



# INSIDENOVA

## PRINCE WILLIAM

\$1 OCTOBER 22-28, 2020

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### COVID-19 IN PRINCE WILLIAM

All numbers through Wednesday, Oct. 21, and show changes since Oct. 14

**16,387 (+450)**  
Total confirmed and probable cases  
» Prince William: 13,735 (+424)  
» Manassas: 2,018 (+20)  
» Manassas Park: 634 (+6)  
» Statewide: 168,772 (+7,162)

**257 (+8)**  
Deaths  
» Prince William: 222 (+6)  
» Manassas: 27 (+2)  
» Manassas Park: 8 (0)  
» Statewide: 3,515 (+134)

**6.0%**  
(up from 5.5%)  
Average test positivity rate\*  
» Statewide: 4.9%

**140,822 (+5,911)**  
Tests conducted\*  
» Statewide: 2.43 million

**24 (+2)**  
Outbreaks\*  
» 17 long-term care facilities  
» 5 congregate settings  
» 1 child care setting  
» 1 correctional setting  
» 586 outbreak associated cases (+13)  
» 816 cases in healthcare workers (+31)  
» Statewide: 1,188 outbreaks (+51)

 For daily updates, visit InsideNoVa.com and sign up for our email newsletters and breaking news alerts.

SOURCE: Virginia Department of Health.

\* - Outbreaks and diagnostic test data are reported for the Prince William Health District, which consists of the county and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. An outbreak is defined as two or more cases in one setting.

# Testing Times



About 70 people were tested for COVID-19 during a free event offered by Prince William County on Oct. 16 at the Woodbridge Senior Center. Similar numbers were seen across the county at SplashDown Waterpark, but that is much less than the number of tests conducted at free events earlier in the pandemic.

PAUL LARA | FOR INSIDENOVA

## As COVID-19 cases rise, so does 'pandemic fatigue'

» BY JARED FORETEK  
jforetek@insidenova.com

As new cases of COVID-19 increase in Prince William County and across Northern Virginia, experts are expressing concern about the winter and the onset of "pandemic fatigue."

According to updated Virginia Department of Health data released Monday, Northern Virginia is back up to a "moderate" level of community transmission for the virus that causes COVID-19.

In addition, the Prince William Health District - which encompasses the county as well as the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park - has the highest test positivity rate in the region at 6% as of Wednesday.

Other indicators of the virus' spread, such as hospitalizations and ventilator usage, are down from highs in the spring. In its most recent weekly report, the University of Virginia's COVID-19 model showed the Prince William district in the "slow growth" category, below "in surge" but above "plateau."

 **Return to school plans updated**  
Prince William County Schools Superintendent Steve Walts prepared a plan to present to the School Board on Wednesday night that shows middle-school and high school students returning to in-person learning in a hybrid format in late January and early February.  
» For the details and other updates from the board meeting, visit InsideNoVa.com.

In all three variations of its model, the report predicts an increase in weekly confirmed cases statewide from now through the end of the year but expects that no region in Virginia will exceed its hospital capacity.

Amira Roess, a global health and epidemiology professor at George Mason University, said she's seeing "pandemic fatigue" and a growing aversion to being tested. At the same time, she said, a fall and winter surge in cases is almost inevitable.

"As we move into the colder months we will likely see a surge in cases and an increase in demand for testing. This may lead to shortages

COVID » PAGE 10

## Baseball league, city to discuss plans for fields

### Current Manassas site eyed for redevelopment

» BY JARED FORETEK  
jforetek@insidenova.com

The Greater Manassas Baseball League is raising concerns about the future of youth baseball in the city as its current fields are eyed for redevelopment, but officials say there's no need to worry.

The league and the city both acknowledge that eventually the league will probably have to move from the six fields it uses at the city-owned E.G. Smith Complex, and the city has scheduled a work session next month to discuss alternatives.

But despite assurances that any sale of the land would come with a plan to relocate the league, known as GMBL, some are worried that the city's commitment to its future is waning.

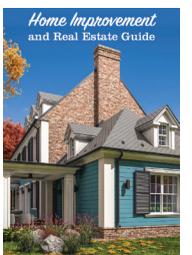
  
**INSIDE: See an aerial photo of the site, Page 5.**

Donald Hollar, a member of the league's board of directors, said people connected to the league have recently been hearing "rumors" that replacement baseball fields are not a sure thing in the event that the E.G. Smith complex, at Route 28 and Godwin Drive, is bought and redeveloped. The fields are next to the Micron Technology Inc. plant, which is undergoing a \$3 billion expansion.

GMBL » PAGE 5

### » INSIDE THIS WEEK

» **Fall Home Improvement and Real Estate Guide** (special pullout): Tips for upgrading your home and a look at some of the most expensive houses that sold recently in Prince William.  
» **NOVA Jobs (Pages 19-21):** Looking for work? These companies are hiring.



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## PRINCE WILLIAM

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OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 4, 2020

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### COVID-19 IN PRINCE WILLIAM

All numbers through Wednesday, Oct. 28, and show changes since Oct. 21

**16,928 (+541)**  
Total confirmed and probable cases

- » Prince William: 14,235 (+500)
- » Manassas: 2,045 (+27)
- » Manassas Park: 648 (+14)
- » Statewide: 176,754 (+7,982)

**258 (+1)**  
Deaths

- » Prince William: 223 (+1)
- » Manassas: 27 (0)
- » Manassas Park: 8 (0)
- » Statewide: 3,616 (+101)

**6.4%**  
(up from 6.0%)  
Average test positivity rate\*

- » Statewide: 5.1%

**146,784 (+5,962)**  
Tests conducted\*

- » Statewide: 2.56 million

**26 (+2)**  
Outbreaks\*

- » 17 long-term care facilities
- » 7 congregate settings
- » 1 child care setting
- » 1 correctional setting
- » 630 outbreak associated cases (+44)
- » 837 cases in healthcare workers (+21)
- » Statewide: 1,266 outbreaks (+78)

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SOURCE: Virginia Department of Health. \*— Outbreaks and diagnostic test data are reported for the Prince William Health District, which consists of the county and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. An outbreak is defined as two or more cases in one setting.

# Decision Time

## Trump trails in polls but ahead of Biden in local fundraising

» BY JARED FORETEK AND KARI PUGH  
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If recent elections are a guide, President Donald Trump will have a tough time winning the vote in Prince William County on Tuesday, but he has received more campaign contributions from county residents than has his opponent.

Based on fundraising data compiled by the Virginia Public Access Project, Trump has raised about \$30,000 more than Democrat Joe Biden this election cycle in Prince William and has about 300 more individual donors.

Trump's biggest fundraising hauls have come from the western part of the county, with almost \$80,000 from 287 donors in the Gainesville and Haymarket Zip codes.

In 2016, Trump won the majority of precincts in the county's western half, other than the areas immediately surrounding Manassas and Manassas Park.



Voters at the DMV office on Caton Hill Road in Woodbridge are greeted with numerous signs supporting both political parties. PAUL LARA | FOR INSIDENOVA

But Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton cleaned up in the eastern part of the county, winning big margins in Woodbridge, Dale City and Neabsco. She wound up carrying the county by a comfortable margin, 58% to 37%,

outpacing her 5.4 percentage point margin in the entire state. Her win continued a trend that began in 2008 of Prince William, as well as the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, becoming more and more Democratic in presidential elections.

J. Miles Coleman, media coordinator for the University of Virginia Cen-

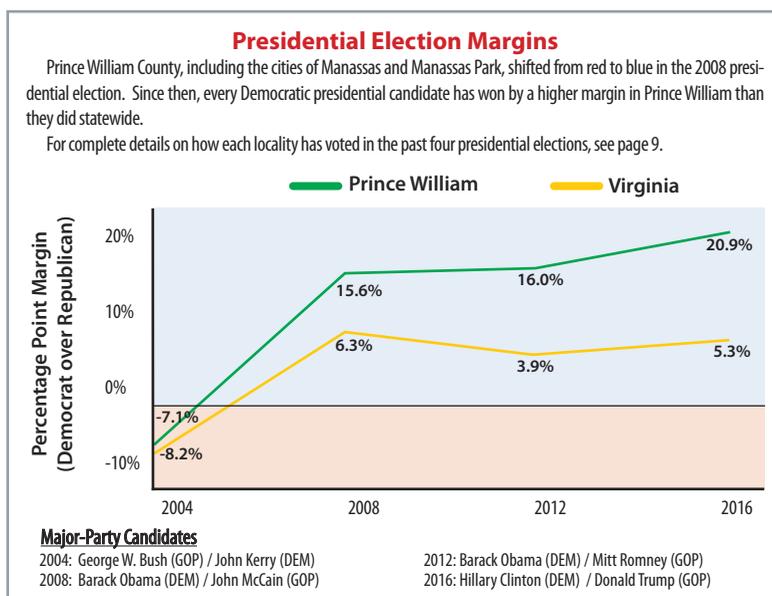
### » INSIDE:

- » Complete list of candidates and issues on the ballot. Page 8.
- » Manassas voters will be electing a new mayor to replace Hal Parrish. Page 10.
- » Plans for a new city hall dominate the mayoral race in Manassas Park. Page 10.
- » OPINION: How has Northern Virginia changed the country's electoral map. David Kerr column, Page 14.



