



COVID-19 UPDATE

Thursday, March 11, 2021

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Today's COVID Brief

At a press conference this morning, County Executive Alsobrooks announced the easing of some COVID restrictions. These changes will go into effect on Friday, March 12, at 5 p.m.

Prince George's County Metrics

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

Key Metrics	Yesterday's stats	Current stats*	Goal
Positivity rate	4.59	4.49	Remain below 3%
Cases per 100K	16.01	15.98	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)
Infection rate	0.92	0.92	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		101,043	11.11%
Second doses		45,847	5.04%
Single doses		5,605	0.62%
Total doses		152,495	

County Executive Alsobrooks Announces Some Easing of COVID Restrictions Here

At a press conference this morning, County Executive Alsobrooks announced some changes to COVID restrictions in place. While these changes do not go as far in reopening as the Governor's orders, they reflect a major step in recovery, based on current conditions in Prince George's County.

- County businesses operating at 25% of capacity can increase to 50% of capacity. This includes restaurants, retail establishments, gyms, houses of worship, and movie theaters.

- Indoor gatherings in homes and other locations not mentioned above are now increased to a maximum of 20 people.
- Outdoor gatherings of up to 50 people are now permitted.
- The county mask order requiring masks whenever you leave home is still in place.
- Handwashing, social distancing, and other health precautions should continue.

These changes will go into effect on Friday, March 12, at 5 p.m. [Read the Executive Order](#)

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health George Askew shared news about the improvements in the County's COVID metrics:

- New cases have trended down to approximately 1,000 per week.
- The average case rate is 16 per 100,000, which is still a high rate, but this is a tremendous improvement over January rates. (On January 8, the rate was 58.8 per 100,000, which was four times as high as the current rate.)
- The positivity rate is now at 4.3% and has remained in the 4% range for the last two weeks.
- The infection rate is under one, which means the virus is finally spreading more slowly.
- For the first time in four months, there are less than 100 COVID hospitalizations in the County.
- The Health Department clinic at the Sport and Learning Center will close temporarily from March 13 – 28 for maintenance but will reopen on March 29. New clinics will open at community centers in Seat Pleasant and Landover.

County officials also reported on progress with vaccinations:

- One third of county residents over the age of 65 have received at least one dose.
- The County Health Department is now administering approximately 14,000 shots per week at its clinics. Only two other local health departments in the state are administering more vaccines per week.
- Last week, over 31,000 Prince George's County residents received vaccinations at a pharmacy, mass vaccination site, health department clinic, or other location.
- County officials are also partnering with retail pharmacies like Wegmans and Walmart to hold closed clinics. The appointments are being scheduled with eligible individuals who are on the County's pre-registration list.

Governor Announces Easing of COVID Restrictions but Will Keep Mask Mandate

Governor Hogan held a press conference on March 9 to report on the state's progress in managing the COVID-19 crisis and to announce the lifting of certain mitigation measures that have been in place for several months.

The Governor announced the following changes **effective Friday, March 12 at 5 p.m.**

- **Capacity limits** will be lifted on outdoor and indoor dining. Restaurants and bars will still be limited to seated and distanced service only.
- **Capacity limits** will also be lifted on retail businesses, religious facilities, fitness centers, personal services, and indoor recreational establishments, (casinos, bingo halls, bowling alley, and skating rinks).
- **Large indoor and outdoor venues** will be permitted to operate at 50% capacity. This includes conference and wedding venues, concert venues, conventions, theaters, racing facilities, and sporting venues, such as Camden Yards and Pimlico.
- **Masking, physical distancing, and other safety protocols will remain** in place for all indoor and outdoor business and establishments.
- **Out of state travel** restrictions and quarantine requirements will also be lifted.
- **The Maryland Department of Health Travel Advisory** will remain in place and will continue to encourage Marylanders to get tested when they return from travel.

- **Medical Adult Daycare Centers** will also reopen if the facilities are able to manage appropriate restrictions and safety measures.
- **Telework should continue.** With contact tracing continuing to show transmission among individuals working in office settings, employers are encouraged to continue supporting telework when possible.

Vaccine supplies are expected to remain at current levels for the next couple of weeks, but then should be more plentiful as production ramps up. State and county officials are working together to bring approximately 10,000 priority appointments per week to Prince George's County residents statewide. Current Maryland COVID case and vaccination data can be found at www.coronavirus.maryland.gov.

