



COVID-19 UPDATE

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

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

COVID-19 Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID Brief Prince George's County Metrics Maryland COVID-19 Update US & Maryland Flag at Half-Staff Mass Vaccination Sites Scheduling a Vaccine Appointment Vaccine Options Links to Vaccine Appointment Sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccination Hotlines Key Metrics MD Hospitalizations Stand Up & Deliver Meals and Groceries Business Recovery Programs <p><u>Other News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upcoming Meetings & Events #BowieSpeaks Community Conversations

Today's COVID Brief

This afternoon, Governor Hogan held a press conference to provide an update on COVID-19 in Maryland.

Although Maryland's COVID-19 positivity rate has dropped below 4% for the first time since November of last year, this good news is tempered by the grim milestone of 500,000 known coronavirus-related deaths nationwide. More Americans have died from COVID-19 than in any other country in the world. All U.S. and Maryland flags have been lowered to half-staff in their honor.

With weather conditions now clearing up, vaccination shipments have resumed statewide.

Prince George's County Metrics

Current vaccination phase is 1C. See [description of groups eligible for vaccination now](#).

Key Metrics	Current status*	Goal
Positivity rate	6.19	Remain below 3%
Cases per 100K	18.85	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	0.84	Low risk range (<0.9)
<i>(* Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase. Black signifies no change.</i>		
Vaccines Administered		% of County Population
First doses	56,391	6.20%
Second doses	23,422	2.58%
Total doses	79,813	

State COVID-19 Update

This afternoon, Governor Hogan held a press conference to provide an update on COVID-19 in Maryland. Acting Health Secretary Schrader and Acting Deputy Health Secretary Chen also shared information during the

press conference. Here are the key points of their remarks:

COVID metrics

- COVID metrics are declining in Maryland.
- The state's positivity rate 3.9% today and the case rate has dropped to a rate that was last seen in late October before the holiday surges.
- Hospitalizations have declined 50% in the last six weeks and nursing home outbreaks have also declined by 50%.
- However, there has been tremendous loss over the last year as more than 7,800 Marylanders and 500,000 Americans have lost their lives to the virus.

Variants

- Studies are showing that some of the variants are more easily spread than the virus in general, which is why it is critically important that Marylanders continue to social distance, wear masks, and avoid gatherings.
- Genetic sequencing has detected more than 60 variant cases in the state. Most are the United Kingdom (UK) variant, although both the South African and Brazilian variants have also been detected here.
- Most of the variant cases involve individuals who have not travelled outside the US, which means the variants are spreading through community transmission and are probably more prevalent than the existing data shows.
- To assist with tracking the variants, the state has entered into agreements with the University of Maryland, Baltimore and Johns Hopkins to increase the state's genetic sequencing capacity, with the goal of being able to test more than 10% of cases. This is the level recommended by public health experts.

Mass Vaccination Sites

- This week M & T Stadium opened as the state's third mass vaccination site and will be able to do 2,000 vaccinations a day soon.
- The next mass vac site will open in Charles County, at Regency Furniture Stadium. It is expected to open no later than March 11.
- This will be a FEMA-Supported site. FEMA will provide more than 100 personnel – including trained vaccinators – to help staff the site and provide technical assistance.
- Future sites are planned for the Eastern Shore and in Western Maryland when vaccine supplies are available.
- The vaccination distribution network continues to expand its capacity. When vaccines are more available, the goal is to be able to vaccinate up to 100,000 Marylanders a day.

Scheduling Vaccine Appointments

- In March, the state will launch an appointment pre-registration system for the state-run mass vaccination sites. Scheduling appointments at county health departments, retail pharmacies and hospital systems will still need to be done through their individual websites.
- The Maryland vaccination hotline has been in operation for more than a week and can schedule appointments at mass vaccination sites for seniors and others without internet access.
- There are now more than 500 people answering the telephone lines and they can provide information, assistance, and scheduling in English and Spanish.
- To date, 11,828 appointments have been scheduled through the call center.

