

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PREPARES FOR POTENTIAL SURGE OF  
POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES**

**LANDOVER, MD** – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that Prince George's County is executing its surge plan to prepare for a potential surge of positive COVID-19 cases in the County. This plan will create additional capacity for the County's healthcare system to care for individuals who need treatment for COVID-19.

"We know the hospital surge is on the horizon, and we are doing everything in our power to prepare and create additional capacity in our healthcare system," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "While we are preparing for the worst-case scenario, I want Prince Georgians to know that we have the power to flatten the curve by following the Governor's stay-at-home order and practicing social distancing when outside for essential trips."

Currently, the County has triage tents at Medstar Southern Maryland, Doctor's Hospital and the University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center. Sprung tents have been requested from the State of Maryland, which will be placed in the southern, central and northern parts of the County. These tents are smaller sites that will help the County care for individuals who need treatment for COVID-19.

The County is also preparing the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover as a potential large alternative care site. Governor Hogan has already sent the Corps of Engineers to this site to assess its feasibility. In addition, Prince George's County has asked the State for additional beds, PPE, ventilators and other critical supplies due to the large number of individuals the County is already caring for who are suffering from the virus.

Prince George's County has set aside a quarantine facility for first responders, ensuring that any who are potentially exposed to COVID-19 or test positive do not have to risk spreading the virus to their families. The County is also cross training public safety employees, which will allow

employees from one public safety agency to fill in for another in the event there becomes a shortage of personnel in an agency due to COVID-19 exposure.

All of these preparations are in addition to the FedExField screening site that opened last week. This site provides a critical resource for those residents without health insurance to get screened and tested if they are exhibiting symptoms, in addition to residents who have already received a prescription for testing from their primary care doctor. More than 350 people have been tested at the screening site so far. All individuals seeking care at the site must first call the County COVID-19 Hotline at 301-883-6627, to make an appointment.

The County has at least 1,464 positive cases and 33 deaths. Of those positive cases, individuals between 50 and 59 years of age lead the County in the number of positive cases, followed by individuals between 30 and 39, and third are those between 40 and 49. Of the County's more than 14-hundred cases, 325 people are hospitalized. Of the hospitalized individuals the County has demographic information for, 78% are Black, 9% are Latino, 6% are White and 7% are listed as other, which includes a small number of individuals who are Asian and American Indian.

The County Executive also announced a new donation program to assist our first responders, healthcare workers and residents in need. The County's Office of Emergency Management is collecting donations of personal protective equipment like gloves and masks for first responders and healthcare workers. The County's Office of Community Relations is collecting donations of non-perishable food items, paper products, baby items and other supplies to assist families in need. Any residents or businesses who would like to donate these items can fill out a donation form online at [mypgc.us/donatecovid19](http://mypgc.us/donatecovid19).

Due to new guidelines from the CDC, the County Executive stressed the importance of residents wearing face coverings any time they travel outside for essential activities or for exercise. This can be done with a number of things residents might already have at home, including disposable masks, scarves and bandanas. Wearing a face covering will be critical in preventing the spread of this virus, especially in areas where it is hard to maintain social distancing, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

Finally, the County Executive stressed the importance of taking care of your mental health. Any resident who is experiencing signs of depression, anxiety or substance misuse, or has a loved one experiencing these signs, is strongly encouraged to seek help. Residents can call 211 and dial option 1, which will direct them to the Maryland crisis hotline. They can also text HOME to 741741 to get support via text message.

For the latest updates on County Government operations and for COVID-19 resources, please visit [mypgc.us](http://mypgc.us).

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