

COVID-19 Advocacy & Policy Information as of July 8, 2021 at 5:00pm

(New Information Highlighted in Yellow)

State Updates, pgs. 1-10

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State Updates

Governor's Executive Orders

- 1/5/2021: Requires health care providers and employers of health care providers to report administering a COVID-19 vaccine within 24 hours after vaccine administration to the MD Health Department via ImmunNet. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Vaccine-Administration.pdf>.
- 1/28/2021: Effective February 1, 2021 at 12:01am, food service establishments are no longer required to close from 10pm to 6am. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Gatherings-18th-AMENDED-01.28.21.pdf>.
- 2/23/2021: Requires face coverings in schools in classrooms, hallways, gyms, auditoriums, cafeterias, and any other places where interaction with others is likely. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Gatherings-19th-AMENDED-02.23.21-2.pdf>.
- 3/9/2021:
 - Effective March 12, 2021 at 5pm [please note the new format and updated definitions of this order]:
 - There are no longer capacity limits for religious facilities, retail establishments, personal services establishments, bars, restaurants, fitness centers, racing facilities, gaming facilities, and indoor recreation establishments.
 - Indoor and outdoor venues and convention and banquet facilities remain limited to 50% capacity.
 - Local jurisdictions may no longer impose more restrictive orders than State orders.
 - Face covering requirements remain in place for anyone who is at least 5 years old, including when an individual is in or on a school bus.
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Gatherings-20th-AMENDED-3.9.21.pdf>.
 - Reinstates March 16, 2020 Order:
 - In order to meet the needs of a health care facility:
 - Individuals with a valid, unexpired health care practitioner license from another state can work in MD without first acquiring licensure or a practice letter from the appropriate agency in MD with certain stipulations.
 - People with inactive licensures can work at a health care facility without first being reinstated if the time for reinstatement interferes

with a health care facility's needs. Licensure reinstatement must be expedited.

- A health care practitioner can expand the scope of the work authorized under their licensure under reasonable supervision.
- The Secretary is authorized to activate the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps and regulate elective procedures as needed.
- Effective March 12, 2021 at 5pm, adult day care centers may reopen.
- The MD Board of Physicians and the MD Board of Nursing are granted some regulatory flexibilities.
- Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Health-Care-Matters-AMENDED-3.09.21.pdf>.
- Restates and amends June 19, 2020 Order:
 - The expiration date for all licenses, permits, registrations, and authorizations by the State of MD, an agency, or political jurisdiction that would expire prior to June 30, 2021 during the state of emergency has been extended to June 30, 2021.
 - A head of a unit of State or local government may exclude a form of authorization from the above statement with public notice.
 - Heads of units of local or State government may no longer issue timeframe suspensions.
 - Explicitly authorizes State and local jurisdictions to conduct meetings and hearings using virtual technology while in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Licenses-Timeframes-2d-AMENDED-03.09.21.pdf>.
- March 15, 2021: Prohibits garnishments and setoffs from any rebate received under the American Rescue Plan Act except for garnishment connected to child support. Any financial institution that subjected any portion of a rebate to garnishment or setoff must return the funds and refund any overdraft, "not sufficient funds," late, or related fees. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Garnishments-ARPA-3.15.21.pdf>.
- April 22, 2021: Allows senior centers to open beginning April 30, 2021 at 12:01am. Full text: https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2561_001.pdf.
- April 28, 2021:
 - Beginning at 12:01am on May 1, 2021, foodservice establishments with outdoor areas can serve people whether seated or standing.
 - Face coverings are no longer required when outdoors, except at any outdoor venue.
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Gatherings-22d-AMENDED-4.28.21.pdf>.
- May 12, 2021:
 - Amends and restates May 29, 2020 Order permitting restaurants, bars, and other entities with a State license to make or sell alcohol to sell alcoholic beverages to be taken off premises before consumption and deliver/ship alcoholic beverages