Vaccine Supply

- Supplies are slowly increasing but for now they remain very limited.
- Johnson & Johnson's application for Emergency Use Authorization (EAU) will be heard by the FDA's Vaccine Advisory committee on February 26.
- The company is ready to begin some vaccine shipments within a week of EAU approval.
- Some Johnson & Johnson vaccines are being manufactured in Baltimore.

Schools

- As many school systems return more students to in-person instruction, the governor has issued an executive order clarifying that face coverings are required for anyone over the age of five, in any area of a school setting where interaction with others is likely.

Fraud

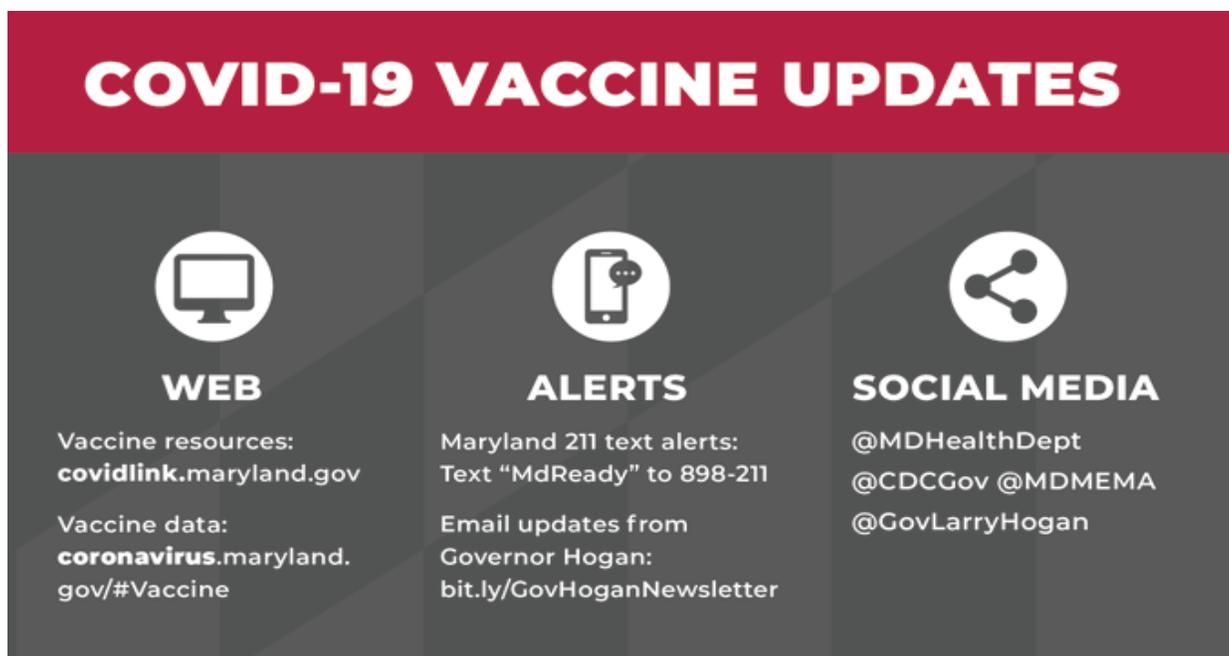
- There are increasing reports of attempted fraud related to vaccines.
- Remember – no one can charge you for a vaccine or a vaccination or a vaccination appointment and no one should be asking for a social security number when you schedule an appointment.
- If you suspect fraudulent activity, please notify law enforcement immediately.

United States Flag and Maryland Flag Are at Half-Staff

In memory of the more than 500,000 Americans that have died from COVID-19, the president has ordered all US flags to be lowered to half-staff until sunset, on Friday, February 26, 2021. As a matter of protocol, the Maryland flag is lowered to half-staff as well.

Mass Vaccination Sites Update

The best way to keep up with appointment availability at the state's mass vaccination sites is to sign up for updates from the State of Maryland. Text MDReady to 898-211 to register for Maryland vaccine alerts. You can also check appointment availability at <https://massvax.maryland.gov>. Other ways to keep up with COVID announcements from the state of Maryland are provided in the graphic below.



COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES

 WEB Vaccine resources: covidlink.maryland.gov Vaccine data: coronavirus.maryland.gov/#Vaccine	 ALERTS Maryland 211 text alerts: Text "MdReady" to 898-211 Email updates from Governor Hogan: bit.ly/GovHoganNewsletter	 SOCIAL MEDIA @MDHealthDept @CDCGov @MDMEMA @GovLarryHogan
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Phase 1 Vaccine Appointment Options

Vaccine appointments are still very difficult to secure due to limited supplies of the vaccine. Each organization providing vaccinations has its own appointment process and even the mass vaccination sites for the state have different registration processes, depending on who the medical partners for the different sites.

Visit the [Maryland Vaccination Locator site](#) for links to the more than 200 vaccination sites in the state. We have also provided direct links to each of the organizations administering vaccinations below.

Current Vaccination Options for those in Phase 1

1. **Prince George's 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. Efforts remain focused getting those in Phase 1A and 1B vaccinated. They county hopes to begin scheduling Phase 1C appointments some time in March.
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, Safeway, CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens and Walmart.
4. **Maryland Mass Vaccination Locations** – Six sites are planned around the state. Three are now open at Six Flags, the Baltimore Convention Center,

CVS and Walgreens are the designated Federal Pharmacy Program providers in Maryland They receive their vaccine shipments directly from the CDC, while the other retail pharmacies listed above receive their vaccine allocations from the State of Maryland.

Hopefully vaccines supplies will become more plentiful over the next month or two and appointments will be much easier to schedule. As supplies increase, the state plans to increase the number of vaccinations they can administer at the mass vaccination sites. Prince George's County also expects to increase its vaccine appointment offerings when supplies permit. If you may be interested in getting your vaccination at a Prince George's County site when you are eligible, you should pre-register now to get your name on the list. Prince George's County will use the pre-registration list to invite people to schedule appointments when they are eligible. The mass vaccination sites, pharmacies, and hospital systems have their own appointment scheduling processes.

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, and Reid Temple in Glenn Dale) <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. If eligible to be vaccinated at this time, you must fill out a [form](#) to request a vaccination appointment at the Baltimore Convention Center. Once an appointment is available, you will be contacted.

- **Johns Hopkins** - <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/maryland.html>
- **Six Flags** – <https://massvax.maryland.gov/>
- **M & T Bank Stadium** – <https://www.umms.org/coronavirus/covid-vaccine/get-vaccine/mtb-stadium>

Maryland and Prince George’s County COVID-19 Vaccine Hotlines

These hotlines are intended for seniors who need assistance and those without internet access.

- **Maryland’s COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center:**
1-855-MDGOVAX (1-855-634-6829)
Open seven days a week from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- **Prince George’s County COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-registration Hotline:**
Dial 311 (press # after the call is answered)
This hotline will assist seniors and others without internet access get pre-registered.

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	1,371 (+5)	1,332 (+3)	1,551 (+2)	1,903 (+2)	6,157 (+12)	72,416 (+166)	377,628 (+662)
22-Feb	+3	+3	+5	+3	+14	+128	+611
21-Feb	+0	+0	+1	+5	+6	+129	+618
20-Feb	+2	+0	+3	+8	+13	+176	+763
19-Feb	+4	+3	+3	+2	+12	+231	+1,008
18-Feb	+2	+3	+4	+1	+10	+184	+986
17-Feb	1,355	1,320	1,533	1,882	6,090	71,402	372,980

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	479,598 (+696)	6.19%	7,689,541 (+12,535)	3.90%
22-Feb	+579	5.86%	+22,188	3.91%
21-Feb	+780	6.06%	+32,164	4.08%
20-Feb	+1,016	6.03%	+25,434	4.17%
19-Feb	+1,067	5.83%	+42,207	4.12%
18-Feb	+1,014	5.72%	+35,950	4.13%
17-Feb	+917	5.76%	+23,155	4.17%

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	18.85	12.78	22-Feb	0.84	0.78
22-Feb	17.78	12.43	21-Feb	0.84	0.78
21-Feb	17.94	12.69	20-Feb	0.84	0.78
20-Feb	18.46	13.23	19-Feb	0.84	0.78
19-Feb	18.40	14.17	18-Feb	0.84	0.78
18-Feb	17.61	14.42	17-Feb	0.84	0.78
17-Feb	18.19	14.92	16-Feb	0.84	0.79
			14-Day Weighted Average	0.83	0.79

