



COVID-19 UPDATE

Thursday, March 4, 2021

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

| COVID-19 Information | |
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Today's COVID Brief

Gov. Hogan and County Executive Alsobrooks provided updates today on improving vaccine distribution and equity. 8.97% of county residents have now received at least one vaccine dose.

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 | 4.28 | Remain below 3% |
| Cases per 100K | 16.43 | New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk) |
| Infection rate | 0.92 | Low risk range (<0.9) |
| Vaccinations | | % of County Population |
| First doses | 80,610 | 8.87% |
| Second doses | 36,114 | 3.97% |
| Total doses | 116,724 | |

Governor Hogan Press Conference

At a press conference Thursday afternoon, Governor Hogan provided an update on state efforts to ensure equity in the vaccination process. He was joined by Brigadier General Janeen Birkhead, who is heading up the Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force.

Below is a summary of their comments:

- The Vaccine Equity Task Force was created a few weeks ago to maintain consistent focus on equity in vaccine distribution and to make sure that state and local officials are reaching vulnerable populations with their vaccine messaging. Each county has been asked to provide a liaison to the task force.
- One of the first ways that the state sought to bridge the digital divide was the creation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center which allows seniors and others who need help, to make appointments by phone.
- Gen. Birkhead acknowledged there is no one-size-fits-all solution to getting everyone vaccinated, which is why the task force will be evaluating each potential partnership vaccination site for accessibility and equity.
- The task force will collaborate with the federal government, the Maryland Department of Health, local health departments, and community organizations.
- Pharmacies have been asked to set aside dedicated allocations each week for clinics for vulnerable communities. Walmart is already doing this for Prince George's County residents.
- State and county officials are also working to schedule [appointments for some on the Prince George's County pre-registration list by text](#) to help simplify the process and avoid the need for computers and email accounts.
- Demographic data about who is being vaccinated is posted daily on the [state vaccination dashboard](#).
- [Learn more about the work of the Vaccine Equity Task Force](#).

County Executive's Press Conference

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks provided an update today on vaccination efforts in the county. She was joined by Dr. George Askew, who is Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services & Education. Below is a summary of their comments:

- COVID metrics are moving in the right direction. The county's positivity rate is under 5%.
- However, because things can change quickly, residents are encouraged to be vigilant and keep taking all the necessary precautions to protect themselves and others.
- The lack of adequate vaccine supplies remains the biggest obstacle in getting residents vaccinated.
- The four county health department sites are currently administering a total of 1,800 shots per day and have the capacity to do up to 2,000 per day.
- The county is to working to increase capacity at these sites and to work with the state and other partners to open up additional sites, hopefully including one at the University of Maryland to serve residents of nearby neighborhoods which were among the hardest hit zip codes in Maryland.
- To supplement Health Department vaccinations, the county is sending names from its pre-registration list to the state for scheduling vaccination appointments at mass vax sites.
- The County's Sports & Learning Center will be closed for necessary maintenance from March 13 – 28.
- To replace it, the Kentland Community Center and the Cedar Heights Community Center will open as vaccination sites soon and will hopefully continue to operate, even when the Sports & Learning Center reopens.
- Mobile vaccination units are working to reach homebound seniors in the county.
- Partnerships have also been established with Luminis Healthcare to vaccinate county dialysis patients, with Kaiser Permanente to vaccinate educators, and with other healthcare systems to get certain priority groups vaccinated.
- The county is also partnering with houses of worship and community organizations to bring more vaccine clinics to the county, but the biggest challenge remains vaccine supplies and clinicians.
- The County Executive acknowledged the frustration and difficulties that seniors and some other residents have had in securing vaccine appointments.
- The current setup has put residents around the state in the position of competing against each other

for vaccine appointments and has resulted in Prince George's County residents only receiving 11% of the available appointments at Six Flags.

- There are more than 100,000 individuals on the County's pre-registration list, which indicates Prince Georgians want to get vaccinated, they just have not been able to secure appointments yet.
- County vaccination sites will administer whichever vaccine they are provided. Depending on the supplies, individuals could receive Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson. (Second doses will be the same as the first dose for those who receive Pfizer and Moderna.)
- The county is moving away from the state's vaccine appointment scheduling site to its own system that says will be more secure, more efficient, and more equitable because it will not issue sharable links for vaccine appointments as is happening at present.

New Vaccination Clinic Planned at Church Center in Upper Marlboro

Both General Birkhead and County Executive Alsobrooks spoke today about a partnership between the University of Maryland Capital Region Health and the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, to bring more vaccinations to Prince George's County and to use trusted community partners to encourage the community to get vaccinated. Within the next two weeks, a clinic is expected to open at the church's family life center in Upper Marlboro. The University of Maryland will supply vaccines and support personnel. The plan is to vaccinate up to 900 doses soon, with the possibility of further expansion later this spring.

