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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:

### Frederick County Agency Updates for May 12, 2020

Frederick, MD – May 12, 2020

#### **Health Department:**

The Health Department is now reporting that 1321 residents have tested positive for COVID-19, 83 people have died, and 615 people have been released from isolation. For more information, please visit [health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus](http://health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus).

#### **Maryland Department of Health offers mental health support during COVID-19 pandemic**

Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) administrators have been urging Marylanders — especially those on the frontlines — to seek help before they reach a crisis point. BHA has created extensive resources to help healthcare workers and the general public access mental health support.

“It is vital that we are proactive about addressing mental health concerns,” said Dr. Aliya Jones, Deputy Secretary for BHA. “Even after the critical data points have gone in the right direction, due to the nature of the pandemic, this crisis has the potential to have a long-term impact on all of us. Disasters are known to be followed by increases in PTSD, depression, substance use, suicidal thoughts and attempts, domestic violence and child abuse. However, that doesn’t have to be the case. We can minimize increases in these after effects by taking advantage of available emotional support and treatment resources.”

BHA has created a **Telehealth Resource Guide** and an [interactive Telehealth Map](#) to help new patients access care. The map includes known behavioral health providers now offering telehealth services across the state.

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[www.frederickcountymd.gov/JIC](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/JIC)



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Another new resource from BHA is **Operation Roll Call**, a program that offers veterans regular check-in calls and a chance to talk to someone who can offer support. An emergency contact is called if a veteran cannot be reached. Inspired in part by the Department of Aging's Senior Call Check-in, this new resource will continue for veterans after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

BHA also is working on a new initiative to provide targeted mental health support to personnel working in skilled nursing and other long-term care facilities impacted by COVID-19.

"Nursing home staff are facing especially difficult situations, given the impact of COVID-19 on the elderly and physically vulnerable. They often work for years with residents who become like family," said Jones. "Many of these frontline healthcare workers need mental health support now, and we cannot ask them to wait in line to get help."

Like several other initiatives developed in reaction to COVID-19, Jones hopes to expand this resource beyond nursing homes and the current pandemic. BHA is calling on volunteers to help build support systems that will last into the future.

To access these programs and other resources, reach 2-1-1 in Frederick County by calling 866-411-6803.

Those interested in donating time, sharing resources or ideas for collaboration should email [bha.inquiries@maryland.gov](mailto:bha.inquiries@maryland.gov).

## **JIC:**

### *Guidance on Park and Recreational Facilities*

As parks and recreational spaces open for more activity across the state, it's important to know each municipality, county and the state may have different rules for what parts of their park is open for use. For example some parks have reopened playground equipment but some have playground equipment that is still closed for use. Residents are encouraged to check with the park operator to understand what is allowed at a particular park.

**Regardless of a parks status, the requirements to not gather in groups of more than 10 people and to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet are still in effect.**

### **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](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/Coronavirus)
- Frederick County Health Department: [health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus](http://health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus)
- Maryland Department of Health (MDH): [coronavirus.maryland.gov](http://coronavirus.maryland.gov)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): [coronavirus.gov](http://coronavirus.gov)

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