Wednesday, February 10, 2021

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

Today's COVID Brief

The number of new COVID cases continues its downward trend, with 224 county cases reported today.

As of February 10, 4.3% of Prince Georgians have received a first dose of a vaccine and 1.1% of county residents have received their second dose. The state-wide average is 9.44% first doses and 3% second doses administered.

Prince George's County Metrics

Key Metrics	Current status*	Goal
Positivity rate	7.59	Remain below 3%
Cases per 100K	27.56	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	0.83	Low risk range (<0.9)
(*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase. Black signifies no change.		

Vaccines Administered		% of County Population
First doses	39,118	4.3%
Second does	10,121	1.1%
Total doses	**49,239**	

Current vaccination phase is 1C. See description of groups eligible for vaccination now.

Despite the slow vaccine rollout, there is some good news

Each day, we work to bring you the latest and most relevant COVID infection and vaccination information. Unfortunately, today there are no new announcements about how to secure your vaccination appointment, but there is progress to report in terms of COVID case numbers and vaccination data.

- Maryland is now receiving 12,000 vaccine doses a day, which is up about 2,000 since the beginning of the month.
- This does not include the vaccines that are being sent directly to CVS and Walgreens in Maryland through the federal pharmacy partnership program, which begins this week.

- The state is now averaging more than 25,000 shots administered each day.
- COVID outbreaks in Maryland nursing homes peaked in late December. The outbreaks have been trending downward since then and now stands at 139.
- Maryland received $114 million for vaccination operations and support as part of the federal COVID relief package passed in December. Prince George's County was notified this week, that its share will be $17 million for local vaccination activities.
- Maryland Department of Aging is working with local health departments to bring vaccinations to seniors in independent living facilities. They will begin with independent living facilities that have a high-density population with a majority of the population age 75 and up.
- Last week, for the first time ever, the number of total vaccinations administered exceeded the number of people who have been diagnosed with COVID in this country.

Six Flags America Mass Vaccination Site Update
Six Flags appointments are booked through February 15. More appointments are expected to open up soon. Check https://massvax.maryland.gov for updates. You can also text MDReady to 898-211 to register for Maryland vaccine alerts. Other ways to keep up with COVID announcements from the state of Maryland are provided in the graphic below.

Scheduling a Vaccine Appointment
There is a lot of confusion and frustration around the scheduling of vaccine appointments right now. Each organization providing vaccinations has its own appointment process. Links to all of the vaccine appointment sites can be found at the Maryland Vaccination Locator site and they are also listed below for your convenience.

Securing a vaccination appointment is extremely difficult to do because of the high demand and the limited amount of vaccine supplies available. It is taking a lot of persistence and a good bit of luck to find an appointment slot on one of these sites. However, we are hearing from residents who have been successful in scheduling an appointment after many attempts, often over the course of many days.

Federal Vaccine Program with CVS and Walgreens
This week **CVS** will begin scheduling appointments at select sites in Maryland, including one in Bowie. This plan

is through a partnership with the federal government. The CDC will be supplying vaccines directly to the pharmacies through this program, rather than having the supplies managed through a state allocation process. Details are limited, but the CVS website says the program will begin on February 12. See https://cvshealth.com/covid-19/vaccine-faq for more information.

Walgreens is also partnering with the federal government to provide vaccinations in Maryland. Sign up on their website at https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19. Some Bowie residents have already been successful in scheduling appointments through this site**.**

Current Vaccination Options for those in Phase 1
1. **County Health Department Facilities** – Requires pre-registration (see link below). When an appointment is available you will receive an email inviting you to schedule your appointment.
2. **Hospital systems** – University of Maryland, Luminis, MedStar, Johns Hopkins, and Adventist are offering appointments as supplies permit. Johns Hopkins is also scheduling appointments through a lottery process (for eligible patients as supplies permit).
3. **Retail pharmacies**, such as Giant and Safeway. (So far, none of the Rite Aid and Walmart locations are in our area).
4. **Maryland Mass Vaccination Locations –** Six sites are planned around the state. Three are now open at Six Flags, the Baltimore Convention Center, and Timonium Fairgrounds.

The Maryland vaccination website provides links to schedule appointments with hospital systems and retail pharmacies or you can use the direct links below.

Links to Vaccine Appointment Information / Scheduling Sites
- **Maryland vaccination locator site**: covid.maryland.gov
- **Prince George's County pre-registration site:** https://covid19vaccination.princegeorgescountymd.gov/
- **Giant** - https://giantfood.com/pages/covid-info
- **Safeway -** https://www.mhealthappointments.com/covidappt
- **Walgreens -** https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19
- **Medstar Health -** https://www.medstarhealth.org/mhs/about-medstar/covid-19-vaccine-information/
- **University of Maryland Medical System** (includes Prince George's Hospital) - https://www.umms.org/capital
- **Luminis Health (includes Anne Arundel Medical Center and Doctor's Hospital)** https://living.aahs.org/community-vaccine-clinics/
- **Adventist Health -** https://www.adventisthealthcare.com/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine/
- **Baltimore Convention Center mass site –** https://www.umms.org/coronavirus/covid-vaccine/get-vaccine/baltimore-convention-center-vaccine or call 443-462-5511 for assistance with making an appointment
- **Johns Hopkins -** https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/maryland.html
- **Six Flags –** https://massvax.maryland.gov/

Prince George's County COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Hotline for Seniors – Dial 3-1-1
The Prince George's County COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Hotline is live for seniors and others who need assistance with pre-registering for a vaccine appointment at a Prince George's County Health Department location. **To access the hotline, dial 311 (press # after the call is answered).** *Note: Maryland expects to open its own scheduling hotline for mass vaccination locations by February 15.*

CDC Toolkit for Parents and Pregnant People
The CDC has developed a [toolkit](#) containing resources and tools to help pregnant people, breastfeeding people and new parents caring for infants to protect their health and help people who serve these communities communicate with them.

In Maryland, individuals who are currently receiving hospital-based treatment, including in hospital outpatient centers, AND have been diagnosed with at least one of the conditions listed below are eligible for vaccination in Phase 1C.
- Cancer patients who are currently in active treatment
- End stage renal disease patients requiring hemodialysis
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Solid organ transplant recipients
- Sickle cell disease patients
- Diabetic patients (Type 1 and Type 2)

Individuals who are diagnosed with these medical conditions, but are not currently receiving hospital-based treatment, including in hospital outpatient centers, will be eligible to receive the vaccine in Maryland's Phase 2 COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Maryland Extends Healthcare Signups
Today, the State of Maryland announced that the registration period for those needing to purchase health insurance through the Maryland Health Connection has been extended to May 15.

Enrollment/effective dates:
- Enroll by February 15, coverage starts February 1
- Enroll February 16 – March 15, coverage starts March 1
- Enroll March 16 – April 15, coverage starts April 1
- Enroll April 16 – May 15, coverage starts May 1

Those who are eligible for Medicaid can enroll any time of year. Health coverage through Maryland Health Connection covers costs for coronavirus tests at doctor's offices, urgent care centers, or emergency rooms. To learn more about coverage options, visit www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov.

Key COVID-19 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	1,334 (+1)	1,296 (+3)	1,500 (+8)	1,852 (+6)	5,982 (+18)	70,244 (+224)	366,666 (+1,137)
9-Feb	+0	+2	+9	+6	+17	+241	+976
8-Feb	+1	+10	+2	+10	+23	+179	+903
7-Feb	+5	+3	+4	+7	+19	+1,566	1,566
6-Feb	+15	+7	+3	+3	+28	+284	+1,500
5-Feb	+7	+10	+11	+8	+36	+287	+1,547
4-Feb	1,305	1,261	1,463	1,812	5,841	68,772	359,037

7-Day Positivity Rates

	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	467,323 (+1,083)	7.59%	7,304,817 (+30,366)	5.32%
9-Feb	+940	8.03%	+14,360	5.78%
8-Feb	+1,042	7.64%	+22,844	5.67%
7-Feb	+1,456	7.67%	+48,609	5.73%
6-Feb	+1,334	7.69%	+44,020	5.83%
5-Feb	+1,398	7.65%	+42,260	5.94%
4-Feb	+1,384	7.62%	+35,487	5.89%

Cases per 100K Persons

	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K
Today	27.56	21.70
9-Feb	27.10	21.24
8-Feb	26.35	21.07
7-Feb	26.97	21.68
6-Feb	27.65	22.11
5-Feb	28.23	23.52
4-Feb	29.60	24.31

Infection Rates

	County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
8-Feb	0.83	0.81
7-Feb	0.83	0.81
6-Feb	0.83	0.81
5-Feb	0.83	0.81
4-Feb	0.83	0.82
3-Feb	0.83	0.82
2-Feb	0.84	0.82
14-Day Weighted Average	0.84	0.82

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. It is subject to adjustments and may have a 1 to 3-day lag time in reporting.*	

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations

Currently Hospitalized:	1,282	-6.8%
Acute Care:	958	-8.8%
Intensive Care	324	-0.6%
Ever Hospitalized	33,398	9.1%

Energy Assistance

If you are a Maryland resident having trouble affording your utility or heating bill, apply for assistance through the Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs. Learn more about the program and apply online.

Energy Assistance Program

Energy Assistance is a year round program that provides assistance grants once a year to help with your utility or heating bills.

Apply For a Grant By:

- Mail-in applications
- In-person appointment
- Telephone at **1-800-332-6347**
- Visiting **https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us**
- Contact free drop boxes available to submit your application

Other News

Upcoming Meetings & Events
- 2/15 – Presidents' Day [City offices closed]
- 2/16 – Virtual City Council Meeting
- 2/17 – Webinar: The Cycle of Waste, Recycling, and Plastic

CITY OFFICES ARE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY
Monday, February 15

There will be no trash or recycling pickup on the holiday.
Collection will resume on your next regularly scheduled day.

For more information or to apply, visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.