

**COVID-19/Coronavirus Advocacy & Policy Updates
as of August 19, 2020 at 4:30pm
[Newest information highlighted in yellow]**

State Updates, pgs. 1-20

Howard County Updates, pg. 20-27

Federal Updates, pgs. 27-30

State Updates

Emergency Funding

Governor Hogan signed into law an emergency bill, SB 1079 (crossfile: HB 1661), that allows him transfer up to \$50 million from the Revenue Stabilization Account to fund costs pertaining to COVID-19. The Governor must give the Legislative Policy Committee at least 7 days to review the request before transferring funds. The Department of Budget and Management must submit a report to the Legislative Policy Committee and the Maryland General Assembly of how the funds were used within 60 days of the funds being released. For more information, please see the text of the law: http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/chapters_noln/Ch_12_sb1079T.pdf.

Healthcare and Unemployment Insurance

Senators Bill Ferguson and Clarence Lam introduced an emergency bill, SB 1080 (crossfile HB 1663), that the Governor signed into law on March 19, 2020 during the catastrophic health emergency for COVID-19. Some key aspects the legislation stipulates are the following:

- Prohibits cost-sharing by carriers (HMO, insurer, nonprofit health service plan) for COVID-19 testing
- MD Department of Health (“the Department”) will cover testing and associated costs if they are not otherwise paid for by a carrier or another 3rd party
- Requires carriers and the MD Medical Assistance Program to cover the costs of COVID-19 immunization without cost-sharing if:
 - the Department has determined that the immunization will prevent COVID-19
 - the Department has determined that patient is in a category of individuals they have determined should not have to share the cost of immunization
- Authorizes out-of-state licensed health care professionals to provide telehealth to patients in Maryland and the Department to reimburse telehealth services provided to the patient
- Provides stipulations for alternative workweeks for certain employees.
- Allows the Secretary of Labor to determine if an individual is eligible for benefits if:
 - the employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, thus preventing employees from coming to work.
 - an individual is quarantine due to COVID-19 with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine ends
 - an individual leaves employment due to a risk of exposure or infection of COVID-19 or to care for a family member to COVID-19.
- During this emergency and beyond:
 - A retailer is prohibited from increasing the sale or rental price of a good or service that increases the retailer’s profit by more than 10%, including the price of food,

fuel, water, ice, medicine, medical supplies and equipment, cleaning products, building supplies and equipment, energy sources, and storage space.

- An employer is prohibited from terminating an employee solely on the basis that the employee is required to be isolated or quarantined.

This legislation remains effective through April 30, 2021. For full information on this legislation, read the text here: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/bills/sb/sb1080T.pdf>.

Governor's Executive Orders

- March 14th: Suspends certain child care regulations in order to increase access to child care for providers of health care, emergency medical services, law enforcement, and other services. (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Day-Care-Order.pdf>)
- March 16th:
 - Closed racetracks, casinos, and betting facilities (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Casino-Racetrack-OTB-Closure-Order-1.pdf>)
 - Amended large gatherings prohibitions to be limited to 50 people (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Executive-Order-Amending-Large-Gatherings.pdf>)
 - Requires large gatherings and events to be cancelled or postponed until the state of emergency is over
 - Closed restaurants and bars, with the exception of take-out/carry-out options
 - Closed movie theaters and fitness centers
 - Closed bingo halls to the general public
 - Requires State and local government facilities with an expected occupancy of more than 50 people to post the appropriate notices of social distancing and provide opportunities for hand-washing
 - Temporarily expands permission for health care facilities to appoint health care practitioners with out-of-state licensure to practice health care in Maryland (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Executive-Order-Health-Care-Matters.pdf>)
 - Residential service companies (i.e., companies that provide gas, electric, sewage, disposal, telephone, telegraph, water, cable television, internet service, or a combination of those) may neither terminate nor charge fees for untimely or late payments during this state of emergency (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Executive-Order-Prohibit-Termination-of-Residential.pdf>)
 - Moratorium on all evictions throughout the duration of this public health emergency (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Executive-Order-Temp-Evictions-Prohibiting.pdf>)
- March 19th
 - Allows Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel with out-of-state licensures to operate in Maryland and expands the work they are eligible to do under the supervision of a healthcare practitioner

<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Emergency-Medical-Services.pdf>)

- Amends a March 16th Executive Order to (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Amending-Gatherings.pdf>):
 - restrict gatherings of more than 10 people
 - close senior citizen activity centers
 - maintain that restaurants and bars may remain open for carry-out or delivery services only
 - restrict access to fitness centers solely for licensed child care facilities within fitness centers
 - reaffirm that all movie theaters are closed
 - specify that malls are closed as of 5pm on March 19th, with the exception of retailers that are accessible from outside of the enclosed spaces of malls [retailers that are only accessible from enclosed areas of the malls are closed]
 - confirm that recreational facilities (e.g., bowling alleys, bingo halls, skate parks) are closed as of 5pm on March 19th
 - Note: there is a misdemeanor penalty for violating this order
- Waives aspects of weight limits under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for the transport of emergency or medical equipment pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic response by up to 15% (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Vehicle-Weight-Limits-3.18.20-2.pdf>).
- March 20th: Authorizes a more expansive use of telehealth services via audio-only calls/conversations, video, and telecommunications in lieu of in-person health care visits; health care providers enrolled in the MD Medical Assistance Program or a program of the Behavioral Health Administration may be reimbursed for audio-only calls or conversations for medical assistance or behavioral health services if the provider does not violate the parameters of this order (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Medicaid-Telehealth-3.20.20.pdf>)
- March 23rd
 - Prohibits price gouging – prohibits retailers from increasing the sale or rental price of good or services to a price that increases the retailer’s value of profit by more than 10%; see link for a full list of items and services: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Price-Gouging-3.23.20.pdf>
 - The Secretary of Health is authorized to: implement a process to allow laboratories to develop and perform testing for COVID-19 consistent with FDA policies for coronavirus diagnostic tests, and issue directives to control and regulate the development and performance of COVID-19 testing (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Lab-Authorization-3.23.20.pdf>)
 - Amends the March 19th order prohibiting gatherings and events of more than 10 people to close non-essential businesses to the public as of 5pm of March 23, 2020 (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Gatherings-THIRD-AMENDED-3.23.20.pdf>)

- For Interpretive Guidance on which businesses are considered to be non-essential, read: COVID19-04, COIVD19-05, and COVID19-06 found here: <https://governor.maryland.gov/covid-19-pandemic-orders-and-guidance/>
- March 25th: Amends March 13th order to ensure that child care providers are limited to serving people supporting health care, emergency medical, law enforcement, and other essential services as delineated in the order (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Child-Care-Access.pdf>)
- March 30th
 - Allows the Secretary of State to issue guidance to notaries public regarding the use of communication technologies that permit the notary to see and hear a person signing a document in real time (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Remote-Notarizations-3.30.20.pdf>)
 - State statutes requiring parents or guardians of individuals eligible for the Maryland Children’s Health Program to pay a family premium to enroll and participate in the program are suspended (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/MCHP-Contributions-3.30.20.pdf>)
 - Allows municipalities to suspend the effect of a provision of the Local Government Article in the MD Code in order to adapt municipal elections to the current state of emergency (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Municipal-Elections-3.30.20.pdf>)
 - Amends the previous order on large gatherings with the following provisions:
 - Everyone in Maryland is ordered to stay in their homes or places of residence effective at 8pm on March 30, 2020 except:
 - to participate in essential activities (e.g., purchase groceries, get medical care or supplies, go to/from an essential job)
 - for essential business operations
 - for staff and owners of non-essential businesses to engage in minimal operations
 - For the text of the order: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Gatherings-FOURTH-AMENDED-3.30.20.pdf>
 - For interpretive guidance on this order: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/OLC-Interpretive-Guidance-COVID19-07.pdf>
- March 31st:
 - Extends the deadline for filing Maryland taxes and making tax payments to July 15, 2020, given that the IRS has extended their deadlines. Additionally, individuals who are elected or appointed to office will not be found to have neglected to take and subscribe their required oath if a clerk of the circuit court is unavailable to administer the oath or if the individual is unable to take the oath due to the spread of COVID-19, state of emergency, or catastrophic health emergency. (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Extension-of-Tax-and-Oath-Timelines-3.31.20.pdf>)
 - Specifies that entities that provide services for people with disabilities are counted as essential businesses, and employees and volunteers of those businesses (i.e., companies, organizations, governments, or nonprofits) are designated as health care providers and permitted to travel to provide those services between their

homes and business locations and where clients reside (i.e., home, residential facility, or shelter). (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Disability-Services-3.31.20.pdf>)

