



COVID-19 UPDATE

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

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COVID-19 Information

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COVID Data Trends

COVID hospitalizations remain fairly steady across all jurisdictions in the state of Maryland. COVID hospitalizations currently make up 24% of all hospitalizations in Maryland. The statewide positivity rate is now 7.47%. The number of new COVID cases in Prince George's County decreased by 5.6% in the last seven days, but the positivity rate has remained steady at around 9%. Cases in Bowie likewise remain stable, but show signs of slowly diminishing.

Governor Hogan Takes New Steps to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

Governor Larry Hogan and State health officials announced a series of actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 during the holiday season, including:

- **[New Travel and Testing Requirements](#):** Requires residents to limit all travel to essential purposes only. Residents traveling outside of Maryland or who travel to Maryland, must either obtain a negative COVID-19 test result or self-quarantine for 10 days. This requirement applies to all states, except Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, DC. [Health Directive](#) on COVID Testing.
- **[Limits on Large Indoor Gatherings](#):** Warning residents against all non-essential activities and holiday gatherings with people outside of immediate households. All residents should refrain from attending public and private gatherings of more than 10 people in one location and should practice physical distancing to the maximum extent possible.
- **[Extension of Moratorium on Foreclosures](#):** Extends the moratorium on foreclosures to January 31, 2021, consistent with the federal CARES Act.
- **[Suspension of In-Person Customer Service Operations](#):** State agencies directed to suspend in-person customer service operations for two weeks, beginning December 21. Telework continues

to be mandatory for state employees who are able to telework, and all businesses are strongly encouraged to institute telework over the holidays.

- **Additional Economic Relief:** An additional \$180 million in emergency economic relief announced, including more help for businesses, restaurants, hotels and hospitality venues, entertainment venues, and more; \$40 million to the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) benefit, which provides a \$100 boost to the TCA benefit for each of the next six months.

He also encouraged Marylanders to support local restaurants this holiday season by using carryout or delivery services, giving to a local charity or food bank, and shopping at local small businesses.

(Additionally, the Governor has issued a special emergency order that exempts Santa Claus, his elves and reindeer from any and all travel, testing and quarantine requirements.)

Governor Extends Moratorium on Foreclosures

On December 17, Governor Hogan issued an [executive order](#) that extends the moratorium on foreclosures, residential evictions, and repossessions until January 31, 2021. Information about foreclosure prevention and mortgage relief can be found on the Department of Labor's [COVID-19 Mortgage Relief & Foreclosure consumer pages](#).

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 | 915 (+9) | 871 (+2) | 978 (+10) | 1,294 (+13) | 4,058 (+34) | 51,006 (+363) | 255,397 (+2,324) |
| 21-Dec | +5 | +9 | +10 | +15 | +39 | +324 | +2,265 |
| 20-Dec | +9 | +5 | +6 | +12 | +32 | +337 | +2,054 |
| 19-Dec | +14 | +6 | +4 | +5 | +29 | +417 | +2,201 |
| 18-Dec | +10 | +16 | +12 | +21 | +59 | +497 | +2,569 |
| 17-Dec | +15 | +3 | +12 | +10 | +40 | +350 | +2,217 |
| 16-Dec | 853 | 830 | 924 | 1,218 | 3,785 | 48,718 | 241,767 |

| 7-Day Positivity Rates | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | County Tests Completed | County % | State Tests Completed | State % |
| Today | 381,476 (+2,189) | 9.17% | 5,380,189 (+55,698) | 7.47% |
| 21-Dec | +1,637 | 9.90% | +40,320 | 7.72% |
| 20-Dec | +1,770 | 9.97% | +42,612 | 7.68% |
| 19-Dec | +1,840 | 9.81% | +36,405 | 7.83% |
| 18-Dec | +2,380 | 9.51% | +44,178 | 7.77% |
| 17-Dec | +1,507 | 9.35% | +29,546 | 7.73% |
| 16-Dec | +2,357 | 9.34% | +36,858 | 7.49% |

