



# COVID-19 UPDATE

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

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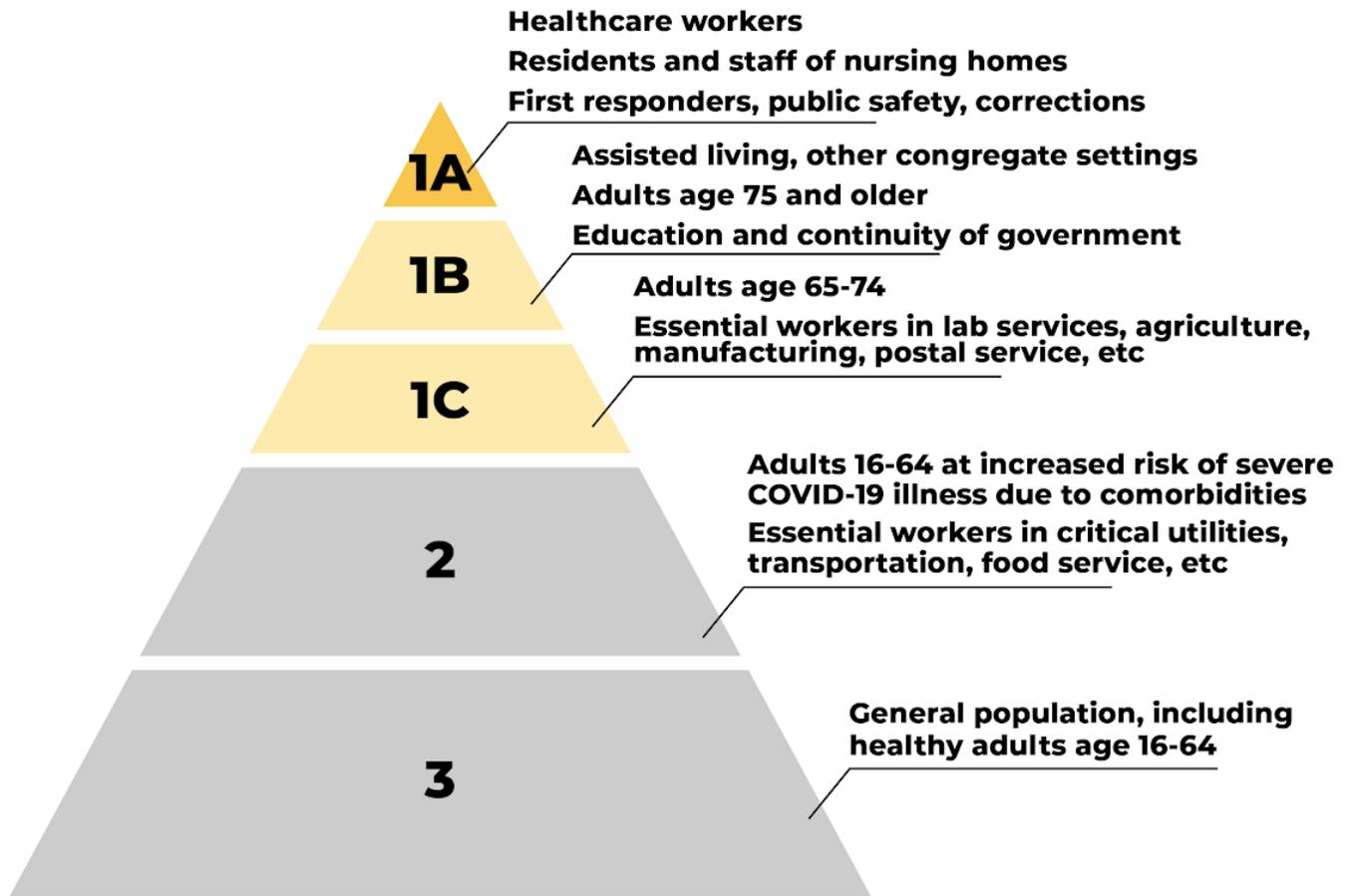
## COVID Data Trends

On January 6, Maryland hit a record number of current hospitalizations, with deaths steadily increasing over the past two days. The Prince George's County positivity rate also remains well above 11%. As of that date, Maryland reported 86,733 first doses and 742 second doses administered in the state.

