

Friday, March 19, 2021

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Today's COVID Brief

The federal government reports that 65% of the US population aged 65 or older have received at least one shot, and 36% are fully vaccinated. After administering a new one-day record of 57,550 COVID-19 vaccines yesterday, Maryland providers have now administered a total of 2,095,245 doses. According to the CDC, 23.6% of Maryland's population has now received at least one dose.

Prince George's County Metrics

Current vaccination Phase 1C. Description of groups eligible for vaccination now.

Key Metrics	Yesterday's stats	Today's stats*	Goal	
Positivity rate	4.70%	5.01%	Remain below 3%	
Cases per 100K	15.65	16.20	New cases below 5 per 100K (low risk)	
Infection rate	0.94	0.97	Low risk range (<0.9)	
(*) Green represents a decrease in these figures. Red represents an increase. Black signifies no change.			nts an increase. Black signifies no change.	
Vaccines Administered		% of County Population		
First doses	134,694		14.812%	
Second does	55,319		6.084%	
Single doses	8,632		0.949%	
Total doses	198	,645		

Prince George's County has entered Phase 1C for vaccine distribution. Pre-registered individuals who live or work in the County and are eligible in Phase 1C will begin to receive appointments at County Health Department's vaccination clinics.

City of Bowie Museums Re-Open March 26

The City of Bowie Museums will reopen starting March 26. The museums will open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

All visitors will be expected to follow CDC and social distancing guidelines including:

- Submitting to a temperature check and health questionnaire upon entry to each museum.
- Signing a COVID-19 waiver form. (Parents/legal guardians must sign for individuals under the age of 18 and be under adult supervision at all times).
- Wearing a mask at <u>all</u> times in all areas, both inside and outside.
- Abiding by all social distancing guidelines and remaining at least 6 feet apart.

Governor Announces Move to Vaccination Phase 2

Governor Hogan held a press conference on Thursday providing an update on vaccine distribution and a timetable for expanding eligibility for vaccinations.

Federal officials have told states to expect more vaccine supplies by 3/29. In anticipation of those increases, Maryland will move to Phase 2 of its vaccination plan. Effective immediately, any Marylander 60+ can preregister at one of the state's mass vax sites by visiting www.covidvax.maryland.gov or calling 1-855-MD-GOVAX.

Even though the state is moving into Phase 2, all individuals who are currently eligible in Phase 1 but have not yet been vaccinated will continue to be prioritized for appointments at state mass vax sites. Governor Hogan did caution that while supplies will be ramping up, they expect demand to continue outpacing supply for at least the next several weeks.

2A

WHO: Marylanders age 60 and older

WHEN: March 23

2B

WHO: Marylanders age 16 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 illness

WHEN: March 30

2C

WHO: Marylanders age 55 and older, as well as essential

workers in critical industries

WHEN: April 13

3

WHO: All Marylanders age 16 and older

WHEN: April 27

Issued March 18, 2021. Timeline may accelerate depending upon vaccine supply.

Other efforts to expand vaccines and address access and equity issues

• The state is launching a pilot program to provide vaccines to primary care practices throughout Maryland in order to administer vaccines directly to vulnerable populations they serve.

- This pilot program will begin with 37 practices chosen based on their connection to largely African American and Hispanic communities and areas with less geographic access to vax sites.
- The state has established a Community Vax Grant Program to support hospital efforts to engage in community-based vaccination efforts.
- The program will provide \$12 million for community-based vaccination initiatives led by hospitals.
- The Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force will launch mobile clinics in hard-to-reach areas, utilizing mobile units provided by the University of Maryland School of Nursing.
- These units will be deployed and staffed by the Maryland National Guard and will have the capability of administering between 60 and 160 vaccines per mission.

The above information applies to Maryland mass vaccination sites, pharmacies, and hospital systems. We await information from the Prince George's County Health Department as to when the new timetable will be implemented at Health Department locations.

CDC Launches New Website Tracking COVID-19 Variants in U.S.

The CDC launched a new <u>website</u> that identifies new and emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants to determine implications for COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines. There are currently five strains that the CDC classifies as "Variant of Concern" in the U.S. and four of them have been detected in Maryland.

Eligible Health Professionals Needed to Assist with Vaccination Efforts

Over the next few weeks vaccine supplies are expected to increase substantially both locally and across the country. As the volume of vaccines grows, so too will the need for vaccinators and other support personnel.

The federal government is expanding the groups of people eligible to administer to vaccines to include dentists, EMTs, midwives, optometrists, paramedics, physician assistants, podiatrists, respiratory therapists, and veterinarians. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched a web portal to help eligible health professionals sign up to become vaccinators in their state. Newly eligible vaccinators are required to meet certain training requirements before participating.

Non-medical personal can volunteer to help at a clinic. Join the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps to support vaccination clinics across the state. Sign up to volunteer at a vaccination clinic.



C*VID-19 (Coronavirus)

Prince George's County Updated Phase 2 Guidelines

Effective Friday, March 12, 2021 at 5:00 PM





Personal Services (beauty salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors, etc.)

- · 50% of maximum capacity
- · Appointment only



Professional & Collegiate Sporting Events, Concert Venues

· 50% of the venue's maximum occupancy



Recreation Facilities (Indoor)

· 50% maximum capacity



Restaurants

 Indoor and outdoor dining limited to 50% of maximum capacity



Retail

· 50% of maximum capacity



Social & Fraternal Clubs

50% of maximum capacity, depending on activity



Theaters

· 50% of maximum capacity



Youth & Amateur Sports

- Low and medium risk sports allowed in small groups, no more than 22 team members
- Spectators limited to no more than 50 persons

For additional information, please visit: mypgc.us/reopen

Unless otherwise expressed in our Executive Order, indoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of 20 persons. Outdoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of 50 persons.

