



## Frequently Asked Questions for Maryland Businesses Planning and Responding to the Coronavirus

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We encourage members of the business community to reach out with their questions by emailing [Secretary.Commerce@maryland.gov](mailto:Secretary.Commerce@maryland.gov). For more more resources, please visit [BusinessExpress.Maryland.gov/Coronavirus](https://BusinessExpress.Maryland.gov/Coronavirus)



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### What does a “State of Emergency” mean?

A state of emergency has been declared in order to allow Maryland to coordinate and request emergency resources and support in response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). A state of emergency allows the Governor to access certain resources in order to increase the State's response.

A state of emergency is a good indicator that residents should remain alert and follow officials' orders and news stations in order to be informed of the situation.

### Will stores and businesses be open during a State of Emergency?

This state of emergency itself does not require employers to close. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency asks that all employers consider employee safety at all times and review their teleworking, leave, and continuity of operations plans and policies. Businesses are encouraged to practice social distancing, teleworking, and other healthy habits to keep workers safe during the outbreak.

As of 5 p.m. on Monday, March 23, [Governor Hogan has ordered all “non-essential” businesses to close](#) to the general public, but there is a long list of businesses to which that order DOES NOT apply. To see if your business is exempt, please consult the state's legal guidance on the governor's executive order, which can be read [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). The governor's order [follows federal guidance](#) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. If “essential” or “non-essential” status is still unclear, [please use this as guidance](#).

The Governor's orders also prohibit any gatherings of more than 10 people in the state. These emergency orders carry the full force of the law. Essential services such as grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, and banks will remain open. [Read more here](#).



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### Is my business required to close or are we considered an “essential” business or service?

As of 5 p.m. on Monday, March 23, [Governor Hogan has ordered all “non-essential” businesses to close](#) to the general public, but there is a long list of essential businesses to which that closure order **DOES NOT** apply. To see if your business may be an essential business and exempt from the closure order, please consult the state’s legal guidance on the governor’s executive order, which can be read [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

The governor’s order follows federal guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. To see Homeland Security’s list of what is considered an essential business, [click here](#). If “essential” or “non-essential” status is still unclear, [please use this as guidance](#).

If you have a question whether or not your business is essential, please contact [secretary.commerce@maryland.gov](mailto:secretary.commerce@maryland.gov). If you have other questions pertaining to essential or non-essential businesses, please email [psector@maryland.gov](mailto:psector@maryland.gov), which is monitored by the Maryland Emergency Management team.

If yours is an essential business that is exempt from the closure requirement under the executive order, you must still follow health protocols such as [social distancing](#) and [effective cleaning and disinfection](#), and do everything in your power to prevent groups of 10 or more people from congregating in one area. You can find more guidance from the CDC [here](#).

**Restaurants and Bars:** The maximum gathering size restriction on gatherings of individuals (currently 10) referred to in the Executive Order does not apply to the numbers of employees who are working at restaurants and bars that sell food or beverages for carry-out, drive-through, or delivery. Those food service establishments should however follow any social-distancing recommendations of the Maryland Department of Health to avoid the spread of the virus. Please note that as of March 30, [curb-side pickup](#) is not allowed at non-essential businesses, but restaurants and bars are still allowed to provide carry-out, delivery, and drive-through.

Please continue to check our [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information for Businesses](#) webpage for the latest information and guidance.



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### How do you determine which businesses are essential?

Maryland is using the federal Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce guidance, provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), to determine which sectors are essential. To see Homeland Security's list of what is considered an essential business, [click here](#). This list is meant to be used to protect our communities, while ensuring functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security, continue. Interpretations within the state are conducted in consultation with numerous state agencies representing impacted business disciplines.

If you have other questions pertaining to essential or non-essential businesses, please email [psector@maryland.gov](mailto:psector@maryland.gov), which is monitored by the Maryland Emergency Management team.

