

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Prince George's County
Office of the Health Officer

Date: April 9, 2020

To: Prince George's County Businesses

From: George L. Askew, MD, FAAP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health,
Human Services, and Education
Ernest L. Carter, MD, PhD, Health Officer

Re: COVID-19 Guidance

COVID-19 is widespread throughout the Prince George's County community. We thank you for your diligence and we strongly urge you to remain vigilant in practicing the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of your employees and consumers.

As a reminder, Governor Larry Hogan's executive order closing all non-essential businesses went into effect at 5:00 p.m. on March 23, 2020 and has not been lifted. Willful violation of this order will be considered a misdemeanor and if convicted, violators will be subject to imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Gatherings-THIRD-AMENDED-3.23.20.pdf>). The Governor's Office has also provided a comprehensive list of businesses deemed "essential" that are exempt from this order (<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/OLC-Interpretive-Guidance-COVID19-04.pdf>), including grocery stores, funeral homes and pharmaceutical distributors. Essential businesses must ensure that employees and consumers stay safe while in your facility. The CDC has outlined information on social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting work space and maintaining effective hygienic practices. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>.

Maintaining social distancing of at least 6 feet between people, proper and frequent hand washing and consistent and frequent work space disinfecting are necessary to protect your workers and customers. It will be necessary for you to evaluate and to subsequently implement operational changes that increase employee and consumer separation. When it is impractical for employees and/or consumers to maintain social distancing, the use of masks and gloves may be necessary. The CDC released an updated recommendation regarding the use of cloth face coverings in public (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>). We strongly urge business employees who are in contact with the public to do so in accordance with CDC parameters. Reusable face coverings must be cleaned and laundered when soiled or wet, at least daily and before each daily use.

It is important to practice and maintain effective hygiene in order to reduce the chances of spreading the COVID-19 virus. This includes frequent and thorough hand-washing, as well as consistent, and more frequent cleaning of surfaces with a disinfecting cleaner



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As a reminder to all food facilities, sick employees should not be working in a food facility at any time. The requirements in the State of Maryland Food regulations (COMAR 10.15.03) for workers at food facilities to include grocery stores, to wear gloves while handling food have not changed and retailers must follow the requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Department and Police Department staff will be working together in the community to enforce Governor Hogan's Executive Order to Control and Close Unsafe Facilities to protect public health. Facilities not in compliance with the Order may be closed.

If you have any questions, please refer to the County website or email questions to covid19@co.pg.md.us.

If you are seeking resources to assist you in maintaining your business operations, please direct your inquiries to the **Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation** (<https://www.pgcedc.com/covid19>) and **Employ Prince George's** (<https://www.employpg.org/covid19/>).

Thank you for your diligence and let's continue to work together to protect the public's health by doing what is necessary to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

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