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

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

COVID-19 Information

- [COVID Data Trends](#)
- [Metrics Charts](#)
- [Prince George's County Metrics](#)
- [Maryland hospitalizations](#)
- [Nationwide Trends](#)
- [New County Restrictions](#)
- [Governor Provides Vaccine Update](#)
- [CDC Quarantine Guidance](#)
- [Vaccine Update](#)
- [Vaccine Town Hall](#)
- [Vaccine Priority Groups](#)
- [Vaccine Benefits & What to Expect After Vaccination](#)
- [Testing Information](#)
- [FDA Approves Home Test](#)
- [Rental Housing Assistance](#)
- [More County Assistance Programs](#)

Other News

- Holiday Happenings
- Community Shredding Event
- Winter Weather Preparations
- Alert Bowie Notice

COVID Data Trends

Maryland hospitalizations are down slightly today, and new case rates have slowed at both the state and county levels, which may indicate that the Thanksgiving bump is behind us. Some European countries that with rapidly climbing numbers are instituting shutdowns to control the spread of the virus and lessen the impact on overly burdened hospitals. New York City's mayor has warned residents that it may be necessary to institute another shutdown similar to what was imposed in the spring, if officials determine that hospitals are too overwhelmed.

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	853 (+8)	830 (+8)	924 (+10)	1,218 (+14)	3,825 (+40)	48,718 (+486)	241,767 (+2,405)
15-Dec	+3	+7	+9	+13	+32	+550	+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	799	781	867	1,151	3,598	45,871	225,855

7-Day Positivity Rates

	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	370,153 (+2,357)	9.34%	5,131,430 (+36,858)	7.49%
15-Dec	+2,615	9.23%	+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%

Infection Rates			Cases per 100K Persons		
	County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate		County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
15-Dec	1.09	1.03	Today	52.44	45.84
14-Dec	1.09	1.04	15-Dec	51.53	46.40
13-Dec	1.09	1.04	14-Dec	50.76	46.39
12-Dec	1.09	1.05	13-Dec	50.93	46.40
11-Dec	1.09	1.05	12-Dec	52.39	45.60
10-Dec	1.09	1.06	11-Dec	53.62	48.34
9-Dec	1.10	1.06	10-Dec	49.57	45.60
14-Day Weighted Average	1.10	1.06			

Key

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

Prince George's County Metrics

Key Metrics	Current status*	Goal
Positivity rate	9.34	Remain below 5%
Cases per 100K	52.44	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.09	Low risk range (<0.9)

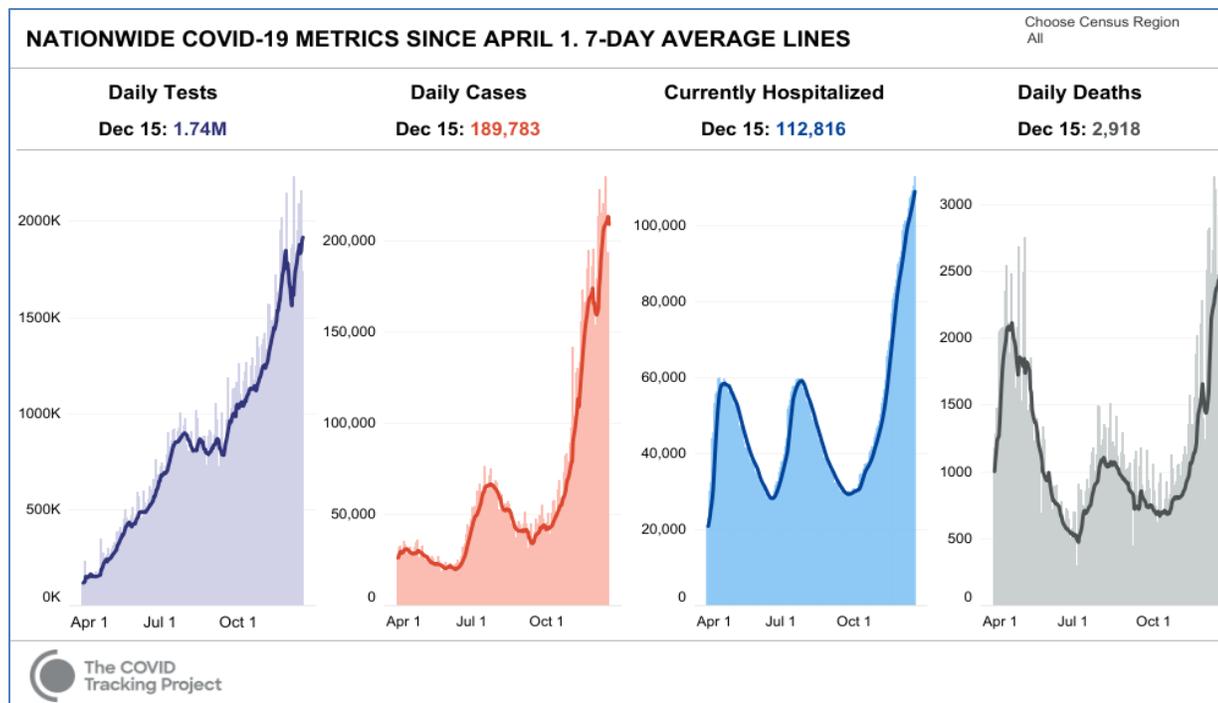
(*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase and black signifies no change.

