



Public Health  
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Frederick County Health Department

# FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND JOINT INFORMATION CENTER COVID-19



## News Release

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301-600-7662 • TTY Use Maryland Relay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### Frederick County Agency Updates for August 6, 2020

Frederick, MD – August 6, 2020

#### Frederick County Health Department:



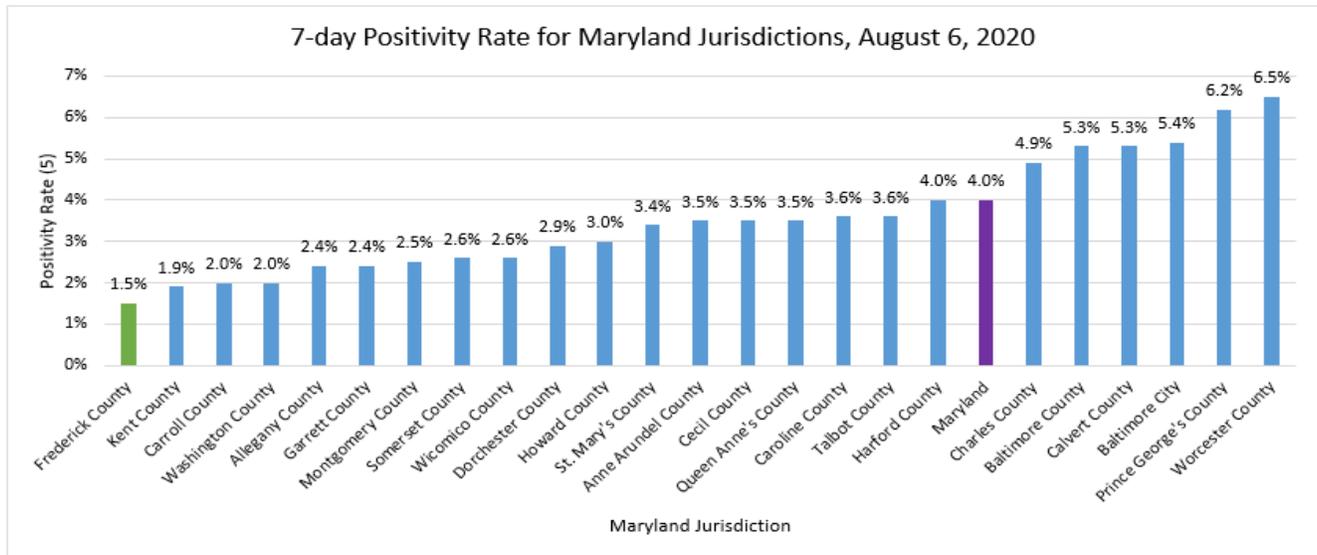
Please check our dashboard for daily statistics: <http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/COVIDstats>.

#### *Statistics:*

The positivity rate is one of the metrics we’re watching in Frederick County and Maryland. It helps us know if we’re doing enough testing to find cases. The positivity rate is calculated by dividing the number of positive tests by the total number of tests. In the beginning of the pandemic when testing was limited to people who were sick, our positivity rate was high. As testing expanded both by number of testing sites and as more people were able to be tested, our positivity rate has decreased. One way to think about it is like a fishing net. Our net has gotten bigger as we’re testing and “catching” more positive cases in our community. We want a big net to make sure we’re “catching” all the cases, so we’re making sure testing is available for anyone who needs it.

Today’s statistics from the Maryland Department of Health’s [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) show that the Frederick County 7 day average positivity rate is 1.5%, *the lowest in Maryland*.

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We want to continue seeing a low positivity rate. Ideally, we want to see our overall testing volume to stay high, (which means that people are getting tested when they need to), and the positivity rate to stay low, (which means there aren't very many cases in our community). In order to achieve that goal, everyone needs to continue to avoid large gatherings, wear face coverings when around people outside your household (and limit those interactions!), stay 6+ feet away from others, and wash your hands well to reduce the spread of the virus in our community. Your efforts are making a difference!

### Frequently Asked Question

Question: How do I know if a contact tracer is real or a scam?

