



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND JOINT INFORMATION CENTER COVID-19



News Release

Media Contact: Rissah Watkins
Frederick County Health Department
JIC@FrederickCountyMD.Gov
301-600-7662 • TTY Use Maryland Relay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Frederick County Agency Updates for October 1, 2020

Frederick, MD – October 1, 2020

Frederick County Health Department:

<p>Confirmed Cases</p> <p>4,117</p> <p>Change in Last 24 Hours: +29</p>	<p>Confirmed Deaths</p> <p>125</p> <p>Change in Last 24 Hours: +0</p>	<p>7-Day Positivity Rate</p> <p>2.6%</p>
--	--	---

Please check our dashboard for daily statistics: <http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/COVIDstats>.



Frequently Asked Question: Do I need a face covering with my Halloween costume?

- *Answer:* A costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face. If you wear a cloth mask under a costume mask, make sure that the mask wearer can still breathe comfortably! A Halloween-themed cloth mask may be a good option instead of a costume mask.

-more-

- For more information, check out our tips in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). (Click to enlarge).

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">HAPPY HALLOWEEN</h2>  <p>Plan on <u>low risk activities</u> this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pumpkin carving, a virtual costume party, or a scavenger hunt. See more ideas here. • Outdoor activities are better than indoor activities. • Small gatherings are better than large gatherings or parties. • Enjoy pumpkin patch and hayrides in small groups. Wear masks and stay distanced if other households join you. • Choose haunted forests instead of inside haunted houses. <p>Door-to-door trick-or-treating is not encouraged. If you do choose this activity, here are some tips to protect others and yourself:</p> <p>Trick-or-Treaters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a cloth mask under a costume mask to keep a close fit over the nose and mouth. • Go with your own household and keep distance between other groups. • Use flashlights or glow sticks so walkers can be easily seen. • Wash your hands before going trick-or-treating and use hand sanitizer after touching surfaces and objects. <p>Candy-Givers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash/sanitize hands before passing out candy. • Wear a face covering. • Set up candy outside if possible and consider creative ways to get candy to kids safely, like individual treat bags. <p style="text-align: center;">Frederick County, MD Updated 9/23/2020</p>	 <h2 style="text-align: center;">HAPPY HALLOWEEN</h2>  <p>Para este año haga un plan con <u>actividades de bajo riesgo</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tallando calabazas, una fiesta de disfraces virtual, o un juego de búsqueda de tesoros. Encuentre más ideas aquí. • Actividades al aire libre es mejor que actividades adentro de un recinto. • Pequeñas reuniones es mejor que reuniones o fiestas grandes. • Aproveche los huertos de calabaza y los paseos en tractores cargados de heno en grupos pequeños. Use la mascarilla y guarde distancia si es invitado en otros grupos familiares. • Escoja ir a bosque encantado, que a cambio de una casa encantada. <p>No se anima a pedir dulces puerta-a-puerta. Si usted decide hacerlo, aquí le dejamos unas ideas para proteger a otros y protegerse a sí mismo:</p> <p>Pedir dulces puerta-a-puerta:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use una mascarilla debajo de la máscara del disfraz para tener cubierta la boca con algo firme contra la nariz y la boca. • Vaya con su grupo familiar y guarde distancia con otros grupos. • Use linternas, o barras resplandecientes, así otros caminantes pueden verlo fácilmente. • Lávese las manos antes de salir a recoger dulces y use el desinfectante de manos después de tocar áreas y objetos. <p>A los que reparten dulces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lave/desinfecte sus manos antes de entregar los dulces. • Use la mascarilla. • Organice los dulces afuera, si es posible considere usar maneras creativas para que los niños tomen los dulces de forma segura, como preparar bolsas de dulces individuales. <p style="text-align: center;">Frederick County, MD Updated 9/23/2020</p>
---	--

FCHD Behavioral Health

The Frederick County Health Department's Behavioral Health Services Division announces the launch of a new public health campaign to raise awareness of emotional distress related to the pandemic. Lives everywhere have been affected by COVID-19. The pandemic is not only posing significant health risks but causing enormous emotional distress as well. But there's a way forward for anyone who's struggling in Frederick County. On this site, you can find guidelines, tips, and resources if you're experiencing depression, excessive alcohol or drug use, domestic trauma, or thoughts of suicide. Or you can call 2-1-1 to speak to someone. Either way, you're not alone—help is available. More information can be found here: <https://awayforwardtogether.org/>



-more-



Page 3/JIC

Frederick County Board of Elections:

Voters in Frederick County now have six locations to return their mail-in ballots or ballot applications to the Board of Elections for the November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election. Rather than make a trip to the post office, a voter can return their ballots or ballot application at the secure drop boxes at the following locations:

- **Frederick County Board of Elections** office, 340A Montevue Lane, Frederick. Right of front door
- **Governor Thomas Johnson High School**, 1501 N. Market Street, Frederick. Outside main gym entrance
- **Catoctin High School**, 14745 Sabillasville Road, Thurmont. Front entrance
- **Urbana Regional Library**, 9020 Amelung Street, Frederick. Rear entrance
- **Middletown VFD Activities Center**, 1 Fireman's Lane, Middletown. Rear entrance
- **Brunswick Middle School**, 301 Cummings Drive, Brunswick. Front entrance



Election staff will retrieve applications on a daily basis for processing. The voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020. Your request for a mail-in ballot must be received no later than October 20, 2020. Ballots must be returned to the elections office by mail postmarked no later than November 3, or put in a secure drop box placed around the county by the close of the polls on 8 p.m., November 3.

For more information, email the Board of Elections at electionboard@frederickcountymd.gov.

Maryland Office of Home Energy Program:

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has issued a moratorium on shut-offs of gas, electricity, telephone (landline only), and private water companies.

- ***Utilities can begin to send turn-off notices on October 1, 2020.***
- Any shut-off notice sent prior to October 1, 2020 is void.
- Customers cannot be turned off prior to November 15, 2020. This gives you 45 days to address past-due utility bills.



The Governor's Executive Order prohibiting shut-offs of utility services and other residential services has expired. The PSC order is the only order prohibiting shut-offs of residential utility services. There is no moratorium on shut-offs of cellphone, VOIP, broadband, or internet services.

-more-

Page 4/JIC

Past-Due Bills – Steps to Take

Apply for energy assistance now. If you are on a fixed income, unemployed or underemployed, or paid low wages, these funds can be a lifeline. **Contact your utility now.** The utility **MUST** offer you a payment plan of at least 12 months with no down payment. See instructions below.

Energy Assistance

- There are energy assistance funds available. As ratepayers and taxpayers, we pay for these funds. You do not need a turn-off notice to apply.
- Remember: The funds can help with past-due bills and reduce current bills.
- Apply to the Office of Home Energy Program (OHEP) ASAP
 - Online: <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/>
 - Mail: Contact your local energy assistance office to be mailed an application. If you are unsure of your local energy assistance office call 800-332-6347.
 - Call: Contact your local energy assistance office or 800-332-6347 for an application or to ask questions.
- **Not eligible for OHEP? A little over-income?**
 - Fuel Fund (Central Maryland):
 - i. Apply online at www.fuefundmaryland.org
 - ii. Call 410-235-9080 and press option 1
 - Washington Area Fuel Fund: Contact your local Salvation Army. In Frederick: 301-662-2311
 - Check out our Resource Guides at www.opc.maryland.gov.

Need Help
Paying Heating and
Electric Bills?

Apply today to make
your energy costs more
AFFORDABLE!

For information call toll free:
1-800-332-6347 (en Español también)


Effective July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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: <https://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

###