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalization Data Tracker		
Currently Hospitalized:	1,762	-2.0%
Acute Care:	1,363	-1.8%
Intensive Care	399	-2.9%
Ever Hospitalized	23,908	9.8%

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 Today

On December 16, 2020 at 5 p.m. 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.

(*) Outdoor dining can include a tent or enclosure with a roof and a MAXIMUM of three sides. At least one side must be completely open at all times, from floor to ceiling height. It cannot be enclosed on four sides with a roof. If all sides are closed, it is considered indoor dining. Restaurant owners are required to obtain

permits for outdoor dining.

Governor Hogan Provides More Details on Vaccine Rollout in Maryland

Governor Hogan held a press conference on December 15 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:

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.

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](#) ($\geq 92\%$) 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. Locations include hospitals and sites meeting the ultra-cold storage requirements for the vaccine. They will be distributed to hospital healthcare workers and nursing home patients first.

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).

In anticipation of approval by the FDA this week, Moderna has almost 6 million of its vaccines ready for shipment.

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.	

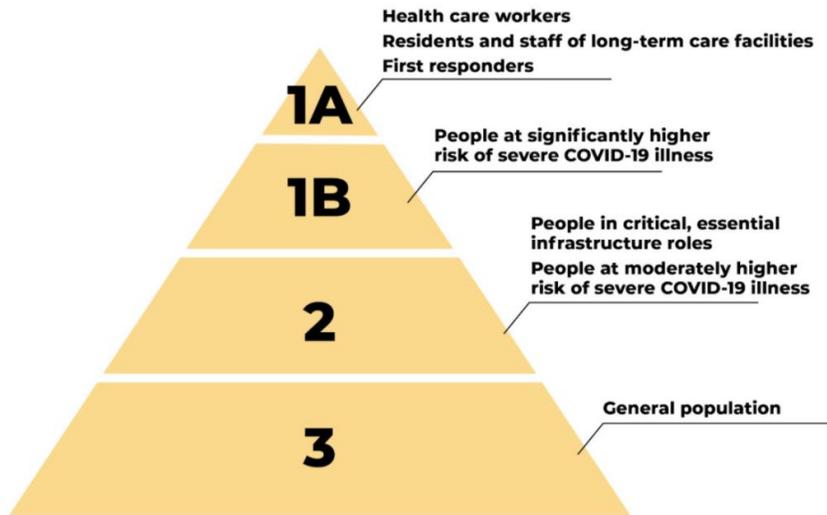
Prince George's County Town Hall on Vaccinations

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 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.

Priority Groups



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](#)

COVID Testing – Pop Up Site Friday in Upper Marlboro

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.

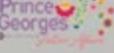
POP-UP TESTING SITE
DRIVE-THROUGH AND WALK-UP TESTING

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
FRIDAY, DEC. 18TH 9AM TO 3PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GLENARDEN
600 WATKINS PARK DR.
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20774

[SYMPTOMS OR NO SYMPTOMS]
GET A FREE COVID-19 TEST FROM THE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- **NO APPOINTMENT**
- **NO DOCTOR'S NOTE**





FDA Approves Home Test

The FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization for the first over the counter at-home diagnostic test for COVID-19. The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test is a rapid, lateral flow antigen test, a type of test that runs a liquid sample along a surface with reactive molecules. The test detects fragments of proteins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus from a nasal swab sample from any individual two years of age or older. The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test uses an analyzer that connects with a software application on a smartphone to help users perform the test and interpret results. Results are delivered in as little as 20 minutes to individuals via smartphones. The test will sell for about \$30 and now that it has approval, the manufacturer plans to scale up production in 2021 to deliver millions of home tests per month.

[NIH Press Release about the Home Test](#)

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](#).



The County continues to work hard to address food insecurity in Prince George's County, and we want to provide information on upcoming distribution locations for our Stand Up & Deliver program.

Friday, December 18 at 12:30 PM (Prepared Meals)

- Beltsville Seventh Day Adventist
- 4220 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, MD
- Faith Temple No. 2 Free Will Baptist Church
- 211 Maryland Park Dr, Capitol Heights, MD

Monday, December 21 at 12:30 PM (Groceries)

- St Paul Church
- 6419 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD

Tuesday, December 22 at 12:00 PM (Prepared Meals)

- Community of Hope A.M.E. Church
- 3737 Branch Avenue, Temple Hills, MD
- First Baptist Church of District Heights
- 7234 Lansdale Street, District Heights, MD

Other News

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.
- **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:

- YouTube - [@CityofBowieMD](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofBowieMD)
- On the web - 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

Winter Weather Preparations

While our first snowstorm has been a low impact one so far, 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 is doing just that. It 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 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.

() Some salting operations have been taking place today due to the wintry mixture.*

Alert Bowie Notice

If you are receiving this update via Alert Bowie, please note that Alert Bowie SMS text messages will now show as coming from a different sender. The new sender ID is 88911 instead of the current Sender ID 89361.

This sender ID change was initiated by our vendor, Everbridge, to help avoid confusion when people are receiving messages from different sources. The new sender ID will be used exclusively by all local and state government agencies. Other organizations and companies using the Everbridge product will continue to be delivered with the old sender ID.