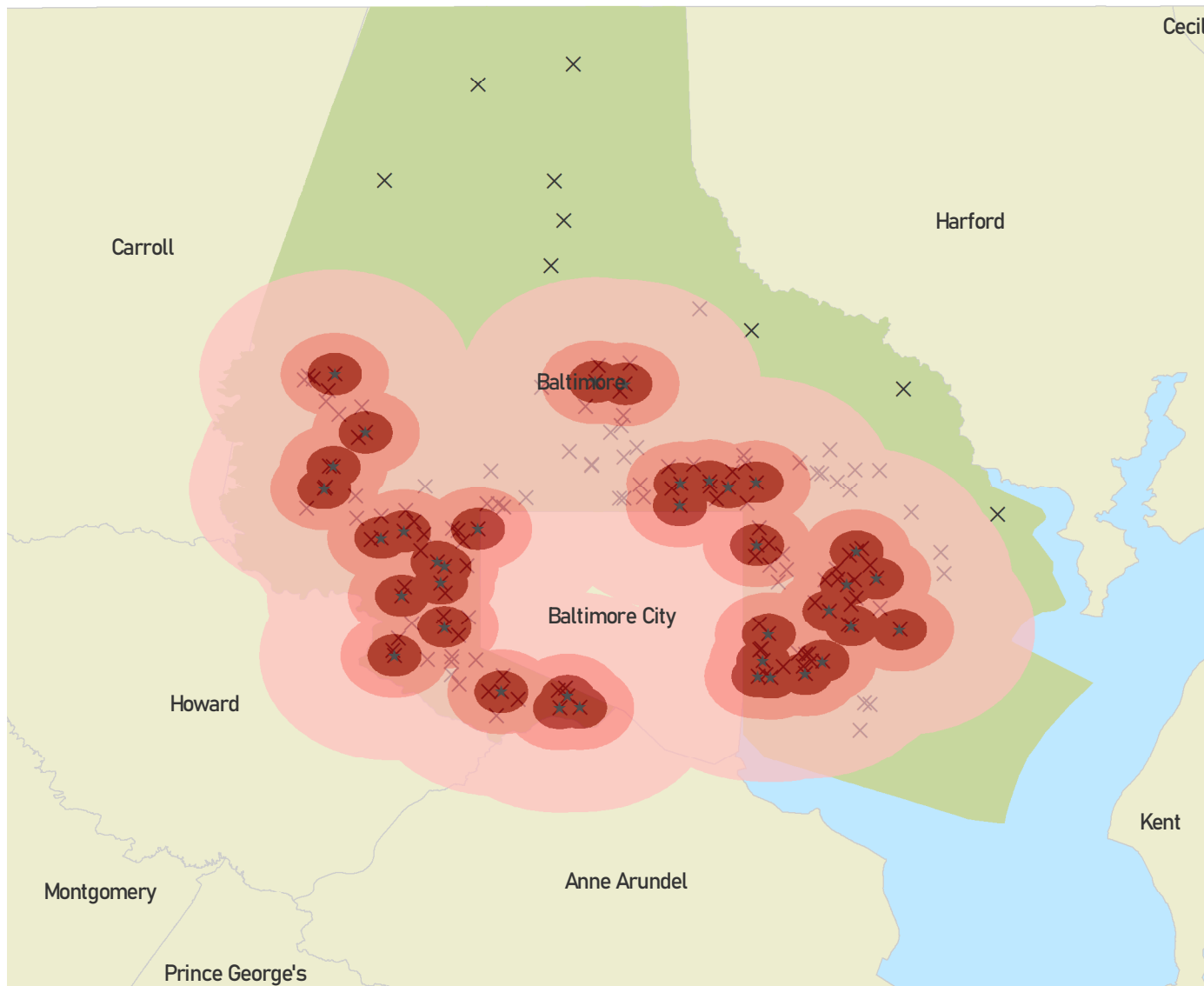


# Baltimore County Free Meal Access during COVID-19 via Baltimore County Public Schools\*\*

Sophie Peet

Data: Maryland.gov, BCPS.org

\*\*Baltimore County Public Schools is providing 3 meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the hours between 11 am and 1 pm, this has been in effect since schools closed from March 16th to April 24th. These meals are being provided through the BCPS Office of Food and Nutrition. In addition to the 37 locations shown above there are other non-school locations: Carriage Hill Apartments, Saddle Brooke Apartments, Woodmoor Shopping Center, and Whispering Woods Complex. ("Coronavirus In Maryland: Where You Can Get A Free Meal While Schools Are Closed" n.d.) All except for the Saddle Brooke Apartments fall into the range shown above. The Saddle Brook Apartments are further north, in Cockeysville. Children under 18, and individuals over 18 with disabilities or who are using BCPS services can access these meals.



April 2020

- ★ Free Meal Sites
- × All BCPS Schools
- Baltimore County Boundary
- Maryland County Boundaries
- Maryland Water Features
- Food Site Buffer Radius**
- 1 mile
- 2 miles
- 5 miles

A journal in the New England Journal of Medicine highlights complications to children's food access during the time of COVID-19. They write, "Even brief periods of food insecurity can cause long-term developmental, psychological, physical, and emotional harms. Children from low-income households, who are already at higher risk for poorer health and academic performance than children from high-income households, may be further disadvantaged by nutrition shortfalls." (Dunn et al. 2020) In the map above, you can see 3 zones around the sites, at 1, 2, and 5-mile radii. This is to show that many children all over the county are not even going to be able to access these food handout sites. If a child has to walk over a mile or 2 it will likely be unsafe, or not recommended for them to walk over a mile to access this food. These children may not have other options than to walk this far to feed themselves. This 5 mile area does not even cover all of Baltimore County, and though the northern part of the county is generally higher income there are definitely children still in need. This map also shows that many of these schools and 1-2 mile radii are on the city/county line and children in the city will not be able to take access of the food provided.