## Governor Hogan Announces Actions to Accelerate COVID-19 Vaccinations Statewide

On January 5, Governor Hogan held a press conference announcing a series of actions to accelerate the current rate of vaccine distribution. These new actions were further supplemented by changes to the priority groups for vaccinations. These actions and changes are:

- **Dispatching the Maryland National Guard to assist with emergency vaccinations** - The Maryland National Guard will deploy emergency vaccination teams to help accelerate the pace of COVID-19 vaccinations. These teams will assist local health departments with their vaccination clinics, with administering vaccines, and with providing logistical support.
- **Providing 700 members of the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps to assist with vaccine administration**
- **Requiring all vaccine providers in Maryland to report data within 24 hours** – In response to reporting lags, Governor Hogan has issued an [executive order](#) requiring all providers in the State of Maryland to report data within 24 hours after vaccines are administered.
- **Offering additional state resources for hospitals**
- **Requiring greater accountability for vaccine providers with lower usage rates** - State health officials have issued a [health order](#), which states that any facility that has not administered at least 75% of their total first dose allocation may have their future allocations reduced until they can prove their ability to meet capacity. Any excess doses must also be re-allocated to local health departments for priority populations.
- **Adopting a rolling vaccine allocation model** - It will no longer wait before all members of a single priority group are completed before moving on to those in the next group in line.
- **Updating and expanding priority populations in the state's vaccination plan**



*Vaccine prioritization subject to change. Current as of January 5, 2021.*

Marylanders can stay informed on the vaccination process by texting MDREADY to 898-211 or by visiting <https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/vaccine/>.

### County Update on Vaccinations

On January 6, County Executive Alsobrooks and County Health Officer Carter provided an update on COVID-19 and vaccine distribution.

Here are the key points of the press conference:

#### State of the pandemic in the County

- Positivity rate has continued to rise, reaching 11.7%
- The average daily case rate is at a critical level
- The number of in-patients has more than tripled over the past two months.
- 54% of those in ICU in county hospitals are COVID patients.
- The vaccination process will take months. It is critical to continue to follow all of the recommended guidance to limit the spread and protect yourself.

#### Vaccination Process

- The county is in Phase 1A and will remain there for at least the next month.
- Vaccinations of vaccinators, hospital workers, and first responders have begun.
- Phase 1A includes frontline hospital and healthcare workers, first responders, and nursing homes.

- 3,700 doses have been received and are being administered.
- The county vaccination effort will be ramping up over the next few weeks.
- The vaccination rate will increase as the ranks of vaccinators grows. Efforts to date have been hampered by a lack of staffing.
- Maryland National Guard, school nurses, contract nurses, and others are being trained as vaccinators, which will increase the vaccination rate.
- The [county vaccine webpage](#) has information and data about vaccinations and will be updated soon to include revised phasing and vaccination locations for those in phase 1A.
- Hospitals are receiving the vaccine directly, and nursing homes are receiving the vaccine from a pharmacy partnership.
- By phase 1B, the county hopes that primary care physicians will be able to administer vaccinations as well.

Both the County Executive and Health Officer concluded their remarks by asking all residents to continue practice social distancing, wear masks, and continue to have patience as vaccinations will be a months-long process.

The [Prince George’s County COVID vaccination webpage](#) has been updated to include information about the groups included in each vaccination phase.

The timetable for Phase 1 vaccinations is as follows, but is subject to change:

- Phase 1A – January & February
- Phase 1B – February & March
- Phase 1C – March & April

**Please note:** The county is working to add additional sites where Phase 1A workers can get vaccinated. If you are not included in Phase 1A, you are not eligible for vaccination at this time, nor can you register for a future vaccination now.

### 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	1,059 (+9)	993 (+10)	1,148 (+12)	1,487 (+15)	4,687 (+46)	57,286 (+473)	289,758 (+3,146)
5-Jan	+11	+3	+4	+11	+29	+422	+1,956
4-Jan	+8	+8	+11	+16	+43	+363	+2,483
3-Jan	+6	+8	+7	+19	+40	+334	+2,148
2-Jan	+13	+5	+14	+7	+39	+555	+2,952
1-Jan	+23	+14	+14	+15	+66	+558	+3,557
31-Dec	989	945	1,086	1,404	4,424	54,581	276,662

### 7-Day Positivity Rates

	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	408,562 (+1,965)	11.85%	5,932,780 (+38,281)	9.44%
5-Jan	+1,600	11.76%	+24,882	9.19%
4-Jan	+1,630	11.92%	+35,491	9.47%
3-Jan	+1,335	11.88%	+26,460	9.15%
2-Jan	+2,293	11.42%	+46,132	8.94%
1-Jan	+1,892	11.14%	+53,504	8.77%
31-Dec	+1,671	10.90%	+35,350	8.52%

### Cases per 100K Persons

### Infection Rates

	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	49.03	44.18	5-Jan	1.04	1.04
5-Jan	47.96	44.00	4-Jan	1.03	1.04
4-Jan	46.89	42.82	3-Jan	1.03	1.04
3-Jan	45.98	41.00	2-Jan	1.02	1.03
2-Jan	43.61	40.31	1-Jan	1.02	1.03
1-Jan	41.93	37.70	31-Dec	1.01	1.03
31-Dec	41.87	37.40	30-Dec	1.01	1.02
			14-Day Weighted Average	1.00	1.02

### 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>
<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	11.85	Remain below 3%
Cases per 100K	49.03	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	1.04	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:	1,862	4.8%
Acute Care:	1,418	4.1%
Intensive Care	444	7.6%
Ever Hospitalized	27,711	9.4%

### What's Happening with Vaccine Distribution?

The Maryland Department of Health and the Prince George's County Health Department are working to distribute vaccinations to priority groups in Phase 1A.