- April 1st: Amended March 20th order on telehealth medicine to include telecommunications technologies in addition to audio-only calls (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Telehealth-Amended-4.1.20.pdf>)
- April 3rd: Amends March 16th order preventing evictions to:
 - suspend creditors from repossessing any automobile, truck, or chattel home
 - suspend the Commissioner of Financial Regulation of the State of Maryland's Notice of Intent to Foreclose Electronic System ("the Commissioner" for the sake of this order)
 - discontinue accepting Notices of Intent to Foreclose
 - prevent courts from giving judgments for possession or repossession, or warrant for restitution of possession or repossession of residential, commercial, or industrial real property if the tenant can demonstrate substantial loss of income during the pandemic
 - allow the Commission to suspend certain lending limits imposed upon State-chartered banks and credit unions if it would not reasonably impair the safety or soundness of the bank, upon the request of the bank or credit union
 - For the text of the order: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Evictions-Repossessions-Foreclosure-AMENDED-4.3.20.pdf>
- April 5th
 - Permits the Secretary of Health of Maryland to issue directives to monitor, treat, prevent, reduce the spread of, and suppress COVID-19 in nursing homes and other similar facilities (e.g., assisted living, hospice, residential treatment, home health), and orders nursing homes and facilities to comply with those directives in good faith (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Nursing-Homes-4.5.20.pdf>)
 - Allows County Health Officials to issue orders to businesses, organizations, establishments, facilities, and construction sites if the entity is unable or unwilling to operate in a manner that does not exacerbate the spread COVID-19 orders from County Health Officials may be to require modification of operations to comply with social distancing, designate how the facility may be accessed, or close the facility (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Delegation-to-County-Health-Officials-4.5.20.pdf>)
- April 10th: Suspends certain in-person witness requirements for a will, power of attorney, or written advanced directive that needs to be attested to and signed by witnesses in person by allowing remote witnessing that meets the conditions delineated within this order (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Remote-Witnessing-4.10.20.pdf>)
- April 15th
 - Allows publicly-traded Maryland companies to hold shareholder meetings remotely and/or postpone or adjourn previously announced meetings if the board of directors or trustees agrees to this action and notifies shareholders of the

changes (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Shareholder-Meetings-4.14.20.pdf>)

- In order to preserve prescription drugs typically used to treat malaria, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, HIV, bacterial infections, and some other medical conditions, those drugs are classified as restricted.
 - A dispenser (e.g., pharmacist) can only fill or refill a prescription for a restricted drug if: it is not intended to be used for treatment or as a prophylaxis for undiagnosed COVID-19, the prescription includes written documentation to confirm a legitimate medical purpose for the drug, the health care practitioner is authorized to prescribe in Maryland and has a relationship with the patient, and the restricted drug had been dispensed to the patient on or before March 5, 2020 for approved medical purposes.
 - For patients diagnosed with COVID-19, a restricted drug prescription must include confirmation of the diagnosis and be limited to a 14-day supply that is unable to be refilled without a new prescription.
 - The order does not prevent restricted drugs from being administered to patients within health care facilities according to proper protocols nor from being used in approved clinical trials.
 - For the full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Pharmacy-Matters-4.14.20.pdf>
- Requires everyone to wear face coverings in retail locations (i.e., grocery stores, pharmacies, laundromats, liquor stores) and when using public transportation (including ride share services) effective on April 18, 2020 at 7am; gives additional provisions for physical distancing and cleaning in retail establishments
 - All customers aged 9 and over must wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth when inside of retail and food service establishments, and when using public transportation; reasonable efforts should be made to use face coverings for children aged 2-9
 - All staff at retail and food service establishments are required to wear masks
 - Any single-use face coverings must be properly disposed of and reusable face coverings should be cleaned frequently (at least once per day)
 - Medical-Grade masks satisfy the requirement
 - Additional provisions for retail establishments: in good faith, retail establishments should utilize signage, tape, etc. to designate 6-foot spacing in areas where any queue/line is expected to form, sanitize the handle of baskets and carts or provide customers with the means to do so, ensure clean bathrooms for staff and customers that are stocked with soap or sanitizer, and allow staff to wash their hands at least once every 30 minutes; post signage at every entrance notifying customers of the requirement for face coverings
 - For full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Masks-and-Physical-Distancing-4.15.20.pdf>
- April 19th: Stipulations to continue preventing the spread of COVID-19 in correctional facilities include:

- The Commissioner of Correction may make alterations to release requirements for people who are scheduled to be released on mandatory supervision within 120 of this order, or for people who are eligible for home detention.
- The Maryland Parole Commission will accelerate parole considerations for people who are at least 60 years old and have a record of good institutional adjustment, have an approved home plan, and have not been convicted of a crime of violence.
- Anyone who has committed a sexual offense is not eligible for early mandatory supervision, expedited home detention, or accelerated parole.
- The victim and the State's Attorney who last prosecuted the inmate must be notified at least 5 days before release.
- An inmate who has been released early will be screened for COVID-19, receive an ID card from the Division of Correction, and must self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days immediately upon release.
- For full text and information on the stipulations for release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Prisoner-Release-4.18.20.pdf>
- April 20th: Requires the Secretary of Health to establish one or more alternative care sites for people with COVID-19 for isolation, quarantine, and treatment, and allows the Health Services Cost Review Commission to set rates and charges for services provided at those sites (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Alternate-Care-Sites-4.20.20.pdf>)
- April 29th:
 - Amends an April 5th Order regarding actions in nursing homes and health care facilities to authorize the Secretary of Health to increase COVID-19 testing for all residents and staff, make sure that residents who present possible COVID-19 symptoms are evaluated at least daily by a physician or other designated medical professional, develop a staffing plan to ensure continuity of care in the event of an outbreak, and provide updates to residents and their representatives, staff, the Chesapeake Regional Information System for Patients, and local departments of health (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Nursing-Homes-Amended-4.29.20.pdf>)
 - Prohibits financial institutions (e.g., banking institutions, credit unions) from garnishing rebates individuals have received from the federal CARES Act. This prohibition does not apply to garnishments connected to child support. For more information: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Garnishments-4.29.20.pdf>
 - Restates and amends a March 16th Order prohibiting electric, gas, sewage disposal, telegraph, telephone, water, cable television, and internet service provider companies from terminating services used in whole or in part in a dwelling unit or residence; those companies shall not bill or collect any fees for late or untimely payments; this order is extended through June 1st. For more information: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Utility-Shutoffs-and-Late-Fees-Amended-4.29.20.pdf>
- May 6th: Amends previous stay at home order, restrictions on gatherings, and outdoor recreation guidelines:
 - Outdoor public spaces:

- The Secretary of Health is authorized to give directives to monitor, treat, prevent, reduce the spread of, and suppress COVID-19 in relation to any activity permitted under this order
 - Political subdivisions may open outdoor public spaces to the general public in consultation with the county's local health officer who may issue directives to monitor, prevent, reduce the spread of, and suppress COVID-19 in outdoor public spaces
 - Individuals in public spaces must comply with directives for outdoor public spaces
 - Stay at home order – everyone is required to stay in their homes/places of residence except:
 - to engage in essential activities (as previously defined in earlier Executive Orders) or newly permitted outdoor activities
 - for owners/staff to travel to and from businesses that are not required to close
 - for owners/staff to travel to and from non-essential businesses to engage in minimal operations of deliver goods to customers
 - Permitted outdoor activities include: exercise activities (e.g., walking, hiking, golfing, tennis), fitness instruction, horseback riding, visiting cemeteries, and recreational: fishing, hunting, shooting, archery, and boating
 - Gatherings of larger than 10 people are prohibited at all locations and venues
 - Non-essential businesses remain closed to the public (which does not include businesses that are in critical infrastructure sectors as identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency); however, owners and staff may on-site at non-essential businesses for minimal operations
 - Effective May 7, 2020 at 7am, the following establishments may open as long as they follow local health directives and CDC guidelines: golf courses, driving ranges, outdoor archery and shooting ranges, marinas, watercraft rental businesses, and campgrounds
 - This order does not require closure of local, State, or federal government units/buildings, media (i.e., newspaper, television, radio) services, or nonprofit organizations that provide essential services to people with low incomes
 - This order does not apply to people whose homes/residences have become unsafe (e.g., victims of domestic violence) nor to people experiencing homelessness
 - State and local government buildings that cannot limit occupancy to 10 people must follow the same health and safety guidelines as before
 - For the full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Gatherings-FIFTH-AMENDED-5.6.20.pdf>
- May 13th:
 - Amends previous order on reopening certain businesses and public gatherings
 - Political subdivisions are no longer prohibited from opening outdoor public spaces to the general public (e.g., parks, beaches, playgrounds) as long as they consult with their jurisdiction's local health officer prior to opening.

- Political subdivisions are authorized to issue more restrictive orders than the State’s executive orders for closing/modifying business operations and restricting individuals’ movements in order to save lives or prevent exposure to COVID-19.
- Effective May 15, 2020 at 5pm, subject to local jurisdictions’ orders:
 - Religious facilities and retail establishments may reopen to the general public with to total number of people not exceeding 50% capacity of the maximum occupancy of the space (as determined by local fire codes or applicable laws, regulations, and permits)
 - All manufacturing businesses/facilities may open
 - Beauty salons and barber shops may open if:
 - everyone over the age of 2 wears a face covering (except when wearing a face covering would make it impossible for service to be performed)
 - services are provided on an appointment-only basis
 - the number of people inside the facility cannot exceed 50% of the capacity for occupancy
 - each area where services are performed is cleaned and disinfected after each customer
- Any business, organization, establishment, or facility may require customers over the age of 2 to wear a face covering; if the entity elects to do so, they must post signage at each entrance for customers, visitors, and/or staff to be aware of the requirement.
- Gatherings continue to be limited to no more than 10 people
- Non-essential businesses remain closed as per previous orders’ regulations and exceptions
- For full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Gatherings-SIXTH-AMENDED-5.13.20.pdf>
- Allows alternative processes for marriage applications and wedding ceremonies
 - Any rule or statute that requires people to be in close contact to complete a marriage is suspended
 - A party to be married may apply for a marriage license with the appropriate office by providing the clerk with a signed marriage application sent via postal mail, courthouse drop box, or e-mail with payment as directed
 - Video conferencing or a sworn affidavit (if video conferencing is not available) must be used for information on the application to sworn to under oath before the clerk
 - The clerk may withhold the marriage license if the clerk finds a legal reason why the applicants should not be married based on the information given by the applicants, unless ordered by the court to issue the license
 - An authorized official may perform a marriage ceremony from a different physical location to the parties through video conferencing if both parties are physically present at a single location in the county where the marriage license is issued

- An authorized official may deliver a marriage certificate to individuals via postal mail, e-mail, or another electronic format
 - For full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Marriages-5.13.20.pdf>
- May 19th: authorizes COVID-19 testing by licensed pharmacists with the following regulations:
 - Licensed pharmacists may order COVID-19 tests for patients in accordance with CDC Screening Guidance and MD’s Secretary of Health’s directives, and administer or supervise the administration of COVID-19 tests
 - Laboratories may perform COVID-19 tests based on written or electronic authorization from a licensed pharmacist
 - The Secretary of Health is authorized to issue directives to ration, control, and regulate access to COVID-19 tests and sure safe and accurate testing by licensed pharmacists, which may supersede CDC Screening Guidance in whole or in part
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Pharmacist-Testing-5.19.20.pdf>
- May 27th: allows more businesses and facilities to reopen, subject to local regulations:
 - Beauty salons may only provide hair services
 - Beauty salons and barber shops can now offer services allowing up to 50% occupancy of the establishment with requirements for face coverings and cleaning and disinfecting after each customer
 - As of May 29th at 5pm, drive-in movie theaters, outdoor swimming pools, outdoor day camps, and tour boats may reopen
 - As of May 29th at 5pm, restaurants, bars, and social clubs that sell food may serve food and beverages in outdoor seating areas in addition to carry-out, drive-thru, and delivery services with the following requirements:
 - All staff must wear face coverings
 - Patrons that are not from the same household must be seated at least 6 feet apart
 - Groups larger than 6 people may not be seated together unless they are members of the same household
 - Food cannot be served in a buffet format
 - Tables and seating must be cleaned and disinfected between each seating
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Gatherings-7th-AMENDED-5.27.20.pdf>
 - For expanded guidance on recent reopenings under the May 27th Executive Order, visit: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/05/27/governor-hogan-announces-resumption-of-outdoor-dining-additional-activities-to-complete-stage-one-of-recovery/>
- May 29th:
 - Amends March 19th order expanding alcohol services to delivery and carryout:
 - Alcoholic beverage retailers that hold a State or local license to manufacture or sell alcoholic beverages may deliver off-premises or sell alcohol in sealed containers if it is promptly taken off of the premises before consumption.

- Entities that manufacture alcohol (e.g., wineries, breweries, distilleries) may: directly ship alcohol to consumers, and serve alcoholic beverages in outdoor seating areas following health and State regulations (i.e., staff wear masks, physical distancing between patrons of different households, limits on group sizes, and cleaning between each patron).
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Alcohol-Services-AMENDED-5.29.20.pdf>
 - Amends April 29th order regarding prohibition on terminating residential services and late fees:
 - No residential service (i.e., electric, gas, sewage, internet, water, telephone, cable television) company is allowed to terminate the service if a customer uses that service in whole or in part in a dwelling unit or residence.
 - No late fees may be charged for a late or untimely payment for a service beginning on the date of this order.
 - This order is in effect until the end of the State of Emergency and Proclamation of Catastrophic Health Emergency, or July 1, 2020, unless revised by a later order.
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Utility-Shutoffs-and-Late-Fees-2d-Amended-5.29.20.pdf>
- June 3rd: amends previous stay-at-home orders:
 - Effective June 5, 2020 at 5pm the following is now permitted, subject to local jurisdictions' orders:
 - Tattoo parlors, tanning salons, massage parlors, and establishments that provide nail technician or esthetic services at up to 50% of the capacity for the space (including staff) by appointment only following face covering, physical distancing, and cleaning/disinfection requirements.
 - An expansion of outdoor recreational activities is permitted (e.g., outdoor swimming pools, outdoor day camps, tour boats).
 - Non-essential businesses (i.e., businesses that are not part of the critical infrastructure sectors) may open to the general public.
 - For clarification, restrictions for restaurants and bars (i.e., only outdoor seating, carry-out, delivery, and drive thru are permitted to do not apply to food and beverage services within health care facilities.
 - Senior centers, fitness centers (except for the segment of facilities with licensed child care centers), indoor theaters, retailers/businesses within enclosed malls that are not accessible from outside (except for those that primarily sell groceries and pharmacy products), and certain recreational establishments (e.g., bowling alleys, pool halls, skating rinks) remain closed.
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Gatherings-EIGHTH-AMENDED-6.3.20.pdf>
- June 10th: amends previous orders to allow more businesses and facilities to open, subject to local jurisdictions' orders:

- Beginning June 12th at 5pm the following outdoor entities may open to the general public: amusement parks, miniature golf, go-kart tracks, and outdoor establishments subject to Title 4 of the Tax-General Article of the MD Code.
- Beginning June 12th at 5pm, food service establishments may serve food and beverages for consumption in indoor seating areas with the following requirements:
 - Staff must wear face coverings.
 - The capacity of the establishment may not exceed 50% of its maximum capacity.
 - Customers may only be served if they are seated.
 - Food cannot be served in a buffet format.
 - Each table must be cleaned and disinfected between each seating.
- Beginning June 19th at 5pm, the following indoor entities may open to the general public with the number of people permitted not exceeding 50% of entity's maximum occupancy: shopping centers with one or more enclosed pedestrian concourses, bingo halls, bowling alleys, pool halls, ice skating rinks, roller skating rinks, social and fraternal clubs, fitness centers, self-defense schools, casinos, and the indoor areas of establishments that are subject to Title 4 of the Tax-General Article of the MD Code.
- Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course, Timonium Race Course, Fair Hill Races, Rosecroft Raceway, and Ocean Downs may open for racing and other customary operations, but not to the general public, effective June 19th at 5pm.
- Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Gatherings-NINTH-AMENDED-June-10.pdf>
- June 11th: Every local licensing board is permitted to suspend fees payable to the holder if this suspension only applies to the jurisdiction of the local licensing board, is exclusively administered and enforced by the local licensing board, and is only for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Liquor-License-Fees-6.11.20.pdf>
- June 19th: Amends March 12th order to extend all licenses, permits, registrations, and other State-issued authorizations that would expire or be up for renewal during the state of emergency through 30 days past the conclusion of the state of emergency. The head of a local or State agency may opt to exclude an authorization from this extension to protect public health, welfare, or safety, or to comply with federal requirements and legally binding contracts/agreements. Full text: https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2089_001.pdf.
- June 29th: Extends restrictions on: terminating electric, gas, sewage disposal, telephone, telegraph, cable television, internet, or water service, and fees for late or untimely payments through August 1, 2020 or the conclusion of the state of emergency. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Utility-Shutoffs-and-Late-Fees-3d-Amended-6.29.20.pdf>.
- July 30th: Rescinds previous face covering requirements to establish the following requirements for wearing face coverings, effective on July 31, 2020 at 5pm:
 - Everyone ages 5 and older are required to wear a face covering in or on public transportation, indoor locations that have been permitted to open to the general public, outdoor spaces where one cannot consistently maintain physical distance

with people who are not members of their household, when obtaining any healthcare services, and engaging in work involving likely interaction with others and/or food preparation/packaging.

- Single-use face coverings must be properly disposed of in trash receptacles and reusable face coverings ought to be cleaned frequently (minimum: once per day).
- Wearing medical-grade masks satisfy face covering requirements, and individuals are encouraged to reserve medical-grade masks for use by health care workers and first responders.
- Exemptions from wearing face coverings:
 - It would be unsafe for the person to wear a mask due to a bona fide medical condition or disability.
 - The face covering impedes communication by or with persons with a hearing impairment or other disability that requires needing to see the mouth for communication.
 - The face covering presents an unsafe work condition as determined by local, State, or federal occupational/workplace safety guidelines.
 - Receiving services that require access to the face, mouth, or head (e.g., dental care, shaving).
 - Consuming food or beverages.
 - Swimming or engaging in other physical activities where wearing a face covering poses a bona fide safety risk.
 - Operating a public transportation conveyance if an individual is the sole operator of the conveyance and is located in a separate compartment that is off-limits to riders.
- Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Gatherings-10th-AMENDED-7.29.20.pdf>
- July 31st: Extends the prohibition against utility shut-offs and charging late fees through September 1, 2020:
 - No residential service (i.e., electric, gas, sewage, internet, water, telephone, cable television) company is allowed to terminate the service if a customer uses that service in whole or in part in a dwelling unit or residence.
 - No late fees may be charged for a late or untimely payment for a service beginning on the date of this order.
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Utility-Shutoffs-and-Late-Fees-4th-Amended-7.31.20.pdf>
- August 3rd: Emergency order to prohibit blanket school closure by establishing that political subdivisions are authorized to issue orders that are restrictive than State orders for businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities except for schools. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-08-03-11-08.pdf>

For updates from the Governor's office on the coronavirus:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/> or <https://www.facebook.com/GovLarryHogan/>

Tracking health updates on the coronavirus (including case tracking):

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

For updates on COVID-19 Executive Orders, Proclamations, and Guidance:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/covid-19-pandemic-orders-and-guidance/>

For the latest updates on access to COVID-19 testing (including locations), visit:

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>

Information about contact tracing: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/contact-tracing>

Maryland General Assembly

The General Assembly adjourned on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Legislative priorities shifted to the budget, coronavirus responses, and other like matters. Other important legislation has been passing during this time. Visit the General Assembly's website for the most current information: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite>.

- The Department Legislative Services Building is closed as of March 19th, except for specific purposes.
- General Assembly created Joint COVID-19 Legislative Response Workgroup
 - Meeting information (agendas, audio playback of meetings): <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/committees/details?cmte=cov>
 - Unemployment Insurance Update: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/Covid-%2019%20Legislative%20Update.pdf>
- 2020 Session Major Issues Review: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/LegisLegal/2020rs-session-major-issues-review.pdf>
- Department of Legislative Services Reports:
 - Impact of COVID-19 on the Maryland Unemployment Insurance System: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs-Current/Final%20Legislative%20Request-Unemployment%20Insurance.pdf>
 - Overview of Federal COVID-19 Assistance for Maryland: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs-Current/UpdatedFederalCoronavirusResponse.pdf>
 - Update of Overview of Federal COVID-19 Assistance for Maryland: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs-Current/Updated5-4FederalCoronavirusResponse.pdf>
 - Overview of COVID-19 Impact on State Government: http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs-Current/Overview_of_COVID-19_Impact_on_State_Government.pdf
 - Senate Judicial Proceedings Workgroup Report on COVID-19 and Housing: http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/Committee/2020-Senate_JPR_Committee_Workgroup_Report_on_COVID-19_and_Housing.pdf
 - Senate Judicial Proceedings Workgroup Report on the Courts and Criminal Justice System During the COVID-19 Pandemic: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/Committee/2020-JPC-COVID-19-Report.pdf>

Additional Updates/Resources

- Governor Hogan issued a proclamation to officially postpone the primary election from April 28th to June 2nd.
- The election to fill the vacancy in District 7 will still be on April 28th and will be vote-by-mail only.
- The MD Transportation Authority has moved to all cash-less tolling at toll points to minimize interaction between people.

- All Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) stations/centers are transitioning to drive-thru testing throughout the State.
- The D.C. Metro, MARC, and Commuter Bus are reducing services to focus on emergency and health care personnel who need to get to their jobs and mobility customers who need assistance for medical appointments, dialysis, pharmacies, and grocery stores only.
- BWI now has restrictions for access solely to employees and individuals with tickets for flights. Everyone is encouraged to postpone non-essential travel.
- Coronavirus resources for businesses from the Departments of Labor and Commerce: <https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus>
- Meals during coronavirus:
 - HCPSS: <https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2020/03/hcpss-to-provide-free-meals-during-school-closures-meal-service-march-17-27-2020/>
 - Resource to locate nearest food distribution site to you in Maryland (outside of HCPSS sponsored sites): https://mars.msde.maryland.gov/mars_sitesearch/
- Recommendations: Encourage people to use Employee Assistance Programs (as available) and tele-health opportunities to help manage stress, anxiety, and other challenges during this time. Many counselors are offering services remotely.
- Governor Hogan has enacted a Hospital Surge Plan to increase the number of hospital beds by 6,000 in a multi-phase plan.
- Delivery and carry-out sales of alcohol are temporarily permitted by bars, restaurants, wineries, and distilleries, subject to liquor laws.
- The Department of General Services has instituted temperature checks and health screenings at the State House.
- Maryland has received official designation from the U.S. Small Business Association's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan program to provide low-interest loans for small businesses and nonprofits impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information and to apply, go to: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>
- Governor Hogan relaunched Maryland Unites to help us connect to share and access resources: <https://governor.maryland.gov/marylandunites/>
- The Maryland Superintendent of Public Schools, Dr. Karen Salmon, and Governor Hogan announced that Public Schools will remain closed through April 24th
- Any essential personnel who are working and need child care may register for services by calling 1-877-261-0060.
- Governor Hogan enacted SB 402/HB 448 and SB 502/HB 1208 to expand remote health care services (including mental health services) as long as proper standards of care are followed.
- Governor Hogan issued a proclamation regarding elections:
 - Voting in the June 2nd primary election (formerly April 28th) will be conducted by mail and at least one voting center in each county will be available to voters who cannot vote by mail to cast a ballot or return a vote-by-mail ballot
 - The State Board may solely utilize the vote-by-mail system for the Special General Election if they send the Governor a written determination that the decision complies with the U.S. and State Constitutions and in-person voting would jeopardize public health

