



COVID-19 UPDATE

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

COVID-19 Information in Today's Update

- [COVID Brief](#)
- [State and Local COVID-19 Data](#)
- [Prince George's Vaccination Data](#)
- [City of Bowie Reopenings](#)
- [County Reopening Updates](#)
- [Mask Mandate Comparison](#)
- [How to Get Vaccinated](#)
- [Vaccine News](#)

Other News

- Bowie Field of Honor
- Police Warn of Kidnapping Scam
- SHA Wants Your Feedback
- Meeting: Temporary Closure of Church Rd
- Expired MVA Products Must be Renewed
- Broadband Benefit Program Aid
- IRS Child Tax Credit

COVID Brief

The state positivity rate continues to decline, going from a low of 2.50% yesterday, to 2.23% today. The county positivity rate also decreased from 3.19% yesterday to 3.10% today. Bowie cases remain in the single digits for the eleventh day in a row, levels which have not been seen since last year.

State and Local COVID-19 Data

	Maryland	PG County	Bowie
Cases	456,428 (+212)	84,497 (+37)	Cases: 7,325 (+2)
Deaths	8,945 (+13)	1,458 (+1)	
Positivity Rate	2.23%	3.10%	20715: 1,611 (+0)
Case Rate Per 100K	6.21	8.01	20716: 1,601 (+0)
Currently Hospitalized	596 (-2.7%)	NA	20720: 1,864 (+1)
Total Hospitalized	42,721	8,607 (+18)	20721: 2,249 (+1)
Vaccine Progress	Maryland	PG County	
1st of 2 Dose Received	3,011,639 (49.82% pop.)	362,248 (39.84% pop.)	
2nd of 2 Dose Received	2,375,714 (39.3% pop.)	279,979 (30.79% pop.)	
Single Dose	215,992 (3.57%)	22,117 (2.43% pop.)	

For more detailed data visit The CDC [COVID tracker](#), the Maryland [COVID dashboard](#), and the Prince George's County Health Department [COVID dashboard](#).

Prince George's County Vaccination Data as Reported by the CDC

The CDC is now reporting vaccination data by county, which allows for county level comparisons across the US. The data is broken down differently than vaccination rates on the covidvax.maryland.gov website in that the CDC data presents percentage of the **eligible** population, rather than percentage of **total population** as the Maryland site uses.

Prince George's County Fully Vaccinated Residents (as of 5/18, 3 p.m.)	
Total #	340,432

% of Total Population	37.4%
# of Age 12+	340,421
% of Age 12+ Population	44.1%
# of Age 18+	336,502
% of Age 18+ Population	47.5%
# of Age 65+	92,052
% of Age 65+ Population	72.9%

Source: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

City of Bowie Reopenings

The City of Bowie is implementing the following changes, as a result of Prince George’s County lifting all capacity and social distancing restrictions on May 17.

- Full practices and competitions can resume on city fields and at the Bowie Gymnasium.
- Outdoor basketball hoops have returned to city parks.
- Picnic areas at Allen Pond and Whitmarsh Park can once again be booked to their full capacity.
- Temperature taking, health screening questions, waivers and masks are still required for inside venues.

City Hall will remain closed, however, the service windows in the Lobby will be open for animal control, code enforcement, rental licenses, and water bill payments. The police department lobby will also be open for obtaining police reports, paying speed cameras, and conducting other police department business. Planning is currently underway to partially reopen the Bowie Senior Center by June 1.

Prince George’s County Reopening Updates – Masks Still Required Indoors

Effective Monday 17 at 5:01 p.m., Prince George’s County aligned with the State of Maryland and lifted capacity and distancing restrictions for all indoor and outdoor venues. [County Order](#)

- All indoor and outdoor venues in Prince George’s County may resume normal operations.
- **Face masks are still required for all indoor venues, while on public transportation, and at crowded outdoor venues including concert venues and ticketed sporting events**
- The County will consider future changes to mask requirements based on key COVID-19 metrics and vaccination rates among County residents.