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. It is subject to adjustments and may have a 1 to 3-day lag time in reporting.</i>	

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations		
Currently Hospitalized:	978	-1.4%
Acute Care:	720	0.5%
Intensive Care	258	-6.5%
Ever Hospitalized	34,577	9.1%

Stand Up & Deliver Meals and Groceries



Wednesday, February 24 at 10:00 a.m. (Groceries)

- Metropolitan Seventh Day Adventist Church – 6307 Riggs Road, Hyattsville, MD

Friday, February 26 at 12:30 p.m. (Groceries)

- Ebenezer AME Church – 7707 Allentown Rd, Fort Washington, MD
- Beltsville Seventh Day Adventist – 4220 Ammendale Rd, Beltsville, MD
- Faith Temple No. 2 Free Will Baptist Church, 211 Maryland Park Drive, Capitol Heights, MD

Saturday, February 27 at 10:00 a.m. (Groceries/Meals)

- Ebenezer Church of God – 7550 Buchanan Street, Landover Hills, MD
- First Baptist Highland Park – 6801 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD

Bowie Business Recovery Program

The Business Recovery Program provides technical assistance to help Bowie businesses meet the challenges of the pandemic, build resiliency, and accelerate their post COVID recovery. The program is a collaboration between the Bowie Innovation Center business accelerator and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce and is funded by the City of Bowie.

The graphic features the Bowie Business Recovery Program logo at the top, which includes the text "Bowie BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAM" and the tagline "Powering Business Success". Below the logo, the text "THIS WEEK" is underlined, followed by "FEB. 22nd-25th". A white rounded rectangle contains three calendar icons with corresponding event details: a green icon for "FEB. 23RD 11AM-12PM BUSINESS RECOVERY OPEN DOOR ONE-ON-ONE SESSION: COVID-19 PPP FUNDING INFORMATION", a yellow icon for "FEB. 25TH 4PM-5PM BUSINESS RECOVERY ROUNDTABLE: SBA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS & UPDATES ON PPP AND EIDL", and a blue icon for "FEB. 25TH 5-6PM BUSINESS EDUCATION AND RESILIENCE WEBINAR: FOOD INDUSTRY & THE PANDEMIC EXECUTING A SHIFT TO THRIVE".

Other News

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- 2/23 – Bowie Advisory Planning Board (BAPB) Virtual Meeting
- 2/25 – #BowieSpeaks Community Conversations
- 3/1 – City Council meeting, 8 p.m.

Advisory Planning Board Meeting on February 23 at 7 p.m.

The virtual public hearing on Ray's Towing LLC that was scheduled to take place at this meeting has been postponed. The Board will still meet to receive an update on the Liberty Sports Project.

See [Public Hearing Postponement Notice](#).

#BowieSpeaks Community Conversation – February 25

On February 25, the City of Bowie will host the second community conversation in the #BowieSpeaks social justice series. The next conversation is entitled, *The Role of Religious Organizations in the Quest for Social Justice*. The event will be held at 7 p.m. on Zoom and will be moderated by members of the Community Outreach and Diversity Committees and panelists from Faith Works, Temple Solel, United Parish of Bowie and Village Baptist Church.

Attendees must register at <https://bowie.fyi/bowiespeaks>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email and Zoom link to join the webinar. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

ORGANIZED BY THE CITY OF BOWIE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE & THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

#BOWIESPEAKS

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

ADDRESSING RACISM AND THE
NEED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



FEBRUARY 25, 7 P.M.

The #BowieSpeaks program will discuss the role of religious organizations in our quest for social justice and their impact on the community. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Zoom link: <https://bowie.fyi/bowiespeaks>

Panelists

- Rev. Chris Deacon
United Parish of Bowie
- Rev. Emily Holiday
Village Baptist Church
- Rabbi Steve Weisman
Temple Solel
- Khalil Shadeed
Faith Works