



COVID-19 UPDATE

Thursday, February 25, 2021

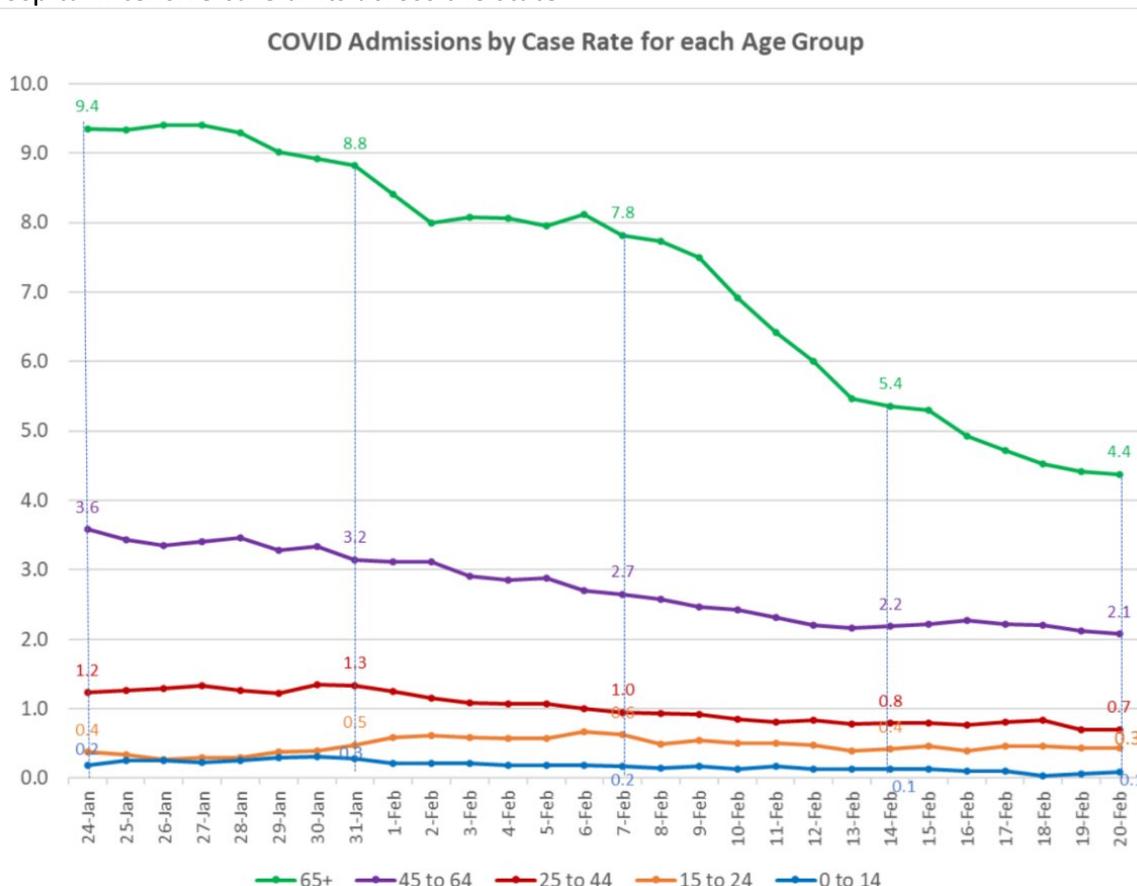
Here's what you will find in today's update:

COVID-19 Information

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Today's COVID Brief

COVID hospitalizations in the state are down to 952 today, the lowest number since early November last year. The chart below shows Maryland COVID admissions by age group over the last four weeks. The decrease is greatest in the 65+ population, a decline of 53%; however, COVID patients still make up 23% of all patients in hospital intensive care units across the state.



