



COVID-19 UPDATE

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

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Today's COVID Brief

Case numbers for Bowie are up a bit today to 33. Maryland is averaging more than 30,000 vaccinations/daily over the last seven days. The state will open its fourth mass vaccination site in March in Waldorf. It will be supported by FEMA. There is encouraging news today from vaccine candidates Astra Zeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

Prince George's County Metrics

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

| Key Metrics | Current status* | Goal |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Positivity rate | 6.10 | Remain below 3% |
| Cases per 100K | 18.96 | New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk) |
| Infection rate | 0.86 | 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 | 62,125 | 6.83% |
| Second doses | 25,419 | 2.79% |
| Total doses | 87,544 | |

State COVID-19 Update

The Governor and other health officials shared an update on COVID at a press conference on February 23:

COVID metrics

- COVID metrics are declining in Maryland.
- The state's positivity rate 3.9% on February 23 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.

Vaccine News

Today, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) announced that the **Johnson & Johnson** COVID-19 vaccine has met the requirements for emergency use authorization. The agency said that the vaccine is safe and effective and completely prevented hospitalizations and deaths in a large clinical trial. The company has reported that the vaccine is 66.9% effective against moderate to severe/critical COVID-19 at least 14 days after vaccination.

On Thursday, the FDA's advisory committee will review the findings and make a recommendation on approval of the company's Emergency Use Authorization application. If approved, the company has said shipments could begin sometime next week. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only a single dose.

Another vaccine candidate, **Astra Zeneca**, is reporting that a study of its vaccine shows that it is able to reduce the risk of COVID-19 related hospitalization by 94% after the first dose. Findings were based on data from 1.14 million COVID-19 vaccinations administered in the UK where approximately 490,000 people having received the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Astra Zeneca is beginning a test of its vaccine on children, ages 5 -16, in the United Kingdom. The company expects to request Emergency Use Authorization soon.

Vaccine Safety Monitoring

CDC and FDA researchers have analyzed the symptoms reported by Moderna and Pfizer vaccine recipients from mid-December to mid-January. The most common symptoms were headache (22.4%), fatigue (16.5%), and dizziness (16.5%). Anaphylactic reactions were reported in approximately 4.5 out of every million vaccinations, which is similar to the rate expected for inactivated seasonal influenza vaccines.

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

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 | 1,373 (+2) | 1,340 (+8) | 1,566 (+15) | 1,911 (+8) | 6,190 (+33) | 72,609 (+193) | 378,490 (+862) |
| 23-Feb | +5 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +12 | +166 | +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 | 1,357 | 1,323 | 1,537 | 1,883 | 6,100 | 71,586 | 373,966 |

7-Day Positivity Rates

| | County Tests Completed | County % | State Tests Completed | State % |
|--------|------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------|
| Today | 480,603 (+1,005) | 6.10% | 7,718,790 (+29,249) | 3.80% |
| 23-Feb | +696 | 6.19% | +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% |

Cases per 100K Persons

| | County Cases per 100K | State Cases per 100K |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Today | 18.96 | 13.02 |
| 23-Feb | 18.85 | 12.78 |
| 22-Feb | 17.78 | 12.43 |
| 21-Feb | 17.94 | 12.69 |
| 20-Feb | 18.46 | 13.23 |
| 19-Feb | 18.40 | 14.17 |
| 18-Feb | 17.61 | 14.42 |

Infection Rates

| | County Infection Rate | State Infection Rate |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 23-Feb | 0.86 | 0.78 |
| 22-Feb | 0.86 | 0.78 |
| 21-Feb | 0.86 | 0.78 |
| 20-Feb | 0.86 | 0.79 |
| 19-Feb | 0.85 | 0.79 |
| 18-Feb | 0.85 | 0.79 |
| 17-Feb | 0.85 | 0.79 |
| 14-Day Weighted Average | 0.85 | 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: | 960 | -1.8% |
| Acute Care: | 711 | -1.2% |
| Intensive Care | 249 | -3.4% |
| Ever Hospitalized | 34,672 | 9.1% |

Small Business Administration Offers Loans to Small Businesses and Nonprofits

Today, the SBA announced that it was opening up a loan application period exclusively for small businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees. Applications will be accepted until March 10. Learn more at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>.

Maryland Childcare Pandemic Relief Fund

Licensed childcare centers and registered family childcare providers are eligible to apply for Childcare Pandemic Relief Fund grants to help meet increased operation costs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the CARES Act of 2021, the state received additional federal funding to support childcare for children and families. The Maryland State Department of Education is establishing a \$60 million grant program to support eligible childcare programs throughout the state meet operating costs and address lost revenue. The deadline is March 3.

Other News

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- 2/25 – #BowieSpeaks Community Conversations
- 3/1 – City Council meeting, 8 p.m.

#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