



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND JOINT INFORMATION CENTER COVID-19



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

COVID-19 Joint Information Center Update

Frederick, MD – April 15, 2020

County Executive:

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner joined six other Maryland County Executives and the Mayor of Baltimore City in sending a letter to Governor Larry Hogan to seek support for the Maryland Food Bank's \$12M request for its COVID-19 Food Access Response Plan. This funding is necessary to ensure that impacted Marylanders will not have to worry about where their next meal will come from during this this difficult time. To read the entire letter visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/DocumentCenter/View/325691/041520-County-Executives---Letter-to-Governor-Hogan.

Health Department:

The Health Department is now reporting 497 positive cases of COVID-19 and 20 deaths. Seven more deaths which occurred over the last week are included in today's total. For more information, please visit health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus.

Updates:

- We will not be reporting on the COVID-19 outbreak status of any individual facilities, including long term care facilities, by name until we receive authorization from the Maryland Department of Health. Long term care facilities are required to inform their staff and residents (including their legal representatives) about positive COVID-19 cases.
- The [Directive and Order](#) Concerning Face Coverings for Enhanced Customer and Employee Safety was issued by the Health Officer yesterday will go into effect in Frederick County tomorrow, April 16.

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Frederick County Joint Information Center COVID-19
www.frederickcountymd.gov/JIC



Page 2/JIC

We've compiled a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and here are some highlights:

Q. What if I don't have a face covering?

A. CDC has some tips on how to make a cloth face covering at home, both sew and no-sew options. You can make a face covering out of a t-shirt or bandana.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Q. What businesses does this apply to?

A. This order applies to any business that is selling something to the public face-to-face. This includes restaurants and take-out or curbside pick-up.

Q. Is there a guide for businesses establishing capacity per square foot that they can use and will be used for determining compliance?

A. Essential retail businesses have the leeway to determine what works best for their space. The conditions that contribute to the potential spread of the virus are space and closeness of people to each other regardless of the larger building square footage and it also depends upon air flow. Employers should set capacity limits lower that allow for employees and customers to continually observe social distancing of 6 feet as much as possible.

Q. What if people do not follow this? What should people do to report it?

A. Complaints about businesses not complying can be emailed to:

bbrookmyer@frederickcountymd.gov with the subject COMPLAINT and [name of business], and then describe the issue in the body of the email.

Complaints about public: There are many reasons why people may not be able to wear a face covering and not all medical reasons for not wearing a face covering are visible. During this stressful time, we want to encourage our community to be kind to one another and avoid language or behavior that may stigmatize someone. Wearing face coverings is a way we can help to reduce the risk for our essential workers, so we hope our community will help protect others.

Child Advocacy Center:

The Director of the Child Advocacy Center recently did an interview where she discussed the increased opportunity that potential child abuse cases may go unreported. The full interview is available at <https://www.localdvm.com/news/child-abuse-advocates-warn-of-possible-increase-in-cases-amid-coronavirus-outbreak/>.

To make a report of child maltreatment, contact Child Protective Services via a 24/7 hotline at 301-600-2464 or contact local law enforcement.

For obtaining information or for questions/assistance in making a report, contact the [Child Advocacy Center](#), at 301-600-1758, Monday through Friday 8am-4pm.

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Page 3/JIC

State's Attorney's Office:

The Chief Judge for the MD Court of Appeals [has extended the administrative order](#) limiting the Courts functions until June 5th. Under the order by Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, courthouses are closed to the public and operating with essential staff only to handle emergency matters.

All non-emergency matters scheduled for a court hearing or proceeding, including jury trials, scheduled to begin March 17 through June 5 will be postponed, unless otherwise noted. Scheduling orders issued in civil and family law matters will be addressed by motion on a case-by-case basis. All jury trials currently scheduled before July 20th are postponed.

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](http://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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