- off premises. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Scanned-from-a-Xerox-Multifunction-Printer-75.pdf>.
- Effective May 15, 2021 at 12:01am, the following aspects of business regulations and operations have been rescinded:
 - Capacity limits for indoor and outdoor venues.
 - March 12, 2020 Order entitled “Prohibiting Movement of Persons to and from Certain Vessels Berthing at Terminals and Port Facilities in the Ports and Harbors of the State.”
 - Order 20-04-05-02 entitled “Delegating Authority to Local Health Officials to Control and Close Unsafe Facilities.”
 - Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Scanned-from-a-Xerox-Multifunction-Printer-76.pdf>.
 - The Motor Vehicle Administration may suspend expiration dates for driver’s licenses, identification cards, or moped operator’s permits until August 15, 2021 if the aforementioned items have expired since March 12, 2020. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Scanned-from-a-Xerox-Multifunction-Printer-78.pdf>.
 - May 14, 2021: Effective May 15, 2021, face coverings/mask requirements are limited to using any public transportation and school busses, while acquiring healthcare services, and inside of schools where interactions are likely. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Gatherings-24th-AMENDED-5.14.21.pdf>.
 - June 15, 2021:
 - The State of Emergency will end on July 1st, thus terminating certain orders effective July 1, 2021 at 12:01 a, while terminating others on August 15, 2021 at 11:59pm after 45-day grace period. Full text <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Termination-Roadmap-6.15.21.pdf>.
 - Full list of Orders and expirations: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/6.15-COVID-Transition-Plan.docx.pdf>.
 - Frequently Asked Questions: <https://governor.maryland.gov/faq-end-of-state-of-emergency/>.
 - The Comptroller of MD may suspend legal or procedural deadlines, due dates, and the like from the Tax General Article of the MD Code until 11:59pm on August 15, 2021. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Comptroller-Timeframes-6.15.21.pdf>.
 - Extends the expiration dates of the State Board of Nursing’s licenses, permits, registrations, and other authorizations that would have been renewable or expired during the state of emergency until August 15, 2021. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Nursing-License-Extension-6.15.21.pdf>.

Maryland General Assembly

- All Session 2021 Reopening Guidelines: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Information/Text/guidelines>.

- Video Tutorials of General Assembly website and submitting electronic testimony: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Information/VideoTutorials>.
- Testimony sign-ups on behalf of an organization are now permitted.
- Department of Legislative Services:
 - Analysis of COVID-19 Emergency Procurement: <http://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/ProgEval/EvaluationofEmergencyProcurement.pdf>.
 - Overview of Additional COVID-19 Assistance: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/OverviewofAdditionalFederalCOVID-19EconomicAssistance.pdf>.
- All General Assembly YouTube Channels: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Information/YouTubeChannelInfo>.
- Access the Senate Vaccine Oversight Committee's webpage: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Committees/Details?cmte=vow>.

General Updates/Resources

- New COVID-19 Special Enrollment period with the Maryland Health Connection until March 15th. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/01/04/governor-hogan-and-maryland-health-benefit-exchange-announce-new-special-enrollment-period/>.
- For continued or new unemployment insurance support, visit: <http://www.labor.maryland.gov/employment/unemployment.shtml>.
- SNAP recipients will receive a 15% increase in benefits for the next six months, and TCA recipients will receive the equivalent of \$100 more per household member for the next six months. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/01/06/governor-hogan-announces-extension-of-emergency-snap-benefits-and-40-million-in-additional-state-issued-tca-benefits-starting-january-2021/>.
- Updated vaccine distribution plans, including addition of Phase 1C in vaccine rollout: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/01/05/governor-hogan-announces-statewide-actions-to-accelerate-covid-19-vaccinations-in-maryland/>.
- January 2021 funding announcements:
 - Education:
 - \$43.5 million to MSDE for capital programs
 - \$31 million to capital projects in the University System of MD and community colleges
 - \$781 million in federal funding to school systems; full text: <https://news.maryland.gov/msde/maryland-department-of-education-announces-more-than-780-million-in-federal-covid-19-relief-for-maryland-k-12-public-schools/>.
 - \$20.7 million for innovative educational efforts, community college workforce development programs, independent colleges, and both the MD School for the Deaf and the MD School for the Blind
 - \$35.8 million in federal funds for nonpublic schools
 - \$7 million to DHCD for community-based economic development
 - Governor Hogan introduced The Relief Act of 2021 (SB 496: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0496?ys=2021RS>)

- Maryland to receive over \$402 million in federal funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act
- \$30 million emergency relief for arts and entertainment venues
- \$3 million to DHCD's Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund
- \$258 million for rental relief funding to be distributed by DHCD
- Vaccine distribution updates:
 - January 14th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/01/14/governor-hogan-announces-expansion-of-covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-for-marylanders-65-and-over/>
 - January 25th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/01/26/governor-hogan-announces-opening-of-mass-vaccination-sites-expansion-of-pharmacy-program/>
 - February 4th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/02/04/covid-19-vaccination-update-february-4-2021/>.
 - February 18th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/02/18/covid-19-vaccine-update-february-18-2021/>.
 - March 3rd: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/03/covid-19-vaccine-update-march-3-2021/>.
 - March 10th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/10/covid-19-vaccine-update-march-10-2021/>.
 - March 17th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/17/covid-19-vaccine-update-march-17-2021/>.
 - New Vaccine Eligibility Timeline: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/18/governor-hogan-announces-vaccine-eligibility-timeline-for-all-marylanders-and-primary-care-hospital-equity-and-mobile-clinic-initiatives/>.
 - 6 new mass vaccination sites will open in the near future, including one in Howard County at a location that is yet to be determined. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/23/governor-hogan-announces-six-more-mass-vaccination-sites-in-maryland/>.
 - March 25th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/25/covid-19-vaccine-update-march-25-2021/>.
 - The updated vaccine eligibility timeline states that, beginning April 6th, anyone age 16 and over can register at a mass vaccination site, and beginning April 12th, anyone age 16 and over can register for a vaccine at any site. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/05/governor-hogan-announces-accelerated-vaccine-eligibility-schedule-for-all-marylanders/>.
 - April 7th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/07/covid-19-vaccine-update-april-7-2021/>.
 - April 21st: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/21/governor-hogan-announces-no-arm-left-behind-initiatives-to-get-vaccines-to-every-marylander-who-wants-one/>.
 - Beginning Saturday, May 1st, you can directly schedule appointments at any mass vaccination site via <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine> or by calling MD's COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center at 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

- No appointment is necessary at 9 vaccination sites. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/27/no-arm-left-behind-governor-hogan-announces-drive-thru-no-appointment-vaccinations-at-six-flags-regency-furniture-stadium-and-ripen-stadium/>.
- May 1st: Direct scheduling at all mass vaccination sites is now available. Pre-registration for appointments is no longer required. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/01/governor-hogan-announces-opening-of-direct-scheduling-for-mass-vaccination-sites/>.
- May 4th: Mobile vaccination teams have been activated for nursing homes and congregate care facilities. \$12 million will go to 11 hospitals/hospital systems to increase community-based vaccination efforts. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/04/no-arm-left-behind-governor-hogan-announces-mobile-vaccination-teams-for-maryland-nursing-homes/>.
- May 5th: Walk-up, no appointment vaccinations are available at all vaccination sites. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/05/no-arm-left-behind-governor-hogan-announces-walk-ups-now-available-at-all-mass-vaccination-sites/>.
- May 6th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/06/maryland-surpasses-5-million-covid-19-vaccinations-case-rate-falls-to-six-month-low/>.
- May 27th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/27/maryland-surpasses-6-million-vaccinations-covid-19-hospitalizations-drop-below-400/>.
- May 31st: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/31/vaccine-milestone-maryland-vaccinates-70-of-adults-by-memorial-day/>.
- June 3rd: Mass vaccination sites will begin to be demobilized for continued shifts to mobile clinics. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/06/03/governor-hogan-announces-phased-demobilization-of-mass-vaccination-sites/>.
- July 3rd: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/07/03/vaccine-milestone-maryland-vaccinates-75-of-adults-by-fourth-of-july/>.
- Governor Hogan called for hybrid education model in schools by March 1st. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/01/21/governor-hogan-state-superintendent-call-on-maryland-schools-to-reopen-for-in-person-learning-by-march-1/>.
- 2021 State of the State Address text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/02/03/full-text-governor-hogans-2021-state-of-the-state-address/>.
- Local health departments will receive over \$120 million in funding for COVID-19 vaccination support and to address budget shortfalls from having to close fee-for-service clinics. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/02/04/governor-hogan-announces-123-million-in-additional-funding-for-local-health-departments/>.
- The Special Enrollment period through the Maryland Health Connection has been extended through May 15th. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/02/10/governor-hogan-announces-extension-of-state-health-insurance-special-enrollment-period-until-may-15/>.
- February 11th announcements on COVID-19 testing expansion for school systems, hospital and nursing home visitation, and vaccination plans. Full text: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/02/11/governor-hogan-makes-announcements-on-schools-hospitals-nursing-homes-and-vaccines/>.

- Summary of the recently passed and enacted RELIEF Act, which allocates over \$1 billion in State coronavirus relief: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/RELIEF-Act-One-Pager-.pdf>.
- The MD State Department of Education has established a \$60 million fund to support licensed childcare centers and registered family childcare providers with recent federal coronavirus aid. The online-only grant application is open February 16th at 1pm through March 3rd at 3pm. Application information: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-relief-funds-grant>.
- Information on recently authorized Johnson & Johnson vaccine and MD's deployment of it: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/01/state-of-maryland-to-deploy-single-dose-johnson-johnson-vaccine-beginning-this-week/>.
- Governor Hogan proclaimed March 5, 2021 as COVID-19 Remembrance Day. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/04/governor-hogan-proclaims-march-5-as-covid-19-day-of-remembrance-in-maryland/>.
- MD Vaccine Equity Task Force released an operations plan for equitable access to and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/04/maryland-vaccine-equity-task-force-issues-statewide-operations-plan/>.
- Governor Hogan submitted a supplemental budget of \$74.1 million so all State employees receive a \$1,000 bonus, if passed. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/08/governor-hogan-submits-74-million-supplemental-budget-focused-on-bonus-for-state-employees/>.
- Full March 9th announcements of new executive orders and revised travel advisory, which no longer requires quarantine due to travel. Everyone is still required to wear masks and practice physical distancing even with lifted restrictions. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/09/governor-hogan-announces-lifting-of-capacity-limits-masking-and-distancing-protocols-maintained/>.
- Board of Revenue Estimates' latest update on COVID-19, including status of jobs and unemployment: <https://www.facebook.com/ComptrollerofMaryland/videos/3776561675773685>.
- A pre-registration system is now open and available for mass vaccination sites. For a video tutorial and the full press release, visit: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/13/maryland-launches-pre-registration-system-for-mass-vaccination-sites/>.
- Each mass vaccination site now has designated priority appointments for residents who live near the site. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/15/governor-hogan-announces-expanded-community-based-priority-appointments-for-mass-vaccination-sites/>.
- One-year review of MD Health Connection enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/17/more-than-140000-marylanders-covered-since-maryland-health-connection-launched-covid-19-special-enrollment-one-year-ago/>.
- Governor Hogan submitted a new supplemental budget of over \$1 billion for FY 2022 to support transportation, rental assistance, and higher education. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/17/governor-hogan-submits-1-08-billion-supplemental-budget-focused-on-rental-assistance-higher-education-and-transportation/>.
- MD Vaccine Equity Task Force Updates:

- March 20th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/20/maryland-vaccine-equity-task-force-update-march-20-2021/>.
- March 27th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/27/maryland-vaccine-equity-task-force-update-march-27-2021/>.
- April 3rd: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/03/265226/>.
- April 17th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/17/maryland-vaccine-equity-task-force-update-april-17-2021/>.
- May 1st: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/01/maryland-vaccine-equity-task-force-update-may-1-2021/>.
- May 9th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/09/maryland-vaccine-equity-task-force-update-may-9-2021/>.
- May 27th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/27/no-arm-left-behind-maryland-vaccine-equity-task-force-marks-500-clinics-statewide/>.
- Updates on Pandemic Unemployment Insurance and related unemployment insurance support: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/23/governor-hogan-announces-maryland-accepting-claims-and-issuing-payments-for-extended-federal-unemployment-insurance-programs/>.
- Maryland will adopt new CDC guidance for physical distancing in between students to be 3 feet instead of 6 feet. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/25/state-of-maryland-adopts-cdcs-updated-physical-distancing-guidelines-for-k-12-schools/>.
- Open enrollment for health insurance via the MD Health Connection has now been extended through August 15, 2021. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/26/governor-hogan-announces-extension-of-state-health-insurance-special-enrollment-period-until-aug-15/>.
- Federal mobile vaccination units through FEMA will launch first in MD to enhance equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/29/governor-hogan-announces-first-federal-mobile-vaccination-units-to-launch-in-maryland/>.
- Announcement of funding allocation agreements for MD's portion of The American Rescue Plan Act's State and local support: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/03/31/governor-hogan-president-ferguson-speaker-jones-announce-bipartisan-agreement-for-american-rescue-plan-funding/>.
- The American Rescue Plan has lowered health insurance costs through the MD Health Benefit Exchange. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/01/american-rescue-plan-act-lowers-health-care-costs-for-marylanders/>.
- Vaccine registrations are open for anyone 16+ at mass vaccination sites and future mass vaccination sites have been announced. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/01/governor-hogan-announces-covid-19-vaccine-pre-registration-for-all-marylanders-16-and-older/>.
- The MD Commissioner extended the State's foreclosure moratorium through May 3, 2021. Full press release: <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/whatsnews/frforematoriumm.shtml>.
- The State income tax filing deadline is July 15, 2021. For more information on this and the RELIEF Act, visit: <https://www.marylandtaxes.gov/RELIEFAct/index.php>.

- Mass vaccination sites for walk-in, no appointment vaccinations have been announced. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/22/no-arm-left-behind-state-of-maryland-continues-to-expand-walk-up-no-appointment-vaccinations/>.
- Vaccine Equity Task Force Request Form to Host a Community Vaccination Events: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/VETF-Community-Request.pdf>.
- April 24th – Maryland had the lowest COVID-19 transmission rate in the country. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/04/24/maryland-reports-biggest-drop-in-covid-19-cases-nationwide-lowest-transmission-rate-in-the-country/>.
- Governor Hogan announced the launching of Project Bounce Back, a \$25 million public private partnership to support youth mental health needs in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/06/maryland-surpasses-5-million-covid-19-vaccinations-case-rate-falls-to-six-month-low/>.
- With recent FDA and CDC approval, 12-15-year-olds can begin getting COVID-19 vaccines on May 13, 2021. Additionally, work search requirements will begin being reinstated in June. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/12/governor-hogan-lifts-capacity-limits-on-indoor-and-outdoor-venues-all-remaining-restrictions-on-indoor-and-outdoor-dining-as-of-may-15/>.
- Updated guidance from MD Department of Health: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/2021.05.14.01%20Amended%20Order%20Regulating%20Limiting%20the%20Spread%20of%20COVID-19.pdf>.
- \$192.9 million has been allocated for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, opening up more opportunities for people to get eviction prevention support. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/17/governor-hogan-announces-192-9-million-in-additional-emergency-rental-assistance-awards-to-local-jurisdictions/>.
- The MD State House will reopen to the public on May 21st. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/05/18/maryland-state-house-to-reopen-to-the-public-on-friday/>.
- Governor Hogan has applied to the federal government to discontinue pandemic unemployment benefits, and the MD Department of Labor will reinstate work search requirements the week of July 4th. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/06/01/as-economic-recovery-continues-maryland-to-discontinue-enhanced-pandemic-unemployment-benefits/>.
- COVID-19 Positivity Rates and Hospitalizations:
 - June 2nd: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/06/02/maryland-reports-under-100-new-covid-19-cases-for-first-time-since-march-25-2020/>.
 - June 3rd: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/06/03/marylands-daily-positivity-rate-drops-below-1-for-first-time/>.
 - June 15th: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/06/15/maryland-surpasses-6-5-million-vaccinations-positivity-rate-drops-to-record-low-0-82/>.
 - July 2nd: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/07/02/covid-19-hospitalizations-in-maryland-drop-below-100/>.
- A new Community COVID-19 Vaccination Project has been launched to open up \$3 million for State health officials to partner with community organizations for vaccine outreach, education, and clinics. Full press release:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/06/07/no-arm-left-behind-governor-hogan-announces-3-million-community-covid-19-vaccination-project/>.

- Onsite vaccination clinics will be held at Camden Yards in partnership with the Orioles June 18th-23rd. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/06/14/state-of-maryland-baltimore-orioles-to-host-covid-19-vaccination-clinics-at-camden-yards-over-fathers-day-weekend/>.
- Governor Hogan announced that the State of Emergency will end on July 1st with a 45-day grace period for certain aspects. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/06/15/governor-hogan-announces-end-of-covid-19-state-of-emergency/>.
- Governor Hogan announced the launch of the VaxU Scholarship Program to encourage people ages 12-17 to get vaccinated. Full press release: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2021/07/07/governor-hogan-announces-1-million-vaxu-scholarship-promotion/>.

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

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

MD COVIDlink: <https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/>

MD Vaccination Sign-up: <https://www.marylandvax.org/>

Howard County Updates

Executive Orders

- 2/17/2021: Effective Friday, February 19th at 5pm, indoor social gatherings are restricted to 10 people and outdoor social gatherings are restricted to 25 people. Social gatherings include cookouts, family gatherings, parties, conventions, festivals, parades, and fundraisers unrelated to operating or patronizing businesses that sell merchandise. Full text: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/updated%20executive%20order.pdf?ver=2021-02-17-115051-250>. Press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2305/news021721>.
- 3/17/2021: Rescinds previous local orders around gathering and business restrictions given that the 3/9/2021 State Order now prohibits local jurisdictions from enacting local orders that are more restrictive than the State's orders. Thus, Howard County is following State orders as written. Full text: [https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/EO%20rescinding%20EO04%20final%20\(1\).pdf?ver=2021-03-17-132519-053](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/EO%20rescinding%20EO04%20final%20(1).pdf?ver=2021-03-17-132519-053).
- May 19, 2021: Effective July 1, 2021, all deadlines for County business that were previously suspended during the pandemic are now reinstated.
 - Full text: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=fXtkZyE8518%3d&portalid=0>.
 - Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2410/News051921b>.

Howard County Council

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).

