



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND JOINT INFORMATION CENTER COVID-19



News Release

Media Contact: Rissah Watkins
Frederick County Health Department
JIC@FrederickCountyMD.Gov
301-600-7662 • TTY Use Maryland Relay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Frederick County Agency Updates for May 22, 2020

Frederick, MD – May 22, 2020

Health Department:

The Health Department is now reporting that 1653 (+28 in 24hrs) residents have tested positive for COVID-19, 100 (+4 in 24hrs*) people have died, and 943 (+20 in 24hrs) people have been released from isolation. For more statistics, please visit <http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/COVIDstats>.

*Change in deaths in the last 24 hours does not mean that the deaths occurred in the last 24 hours, and some reports of deaths may be delayed.

Frequently Asked Question:

Should I get an antibody test? If it is positive, does it mean I am immune to COVID-19?

Antibody tests look to see if there is evidence of an immune response to the COVID-19 virus in a person's blood. Antibody tests of varying quality are being marketed worldwide as a "test for immunity to COVID-19" and people are interested because they think it will give them "peace of mind." Some of these tests are marketed for home use and others are for healthcare providers on patients and then send to a lab for results. In the U.S., the FDA tests and approves antibody tests to make sure they are sensitive and accurate in detecting COVID-19 antibodies, and don't result in too many false positives or negatives.

-more-



Page 2/JIC

A positive test result – a test which shows that antibodies are present – does not mean that a person will be immune to COVID-19 for many reasons:

- It is unknown how long COVID-19 antibodies last in the body – a positive test could indicate an early infection or a more recent one.
- Depending on the quality of the test, a positive result could be from another type of coronavirus - not specifically COVID-19.
- It is unknown if the existence of COVID-19 antibodies means a person is immune to COVID-19 – there are cases worldwide of people getting infected more than once.

Because so much is unknown about COVID-19, antibody tests are not recommended to diagnose COVID-19, and most people do not need an antibody test at this time. If you believe you may have COVID-19, it is best to get tested with a viral test. [Frederick Health Hospital offers Curbside testing](#), as well as healthcare providers and other locations in Frederick County.

For everyone, it is recommended to wash hands, practice physical distancing, and wear a face covering when around others.

For more information about antibody testing, visit: [CDC Test for Past Infection](#).

Elections:

Frederick County Voters Can Use Ballot Drop Boxes for June 2, 2020 Presidential Primary Election

Voters in Frederick County now have another option to return their ballots to the Board of Elections for the June 2, 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

Rather than make a trip to the post office, a voter can return their voted ballot at secure drop boxes at three (3) County locations from May 21, 2020 through June 2, 2020. **Ballots may be placed in the drop boxes anytime from May 21, 2020 until 8:00 pm on June 2, 2020, when voting ends.** The three drop box locations are listed below.

Frederick County Board of Elections
340A Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702

William R. Talley Recreation Center
121 N. Bentz St, Frederick, MD 21701

Urbana Regional Library
9020 Amelung Street, Frederick, MD 21704

-more-



Page 3/JIC

JIC:

Guidance from Governor's Workgroup of Faith Based Leaders

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives convened a workgroup of faith-based leaders across the state representing a broad array of faiths and denominations to discuss the Governor's vision for reopening the economy based on the criteria outlined in his plan, "Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery." The Indoor Worship Executive Orders and Associated Guidance document can be found at <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/326171/INDOOR-WORSHIP>.

For more information:

Frederick County residents can call 866-411-6803 to reach our local 211 center with general questions about coronavirus or COVID19.

Accurate COVID-19 information is critical to the community. For the most current and accurate information about this situation, please refer to the following:

- City of Frederick: [//cityoffrederickmd.gov/covid19](https://cityoffrederickmd.gov/covid19)
- Frederick County Government: www.frederickcountymd.gov/Coronavirus
- Frederick County Health Department: health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus
- Maryland Department of Health (MDH): coronavirus.maryland.gov
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): coronavirus.gov

###