### Why do I/my loved one need to report to work? It does not seem like an essential business.

Maryland is using the federal Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce guidance, provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), to determine which sectors are essential. To see Homeland Security's list of what is considered an essential business, [click here](#). This list is meant to be used to protect our communities, while ensuring functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security, continue. Please know that it is up to the employer of an identified essential business to decide whether or not it should remain open.

For more information, please consult the state's legal guidance on the governor's executive order, which can be read [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). If "essential" or "non-essential" status is still unclear, [please use this as guidance](#).

Businesses that are permitted to operate are required to follow health protocols such as [social distancing](#) and [effective cleaning and disinfection](#). You can find more guidance from the CDC by [clicking here](#). We encourage all employers to find alternative ways to allow employees to continue working, like teleworking, as much as possible. We also encourage companies to find other methods to continue providing services, whether that is through remote-assistance or off-site delivery services.



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### What happens if I or someone I know gets sick at work? Is there guidance about managing sick workers?

CDC has created guidance for [people who become sick from COVID-19](#). People who are sick should not be at work, to avoid exposing co-workers and the public to the virus. Current CDC guidance for people who are sick at home in home isolation with either confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should not return to work until: (1) At least 7 days have passed from the start of symptoms; (2) They have had no fever for at least 72 hours (three full days of no fever without the use of medicines that reduce fevers); and (3) Other symptoms have improved (for example, cough and shortness of breath have improved). Employers are encouraged NOT to require documentation from health care providers if you are sick, due to the increased number of people seeking health care and the possibility of exposing or re-exposing healthy people who are only seeking return to work notes.

### My employer is very short staffed due to many people being out sick. If I am only mildly sick, can I work with a mask?

The short answer is, people who are ill with COVID-19 should not be at work. It is likely that many businesses will experience staff shortages as more people become ill. However, being sick at work exposes both your co-workers and the public to even more risk.

### My employer/a local business is not following proper safety protocols. What can I do?

The Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Act is intended to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for private and public sector employees in the State of Maryland, but does not have jurisdiction over every type of safety and health complaint. As the State of Maryland deals with the unprecedented events related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, MOSH stands ready to clarify the requirements enforced by MOSH and provide guidance concerning the State's COVID-19 response.

Currently, there are some establishments that are not subject to closure due to the Governor's emergency order. Where essential businesses remain open, citizens and businesses are encouraged to heed current public health recommendations; however, please be advised that these are guidelines, not regulations or standards that are enforceable by MOSH at this time. It is recommended that employers in each workplace develop and implement infectious disease safety strategies currently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, to include:



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- Implement business/worksites specific social distancing (including worker and customer interactions).
- Post educational posters for employees.
- When a business is operating, encourage sick employees to stay home or if they feel sick while at work to go home.
- Promote frequent and thorough handwashing with adequate supplies of soap and running water, and when not readily available, alcohol based hand rubs of at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Discourage the sharing of utensils, desks, phones, and work tools.
- Maintain regular housekeeping/disinfection practices.

OSHA has published Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 which encourages every employer to conduct a risk assessment for coronavirus exposure and consider providing additional resources in medium, high-risk, and very high-risk settings. This guidance is advisory in nature and informational in content. However, every employer is required to provide handwashing facilities with tepid water, soap, and paper towels under OSHA regulations. The [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) and the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) have detailed resources related to what you can do to protect yourself from COVID-19.

MOSH does not have enforcement authority to require an employer to limit or cease work operations due to the coronavirus. On matters that the Governor has issued emergency orders, all citizens and businesses must comply with the provisions of the emergency orders and public safety officials (e.g. police and health department) in local jurisdictions have enforcement authority. To find the public safety entity with jurisdiction in your location, please visit: <https://mdle.net/agencies.htm>.

Your concerns are important to us and MOSH will continue to work with other State agencies and the Governor's Office to provide helpful information on this constantly evolving situation. Please email [mosh.complaints@maryland.gov](mailto:mosh.complaints@maryland.gov) if MOSH may be of assistance in the future.

### I feel like a specific open business is non-essential. What can I do about it?

Maryland is using the federal Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce guidance, provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), to determine which sectors are essential. To see Homeland Security's list of what is considered an essential business, [click here](#). Please know that it is up to the employer to decide whether or not it should remain open after being named an essential business.