Governor Hogan encouraged all jurisdictions to follow his Executive Order but acknowledged that local jurisdictions could choose to keep more restrictive measures in place. He concluded his remarks by saying "the statewide masking order in Maryland remains in full force and effect." He urged continued vigilance: "Let's continue to be smart. We can't afford to undo all the tremendous progress that we have made together."

[View the press conference](#) | [View slides from March 9 press conference](#) | [View press release](#)

Are You Pre-Registered to be Vaccinated?

The Prince George's County pre-registration list is an important tool for all county residents to use in securing vaccinations. No matter what phase you fall in for vaccinations, it's time to get on Prince Georges County's pre-registration list. Not only is the list being used to schedule appointments at health department clinics, it is now being used as well to schedule priority appointments at the state's Six Flags mass vax site, and at some of the closed clinics that retail pharmacies and other community partners are conducting to help get Prince Georgians vaccinated. According to an announcement from the Governor's office, these efforts will bring 10,000 priority appointments per week to county residents. [Pre-registration link](#)

CDC: When You've Been Fully Vaccinated

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [new guidance for people who have been fully vaccinated](#). People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Fully vaccinated people:

- Can visit indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask or keeping their distance.
- Can visit with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks or physical distancing, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Do not need to stay away from others or get tested after exposure to someone with COVID-19 unless they develop symptoms.

The CDC guidance says that everyone, even those fully vaccinated, should:

- Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing
- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings

- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers
- Follow [CDC travel requirements and recommendations](#)

Mass Vaccination Sites Update

The new mass vaccination site in Waldorf is now open. Another will open in Salisbury on March 18 and in Hagerstown by March 25.

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 by texting MDReady to 898-211 to register for Maryland vaccine alerts. You can also check appointment availability at <https://massvax.maryland.gov>.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES

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

Phase 1 Vaccine Appointment Options

Visit the [Maryland Vaccination Locator site](#) for links to the more than 270 vaccination sites in the state. We have also provided direct links to each of the organizations administering vaccinations below. 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.

1. **Prince George’s County Health Department Facilities** – Requires [pre-registration](#). 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](#), [Holy Cross Hospital](#), and [Adventist](#) are offering appointments as supplies permit.
3. **Retail pharmacies**, such as [Giant](#), [Safeway](#), [CVS](#), [Rite Aid](#), [Walgreens](#) and [Walmart](#).
4. **Maryland Mass Vaccination Locations** – [Six Flags](#), [M & T Bank Stadium](#), [Baltimore Convention Center](#), and [Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf](#).
5. **Vaccination clinics at houses of worship and other community locations** – As part of state and county efforts to improve racial disparities in vaccine distribution, vaccinations will also be done at Reid Temple in Glenn Dale and First Baptist Church of Glenarden (at their Upper Marlboro center) and other community based locations. Healthcare partners are providing the medical support at these clinics.)

There are also targeted efforts to vaccinate seniors and other vulnerable populations in their communities with the help of mobile vaccination units.

The [Maryland Vaccination Locator website](#) provides links to each of the vaccination appointment options listed above. At this time, the appointment scheduling process remains decentralized. You must click on a specific vaccination site to determine if they have vaccine appointments available.

(*) *Pre-registration on the Prince George’s County Health Department vaccination website adds you to the waiting list for an appointment at a Prince George’s County Health Department site. It does not pre-register you for appointments at retail pharmacies or at hospital system facilities.*

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.

(Can assist with scheduling an appointment at a state mass vaccination location)

Prince George’s County COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-registration Hotline:

Dial 311 (press # after the call is answered)

This hotline will assist with the pre-registration process for seniors and others without internet access.