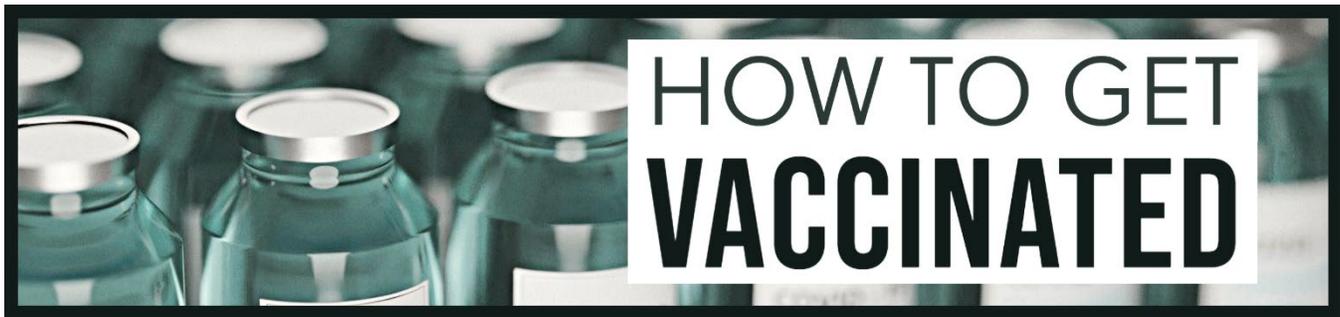
The graphic features logos for Prince George's County, the Health Department, and 'Proud to be Protected'. The main text reads: 'Prince George's County Phase 3 Reopening. New guidelines take effect Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:01 PM'. A list of guidelines is provided, including that all venues may resume normal operations, but face coverings are still required in indoor venues, on public transportation, and at crowded outdoor venues. It also notes that the county will consider future changes to mask requirements based on COVID-19 metrics and vaccination rates, and encourages unvaccinated residents to get vaccinated at mypgc.us/ProudtobeProtected. A final note states that if metrics turn negative, restrictions will be reinstated. The bottom of the graphic says: 'For additional information, please visit: mypgc.us/reopen'.

Comparison of Current Mask Directives

With key metrics declining across the US and locally, last week government officials took major steps toward a return to normalcy. They eased capacity restrictions and other social distancing requirements and, in some cases, eased the mask wearing directives. The relevant changes are summarized below.

Despite the progress being made and the easing of restrictions, leaders at all levels of government, continue to stress the importance of vaccinations in controlling future spread of COVID-19. They urge all eligible persons who are not yet been vaccinated, to do so as soon as possible.

Changes to Mask Directives		
CDC Recommendations	Maryland Orders	Prince George's County Orders
<p>Masks no longer recommended for fully vaccinated individuals except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on public transportation And where required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules, and regulations and local business and workplace guidance. on all planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation and in transportation hubs such as airports and stations. <p>Unvaccinated people should still wear masks and take all precautions including staying 6 feet apart from others outside your household, avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, and getting vaccinated as soon as possible. <i>(eff. 5/13/21)</i></p> <p>The CDC recommends schools in the US continue to use masks for the upcoming school year, implement layered prevention strategies, and prioritize universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.</p>	<p>Masks required only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on public transportation in schools and daycares in healthcare settings <p>Strongly recommended for unvaccinated persons.</p> <p>Businesses and workplaces across the state are free to set their own more restrictive mask policies. <i>(eff. 5/15/21)</i></p> <p>Capacity limits and social distancing restrictions lifted. <i>(eff. 5/15/21)</i></p> <p>Press Release Executive Order</p>	<p>Masks required for all indoor venues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> retail establishments restaurants businesses houses of worship theaters, gyms, etc. <p>Also required on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public transportation crowded outdoor venues, such as concert venues and ticketed sporting events <p><i>(eff. 5/17/21, 5:01 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Capacity limits and social distancing restrictions lifted <i>(eff. 5/17/21)</i></p> <p>Press Release Executive Order</p>



City of Bowie	
Who:	Open to all age 12+ *
What:	First & second dose vaccinations (Pfizer)
When:	Clinic days: Sundays & Wednesdays
Where:	Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive
How:	<p>Appointments: Call 301-262-6200 or sign up at www.cityofbowie.org/vax</p> <p>Walk-ins: Follow @CityofBowie on Facebook or Twitter for availability or sign up for Alert Bowie at http://www.cityofbowie.org/alerts</p>
Prince George's County Health Department	
Who:	Open to all age 16+. Will be changing to include 12-15 year olds at sites offering Pfizer*
What:	First & second dose vaccinations (Pfizer, Moderna, & Johnson & Johnson)
When:	Dates/times vary
Where:	Health Department clinics in Landover, Oxon Hill & Laurel
How:	<p>Appointments: Schedule at http://mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine or call 3-1-1</p> <p>Walk-ins: None</p>
Other options:	The County is deploying mobile vax units and hosting no appointment pop up events. Pharmacies and hospitals in the county are also offering vaccinations. Use the Prince George's County Vaccine Locator tool to find a location near you.
State of Maryland	
Who:	Open to all age 12+ *
What:	First & second dose vaccinations (Most state sites offer Pfizer vaccines)
When:	Dates/times vary
Where:	13 MD mass vax sites. Nearest sites to Bowie are Six Flags (Bowie), Navy Stadium (Annapolis), & Greenbelt Metro
How:	<p>Appointments: Schedule at covidvax.maryland.gov or call 1-855-634-6829</p> <p>Drive-ups (no appointment needed): <i>Six Flags, Regency Stadium (Waldorf), & Ripken Stadium (Aberdeen)</i></p> <p>Walk-ins: Available at other mass vax sites Drive-up and walk-in hours vary by site. Check before going. Greenbelt Metro - Johnson & Johnson (18+) & Pfizer second doses. (Set to close June 1) All other mass vax sites offering Pfizer vaccines.</p>
Other options:	Pharmacies and healthcare providers are also offering vaccinations throughout MD. Visit covidvax.maryland.gov for locations.