Maryland has its own pre-registration website for those interested in getting vaccinated at one of the state's mass vaccination sites. Once pre-registered, Marylanders will be notified when an appointment is available, and will be able to verify their pre-registration status and reserve an appointment. Those eligible under the current phase can pre-register online at covidvax.maryland.gov or by calling the state's COVID-19 vaccination support center at 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

The following information is from the Prince George's County COVID vaccination webpage:

"The Prince George's County Health Department offers free COVID-19 vaccines by appointment only. No walk-ups are being accepted at our vaccination clinics. COVID-19 vaccines are free for all individuals who live and work in Prince George's County regardless of insurance coverage or immigration status. Information that patients provide to get vaccinated will NOT be used by the federal, state, or local government for any civil or criminal prosecution or enforcement, including, but not limited to, immigration enforcement. Your information will be private and protected."

The Health Department currently operates five vaccination clinics:

- Cedar Heights Community Center in Seat Pleasant
- Cheverly Health Center in Cheverly
- Kentland Community Center in Landover
- Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center in Laurel
- Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Center in Fort Washington
- Sports and Learning Complex in Landover *temporarily closed 3/13 3/28

Complete the County <u>pre-registration</u> form to secure an appointment at one of these sites when you are eligible. Visit the <u>Maryland Vaccination Locator site</u> for links to more than 300 vaccination sites in the state.

CDC: When You've Been Fully Vaccinated

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released <u>guidance for people who have been fully vaccinated</u>. 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.

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.

Maryland Department of Health Hosting Virtual Town Hall on Vaccines

The Maryland Department of Health is conducting a virtual town hall to encourage all Marylanders to protect themselves, their families and communities by getting vaccinated against COVID-19 when they become eligible. The town hall will offer interactive, live opportunities for Marylanders to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines and Maryland's vaccination plan.

March 30 at 6:30 p.m. – Radio One Town Hall Event access: https://www.facebook.com/MDHealthDept

First Baptist Church of Glenarden Vaccination Clinic Seeks Volunteers

There is a new community vaccination site located at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden. The site is facilitated by a partnership between the Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force and the University of Maryland

(UM) Capital Region Health. This new location is seeking additional medical and nonmedical volunteers. Interested individuals can visit www.fbcglenarden.org/vaccine-volunteer.

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	1,428 (+2)	1,413 (+3)	1,651 (+4)	1,995 (+4)	6,487 (+13)	76,022 (+175)	397,898 (+1,152)
18-Mar	+2	+3	+3	+5	+13	+128	+1,113
17-Mar	+2	+4	+3	+2	+11	+178	+917
16-Mar	+0	+3	+5	+5	+13	+114	+658
15-Mar	+0	+1	+1	+2	+4	+102	+617
14-Mar	+3	+3	+7	+7	+20	+145	+860
13-Mar	1,419	1,396	1,628	1,970	6,413	75,180	392,581

7-Day Positivity Rates					
	County Tests Completed	County %	State Tests Completed	State %	
Today	504,597 (+1,139)	5.01%	8,433,019 (+38,700)	4.61%	
18-Mar	+1,067	4.70%	+32,867	4.07%	
17-Mar	+1,294	4.65%	+24,615	3.96%	
16-Mar	+675	4.49%	+12,199	3.96%	
15-Mar	+681	4.50%	+15,358	3.85%	
14-Mar	+1,048	4.25%	+36,653	3.73%	
13-Mar	+1,268	4.46%	+36,423	3.72%	

Cases per 100K Persons			Infection Rates		
	County Cases per 100K	State Cases per 100K		County Infection Rate	State Infection Rate
Today	16.20	15.17	17-Mar	0.97	1.03
Today	10.20	13.17	16-Mar	0.97	1.03
18-Mar	15.65	14.78	15-Mar	0.97	1.03
17-Mar	15.95	14.34	14-Mar	0.97	1.03
16-Mar	15.24	14.30	13-Mar	0.96	1.03
			12-Mar	0.96	1.03
15-Mar	15.32	14.23	11-Mar	0.96	1.03
14-Mar	15.68	14.47	14 Day 14/aiabtad		70
13-Mar	15.95	14.11	14-Day Weighted Average	0.96	1.02

Maryland Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations					
Currently Hospitalized:	816	2.2%			
Acute Care:	598	4.0%			
Intensive Care	218	-2.2%			
Ever Hospitalized	36,579	9.1%			

Other News



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 26 at www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining. For more information, please contact Kay Starr, program coordinator, at 301-809-3009 or email worktraining@cityofbowie.org.

Senior Grab & Go Meal Giveaway

County Council Member Todd Turner will partner with the City of Bowie to host a "Senior Grab & Go" Meal Giveaway for residents (age 60+) on March 26, 2021. Hours are 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Bowie Senior Center, located at 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie.

To be eligible for the giveaway, you must first <u>register</u> by **today, March 19.** Registration can also be taken by phone by calling Evelyn Archie in Council Member Turner's Office at 240-619-9775.

Stand Up and Deliver Meals and Groceries



Saturday, March 20 at 10 a.m. (Groceries/Meals)

- Ebenezer Church of God 7550 Landover Hills, MD 20784
- First Baptist Church of Highland Park 6801 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785

Dine Prince George's

For the next several weeks, the Prince George's Economic Development Corporation will promote local restaurants through a restaurant contest. <u>Vote for your favorite restaurant</u>. Winners will be announced weekly and will receive cash prizes. Each week's voting opens on Monday and ends on Friday afternoon. Vote early and often!

