



Father Bruce Lewandowski, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Rev Dante Miles, Senior Pastor Koinonia Baptist Church, Rev George Hopkins, Pastor Sowebo Community Church

"We find ourselves in the midst of two pandemics: police brutality and the corona virus. Both of these pandemics have left brown and black people with knees on their necks. Both of these pandemics have left brown and black people unable to breathe....We are here today because our faith demands that we be here. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus says " For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Jesus' words speak to us in 2020. We cannot ignore the plight of our brothers and sisters that are suffering.Governor Hogan, Jesus is saying to you "Take the knee of lack of testing off the neck of the least of these so that our black and brown brothers and sisters can finally breathe. " - Rev Dante Miles, Senior Pastor Koinonia Baptist Church and BUILD strategy team leader, press conference at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church 9am June 10, 2020.

"Baltimore City should be opening up; especially with all the tests they have" Governor Hogan Press Conference 5pm June 10, 2020

What we know: The World Health Organization recommends a positivity rate of 5% or below for two weeks in order to reopen safely. According to coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov as of June 12, 2020::

- 21224 (Sacred Heart of Jesus) has a 28% positivity rate,
- 21206 (Koinonia Baptist) has a 20% positivity rate
- 21229 (Still Meadow Community Fellowship) has a 19% positivity rate

- no ZIP code in Baltimore has a positivity rate under 10% with the exception of two majority white zip codes - 21201 and 21211

Immediate Call to Action: Tweet, post on facebook or instagram the following messages and make it your own.

@GovLarryHogan trust local officials. @BMORE_Healthy says it would be reckless to re-open. w/ 3 ZIPs >19%, 21224 28%. Only 4 ZIPs below 10%, 3 majority white. 4 of your city constituents died before they could be tested. #COVID-19 #buildcapacity #communitybasedtesting

We appreciate the increase in tests. Along with that as you know from your 500k @GovLarryHogan lab supplies are also needed. Plus staff and medical follow up. Public health recommendation is 5% positivity or below for 2 wks. 21224 is at 28%. Only 2 ZIPs below 10%. Majority white.

Why Act: In the world as it should be, Governor Hogan would do everything in his power to deliver all the tests and resources needed for Baltimoreans to recover from COVID. But in the world as it is, he is not. BUILD leaders made a commitment to one another to move to the center of power to claim what we need for our community. We are directing our power at the Governor and he and other leaders are reacting!

- The allocation of state tests to Baltimore City has grown from 100 to 500 and now 1000/week as a result of our work over the past three weeks.
- Hogan announced yesterday that he is opening more sites in Baltimore
- 65 institutions and 70 more individuals have signed onto our [call for more resources from the state](#)
- Senate President Ferguson attended our press conference at Sacred Heart of Jesus yesterday
- Nearly 100 people were tested yesterday at the mobile test site at Sacred Heart of Jesus
- We met with the Baltimore City Health Commissioner on Friday.
- The Lieutenant Governor committed to meet with BUILD by the end of this week.

We will continue to escalate with the following demands:

- **State Must Provide a Public Accounting of How State Procured Tests Have Been Allocated by Jurisdiction.**
- **State Must Provide Baltimore More Tests:** The State is now allocating 1,000 tests/week. The City needs 2600-2800 *per day*. BUILD will keep demanding more tests until we reach the level needed to save lives and reopen Baltimore safely.
- **State Must Expand Community Based Testing in Baltimore:** BUILD's experience is many people will not go to citywide sites at Clifton Park, Pimlico Race Track, and Druid Park. They are not accessible. People go to places they trust - People trust their

congregation, their neighborhood organization. BUILD is calling on the State to support the City to expand community based testing.

- **State Must Increase Testing Capacity in Baltimore:** The City needs to increase capacity in order to do more testing - PPE, staffing, test analysis, medical follow up, and care. BUILD is calling on the State to provide additional resources to help build this capacity.

What you can do:

- **BUILD member institutions:**
 - **Update your core team members** and other leaders inside your own institutions. Share *your* story of how you are thinking about this moment and why this work is important. Ask them who they are thinking about this moment. What is important to them?
 - **Reach out to leaders of other BUILD** institutions who you relate to who are not part of the strategy or leadership team. Update them on our work. Listen to them.
- **Continue to reach out to institutional leaders you have relationships with and invite them to [sign onto our call](#).** Tell them about the reactions we are getting. Get their reaction. Ask them what this work means to them. Email Patti Flowers-Coulson at patti@buildiaf.org with name, title and institution of those who wish to sign on
- **Continue to convene community listening circles** and individual meetings; develop and deepen relationships; listen; get clear on people's self interest. For more information, **Contact Rachel Brooks (rachel@buildiaf.org) or Elizabeth Reichelt (Elizabeth@buildiaf.org)**
- Agree on an action step you want to take together

Click below to view full testimonies from yesterday's press conference at Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Pastor Miles <https://youtu.be/bM87DPYI13I>

Father Bruce's https://youtu.be/C_IUDG8FUy [Q](#)

Reverend Hopkins' <https://youtu.be/vZU2kz4x3Y> [c](#)

Here is the latest press coverage:

WBAL June 10 Coverage

<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/coronavirus-tests-supplies-community-based-testing-sites-baltimore/32827471>

WMAR June 10 Coverage

<https://www.wmar2news.com/news/region/baltimore-city/governors-office-responds-to-request-from-east-baltimore-church>

WMAR June 5 Coverage

<https://www.wmar2news.com/news/region/baltimore-city/build-baltimore-on-the-lack-of-covid-19-tests-in-baltimore-city>