(*) Pfizer is the only vaccine authorized for teens ages 12-17.

New research carried out by U.S. scientists revealed that the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines should remain effective against two coronavirus variants first identified in India.

Other News

Bowie Field of Honor

Between May 28 and June 6, Sussex Lane Park will be transformed into a Field of Honor, featuring a display of US flags flying in solemn formation. The park will be filled with flags dedicated in honor of veterans, active military, workers that have kept us safe during the pandemic, other helpers, and loved ones lost.

Through a partnership with the Colonial Flag Foundation, anyone can participate in the tribute. Visit the [Field of Honor webpage](#) on the city website to order a flag for \$30 and dedicate it to a person or group of your choice. (Purchase deadline is May 26.) Purchased flags can be picked up at City Hall after the display concludes. For more information, contact Matt Corley, Special Events Manager at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Sussex Lane Park is located across from Bowie High School, in the open area between Sussex Lane and Annapolis Road, located across from Bowie High School.

Police Warn of Kidnapping Scam

The Prince George's County Police Department is warning county residents about a kidnapping scam. Scammers call their victims and indicate a loved one has been kidnapped and demand a ransom for their safe return.

In the past month, they have received six reports of this scam. In some cases, the victim has paid the ransom. The ransoms are usually more than \$1,000. Ransom payments are to be wired internationally. In five of the reported cases, the scammer has spoken Spanish and has targeted Spanish-speaking victims. The department believes there are likely additional victims who have not yet reported the incident to police.

It appears the scammers are learning personal information about a victim on social media - for example, whether they have children. During the scam call, the suspect will often give specific information about a loved one to include a nickname or clothing the alleged victim owns.

If you have received a call like this or have been a victim of this scam, please report it to the Police Department.

The State Highway Administration Wants Feedback on Pedestrian Safety Issues

The Maryland State Highway Administration is working on its Pedestrian Action Safety Plan. The SHA is asking residents to identify areas where there are pedestrian safety issues. If you have a concern about a particular location or segment of state road that has pedestrian safety issues, you can use their online map to pinpoint the location and offer feedback to the SHA. [Share your thoughts here.](#)

Virtual Meeting on Temporary Closure of Church Road

Prince George's County plans to close a section of Church Road from Mary Bowie Parkway to Dormansville Boulevard from June 2021 through December 2021 to complete needed repairs and enhancements to the roadway and supporting infrastructure.

A virtual public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m. to discuss the plans for the closure and detour. Join the virtual meeting [online](#) or by phone at 301-715-8592. The Meeting ID is 921 2729 2629, and the password is 032971. Questions? Contact Elizabeth F. Miller at 301-883-5642.

Expired MVA Products Must be Renewed

The Executive Order that has covered all expired driver's and business licenses, identification cards, permits (including disability parking permits) is expiring. The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration [announced](#) that customers with expired MDOT MVA products from March 12, 2020 must take care of these transactions by the dates below:

- Expired vehicle registrations, business licenses, disability parking permits, and other vehicle-related products must be renewed by June 30, 2021.
- Expired driver's license, CDL, and identification cards must be renewed by August 15, 2021.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Offers Aid to Eligible Households

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an online or mail in application. Learn more about eligibility and enrollment information at www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit or by calling 833-511-0311.

IRS Child Tax Credit

The IRS and the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that the first monthly payment of the expanded and newly-advanceable Child Tax Credit from the American Rescue Plan will be made on July 15. Roughly 39 million households, covering 88% of children in the U.S. are estimated to be eligible to begin receiving monthly payments without any further action required.

Payments will be made on the 15th of each month unless it falls on a weekend or holiday. Eligible families will receive a payment of up to \$300 per month for each child under the age six and up to \$250 per month for each child age six and above.



Grab & Go Meals

Prince George's County will be distributing meals to go at the following locations. Meals will be distributed Friday, while supplies last. One (1) box per car. Please remain in your car.

~ Friday, May 21 Locations ~
Time: 12:30pm



Seat Pleasant Elementary School
6411 G Street
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743



Faith Temple No. 2 Free Will Baptist Church
211 Maryland Park Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

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Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive