# FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND JOINT INFORMATION CENTER COVID-19

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Frederick County Agency Updates for April 22, 2020

**Frederick, MD –** April 22, 2020

## Health Department:

The Health Department is now reporting 696 positive cases of COVID-19 and 42 deaths. For more information, please visit health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus.

Here are some of our most frequently asked questions:

*Do I still have to stay 6 feet apart from other people if I'm wearing a mask?*

Yes! Wearing a face covering AND maintaining a distance of 6 feet from people outside our household while in public spaces is the best way to avoid spreading COVID-19. People can have the virus and spread it to others without showing any symptoms. Wearing a face covering and staying 6 feet apart reduces the risk of transmission.

*What about the 500,000 tests from South Korea. Can everyone get testing now?*

The tests the Governor was able to purchase will be an important part in Maryland's recovery. We are waiting to hear how Maryland will distribute the tests to the counties and how testing criteria may change. At the moment, the current testing criteria are still being followed, and we will announce any changes.

For now, the best thing you can do is stay home if you are not having symptoms of illness. If you must go out for essentials, ensure you are wearing a face covering and maintaining a 6 foot physical distance from others.

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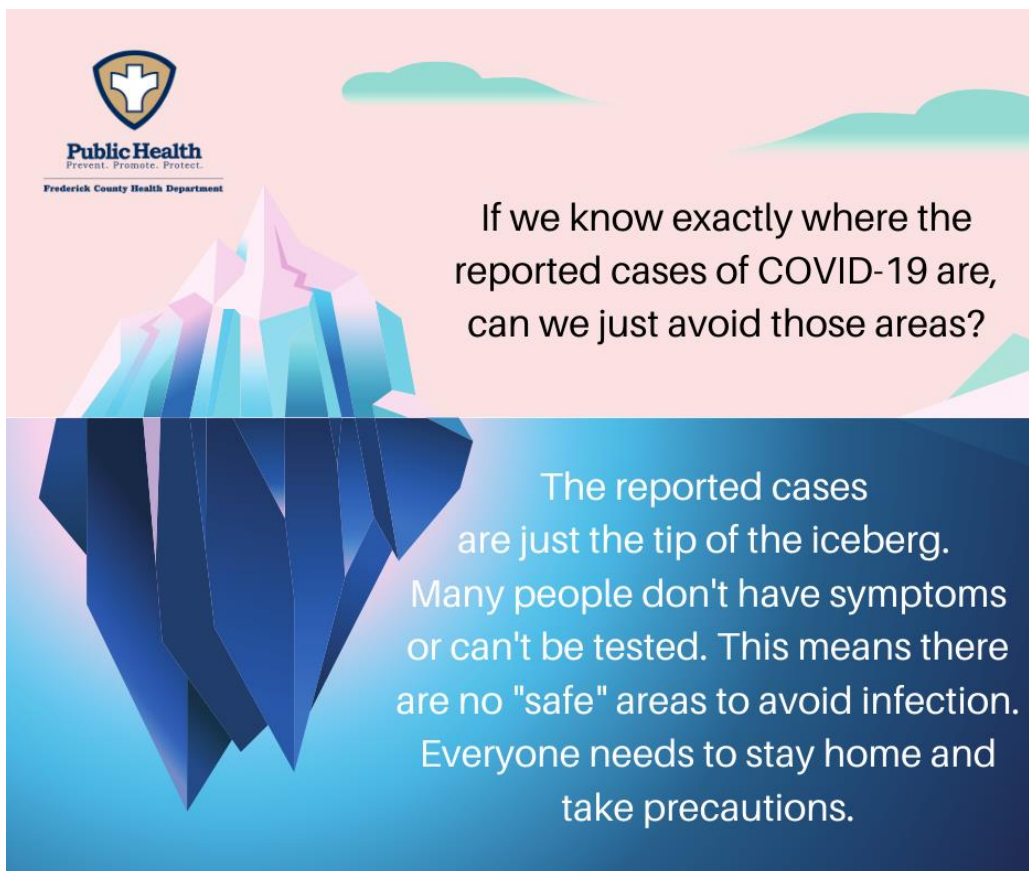
*I've heard there is an antibody test to see if we've had COVID-19. What does that mean? Can I get tested?*

The CDC and other labs are working on developing antibody tests that could show whether a person has already had COVID-19. This could be helpful for people who were sick but didn't meet the testing criteria. Since this is a new virus and data is limited, public health experts are still evaluating how accurate and useful these tests may be. Currently we do not have any antibody tests available in Frederick County or the ability to do at home testing.

*The number of cases in my zip code isn't that high, can we just get back to normal?*

Maryland and Frederick County are still experiencing increases in cases; we have not peaked yet. We also know that reported cases are just the tip of the iceberg; there are people in our community who are sick but haven't been tested, and others who have COVID-19 but don't have any symptoms. Thanks to the actions the public and businesses are taking to comply with the Governor's orders, the number of cases is lower than it otherwise would have been. We know it is difficult, but staying home is helping to flatten the curve. Frederick County is in this together.



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## Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council (VAC):

The Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) has prepared a Guide to COVID-19 related information for Veteran and Military families. The guide includes relevant information from County agencies, local resources, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, and the US Department of Defense. The guide has been posted on the VAC website under Veterans Resources. The POC is Linda Bergofsky, VAC Coordinator, who may be reached at LBergofsky@FrederickCountyMD.gov or 301-600-1414.

## Senior Services:

The Senior Services Division announced last week that older adults in Frederick County can stay engaged and connected, even as in-person public gatherings are on hold, through new online offerings from the Division's 50+ Community Centers. As of Monday, April 20, enhanced virtual lessons and activities are available from the Virtual 50+ Community Center at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/virtual50.

## For more information:

Frederick County residents can call 866-411-6803 to reach our local 211 center with general questions about coronavirus or COVID19. Accurate COVID-19 information is critical to the community. For the most current and accurate information about this situation, please refer to the following:

- City of Frederick: //cityoffrederickmd.gov/covid19
- Frederick County Government: www.frederickcountymd.gov/Coronavirus
- Frederick County Health Department: health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus
- Maryland Department of Health (MDH): coronavirus.maryland.gov
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): coronavirus.gov

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