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	1,416 (+4)	1,387 (+0)	1,619 (+8)	1,965 (+6)	6,387 (+18)	74,851 (+147)	390,490 (+924)
10-Mar	+2	+5	+0	+3	+10	+133	+900
9-Mar	+3	+3	+3	+2	+11	+119	+631
8-Mar	+1	+2	+5	+5	+13	+125	+716
7-Mar	+5	+3	+8	+7	+23	+162	+709
6-Mar	+6	+6	+1	+1	+14	+171	+932
5-Mar	1,395	1,368	1,594	1,941	6,298	73,994	385,678

7-Day Positivity Rates				
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %
Today	496,290 (+1,112)	4.49%	8,196,766 (+35,780)	3.58%
10-Mar	+1,021	4.59%	+23,412	3.61%
9-Mar	+1,021	4.68%	+16,628	3.40%
8-Mar	+939	4.47%	+23,356	3.36%
7-Mar	+827	4.49%	+33,128	3.36%
6-Mar	+1,270	4.32%	+40,384	3.35%
5-Mar	+1,106	4.24%	+41,728	3.28%

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	15.98	13.53	10-Mar	0.92	0.99
10-Mar	16.01	13.26	9-Mar	0.92	0.99
9-Mar	16.68	12.99	8-Mar	0.92	0.99
8-Mar	16.32	12.60	7-Mar	0.93	0.99
7-Mar	15.82	12.33	6-Mar	0.93	0.98
6-Mar	15.96	12.61	5-Mar	0.93	0.98
5-Mar	15.77	12.39	4-Mar	0.93	0.98
			14-Day Weighted Average	0.93	0.98

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations		
Currently Hospitalized:	788	-1.6%
Acute Care:	579	-1.0%
Intensive Care	209	-3.2%
Ever Hospitalized	35,924	9.1%

Other News

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- 3/15 – City Council meeting, 8 p.m.

Stand Up and Deliver Meals and Groceries

Friday, March 12 at 12:30 PM

- Faith Temple No. 2 Free Will Baptist Church – 211 Maryland Park Drive, Capitol Heights, MD (Groceries)
- First Baptist Church of District Heights – 7234 Lansdale Street, District Heights, MD (Groceries)

- Turner AME Church – 7201 16th Place, Hyattsville, MD (Meals)

Saturday, March 13 (Groceries)

- New Home Baptist Church (10:00 AM) – 8320 Landover Road, Landover, MD
- Kingdom Fellowship at High Point High School (10:00 AM) – 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD
- United Baptist Church (11:30 AM) – 7701 Riverdale Road, New Carrollton, MD

Applications Open for Teen & Young Adult Workforce Development Program

Bowie residents between the ages of 15 and 25, are you looking to learn more about the skills and to get ahead in your career? Apply now for the City of Bowie's 2021 Workforce Development & Life Skills Training Program. This program will cover life skills topics such as effective communication, stress management, and decision-making, as well as highlighting careers in STEM industries such as cyber security, IT, and healthcare.

Applications are open from now until March 19 at www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining. For more information, please contact Kay Starr, program coordinator, at 301-809-3009 or email worktraining@cityofbowie.org.

AVAILABLE TO BOWIE RESIDENTS, AGES 15-25

City of Bowie
Workforce Development & Life Skills Training Program

APPLICATIONS OPEN

from now until March 19, 2021

APPLY NOW!

www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining

Questions? Email workforcetraining@cityofbowie.org

Workforce Development & Job Opportunities

Are you job hunting or working to improve your job skills? This information from the office of County Council Member Danielle Glaros may be of assistance to you:

- [American Job Center Prince George's County](#) lists various resources for employment and services.
- [Career OneStop](#) offers career videos organized in 16 clusters with information including task, work settings, education requirements, and more.
- [Eckerd Connects](#) offers individualized career pathways to increase employability skills.
- Employ Prince George's [Knowledge Equals Youth Success \(KEYS\)](#) is designed to provide young adults 18-24 years old with the necessary tools to become competitive in the workforce. KEYS provides career

pathways, credential attainment, and supportive services to those who may face barriers to employment.

- Employ Prince George's [Industry Bridge Programs](#) are comprehensive workforce programs that align workforce services, adult education, and occupational skills training to meet the workforce needs of specific in-demand industries in the DC area.
- [Joe's Movement CreativeWorks](#) provides vocational training program for those interested in theater production and digital media.
- [LAYC/MMYC AmeriCorps program](#) provides employment opportunities for young people to work as part of the national community service movement. The AmeriCorps program hires, trains, and places Corps members within Prince George's County Public Schools.
- [Maryland Apprenticeship & Training Programs](#) offer sponsor and/or employer developed apprenticeships that combine full-time employment and related instruction.
- [O-net Online](#) is a great resource for career cluster information on education, plans, trainings, wages, and more.
- [Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\)](#) is currently recruiting for both volunteer and career opportunities.