Answer: There are local reports of scam calls from people claiming to be contact tracers, but ultimately they ask for credit card information. **A contact investigator will never ask you for your social security number, financial or bank account information, or personal details unrelated to COVID-19.** They will not ask for photographs or videos of any kind. They will not ask for your passwords. They will not ask for money or payment. They will ask for verification of your date of birth, address, and any other phone numbers you may have. **Please answer and/or return any calls from "MD COVID" and provide them with accurate information.**

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### *Upcoming Testing Clinics*

Upcoming testing clinics include:

- Thursdays in Frederick at the Rescue Mission, 419 West South Street, 2pm-4pm.
- Thursdays in Brunswick at Railroad Square from 5-7pm.
- Friday, August 7 in Thurmont at the Municipal Building parking lot, 615 E. Main Street, 5-7pm.
- Saturdays at 101 West All Saints Street in Frederick (parking lot of the Asbury United Methodist Church) from 1-3pm
- **NEW! Saturday, August 8 – Hillcrest Golden Mile/Rt 40 in Frederick at Rockledge Plaza, 1100 W. Patrick Street, Unit H (above Masters Pharmacy), 8am-8pm. This site will be open 7 days a week.**
- Mondays and Thursdays in Frederick at the Rescue Mission, 419 West South Street, 12pm-1:30pm  
Mondays, 2-4 Thursdays.
- Tuesday, August 11 at the Seton Center, 226 Lincoln Ave, 12pm-2pm.

Plan ahead (these clinics happen every other week):

- Next clinic in Thurmont will be August 21 at the Municipal Building parking lot, 615 E. Main Street, 5pm-7pm.
- Next clinic in Emmitsburg will be August 25 at the Seton Center, 226 Lincoln Ave, 12pm-2pm.

The Frederick County Health Department testing clinics are open to the public with no appointment. Face coverings and physical distancing are required, but no documentation, insurance, or doctor's order is needed. Testing is FREE and you don't have to be sick to be tested. These clinics use diagnostic (not antibody) tests.

These clinics are low/no barrier clinics aimed to meet the needs of community members who face challenges such as lacking health insurance, a primary care provider, or reliable transportation. Registration is not required so that the walk-up clinics remain as accessible as possible. Spanish interpreters are on-site. Frederick Health Hospital curbside testing also does not have registration requirements, but a vehicle is required.

For current testing locations in Frederick County and more information, please visit <https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus> and check out the calendar for dates and times.

### **Frederick County Public Schools:**

Following their decision last week to go forward with the Full Virtual Learning Model the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year, with virtual instruction starting for students on Monday, August 31, the Board decided that students will participate in virtual instruction on Fair Day Friday, September 25 and Election Day Tuesday, November 3. For details, see the [Find Out First post](#).

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**Maryland Insurance Administration:**

A press release was issued Wednesday by the Maryland Insurance Administration to announce that individual health insurance plans cannot be cancelled for nonpayment of premiums for the next 60 days. Here is the first part of that release:

On behalf of the Hogan Administration, Maryland Insurance Commissioner Kathleen A. Birrane has used her emergency powers to prevent health insurance companies from cancelling or refusing to renew individual health benefit plan policies for nonpayment of premiums for the next sixty days.

Individual health benefit plan policies that were scheduled to terminate because of unpaid premiums on or after July 31, 2020, will remain in effect through September 30, 2020.

Full press release:

<https://insurance.maryland.gov/Pages/newscenter/NewsDetails.aspx?NR=2020285>

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

**###**

## COVID-19 & CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is the process of identifying people who may have come into contact with an individual with an infectious disease. Maryland currently has more than 1,350 contact tracers.



### WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS WILL A CONTACT TRACER NEVER ASK?

- A contact tracer will never ask you for your social security number, financial or bank account information, or personal details unrelated to COVID-19.
- They will not ask for photographs or videos of any kind.
- They will not ask for your passwords.
- They will not ask for money or payment.

**CONTACT TRACERS WILL ASK FOR VERIFICATION OF YOUR DATE OF BIRTH, ADDRESS, AND ANY OTHER PHONE NUMBERS YOU MAY HAVE.**



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