| Cases per 100K Persons | | | Infection Rates | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | County Cases per 100K | State Cases per 100K | | County Infection Rate | State Infection Rate |
| Today | 47.62 | 38.19 | 21-Dec | 0.94 | 0.92 |
| 21-Dec | 47.62 | 38.19 | 20-Dec | 0.95 | 0.92 |
| 20-Dec | 48.78 | 39.57 | 19-Dec | 0.95 | 0.93 |
| 19-Dec | 50.74 | 42.73 | 18-Dec | 0.96 | 0.94 |
| 18-Dec | 50.23 | 42.84 | 17-Dec | 0.97 | 0.94 |
| 17-Dec | 52.99 | 45.17 | 16-Dec | 0.98 | 0.95 |
| 16-Dec | 52.44 | 45.84 | 15-Dec | 0.99 | 0.96 |
| | | | 14-Day Weighted Average | 1.00 | 0.97 |

| 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 | 9.17 | Remain below 5% |
| Cases per 100K | 46.52 | New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk) |
| Infection rate | 1.00 | Low risk range (<0.9) |

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

Maryland Hospitalizations

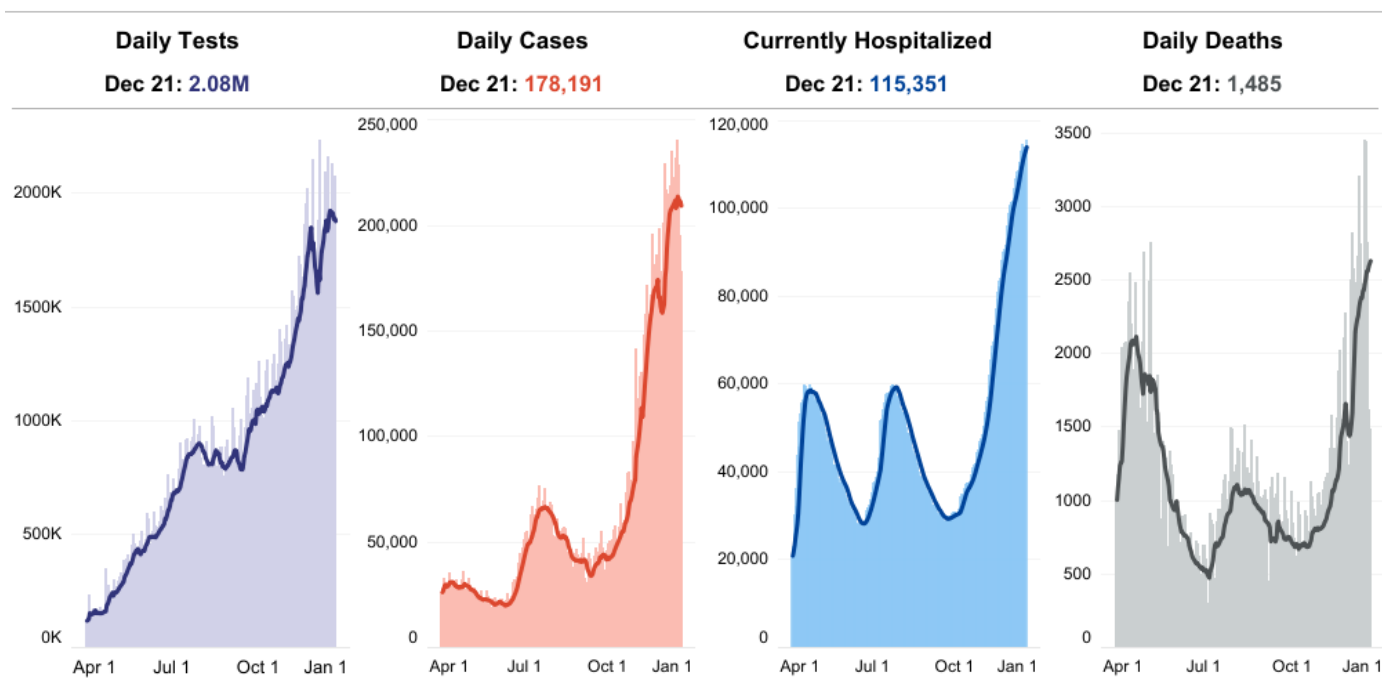
| Hospitalization Data Tracker | | |
|------------------------------|--------|------|
| Currently Hospitalized: | 1,717 | 2.4% |
| Acute Care: | 1,317 | 3.1% |
| Intensive Care | 400 | 0.2% |
| Ever Hospitalized | 24,955 | 9.7% |

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.

NATIONWIDE COVID-19 METRICS SINCE APRIL 1. 7-DAY AVERAGE LINES

Choose Census Region
All



CDC Issues Guidance on Allergic Reactions to COVID-19 Vaccine

The CDC has received reports that some people have experienced a severe allergic reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. In response, on December 19, the CDC issued guidance about allergic reactions and the vaccines. View the guidance on the [CDC website](#).

Vaccine Update

Operation Warp Speed, the federal vaccine effort, reports that vaccines have been delivered to every site identified by public health jurisdictions for the first wave of COVID-19 vaccine shipments.

The federal government is projecting that 20 million people will 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).

On December 18, the FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to be distributed in the United States to individuals 18 years and older. The first Moderna vaccines are expected to be administered this morning, after initial shipments were sent out yesterday from a factory in Mississippi. One advantage of the Moderna vaccine is that it does not require the ultra cold storage that the Pfizer vaccine does.

The FDA posted a new [webpage](#) entitled Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions. The questions cover specifics, such as what data did the FDA use to make the decision to authorize the vaccine for emergency use, to more general questions, such as how a vaccine gets from emergency use authorization to licensure.

To better track side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine, the CDC has launched an [application](#) called V-

Safe. This application allows vaccine recipients to use text messages and web surveys to report side effects, and will also remind users to get the second COVID-19 vaccine dose.

| Vaccines | Status | Dosing | Efficacy | Potential Side Effects | Initial Doses Available in Phase 1A |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Pfizer | Vaccine has been authorized for emergency use | Two doses, delivered three weeks apart | 95% effective at preventing serious illness | Injection-site pain, fatigue, headaches, chills | 50,700 |
| Moderna | Vaccine has been authorized for emergency use | Two doses, delivered four weeks apart | 94.1% effective at preventing serious illness | Injection-site pain, fatigue, muscle aches, joint pain, headaches, chills | 104,300 |
| AstraZeneca | Vaccine trials are ongoing | Two doses, delivered four weeks apart NOTE: A half-dose may be recommended for the first dose. | - | Fever, muscle ache, headache, injection-site pain | - |

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Arrives In Maryland This Week

