



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:

Frederick County Agency Updates for November 19, 2020

Frederick, MD – November 19, 2020

Change in Frequency of Updates:

Update will not be posted on Nov. 26, Thanksgiving. Statistics will continue to be updated daily at <http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/COVIDstats>

Frederick County Health Department:

Confirmed Cases 5,859 Change in Last 24 Hours: +81	Confirmed Deaths 135 Change in Last 24 Hours: +1	7-Day Positivity Rate 5.5%
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Please check our dashboard for daily statistics: <http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/COVIDstats>.

COVID-19 Testing Locations:

- COVID-19 testing locations run by the Frederick County Health Department, including the Hillcrest testing site, and Frederick Memorial Hospital will be closed on Thanksgiving, Nov. 26.
- Some COVID-19 testing locations are reporting longer lines this week. You can find alternate locations for testing at <http://covidtest.maryland.gov/>

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

Page 2/JIC

Board of Health

A Frederick County Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 6:30pm. This meeting will review Frederick County COVID-19 data and present a proposal for additional regulations. The agenda and proposed regulations will be posted on the [Board of Health website](#).

Public comments will be accepted on the Council's public portal at <https://FrederickCountyMD.gov/CouncilMeetings>, or by calling toll-free 855- 925-2801, entering meeting code 8751, and leaving a voicemail message or to enter into a queue for live public comment during the meeting. Written comments and transcribed voice messages will be included in the Council record and minutes. Please note that personnel matters are confidential and cannot be received through this kind of forum.

The meeting will be broadcast live on FCG TV cable channels 19/1085, and webcast at FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV. The public may listen to the meeting by calling toll-free 855- 925-2801, and entering meeting code 8751.



Maryland Update:

Effective 5 p.m. on Friday, November 20, Governor Larry Hogan has set the following restrictions:

- Religious facilities, retail establishments and malls may not exceed 50% capacity. *(Religious facilities are currently capped at 50% by the Frederick County Board of Health.)*
- Food service establishments cannot be open to the public for dining from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Take-out and delivery are allowed during these hours.
- Outdoor sporting venues may not exceed 50% capacity.

Details can be found in [Executive Order 20-11-17-01](#).

A graphic with a red header and a dark grey body. The header says "COVID-19 UPDATE" and "NOVEMBER 17, 2020" in white. There is a small circular logo in the top right corner. The body contains four items, each with an icon and text: 1. A fork and knife icon: "Effective Nov. 20 at 5 p.m., bars, restaurants, and venues serving food and alcohol must close between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., except for carryout and delivery." 2. A shopping bag icon: "Capacity for retail and religious facilities will be reduced to 50%, in line with indoor dining, personal services and indoor recreation." 3. A hospital icon: "The Maryland Department of Health has issued several orders and guidance to prevent the overburdening of hospitals." 4. A shield icon: "Indoor visitation at nursing homes will be significantly limited. Visitors must have proof of a negative test within the past 72 hours." The bottom of the graphic has a dark red background with the text "WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT MARYLAND STRONG" in white.

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Maryland Office of People's Counsel:

IMPORTANT ALERT: *Moratorium on Utility Shut-Offs, Bill Assistance and Deferred Payment Plans*

The Public Service Commission's utility moratorium expired October 1, 2020 and shut-offs have resumed as of November 15, 2020. Anyone who may be eligible for the [Office of Home Energy Programs](#) (OHEP) is strongly encouraged to apply now and not wait for a turn-off notice.

Moratorium Status

1. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has issued a moratorium on shut-offs of gas, electricity, telephone (landline only), and private water companies.
 - a. Customers cannot be turned off prior to November 15, 2020.
 - b. Utilities can begin to send turn-off notices on October 1, 2020. This gives you 45 days to address past-due utility bills.
 - c. Any shut-off notice sent prior to October 1, 2020 is void.

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

Past-Due Bills – Steps to Take

1. **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. See instruction below.
2. **Contact your utility now.** The utility MUST offer you a payment plan of at least 12 months with no down payment.

Check [here](#) for more instructions and details. Click image on the right to see larger.

GOT A UTILITY TURN-OFF NOTICE? WHAT NOW?

You have 45 days to pay balance or get on a utility payment plan to avoid termination.

- 1 **MD ENERGY ASSISTANCE? DO YOU QUALIFY?**
 In past 30 DAYS, is gross (pre-tax) income less than chart below for the # people in household? IF YES, go to #2. IF NO, go to #5 below.

1	\$1,861	5	\$4,475
2	\$2,515	6	\$5,128
3	\$3,168	7	\$5,781
4	\$3,821	8	\$6,435
- 2 **APPLY FOR MD "OHEP" ENERGY ASSISTANCE**
 Most OHEP Offices aren't seeing clients in person, but you can still apply & get financial assistance: 1. Online at web site below. 2. Get a paper application at local office. 3. Call 800-332-6347. **MAKE SURE** your application has ALL verification documents.
- 3 **DON'T FORGET YOUR DOCUMENTS.**
 Send in signed OHEP application with these copies of documents: 1) income proof for everyone over 18 for past 30 days. 2) Social security cards for all household members. 3) Utility bill/fuel bill. 4) Applicant's photo ID. Address should match utility address for proof (if not, send in 2nd bill with current address: Cable, water, lease, phone bill).
- 4 **WAIT 3-4 WEEKS. CHECK STATUS ONLINE.**
 Visit www.MYOHEPSTATUS.org to see if your application was processed and amount of grants. OHEP will mail a letter, too. Grants credited to utility account.
- 5 **OWE UTILITY MORE \$\$\$?**
 Calculate the amount you still owe. See if Fuel Fund of Maryland (www.fuefundmaryland.org) or Salvation Army can give you a grant. Call utility & go on 24 mo. payment plan to avoid termination.
- ★ **CALL UTILITY & GET ON 12- MO. PAYMENT PLAN**
 Call your utility. Set-up a 12 mo. payment plan for the balance to avoid termination. Monthly payment plan amount will be added to future bills.

HTTPS://MYDHSBENEFITS.DHR.STATE.MD.US
MAIN DHS CALL CENTER: 800-332-6347
 RG: 800-665-6122
 PEPD: 202-433-7500
 BELMONT: 410-375-7117
 POTOMAC EDISON 800-696-8001 COLUMBIA GAS 800-327-4-427
 B MECD 410-448-3311 WASHINGTON GAS 844-327-4427
 BY: ENERGY ADVOCATES COALITION

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Thanksgiving:

The Maryland Department of Health today released holiday guidance for Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, urging extreme caution with holiday travel and celebrations as infection numbers continue to spike in Maryland and the surrounding region.

The MDH [Frequently Asked Questions About Holiday Safety](#) are available on the [CovidLINK](#) website. These guidelines align with holiday recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommending that Marylanders limit large indoor gatherings with people from different households, avoid unessential travel, and consider alternatives to in-person celebrations.

"While we tend to feel safe around people we know -- family, friends and neighbors -- the reality is we are experiencing a spike in infections. We have to maintain the habits that help keep us all safe -- wear your mask, wash your hands, maintain social distance and isolate when sick," said MDH Secretary Robert R. Neall.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/MDHholidayguidance>



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

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