Visit the Maryland Department of Health and the Prince George's County Health Department websites for information and answers to frequently asked questions on the current vaccination plan and planned timings for each phase and priority group. The vaccination dashboards provide data on vaccinations received, vaccinations administered, and demographic data for those receiving the vaccines.

### Maryland

[Maryland Department of Health vaccination information page](#)

[Maryland vaccination dashboard](#)

### Prince George's County

[Vaccination information page](#)

[Vaccination dashboard](#)

### CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Resources:

- [What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Post-Vaccine Considerations for Residents](#)
- [View the CDC's Facts on COVID Vaccination](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

### New COVID-19 Variants

A new variant of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, which was originally reported in the United Kingdom, has now been detected in at least four US states. While this variant and others that have been detected do not appear to result in more severe illness, hospitalization, or greater risk of death, the latest variants appear to spread more easily.

Public health officials are studying the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines with the emerging viral variants. There is no evidence that the variants will change the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines. Read more about new COVID variants on the [CDC website](#).

Staying home whenever possible, wearing a mask, keeping at least six feet away from those outside your household, and quarantining after exposure to the virus continue to be our best defenses against all variants of COVID-19.

### **Some County Testing Sites to Remain Closed Until January 21**

Testing is suspended at the Prince George's County Health Department headquarters and at the Dyer Regional Health Center until January 21, 2021 to allow the county's frontline operational and clinical staff to plan and train for mass vaccinations. COVID-19 testing at the department's partner site in Laurel (Roseu Medical Center) will also be suspended during the same period.

The department's partner sites in Hyattsville and Fort Washington will remain open during normal operating hours, weather permitting. Please check the schedule on the [County's testing site](#) for locations and hours of operation of those partner sites, as well as additional testing sites using the testing site locator.

### **Maryland Health Connection**

A new open enrollment period has begun for Marylanders needing health insurance. Residents can enroll between now and March 31. Details can be found on the [Maryland Health Connection website](#).

### **State Programs Accepting Applications for Electric, Gas, and Utility Bill Assistance**

- **Maryland Energy Assistance Program** - provides financial assistance with home heating bills, natural gas arrearage assistance, crisis assistance, and furnace repair or replacement. Payments are made to the fuel supplier and utility company on the customer's behalf. Learn more on the [Office of Home Energy Programs website](#) and submit an application [here](#).
- **Electric Universal Service Program** - The EUSP provides bill payment assistance and arrearage assistance for electric customers. Submit an application [here](#).
- **Electric and Gas Retirement Assistance Programs** – provides assistance for a portion of current electric bills and/or forgiveness of up to \$2,000 toward a past due bill. Learn more about how to apply [here](#).

### **Maryland Ready to Begin Distribution of Federal Pandemic Aid**

The Maryland Department of Labor has begun accepting claims and issuing payments for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Unemployment Emergency Compensation (PEUC), and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) unemployment insurance programs extended by Congress last week.

All claimants will receive an email specifying whether they should file their weekly claim certification, reopen their claim, or reapply for benefits for the week ending January 2, 2021 in their [BEACON 2.0 portal](#). All claimants who are eligible to receive benefits, including regular unemployment insurance claimants, will automatically receive the new FPUC amount of \$300 in their benefit payment beginning the week ending January 2, 2021. For more information about unemployment insurance in Maryland, visit [MDunemployment.com](#).

### **Bowie Business Recovery Assistance Program**

The new Bowie COVID-19 Business Recovery Assistance program kicks off this month. It will offer eight months of technical assistance programs and online resources to help Bowie businesses meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, build resilience and accelerate their post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

The program is a collaboration between the City of Bowie, the Bowie Innovation Center, and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce and is funded by the City of Bowie. The program is designed to help

companies stay open and thrive, access funding, and adjust to the changing business landscape brought on by the pandemic. It includes one-on-one sessions, webinars, workshops, and more. More details will be published soon at [www.bowiebusinessrecovery.com](http://www.bowiebusinessrecovery.com).

## Other News

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

- 1/18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – City offices closed. No trash or recycling collection.
- 1/19 – City Council Meeting, 8 p.m.
- 1/23 – Community Shredding Event 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Public Works Yard
- 1/30 – Electronics Recycling Event 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Public Works Yard

### Christmas Tree Pickup Every Wednesday in January

Public Works will be picking up Christmas trees every Wednesday in January along with yard waste. Please make sure all lights and decorations are removed from the tree, and do not place tree in a plastic bag. Place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m.



**CHRISTMAS TREE  
CURBSIDE PICKUP**

Every Wednesday  
in January

For more information, call 301-809-2344.