General Updates/Resources

- Effective January 4, 2021, residents whose income has been impacted by COVID-19 can access a new round of rental assistance. For more information: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Housing-and-Community-Development/COVID-19-Housing-Information>.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=4_TNUdm1yl8%3d&tabid=3207&portalid=0.
- Vaccine updates:
 - January 19th: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2282/News011921>.
 - How to sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine:
 - Complete a pre-registration survey: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health/MM-Alerts-and-Recalls/COVID-19-Vaccine>.
 - E-mail HoCovaccine@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-6284 for assistance completing the survey.
 - February 23rd: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2312/News022321>.
 - March 18th: Howard County is following Governor Hogan's new vaccination eligibility timelines. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2341/News031821>.
 - The Columbia Mall mass vaccination site will be located at the former Lord and Taylor space and have a soft opening on April 30, 2021 by appointment only. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2386/Howard-County-Executive-Provides-Updates-to-Anticipated-Mass-Vaccination-Site>.
 - Information (locations, dates, times, which vaccine) and registration for vaccination clinics throughout Howard County: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health/MM-Alerts-and-Recalls/COVID-19-Vaccine>. Clinics permit both appointments and walk-ins (while supplies last).
- January 2021 funding announcements:
 - County Council and County Executive approve \$6.5 million in local aid. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2287/News012021d>.
 - \$9.7 million in rental assistance from the U.S. Treasury. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2290/News012621b>.
- Howard County is adhering to the January 28th State Executive Order allowing restaurants to reopen after 10pm beginning February 1st. Full text: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2292/news012821b>.

- County Executive Ball is hosting a telephone town hall on Monday, February 8th at 6pm to address questions and concerns about COVID-19 vaccine distribution. For more information: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2293/News020121>.
- The 3rd round of HoCo Rise Business Grants will give \$5.1 million in support to businesses. Full text: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2296/New020521>.
- Watch the February 8th Town Hall on COVID-19 vaccinations: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgOFBDw0jjw&feature=emb_logo.
- Pre-registration for all phases is now available at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health/MM-Alerts-and-Recalls/COVID-19-Vaccine> or by call the Howard County Health Department at 410-313-6284. Note: Appointments will become available based on supply and the current vaccination phase.
- There will be a Pop-Up Food Pantry Friday, February 19th from 10am to 11:30am at the Ridgely Run Community Center (8400 Mission Road, Jessup) sponsored by the Office of Human Rights and Equity and the Harriet Tubman Foundation of Howard County.
- County Executive Ball is participating in bi-weekly calls with the National Association of Counties and the White House’s COVID-19 vaccination team. If you have comments/questions/concerns that you would like shared on a call, e-mail them to cball@howardcountymd.gov with “Question for White House Vax Team” in the subject line. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2307/News021921>.
- The County Executive shared that the County will expand the Mobile Integrated Community Health unit and dedicate \$1 million in grants to organizations to aid in an equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2322/News030821>.
- A report on the HoCo Rise Business grants is now available. Full press release and access to report: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2324/News030921>.
- County Executive Ball determined that Howard County will act in accordance with the Governor’s March 9, 2021 executive orders. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2328/News031021b>.
- Update on vaccine rollout for HCPSS – full press release – March 11, 2021: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2329/News031121>.
- \$11 million in rental, mortgage, and utility assistance is now available. For more information, visit: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Housing-and-Community-Development/COVID-19-Housing-Information>. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2330/News031121b>.
- Howard County has been allocated \$63.1 million from the American Rescue Plan. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2331/News031121c>.
- HoCo Rise Collaborative Report (Howard County’s response to the pandemic and recommendations for long-term recovery): <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/HoCo%20Rise%20Report%20Final%20To%20Print.pdf?ver=2021-03-15-123740-540>.
- 4 Mobile Testing Sites Available 3pm-7pm each day (PCR and rapid tests; no cost):
 - March 29th: Long Reach Village Center (8775 Cloudleap Ct.)
 - March 30th: North Laurel Community Center (9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd.)