Prince George's County Metrics

Current vaccination phase **1C** (pre-registration). [Description of groups eligible for vaccination now.](#)

Key Metrics	Current status*	Goal
Positivity rate	5.88	Remain below 3%
Cases per 100K	18.88	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	0.90	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	63,471	6.98%
Second doses	27,170	2.99%
Total doses	90,641	

State COVID-19 Update

The Governor and other health officials provided a series of COVID-19 updates during a press conference on February 23. Here are the main points from the conference:

- **New FEMA-Supported Mass Vaccination Site in Southern Maryland** - The next mass vaccination site will open in Charles County, at Regency Furniture Stadium. It is expected to open by March 11.
- **Expanded Surveillance of Coronavirus Variants** - 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.
- **Johnson & Johnson Allocations Expected as Early as Next Week** – States have been notified to expect allocations of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine as early as next week, pending FDA approval.
- **Executive Order Requiring Face Coverings in School Settings** - 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.
- **Warning on Vaccine Fraud** – 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.

[View the full press release](#) | [View the presentation](#)

Dr. Fauci Announces Initiative to Study Effects of post-COVID Infection Symptoms

On February 23, Dr. Anthony Fauci [announced](#) a new NIH initiative to study the long-term effects of PASC, or post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection. (Patients with these effects are commonly referred to as “COVID long haulers”). Symptoms of PASC include fatigue, shortness of breath, sleep disorders, fevers, GI symptoms, anxiety, and depression, and what some have been referring to as brain fog, or an inability or a difficulty in concentrating or focusing.

CDC: “Improve How Your Mask Protects You”

Correct and consistent mask use is a critical step everyone can take to prevent getting and spreading COVID-19. Masks work best when everyone wears them, but not all masks provide the same protection. When choosing a mask, look at how well it fits, how well it filters the air, and how many layers it has. The CDC urges people to help cut down on the spread of the coronavirus by 1) choosing a mask with a nose wire, 2) using a

mask fitter or brace, 3) checking that your mask fits snugly over your nose, mouth, and chin, 4) layering two masks, and 5) knotting and tucking ear loops of a 3-ply mask

Visit the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) for more information.

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	ALERTS	SOCIAL MEDIA
Vaccine resources: covidlink.maryland.gov	Maryland 211 text alerts: Text "MdReady" to 898-211	@MDHealthDept
Vaccine data: coronavirus.maryland.gov/#Vaccine	Email updates from Governor Hogan: bit.ly/GovHoganNewsletter	@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](https://www.maryland.gov/health/vaccination-locator) 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.

As vaccine 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 are interested in getting your vaccination at a Prince George’s County site when eligible, 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	1,377 (+4)	1,345 (+5)	1,569 (+3)	1,910 (-1)	6,201 (+11)	72,788 (+179)	379,466 (+976)
24-Feb	+2	+8	+15	+8	+33	+193	+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	1,361	1,326	1,540	1,885	6,112	71,817	374,974

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	481,689 (+1,086)	5.88%	7,775,974 (+37,184)	3.74%
24-Feb	+1,005	6.10%	+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%

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	18.88	13.00	24-Feb	0.90	0.81
24-Feb	18.96	13.02	23-Feb	0.90	0.81
23-Feb	18.85	12.78	22-Feb	0.89	0.81
22-Feb	17.78	12.43	21-Feb	0.89	0.81
21-Feb	17.94	12.69	20-Feb	0.88	0.81
20-Feb	18.46	13.23	19-Feb	0.88	0.81
19-Feb	18.40	14.17	18-Feb	0.87	0.81
			14-Day Weighted Average	0.87	0.81

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

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations		
Currently Hospitalized:	952	-0.8%
Acute Care:	709	-0.2%
Intensive Care	243	-2.4%
Ever Hospitalized	34,759	9.1%

Other News

Upcoming Meetings & Events

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

#BowieSpeaks Community Conversation – February 25

Tonight, 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. Questions? 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
- Rabbi Steve Weisman
Temple Solel
- Rev. Emily Holiday
Village Baptist Church
- Khalil Shadeed
Faith Works