### RESULTS ONLINE

Visit [InsideNoVa.com](https://www.insidenova.com) on Tuesday night for local, state and national election results.



ter for Politics, noted that when President Bill Clinton won re-election in 1996, he carried Northern Virginia by only 2 percentage points. Twenty years later, Hillary Clinton carried the region by about 34 points.

"Prince William is sort of like Virginia as a whole," Coleman said. "It used to be more of a swingy, Republican-leaning kind of county. And really in the past dozen years or so, the Democratic strength has sort of followed the

ELECTION » PAGE 9



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# INSIDENOVA

## PRINCE WILLIAM

\$1 NOVEMBER 12-18, 2020

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### COVID-19 IN PRINCE WILLIAM

All numbers through Wednesday, Nov. 11, and show changes since Nov. 4

**18,254 (+690)**  
Total confirmed and probable cases

- » Prince William: **15,462 (+629)**
- » Manassas: **2,116 (+47)**
- » Manassas Park: **676 (+14)**
- » Statewide: **196,506 (+10,670)**

**263 (+5)**  
Deaths

- » Prince William: **227 (+4)**
- » Manassas: **28 (+1)**
- » Manassas Park: **8 (0)**
- » Statewide: **3,741 (+64)**

**8.1%**  
(up from 7.3%)  
Average test positivity rate\*

- » Statewide: **6.2%**

**159,601 (+6,423)**  
Tests conducted\*

- » Statewide: **2.84** million

- 26 (0)**  
Outbreaks\*
- » 17 long-term care facilities
  - » 7 congregate settings
  - » 1 child care setting
  - » 1 correctional setting
  - » 630 outbreak associated cases (0)
  - » 896 cases in healthcare workers (+29)
  - » Statewide: **1,372** outbreaks (+55)

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SOURCE: Virginia Department of Health.

\* - Outbreaks and diagnostic test data are reported for the Prince William Health District, which consists of the county and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. An outbreak is defined as two or more cases in one setting.

# Welcome Back!

## Masked up, county's youngest students return to classrooms

» BY KARI PUGH AND PAUL LARA  
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The halls of Occoquan Elementary School were quiet Tuesday, but not for lack of children. About 20% to 30% percent of the students returned, navigating the new world of school in a pandemic.

Traditional desks were placed far apart, while some classrooms had circular desks with plexiglass dividers to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In the cafeteria, 12-foot tables sat mostly empty, with just two pupils sitting at opposite ends of each to eat lunch.

Across Prince William County, masked up and colorful backpacks in place, about 6,000 of the youngest students are heading back into classrooms this week for the first time since March.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students are the first to return under a 50/50 hybrid model approved by the School Board last month, with about 3,000 each attending on assigned days. First-graders are expected to follow, as long as coronavirus numbers allow it, on Dec. 1, with the remaining grades on staggered return schedules through early February.

Students are attending two alternating days



» Hallie Copenhaver works on assignments masked and behind plexiglass shields at Occoquan Elementary School on Tuesday.

PAUL LARA  
INSIDENOVA

a week. Parents can still opt to keep their children home, learning remotely, and about 40% plan to do so.

The decision to bring children back to in-person learning is based on health metrics for Prince William, which remains in a moderate to high risk for the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in schools, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

Staggering students' return is based on



Students at Occoquan Elementary School practice distancing with only two sitting at each 12-foot table during lunch on Tuesday.

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RETURN TO SCHOOL » PAGE 4

### » INSIDE Our salute to veterans

**VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE**  
Honoring Local Veterans

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## Election night parties: Safe or not?

### Manassas Democrats call GOP event irresponsible

» BY JARED FORETEK  
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At Monday night's Manassas City Council meeting, City Manager Patrick Pate gave a sober update on the new surge in COVID-19 cases across Northern Virginia.

"It is unfortunately, going in the wrong direction," Pate said, as he encouraged residents to wear masks, practice social distancing, and avoid gathering in large groups. "Those kinds of things are what [experts] encourage every-

one to do."

But less than a week before Pate's message to the council, which did not differ much from what he's told the governing body before, two very different kinds of election-night parties were held, and Democrats and Republicans are pointing fingers at each other over how they were handled.

On election night, city Republicans – including all but one of the party's local candi-

ELECTION PARTIES » PAGE 3

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