- April 1st: Recreation and Parks Headquarters (7120 Oakland Mills Rd.)
 - April 2nd: Elkridge 50+ Center (6540 Washington Blvd.)
- Community-based mobile COVID-19 testing operated by First Call Urgent Care will now be operating on a continued basis starting March 29th. Testing opportunities occur Monday-Friday, 3pm-7pm at designated locations. For more information on the locations and the full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2357/Howard-County-Executive-Launches-Community-Based-Mobile-Testing>.
- Spring holiday recommendations: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2359/News040121>.
- Mobile testing sites' hours have now been extended to 12pm-7pm for each day. Testing locations are Long Reach Village Center (Mondays), North Laurel Community Center (Tuesdays), Normandy Shopping Center (Wednesdays), Recreation and Parks Headquarters (Thursdays), and The Elkridge 50+ Center (Fridays). More information can be found in the April 19, 2021 Ball Bulletin: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Reaching-a-Plateau.html?soid=1132235439076&aid=95oTTXWiyu>.
- 50+ Centers in Howard County began reopening with limited services at 50% capacity beginning April 30, 2021. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2383/Howard-County-Executive-Calvin-Ball-Opens-50-Centers-to-Limited-In-Person-Services-This-Week>.
- The County government has a new public-private partnership with Safeway for further vaccine distribution. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2387/Howard-County-Executive-Launches-Vaccination-Partnership-with-Safeway>.
- Howard County will be in alignment with the State's most recent executive order removing restrictions on standing outdoor dining and outdoor masking. Additionally, effective Friday, April 30, 2021, the restrictions on indoor athletic facilities has been partially lifted. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2389/Howard-County-Executive-Announces%20A0Alignment-with-Governor%20A0Orders-Limited-Reopening-of-Indoor-Athletic-Facilities-to-Spectators>.
- May 13, 2021 Vaccine equity update: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2404/News051321>.
- Howard County's mask/face coverings requirements are to remain in line with recent State orders. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2407/News051421>.
- May 19, 2021 Howard County COVID-19 metrics press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/2409/News051921>.
- May 25th update on Columbia Mall mass vaccination site: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News052521>.
- The Columbia Mall mass vaccination site has closed as the State has been closing mass vaccination sites. To find a COVID-19 vaccine, visit: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine>.
- Howard County will offer vaccinations at Merriweather concerts. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/news062821>.

- **NEW FUNDING AVAILABLE** - The State Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) received \$20 million to share among the counties for nonprofit assistance grants for COVID-19 support. Howard County will be awarded \$1,077,430. The Howard County Economic Development Authority will be disbursing grants; applications are open July 15th-31st. Full press release: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/news063021>.

Howard County Vaccination Clinics: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine>.

StayCOVIDSafe Howard County Updates: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19>.

Federal Updates

General Updates/Resources

- Nonprofit-related provisions in recent COVID-19 relief legislation: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/sites/default/files/documents/covid-relief-bill-chart.pdf>.
- Congress approved appropriations through the end of the fiscal year. FY '22 legislation should be introduced in the spring.
- A nationwide injunction has been placed on the executive order to prohibit bias and diversity training. Full text: https://www.jacksonlewis.com/sites/default/files/docs/NDCalif_SantaCruz.pdf.
- COVID-19 Relief for Workers and Families: <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/sites/democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov/files/documents/12.21.20%20WM%20Contributions%20to%20EOY%20Package.pdf>.
- Federal moratorium on evictions and mortgages extended through March 31, 2021.
- Webinar playback – COVID-19 Relief and Nonprofits: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-policy-issues/what-s-the-new-covid-relief-law-nonprofits>.
- U.S. Department of Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program
 - Program Information: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/emergency-rental-assistance-program>.
 - FAQ's: https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/ERA-Frequently-Asked-Questions_Pub-2-22-21.pdf.
- Overview of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 by the National Conference of State Legislatures: <https://www.ncsl.org/ncsl-in-dc/publications-and-resources/american-rescue-plan-act-of-2021.aspx>.
- The current application round of Paycheck Protection Program loans (PPP) closes on March 31, 2021. For more information: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>.
- Information on The American Rescue Plan Act from the National Council of Nonprofits:
 - Special Edition Update: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/civicism/ mailing/view?reset=1&id=3221>.