- No electioneering will be permitted within 100 feet of ballot return locations
- Regulates challengers and watchers at voting locations and canvassing
- Secrecy for election results must be maintained until 8pm on the day of elections
- Describes the responsibilities of the State Board of Elections to promote public health and integrity in the election process
- For full information: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Proclamation-Renewed-4.10.20.pdf>
- The State Superintendent, Dr. Karen Salmon, announced that all schools will remain closed through May 15, 2020.
- The MD Department of Labor is launching a new one-stop, comprehensive online application for independent contractors, people who are self-employed, federal employees, multi-state wage claims, and members of the military to apply for unemployment benefits. The application opens on April 24, 2020. For the full press release: <http://labor.maryland.gov/whatsnews/uipuc.shtml>
- The State of Maryland has invested an additional \$4 million to the Maryland Food Bank and Capital Area Food Bank; the MD Department of Human Services is working to accelerate the implementation of a SNAP pilot initiative to enable families to purchase meals online for free delivery.
- To view briefings on various COVID-19 updates before legislative committees, visit: mgaleg.maryland.gov, hover over “Meetings,” and select “Month” to see the calendar of scheduled briefings (select the committee name to find out the subject of that particular briefing)
- On May 6th, the following announcements were made:
 - The MD Department of Health has issued guidance to hospitals and licensed health care providers to resume elective and non-urgent medical procedures (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/05.06.2020-MDH-Sec-Order-Amended-Various-Healthcare-Matters.pdf>)
 - The State Superintendent announced that Maryland schools will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year and released the “Maryland Together: Recovery Plan for Education” (<http://marylandpublicschools.org/newsroom/Documents/MSDERecoveryPlan.pdf>); decisions about graduation will be made by local school system superintendents
 - The Governor has acquired 1600 doses of remdesivir, the only drug proven in a clinical study to help treat COVID-19, and these initial doses are being deployed where the highest concentrations of cases are located
- Maryland has completed testing for 3.5% of the state’s population, therefore, the state now has the capacity to test people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 whether they have symptoms or not. Appointment-free testing is beginning on Thursday, May 21st at various testing sites at no out-of-pocket costs. Sites include the Timonium Fairgrounds in Baltimore County (beginning 5/21) and the Glen Burnie (beginning 5/22), Hyattsville (beginning 5/22), and Clinton (beginning week of 5/24) VEIP stations.
- For the latest updates on access to COVID-19 testing (including locations), visit: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>
- As Maryland enters Phase 2 of reopening, the following announcements were made:

- Guidance for businesses reopening includes: wearing face coverings in all face-to-face interactions, conducting temperature checks for all personnel, limiting employees' proximity to one another by rotating shifts and break times, and developing changes to work weeks.
- Employees who can telework are encouraged to continue to do so.
- The MD State Government will begin returning to normal operations on Monday, June 8th, including select branches of the Motor Vehicle Association, more regular transit operations and schedules, and the MD State Department of Education gradually reopening child care centers.
- For the full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/06/03/governor-hogan-announces-beginning-of-stage-two-of-marylands-covid-19-recovery-safe-and-gradual-reopening-of-workplaces-and-businesses/>
- Information about contact tracing: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/contact-tracing>
- Announcements made June 10th:
 - Local school systems may plan and hold safe outdoor graduation ceremonies with the appropriate adherence to capacity restrictions and physical distancing.
 - Schools may bring small groups of staff and students into buildings and are encouraged to prioritize summer instruction for people in vulnerable populations.
 - Nonpublic special education schools may reopen to serve students with disabilities.
 - Child care providers may reopen with a maximum number of per room being 15.
 - Outdoor high school sports practice and training activities may begin.
 - For the full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/06/10/governor-hogan-announces-next-stage-two-reopenings-including-indoor-dining-and-outdoor-amusements/>
- Governor Hogan released new guidance to permit limited outdoor visitation at nursing homes: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/06/19/governor-hogan-announces-new-guidance-to-allow-limited-outdoor-visitation-to-nursing-home-facilities/>.
- As part of the Maryland Unites Initiative, you can highlight the efforts and work of nonprofits and other businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic here: <https://governor.maryland.gov/maryland-unites-businesses/>.
- Recent announcements:
 - Governor Hogan has committed the following funding from the CARES Act:
 - \$30 million to prevent evictions and provide resources to people who need them due to the pandemic.
 - \$45.6 million to education for technology improvements (K-12), rural broadband initiatives, community college workforce development, and additional priorities. Additionally, \$210+ million for remote learning enhancements, tutoring initiatives, and rural broadband.
 - \$50 million each to nonprofit recovery and small business assistance.
 - Up to \$90 million for State-supported universities.
 - The MD Department of Housing and Community Development will utilize \$20 million from funds expected from the federal Community Development Block Grant to help address statewide eviction prevention needs.

- \$10 million for the Assisted Housing Relief program will bring eliminate rental debts by making payments directly to eligible property management companies so tenants no longer face the potential of eviction.
- New, phased reopening plan for assisted living facilities:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/06/26/governor-hogan-announces-safe-and-phased-reopening-plan-for-assisted-living-facilities/>.
- Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative:
 - Governor Hogan announced the creation of this \$50 million fund on June 30th with the goal of helping nonprofits handle revenue decreases and expense increases due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund will be operated by the MD Department of Housing and Community Development.
 - For direct information about the Initiative, visit:
<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/MarylandNonprofitRecoveryInitiative.aspx>
 - At least \$30 million will be allocated to nonprofits engaged in economic recovery, health and human services, and housing. Funding must be used for basic operating support. **Notice of Funding Availability** (includes eligibility requirements): <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/DHCD-NOFA.aspx>. For more information, contact: dhcd.nonprofitsrecovery@maryland.gov. UPDATE: The deadline for submitting applications have been extended through August 4th.
 - \$10 million is available to nonprofits that are licensed by the MD Behavioral Health Administration and the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Funding must be to address core expense increases (e.g., purchasing PPE) that are critical to operations between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. **Notice of Funding Availability** (includes eligibility requirements): <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/BHA-DDA-NOFA.aspx>. For more information, contact: dhcd.nonprofitsrecovery@maryland.gov. Applications are expected to open online on Wednesday, August 5th.
 - Up to \$8 million will be administered through the Department of Commerce to nonprofits that previously applied for their COVID-19 Emergency Grant Program but did not receive funds. For more information, contact: covid-19.application@maryland.gov.
 - \$3 million is being allocated to arts and cultural nonprofits impacted by COVID-19 through the Department of Commerce. For more information: visit, <https://www.msac.org/grants/emergency-grant> or contact Dana Parsons at: dana.parsons@maryland.gov.
 - Up to \$9 million has been allocated for Phase II of the DHCD nonprofit grant. **Notice of Funding Availability** (includes eligibility requirements): <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/DHCD-NOFA.aspx>. **Application:** Applications opened August 12th and are due by Friday, August 21st at 12pm. If grant requests exceed the amount of available funding, the application portal may close early. Access the application portal here: <https://onestop.md.gov/forms/dhcd-maryland-nonprofit-recovery-initiative-round-ii-5f173344ea2cf472a715e6dd>.
 - Key Information to Know:

- The applications require: a statement of your organization’s mission, that the content of the monetary request to match your mission, and demonstrate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your operations, including demonstrating staffing changes before and after the pandemic began.
 - You must note what additional COVID-19 funding you have received (e.g., Paycheck Protection Loan), however, receiving other funding will not disqualify you from potentially receiving this funding. You may, however, want to check the stipulations of your additional funding to ensure that possible receipt of the NORI funds will not reduce or change the stipulations of the other funding received.
 - In order to apply for this grant, you must submit a copy of your Certificate of Status (aka Certificate of Good Standing) from the MD Secretary of State. If you do not presently have this, you can get one by e-mailing your request directly to: sdat.charterhelp@maryland.gov or by visiting this website: <https://dat.maryland.gov/businesses/Pages/Internet-Certificate-of-Status.aspx>. A direct e-mail may yield a faster response.
 - Prepare to be somewhat concise. The application responses are likely to have a 2,000-character limit.
 - You will have to select one key area (e.g., housing, economic development, health and human services) for the DHCD grant.
 - The minimum funding requests through the DHCD grants must be \$5,000.
- The Board of Public Works approved \$413 million in cuts to the FY ‘2021 State budget. For an analysis of the reductions to the General Fund, read: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs-Current/Analysis%20of%20Proposed%20FY2021%20GF%20Reductions.pdf>.
- Applications for the Assisted Housing Relief Program close on July 31st at 12pm. This program has allocated \$10 million to help bring rental delinquencies current for tenants whose income has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Payments will be made directly to property management companies and tenants will be credited with a four-month rent rebate to eliminate their rental debt and threat of eviction. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Pages/AHRP-NOFA.aspx>.
- The Maryland Department of Health issued a travel advisory recommending that Marylanders refrain from non-essential out-of-state travel, particularly to areas with high numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Washington, D.C. and Virginia, and essential workers who commute to/from Maryland for essential work are exempt from travel advisory restrictions. As of July 28, 2020, the travel advisory applies to Florida, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, Arizona, Alabama, South Carolina, Nebraska, and Idaho. Full text of the advisory: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/07.29.2020%20-%20MDH%20Notice%20-%20Out%20of%20State%20Travel%20Advisory.pdf>.
- Governor Hogan has partnered with 5 other States and The Rockefeller Foundation to develop an interstate partnership for making rapid COVID-19 antigen tests more widely available. These rapid tests yield results in 15-20 minutes.
- The Coronavirus Special Enrollment period has been extended through December 15, 2020. Individuals may enroll in health insurance using the free "Enroll MHC" mobile app, calling 1-855-642-8572, or going to <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>.

- Governor Hogan has applied for the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Lost Wages Assistance grant in order for residents who are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to receive an additional \$300 weekly in benefits. Once the State's application is approved, eligible residents will be able to receive benefits retroactively to the week ending on August 1, 2020 through December 26, 2020.

Howard County Updates

Howard County Council

Request for everyone to refrain from attending public hearings. Testimony may be submitted electronically to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or U.S. Postal Mail. Meetings and hearings will be streamed online at <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us> and Channel 99 (Comcast) and Channel 44 (Verizon). Visit the County Council's website for updates: <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/>. The County Council is working remotely.

Executive Orders

- May 15th: In accordance with recent State executive orders, the County is allowing the following actions:
 - Howard County does not have county-wide Stay-At-Home Order; residents are encouraged to follow the State's "Safer-At-Home" advisory
 - In-person religious services of 10 people or less may resume with strong encouragement to have services in outdoors
 - Certain retail establishments may reopen with only curbside pick-up or delivery options, including stores at the Mall in Columbia with exterior access
 - Archery/shooting ranges and horse boarding/riding facilities may open with physical distancing and mask requirements
 - Campgrounds, Recreation & Parks boat rentals, and Columbia Association boat rentals remain closed
 - Manufacturing may reopen according to State guidelines
 - Barber shops and beauty salons may open by appointment only with one customer allowed in a location at a time, following State guidelines
 - Full text: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/EO%205.15.2020.pdf?ver=2020-05-15-135553-907>
- May 26th: expands what establishments may reopen effective May 29th at 7am:
 - Retailers may open at up to 50% capacity, including staff.
 - Retailers are encouraged to use curbside pick-up whenever possible.
 - Breakrooms and common areas are limited to 10 people with physical distancing.
 - Retailers should institute screening procedures for employees before every shift.
 - Facial coverings and disinfecting high-touch areas are required.
 - Retailers within a mall or enclosed shopping area without a public entrance to outside must remain closed except for curbside pick-up.

- Barber shops and beauty salons may open at up to 50% capacity, including staff, for appointments only.
 - Everyone is required to wear a mask.
 - Salons may only have 1 client at a time if the salon has private suites where each suite has one entrance, shampoo bowl, and chair per customer.
 - Customers are not permitted to wait in waiting areas nor gather outside of the business.
 - Barber shops and salons should develop screening procedures for clients and employees.
 - All chairs, work surfaces, tools, capes, and towels must be cleaned in between each use.
- Religious institutions may hold outdoor services of up to 250 people with physical distancing between anyone who is not in the same household in spaces they own, rent, or reserve for use; indoor services continue to be limited to 10 people.
 - No food or beverages may be consumed before, during, or after services, including food or beverage that would typically be consumed as part of the service. → This restriction was lifted on May 28th to allow food consumption for faith institutions.
 - Collection plates/receptacles may not be passed to or between attendees.
 - Singing is permitted but not recommended. Any singing that takes place may only be by the choir or religious leader, and singers that don't wear a mask must be at least 12 feet away from any other person.
 - Outdoor or drive-in services may be conducted with attendees remaining in their vehicles as long as adequate parking is available.
 - For full text:
 - <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=P4DDsxygaUc%3d&portalid=0>
 - For interpretive guidance on this order, visit:
 - <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VqwuCWvssoA%3d&portalid=0×tamp=1590521011748>
- May 29th: amends May 26th order to put the following stipulations into effect as of May 29th at 5pm:
 - Rescinded restriction from consumption of food and beverages before, during, or after religious services.
 - Further specified guidance for outdoor dining for foodservice establishments:
 - Seating is restricted to no more than 6 people per table unless they are members of the same household.
 - Tables must be at least 6 feet apart from other tables and customer seating.
 - Self-serve buffets are not permitted.
 - Customers may sit at outdoor bars if they are at least 6 feet from other individual customers or groups unless a temporary barrier (e.g., plexiglass) is placed in between individuals and groups.
 - Signage must be displayed to notify customers of proper social distancing.
 - Appropriate sanitation, physical distancing, and face covering requirements must be maintained in accordance with COVID-19 guidance from the CDC, FDA, and National Restaurant Association.

- Management must ensure proper health screenings, work procedures, cleaning, and hygiene for staff to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the food service setting. If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, management must notify the Health Department at 410-313-6284.
 - Full text:
 - <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/EO%205.29.20.pdf?ver=2020-06-04-091850-927>
- June 5th: rescinds previous local orders to allow the reopening of specified businesses and entities
 - Effective on June 5th at 5pm, restrictions on reopening from previous orders have been lifted for religious institutions, tattoo parlors, massage parlors, tanning salons, esthetic or nail technician services, and drive-in movie theaters
 - All other provisions from previous orders (e.g., capacity restrictions, cleaning requirements) are still in effect
 - For full text:
 - <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/EO%2006.05.20.pdf?ver=2020-06-05-115642-603>
 - For further guidance on this order, read:
 - <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2009/Coronavirus-Updates-Outdoor-Seating-Permit-What%E2%80%99s-Open-and-Closed-in-Howard-County-Library-System-Updates-Blood-Drives>
- June 12th: rescinds previous local orders so Howard County opens entities along the lines of the State's Phase 2
 - Businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities located in Howard County that were previously required to close may open on June 12th at 5pm or June 19th at 5pm, according to the State's Executive Order 20-06-10-01 and the schedule within that order.
 - Businesses that are required to remain closed in State Executive Order 20-06-10-01 will remain closed.
 - Citizens and business owners must comply with requirements of the MD Department of Health Directive for Food Service Establishments, the CDC, and the County Health Officer.
 - Full text:
 - <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/EO%206.12.2020.pdf?ver=2020-06-12-121230-583>

Additional Updates/Resources

- Non-emergency County offices are closed.
- Hearings before Zoning Board, Board of Appeals, Hearing Examiner, and Alcohol Beverages Hearing Board are postponed in March and April.
- For the Council's hearing schedule, visit: cc.howardcountymd.gov
- Public hearings will be held virtually through WebEx
 - Sign up to testify by going to: <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>
- Special Election Guidance:

- Ballots for the April 28th Special General Election were mailed on April 8, 2020. Contact your local Board of Elections if you did not receive a ballot.
- No stamp is required for voting by mail. To return your ballot, ensure that it is postmarked by April 28th if mailing, or deliver to a designated drop box by 8pm on April 28th.
- For in-person voting, the Howard County Fairgrounds will be a voting location on April 28th from 7am to 8pm. 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794.
- For more information: https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/special_election_CD7.html
- April 30th Press Release shares local mental health resources for suicide prevention and assistance with depression: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/1959/Coronavirus-Updates-Mental-Health-Resources-Howard-County-Farmers-Markets-Utilities-Update>
- On May 27th at 10am the FY 2021 Budget Passage meeting will be broadcasted on GTv (Comcast channel 99/Verizon channel 44) and livestreamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>
- June 2nd Primary Election Guidance
 - Ballots for Howard County residents were mailed on May 6th; they were printed before the postponement of the election, so ignore the April 28th Primary Election date that is on the ballot
 - Voting by mail is optimal to prevent the spread of COVID-19
 - You may drop-off your ballot at a designated location from May 21, 2020 to June 2, 2020. Or, if you are unable to vote by mail, you may vote in person on June 2, 2020 at a designated location. For a list of drop-off and in-person voting locations, visit: https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/20_PP_Vote%20Centers_and_Drop%20off%20Locations.pdf
- In accordance with State guidance on reopening outdoor activities, the following locations/activities have reopened as of May 7, 2020: Timbers at Troy Golf Course, park gates, tennis courts, pickleball courts, disc golf, bocce courts, recreational fishing, and boating (not rentals); park restrooms and playgrounds will remain closed until further notice; physical distancing is required at all locations
- County Executive Calvin Ball announced that Howard County is not yet in a position to relax restrictions as outlined in Governor Hogan's May 13th executive order that amends previous orders about gathering sizes and business closures. The Administration is evaluating the Governor's recommendations and the County's success in reaching the building blocks necessary for reopening. Additionally, Pop-up Food Pantries in the next few weeks were announced. Please read the full statement here: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/1980/Coronavirus-Updates-County-Executive%E2%80%99s-Response-to-Governor%E2%80%99s-Stage-1-Reopening-Pop-up-Pantries-EDA-Launches-Business-Reopening-Tool>
- An Internal Working Group has been implemented to develop guidance for county departments to safely reopen government facilities and bring employees back

- Howard County RISE framework for reopening:
https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/HoCoRISE_V2.pdf?ver=2020-05-14-180437-437
- Howard County Recreation & parks is offering online versions of certain classes/programs: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/athomewithhocorec>
- BGE announced a Multi-Year Customer Relief and Energy Infrastructure Plan that includes keeping customer rates the same through 2022, allowing deferral of any rate increase through 2023, dropping electricity supply costs through 2023, and extending the suspension of service disconnections and late fees to July 1, 2020. For more information: <https://www.bge.com/SmartEnergy/InnovationTechnology/Pages/Multi-Year-Plan.aspx>
- Two Urgent Care facilities offer COVID-19 testing (appointments not necessary):
 - First Call Urgent Care Center (10981 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723), 410-730-3399; COVID-19 testing Monday-Friday 8am-9pm; walk-ins accepted
 - All Care Urgent Care (9396 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042), 410-480-9110; Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 8am-4pm, Sunday 9am-4pm; walk-ins accepted
- Online grocery shopping for SNAP beneficiaries is available as of May 28th. Check-out processes will prompt recipients to enter EBT card details and their Personal Identification Number (PIN) similar to how credit/bank card transactions occur.
- Grassroots is hosting virtual suicide prevention trainings. For more information, visit: <http://www.grassrootscrisis.org/events/>
- The Howard County Board of Utilities advises commercial building operators to flush plumbing systems with fresh water before resuming operations to ensure safe water quality.
- As of Saturday, May 30th, the following changes have been made:
 - The 10-vehicle restriction at the Alpha Ridge Landfill has been lifted. The landfill remains open with regular operating hours (Monday-Saturday 8am-4pm). Residents are encouraged to wear masks, practice physical distancing, and only use the landfill if you do not have curbside collections or if you cannot wait until the County's State of Emergency has been lifted.
 - Centennial Park North and North Laurel Community Center skate parks
- The County has received a delivery of PPE that provides enough for nursing homes and County agencies for 30 days.
- Outdoor youth camps, programs, and classes will resume June 29th
- Howard County has received nearly \$57 million in CARES Act funding. For more information about how the funding is being distributed, visit: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2001/Howard-County%E2%80%AFReceives%C2%A0-57-Million-Share-of%E2%80%AFCARES%E2%80%AFAct-Funding-for-COVID-19-Relief>
- For an updated listing of Pop-Up Food Pantry locations and times, visit: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2004/Coronavirus-Updates-CARES-Act-Funding-Online-Aging-Independence-Classes-Pop-Up-Pantries-Know-Your-Rights-Townhall>
- Public hearing sign-ups close at 7pm the day before the hearing. Sign-up for June's public hearing with close on Sunday, June 14th at 7pm.

- Howard County will move into Phase 2 of reopening in accordance with the State:
 - Indoor faith services will be permitted in accordance with State orders.
 - The Department of Recreation and Parks is reopening restrooms at its parks, but playground will remain closed.
 - Guide to what is open and what is closed as of June 5th at 5pm:
https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/ReOpen_WhatsOpenandClosed.pdf?ver=2020-06-03-182852-377
- The County has launched a Temporary Use Permit for Outdoor Table Service for restaurants and bars that do not currently have outdoor table service or need to expand existing outdoor table service. For more information about applications and guidance, visit: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2008/Howard-County%20A0Launches%20A0Outdoor-Table-Service%20A0Permits-Conditionally-Approved-Upon%20A0Submission-Subject-to-Review>
- Howard County will align with the Governor’s reopening stipulations from the June 10, 2020 Executive Order. For an infographic on Phase 2 changes, visit: https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/ReOpen_WhatsOpenandClosed_Rework_Update_3tiers_FinalWeb.jpg?ver=2020-06-10-185054-590
- The Department of Recreation & Parks’ announcements:
 - Playgrounds, basketball courts, and volleyball courts began reopening on June 11th. All locations will be open by June 15th at 8am.
 - The Worthington Dog Park will return to its regular Schute on June 15th and appointments will no longer be required.
 - Indoor camps and childcare do not have a start date, presently.
 - Outdoor camps will resume on June 29th.
- Regular RTA bus service will be restored, effective June 14th.
- The Howard County Library System will begin contactless pickup at all 6 branches beginning June 29th. Hours will be Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm.
- The County Executive and the Department of Community Resources and Services’ Office on Aging and Independence are hosting a teleconference town hall for older adults, caregivers, and interested community members on June 29th at 4pm. To register, visit:
https://howardcountymd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=https://howardcountymd.gov&service=6&rnd=0.9037143863533915&main_url=https://howardcountymd.webex.com/2Fec3300/2Feventcenter/2Fevent/2FeventAction.do/3FtheAction/3Ddetail/26%26%26EMK/3D4832534b000000040351d11d44bcea600678a1cb0afa3619bd23dce20b348403b75d66646645f5a0%26siteurl%3Dhowardcountymd%26confViewID%3D163529579016757441%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAAQB2c2D2Iq0rxuwSEFZRO0asXA0LNQYAYDF5VuaWkY48Q2%26. If you’d like to submit questions, e-mail: townhall@howardcountymd.gov. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, visit: <https://www.webex.com/accessibility.html>. For more information, contact Jennifer Crawley at 410-313-6422 (voice/relay).
- The County has launched a Virtual Assistance Portal for residents and businesses to access emergency and disaster resources. To access the Portal, visit: https://services.howardcountymd.gov/hcportal?category_id=273d4345db209450bcffce9af961947.
- The following announcements were made on June 22nd:

- Beginning Monday, July 6th, the Roger Carter, North Laurel, and Gary J. Arthur Community Centers, Meadowbrook Athletic Center, and Robinson Nature Center will reopen for camps and child care during weekdays and for limited evening and weekend hours for other activities in the gymnasiums and exercise rooms.
- The pool at the Roger Carter Community Center will also reopen on July 6th.
- The Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum will open on July 8th.
- The Patapsco Female Institute and the Firehouse Museum will reopen on July 11th.
- Limited indoor camps through Recreation & Parks will begin on July 6th.
- For more information, read:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2029/News062220>.
- Recent announcements:
 - Beginning July 6th, Recreation & Parks will begin child care services located in 9 HCPSS buildings and resume indoor camps. For more information, visit:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2034/Howard-County-Recreation-Parks-to-Provide-Childcare-in-Public-School-Buildings-Starting-on-July-6>.
 - The Department of Finance resumed processing civil citations and general collections on June 30th.
 - Independence Day closings:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2037/News063020>.
 - The Loan Closet will open for non-contact donations and returns of medical equipment beginning on July 6th at 2 locations. For more details, visit:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2040/Coronavirus-Updates-Loan-Closet-to-Begin-Accepting-No-Contact-Donations-Utility-Moratorium-Extended-Through-August-1st-Business-Grants-Deadline>.
- A \$1.5 million fund was made available beginning July 6th to assist Howard County residents with past due rent/mortgage payments and/or to prevent evictions due to income loss from the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information about the fund, applications, and who to contact, visit: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Housing-and-Community-Development/COVID-19-Housing-Information>
- The Columbia VEIP COVID-19 Testing Site no longer requires a doctor's order to schedule an appointment. Hours for testing are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8am-12pm.
- The Howard County Economic Development Authority announced the creation of business grants now available to child care providers and hotels. For more information, visit: <http://www.hceda.org/c19grants/>. Applications will close on July 31st at 11:59pm.
- A new food distribution map is available online so residents can easily find the closest food pantries and access free meals. This interactive map presently identifies 31 locations offering food assistance and can be found here:
<https://data.howardcountymd.gov/InteractiveMap.html?Workspace=FoodDistribution>.
- Announcement: Virtual Health and Wellness Town Hall meeting on August 25, 2020 at 6pm. You may submit questions via e-mail at: townhall@howardcountymd.gov. To register, click here:
[https://howardcountymd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=howardcountymd&service=6&rnd=0.03801652154260582&main_url=https://howardcountymd.webex.com/ec3300/eventcenter/event/eventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%](https://howardcountymd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=howardcountymd&service=6&rnd=0.03801652154260582&main_url=https://howardcountymd.webex.com/ec3300/eventcenter/event/eventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%3D)

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- Howard County General Hospital is hosting Community COVID-19 Testing Sites starting August 22nd and going through the end of October. Advanced registration is encouraged, but same-day registration is accepted. For dates, times, locations, and registration information, visit:

https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/howard_county_general_hospital/classes_events/covid19-comm-testing-worship.html, or call 410-740-7601.

For the latest newsletters from the County Executive, visit:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Branches/County-Executive/Newsletter>

For the County Council's hearing schedule, visit: cc.howardcountymd.gov

For County updates, visit: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Countywide-Updates>

Virtual Assistance Portal (gives residents access to emergency and disaster relief resources/services):

https://services.howardcountymd.gov/hcportal?category_id=273d4345db209450bcffce9af961947

Federal Updates

Taxes

- For anyone who owes payments to the IRS for taxes up to \$1 million, you may delay payment until July 15, 2020 without interest or penalty. See: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/payment-deadline-extended-to-july-15-2020>
- The deadline to file federal taxes has been extended to July 15, 2020 as of March 23, 2020. See: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-day-now-july-15-treasury-irs-extend-filing-deadline-and-federal-tax-payments-regardless-of-amount-owed>

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- Summary text: <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Families%20First%20Summary%20FINAL.pdf>
- Full text of legislation (H.R. 6201/Public Law 116-127): <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr6201/BILLS-116hr6201enr.pdf>
- Some key information in this law:
 - Increased funding for WIC, TEFAP, and nutritional assistance for seniors and to U.S. territories
 - Coverage for COVID-19 testing through the Department of Defense
 - Suspends work and training requirements for SNAP beneficiaries during this crisis

- Employees of employers with fewer than 500 employees and government employers who have been on the job for at least 30 days may take up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave under the FMLA to adhere to instructions for quarantine, care for an at-risk family member who has been instructed to be quarantined, or to care for a child if the child's school or place of care has been closed
- Increases funding for unemployment insurance
- Fact Sheet: <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Families%20First%20Coronavirus%20Response%20Act%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020

- Summary text: <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Coronavirus%20Supp%20Summary%203.4.20.pdf>
- Full text of legislation: (H.R. 6074/Public Law 116-123): <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr6074/BILLS-116hr6074enr.pdf>
- Key information:
 - Funding for FDA, CDC, and Small Business Disaster Loans
 - Allocates funds to health care entities for disease prevention, treatment, etc., particularly out of the Department of Health and Human Services
 - Directs funds to global health responses, State operations, humanitarian assistance, and to the USAID for oversight of coronavirus actions
 - Provides an emergency telehealth waiver
- Fact Sheet: <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Coronavirus%20Supplemental%20Fact%20Sheet%20%285%29.pdf>

Corona Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- Fact Sheet: <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Supp%20-%20local%20govts%20%20nonprofits.pdf>
- Full text of legislation (H.R. 748/Public Law 116-136): <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr748/BILLS-116hr748enr.pdf>
- Initial Analysis of the CARES Act prepared by the National Council of Nonprofits: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-policy-issues/initial-analysis-of-the-coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-act-cares>
- Additional analysis: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-policy-issues/initial-analysis-of-the-coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-act-cares>

Nonprofit Resources on Federal Legislation

- National Council of Nonprofits
 - General: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/nonprofits-and-coronavirus-covid-19>
 - March 31st webinar resources:

- PPT: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19-webinar-3-31-2020.pdf>
 - Loans Available to Nonprofits via CARES Act: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-policy-issues/loans-available-nonprofits-the-cares-act-public-law-116-132>
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
 - Video about financial relief in CARES Act: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZqDIKBc3G0>
 - Emergency Loans Guide for Nonprofits and Small Businesses: <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/reports/coronavirus-emergency-loans-guide-and-checklist-small-businesses-and-nonprofits>

Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

- Full text of legislation (H.R. 266/Public Law 116-139): <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr266/BILLS-116hr266enr.pdf>
- Fact sheet: <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Interim%20Emergency%20Package%20Funds%20Hospitals%20C%20Health%20Workers%20and%20Testing.pdf>
- Key information:
 - \$75 billion allocated to reimburse hospitals and health care providers for expenses or lost revenues pertaining to COVID-19
 - \$25 billion to increase COVID-19 testing
 - Adds reporting requirements to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for COVID-19 data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region, and other relevant factors
 - Requires HHS to submit a strategic COVID-19 testing plan to Congress
 - Allocates \$2.1 billion to administer the Small Business Administration programs
 - \$50 billion in loan subsidies Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) and \$10 billion for EIDL grants

Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act

- Full text of legislation (H.R. 7010): <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr7010/BILLS-116hr7010enr.pdf>
- Key information:
 - Amends the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136)
 - The minimum maturity for PPP loan is 5 years when there is a remaining balance after forgiveness.
 - The non-payroll portion of the forgivable loan may now comprise up to 40% (previously 25%).
 - New extensions:
 - Coverage period of the loan is for 24 weeks or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes sooner

- Employers can rehire or remove a decrease in staff, wages, or salaries through December 31, 2020 that would otherwise reduce the forgivable amount of the loan with stipulations
- A recipient of the PPP loan before the enactment of this legislation may choose to extend the covered loan by 8 weeks
- Payments for loans can be deferred until recipients receive compensation for amounts forgiven.
- Recipients are given 10 months to begin making payments if they do not apply for forgiveness.
- Joint Statement from Treasury Secretary and SBA Administrator – clarifies changes made to the Paycheck Protection Program: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1026>

Additional Updates

- The Paycheck Protection Program has been extended, by law, until August 8th for entities that have not previously received this loan.