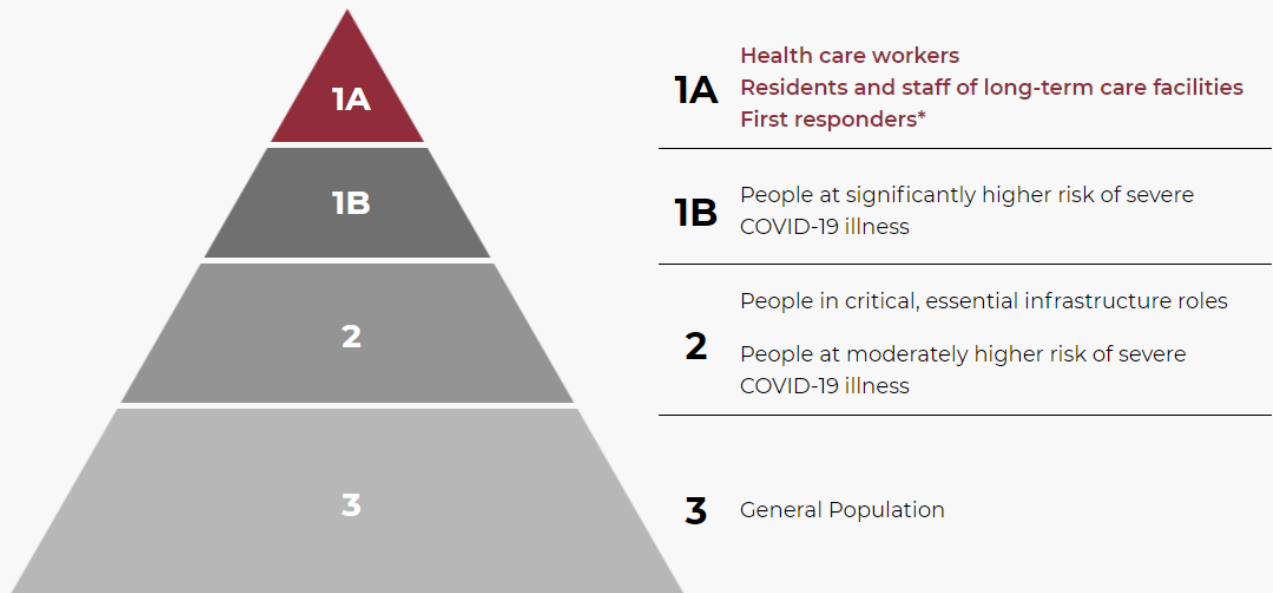
Governor Larry Hogan today announced that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which was granted emergency use authorization by the FDA on Friday, has begun shipping to recipients in Maryland, and may take several days to be completed over the course of the week. With this addition, Maryland’s allotment of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines now totals over 191,000 total doses for Phase 1A of Maryland’s COVID-19 vaccination prioritization.

Maryland Department of Health Unveils COVID Vaccine Information Page

The Maryland Department of Health has unveiled a new covidLINK vaccine resource [webpage](#) to learn more about the state’s distribution plan, review safety information about the vaccines, and get answers to frequently asked questions.

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

Maryland COVID-19 vaccine priority groups



Priority Group 1A: Initial Limited Supply

The initial extremely short supply of the vaccine is being distributed first to health care workers, first responders, and long-term care facility residents and staff.

***Maryland is currently in this stage**

Priority Group 1B: Limited Supply

When the initial supply is replenished, the still limited supply of the vaccine will be distributed to those who are at significantly higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.

Priority Group 2:

People in essential roles and people at moderate risk of severe COVID-19 illness.

Priority Group 3:

All Marylanders are expected to have access to the vaccine.

Vaccine prioritization may be subject to change.

(Source: Maryland Department of Health)

Prince George's County Creates New COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage

Learn about the COVID-19 vaccine, why it is safe, and how it will be distributed by visiting <http://health.mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine>. This page will be updated regularly as the vaccine becomes more widely available.

[COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#)

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](#)

FDA Approves Home Tests

The FDA has now issued an Emergency Use Authorizations for another COVID home test. The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test is authorized for prescription use at home with self-collected nasal swab samples from individuals ages 15 years or older, or with adult-collected nasal swab samples from individuals ages four years or older, who are suspected of COVID-19 by a healthcare provider within the first seven days of symptom onset.

Earlier this week the FDA approved 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 should be available in 2021.

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

A third test was approved by the FDA in November. Manufactured by Lucira, this test will require a prescription and will not be ready for widespread distribution until early spring.

Maryland COVID-19 Financial Resources Guide

The Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation has created a Financial Relief Guide for Marylanders. The guide summarizes the COVID-19 financial relief programs and consumer protections available to Maryland residents and is a very useful resource for all.

[Financial Resources Guide](#)

Beware COVID Vaccine Scams

The State Attorney General's Office warns Marylanders to be cautious of COVID vaccine related scams. Scammers are telling people that they need to pay a fee to reserve or for early access to a COVID vaccine. You can't pay for early access and there is no "list." If someone asks for sensitive personal information or money in exchange for the vaccine, it's likely a scam.