- Analysis: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-policy-issues/the-american-rescue-plan-act>.
- Employee Retention Credit: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/thought-leadership/nonprofits-don-t-overlook-your-potential-refund-under-the-employee-retention-tax>.
- Federal foreclosure moratorium and forbearance enrollment window extended until June 20, 2021. For more information: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/16/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-extension-of-covid-19-forbearance-and-foreclosure-protections-for-homeowners/>.
- Applications are opening on April 8th for the Shuttered Venues Operations Grant.
 - Full press release: <https://www.sba.gov/article/2021/mar/19/sba-launches-portal-begin-accepting-shuttered-venue-operators-grant-applications-april-8>.
 - Informational webinar on March 30th, 2:30pm-4pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/svog-application-informational-webinar-registration-147041437899>.
- The IRS has extended the federal tax filing deadline for individuals to May 17, 2021. Full press release: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-day-for-individuals-extended-to-may-17-treasury-irs-extend-filing-and-payment-deadline>.
- The Small Business Administration has clarified that businesses/nonprofits may qualify for the 1st round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans if they have no more than 500 employees at a location. For the 2nd round of PPP loans, an entity cannot have more than 300 employees at a location. Interim Rule: <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/SBAPPPIFRARP%203.17.21%20%28FINAL%29-508.pdf>.
- FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>.
- National Low Income Housing Coalition's Review of the American Rescue Plan Act: https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/COVID-Relief-Budget_Reconciliation.pdf.
- The CDC's eviction moratorium has been extended through June 30, 2021. Press release: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0329-Eviction-Moratorium.html>.
- The Paycheck Protection Program is now accepting applications until May 31, 2021. More information: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>.
- Update on Economic Injury Disaster Loans – loans approved beginning April 6, 2021 will now encompass up to 24 months of injury and can be for up to \$500,000. Previous loan recipients can request more funding in accordance with this change. For more information: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/covid-19-economic-injury-disaster-loan>.
- Shuttered Venue Operators Grant: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/shuttered-venue-operators-grant>.
- Senator Ben Cardin's State and Local Guide to the American Rescue Plan Act: <https://www.marylandnonprofits.org/wp-content/uploads/Senator-Cardins-State-and-Local-Guide-to-the-American-Rescue-Plan-Act-3-12-21.pdf>.
- National Council of Nonprofits Webinar on Nonprofits' Returning to In-Person Work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0e6RthrkEs>.

- April 27, 2021 CDC Guidance on masking and other COVID-19 safety precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>.
- Small Business Administration Updates:
 - The Shuttered Venue Operators Grant has reopened. For more information about the grant, visit: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/shuttered-venue-operators-grant>. To apply, visit: <https://www.svograntportal.sba.gov/s/>.
 - The Economic Injury Disaster Loans' limit has been raised to encompass up to 24 months and \$500,000. For more information: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/covid-19-economic-injury-disaster-loan>.
- CDC Vaccine Equity Guide for Community Partners: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/guide-community-partners.pdf>.
- The Federal Communications Commission created the Emergency Broadband Benefit to help individuals and families gain internet access. Applications for assistance open on May 12, 2021.
 - Please advise applicants to send copies of required documents (i.e., tax return, pay stub, loss of income document, etc.) for the application and not originals of required documents.
 - For more information, visit <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>, send a message to broadbandbenefit@fcc.gov, or call 833-511-0311.
 - Outreach toolkit: <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-outreach-toolkit>.
- The Small Business Association launched a new Economic Injury Disaster Loan called Supplemental Targeted Advances for businesses with 10 or fewer employees that are in low-income communities and suffered at least a 50% economic loss. Full press release: <https://www.sba.gov/article/2021/apr/23/sba-launches-supplemental-targeted-advance-small-businesses-hardest-hit-covid-19>. For more information: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/covid-19-economic-injury-disaster-loan>.
- CDC guidance for people who are fully vaccinated: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>.
- Paycheck Protection Program update – May 20, 2021 – funds have been exhausted with certain exceptions: “SBA is currently offering PPP loans originated only by participating community financial institutions including Certified Development Companies (CDCs), SBA Microlenders, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) until May 31, 2021 or until remaining funds are exhausted. Please note that not all community financial institutions are participating in PPP.” <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>.
- Treasury Department’s Interim Final Rule on how American Rescue Plan Act funds may be used: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/TREAS-DO-2021-0008-0002>.
 - National Conference of State Legislators’ Resource: <https://www.ncsl.org/ncsl-in-dc/publications-and-resources/american-rescue-plan-coronavirus-state-and-local-recovery-fund-interim-final-rule-questions.aspx>.
- Update on nonprofit job recovery: <https://ccss.jhu.edu/may-2021-jobs/>.

- KinderCare, Learning Care Group locations, and many YMCAs are offering free child care through July 4th for parents and caregivers who need support get or recover from a COVID-19 vaccine. Press release: <https://childcare.gov/covid-19/families/vaccines>.
- National Council of Nonprofits resources on nonprofits utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) support: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-policy-issues/strengthening-state-and-local-economies-partnership-nonprofits>.
- Free child care is available while you get vaccinated through September 6, 2021: <https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/free-child-care-while-getting-vaccinated>.
- Both the CDC and Federal Housing Administration have announced that the federal moratorium on evictions and foreclosures has been extended until July 31, 2021. This is said to be the last extension. Press releases:
 - CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0624-eviction-moratorium.html>.
 - HUD: [https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD No 21 108](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_108).
- Updated workplace safety information from OSHA, focusing on protected workers who are not vaccinated: <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>.