COVID Day of Remembrance in Maryland on March 5

Governor Larry Hogan today issued a proclamation recognizing Friday, March 5 as COVID-19 Day of Remembrance to honor the Marylanders who have lost their lives due to COVID-19 over the past year. At the governor's direction, the Maryland flag will be lowered to half-staff to mark the occasion and government buildings across the state will be lit up in amber.

Vaccine Information

The FDA has developed a very useful Frequently Asked Questions document about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. It answers questions about who can receive it, clinical trials, effectiveness, and the dangers of comparing this vaccine with others. We encourage you [to read the FAQ page in its entirety](#).

Maryland Tests Text-Based Vaccine Appointment Booking for Prince George's County

Maryland officials have begun testing booking vaccine appointments through text messages for eligible Prince George's County residents at the Six Flags America mass vaccination site. During beta testing of this appointment-making tool over the weekend, the state conducted outreach to a subset of the Prince George's County pre-registration list and invited those individuals to sign up for appointments. On Sunday, this led to filling all 300 slots that were available. [Press Release](#)

Mass Vaccination Sites Update

The new mass vaccination site in Waldorf officially opened today at the Regency Furniture Stadium. Like Six Flags, this site is also a drive-through one.

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 sometime 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, and M & T Bank Stadium in Baltimore.

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. The CDC has announced that these federal pharmacy partners will receive some of the new Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

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. You must fill out a [form](#) to request a vaccination appointment.
- 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.

Volunteer Vaccine Navigators Needed

The City of Bowie Neighbors Helping Neighbors program is looking for volunteers to serve as vaccine navigators to assist seniors who may be having difficulty pre-registering for their COVID vaccination or scheduling an appointment. Navigators must have their own computer and internet connection and be willing to use their own phone to call seniors. If you are interested, please complete a Neighbors Helping Neighbors application at www.cityofbowie.org/nhn. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

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 | 1,395 (+1) | 1,367 (+3) | 1,588 (+4) | 1,939 (+5) | 6,289 (+13) | 73,834 (+149) | 384,765 (+809) |
| 3-Mar | +2 | +3 | +0 | +10 | +15 | +176 | +786 |
| 2-Mar | +2 | +0 | +0 | +3 | +5 | +96 | +468 |
| 1-Mar | +0 | +4 | +2 | +3 | +9 | +93 | +603 |
| 28-Feb | +10 | +7 | +5 | +3 | +25 | +171 | +827 |
| 27-Feb | +2 | +0 | +5 | +2 | +9 | +159 | +836 |
| 26-Feb | 1,378 | 1,350 | 1,572 | 1,913 | 6,213 | 72,990 | 380,436 |

7-Day Positivity Rates

| | County Tests Completed | County % | State Tests Completed | State % |
|--------|------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------|
| Today | 488,994 (+930) | 4.28% | 7,982,350 (+33,723) | 3.24% |
| 3-Mar | +1,231 | 4.33% | +31,296 | 3.28% |
| 2-Mar | +659 | 4.58% | +11,040 | 3.35% |
| 1-Mar | +699 | 5.15% | +19,263 | 3.52% |
| 28-Feb | +1,245 | 5.20% | +38,783 | 3.46% |
| 27-Feb | +1,186 | 5.26% | +44,150 | 3.43% |
| 26-Feb | +1,355 | 5.62% | +48,121 | 3.66% |

Cases per 100K Persons

Infection Rates

| | County Cases per 100K | State Cases per 100K | Infection Rates | | |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------|
| | | | County Infection Rate | State Infection Rate | |
| Today | 16.43 | 12.52 | 3-Mar | 0.92 | 0.93 |
| 3-Mar | 16.90 | 12.92 | 2-Mar | 0.92 | 0.93 |
| 2-Mar | 17.17 | 13.10 | 1-Mar | 0.92 | 0.93 |
| 1-Mar | 18.27 | 13.55 | 28-Feb | 0.92 | 0.93 |
| 28-Feb | 18.82 | 13.57 | 27-Feb | 0.92 | 0.92 |
| 27-Feb | 18.16 | 13.08 | 26-Feb | 0.92 | 0.92 |
| 26-Feb | 18.43 | 12.91 | 25-Feb | 0.92 | 0.91 |
| | | | 14-Day Weighted Average | 0.92 | 0.90 |

Maryland Hospitalizations

| Hospitalizations | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|
| Currently Hospitalized: | 856 | -0.8% |
| Acute Care: | 640 | 0.7% |
| Intensive Care | 216 | -5.2% |
| Ever Hospitalized | 35,304 | 9.1% |

Other News

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- 3/15 – City Council meeting, 8 p.m.

City Gymnasium Closed for Minor Renovations and Maintenance

The City Gymnasium will be closed for the next two weeks for renovation and maintenance work. It is expected to reopen to the public for volleyball and pickleball on March 15. Basketball is still not permitted at the Gym, per a Prince George's County order.