To learn about Maryland's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, review safety information, and get answers to frequently asked questions, visit Maryland's [covidLINK website](#).

THE COVID VACCINE IS NOT YET AVAILABLE TO
THE GENERAL PUBLIC

BEWARE OF VACCINE SCAMS



410-528-8662
consumer@oag.state.md.us

Other News

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- 12/25 – Christmas holiday – City offices closed. No trash or recycling collection
- 1/1 – New Year’s Day holiday – City offices closed. No trash collection. Recycling collection will take place for those on the Friday schedule
- 1/4 – City Council Meeting

Virtual Holiday Happenings

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

- **Holiday House Decorating Contest Winners –** This year's winners in our Holiday House Decorating Contest have outdone themselves! The displays are festive, creative, and beautiful. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who entered the contest. View a video of the winners or better still, download the list and see them in person.

[Video of Virtual House Decorating Awards Ceremony \(YouTube\)](#)

[House Decorating Contest Winners \(pdf\)](#)

- **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** Our "[Holidays in Bowie](#)" cookbook is finally out of the oven and ready to serve! Read along and add a few new 'Bowie' dishes to your holiday table. We couldn't have done it without your recipes. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Watch the broadcasts on:

- YouTube - @CityofBowieMD
- On the web - www.cityofbowie.org/broadcasts

Congratulations to City Employees Celebrating Work Anniversaries

City employees have worked throughout the pandemic to bring critical services to our community. We're very proud of the job all of our workers have done in sometimes very challenging situations. We'd like to single out several of them as they celebrate milestone anniversaries with the City of Bowie in 2020. We thank them for their dedication.

[Employee anniversaries video \(YouTube\)](#)

[List of employees celebrating milestone anniversaries \(PDF\)](#)

Winter Weather Preparations

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 wintery 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.

Student Artists, Show Us Your Creativity & Win Prizes

The City of Bowie is hosting its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest to promote understanding about the lasting legacy of Dr. King. The theme for this year's contest is *"Joining Hands for Justice"*. There are three different categories within the contest, depending on the grade level of the students. The contest is open to students who live within the municipal limits of Bowie (including home schooled students) or students who attend an eligible school in Bowie. **Entries are due January 4, 2021.** Cash prizes are awarded to winners in each category. Visit <http://www.cityofbowie.org/MLK> for contest details or contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

A black poster for the City of Bowie MLK Art Contest. At the top, it says 'CITY OF BOWIE' in white. Below that, 'MLK' is written in large white letters, and 'ART' is written in a white script font over a red brushstroke. 'Contest' is written in large white letters below the brushstroke. A paintbrush is shown painting the red stroke. The theme 'Theme: "Joining Hands for Justice"' is written in white. Below that, 'SUBMISSIONS DUE JAN 4, 2021 @ 5 P.M.' is written in white. A paragraph explains the contest's purpose: 'To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and raise awareness about his accomplishments, the City of Bowie Diversity Committee sponsors an annual art contest for Bowie students*.' It then lists the categories: 'The contest divides the participating grades into three groups: Grades K-2 - coloring contest, Grades 3-5 - poster contest, Grades 6-12 - video contest'. A video camera and a set of colored pencils are shown on the left. The City of Bowie logo is on the right. At the bottom, it says 'Visit www.cityofbowie.org/mlk for contest rules, applications, and more information.' and 'Info: lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601'. A small note at the bottom says 'Must reside in the City of Bowie or attend an eligible Bowie school to participate'.

CITY OF BOWIE

MLK ART Contest

Theme: *"Joining Hands for Justice"*

SUBMISSIONS DUE JAN 4, 2021 @ 5 P.M.

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and raise awareness about his accomplishments, the City of Bowie Diversity Committee sponsors an annual art contest for Bowie students*.

The contest divides the participating grades into three groups:

Grades K-2 - coloring contest
Grades 3-5 - poster contest
Grades 6-12 - video contest



Visit www.cityofbowie.org/mlk
for contest rules, applications,
and more information.

Info: lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601

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