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The state is hoping for voluntary compliance with business closures. If a need for law enforcement arises, Maryland State Police and local law enforcement agencies will take prompt appropriate action, in partnership with state's attorneys across Maryland. After receiving a complaint, contact will first be made with the owner or manager of the establishment. If voluntary compliance does not occur, action will be taken that may include arrest or later filing of criminal charges.

Any possible violations can be called in to your local Police Department, Sheriff Department, or State Police Barrack, but please be sure to contact these departments through a non-emergency line. All have been advised to enforce the [executive order](#).

### Can I file my business taxes if there is a State of Emergency?

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot has announced that Maryland business and individual income taxpayers will be given a 90-day extension for tax payments. No interest or penalty for late payments will be imposed if 2019 tax payments are made by July 15, 2020. [See here for more information](#), or reach out to [taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov) with questions.

Comptroller Franchot also extended business-related tax filing deadlines to June 1. For additional information regarding business tax returns - including sales and use tax, alcohol tax, etc. - and income tax extensions, [click here](#). Businesses who paid their Maryland Sales & Use Taxes for March early may request a refund of their payment by emailing [taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov) or by calling 410-260-4020.

Taxpayers who have set up a payment through their own online banking services will need to stop that transaction through their banks. Taxpayers who have scheduled a payment through the Comptroller's iFile or bFile can request to have a debit from their account stopped as long as it is at least 3 days prior to the scheduled payment date.

If taxpayers have individual requests for assistance, they should contact Taxpayer Services at 410-260-7980 or via email at [taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov).

### What about my business license or permit that is about to expire?

Because renewing expiring permits or licenses often requires the public to enter public buildings and interact with state employees; all licenses, permits, registrations, and other authorizations issued by the state, its agencies or any political subdivision that would expire during the current state of emergency will be extended until the 30th day after the state of emergency is lifted.

[Read the executive order.](#)



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### How can I prepare my business ahead of time?

The U.S. Department of Labor has developed some [guidelines](#) for how companies can prepare their workplace for COVID-19. In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has launched a [COVID-19 website](#) with information specifically for workers and employers. There is also information on issues relating to wages and hours worked under the Fair Labor Standards Act available [here](#).

### As a business, how can I help protect my employees?

The CDC is encouraging routine environmental cleaning for businesses, as well as encouraging sick employees to stay home and advising other employees to take specific steps before traveling. [Click here for more guidance and information](#).

Additionally, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has activated its Virtual Business Operation Center (VBOC) to address inquiries from the private sector. It can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Businesses that are interested in increasing engagement surrounding emergency operations can learn more through MEMA's [Private Sector Integration Program](#).

### If I'm required to close my business, will I get reimbursed from my insurance company for financial losses? What about Business Interruption Insurance?

According to the [Maryland Insurance Administration](#) (MIA), lost business income insurance is subject to the specific terms and conditions of your policy. Contact the broker or agent that sold the policy, the insurance company or the Maryland Insurance Administration with any questions. MIA is also receiving a high volume of inquiries about Business Interruption insurance.

Business Interruption coverage is typically triggered under a commercial insurance policy when a covered risk / peril causes physical damage to the insured premises resulting in the need to shut down business operations. All insurance policies have exclusions of coverage for risks that are too great to be underwritten at an affordable price. Global pandemics like COVID-19 usually fall into this category. However, policies can be different. [Read more here](#).



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For information on unemployment insurance qualifications, new provisions under the CARES Act as well as an updated process to apply for benefits, visit [Labor's Unemployment](#) homepage. For more information from the Maryland Insurance Administration, [click here](#).

### If my business experiences a temporary or permanent layoff, what steps can I take?

If a business experiences a temporary or permanent layoff, Labor's Division of [Unemployment Insurance](#)'s Bulk Claim Services can open unemployment insurance claims for all affected employees. To determine if a business is eligible, please visit our [Bulk Claims Services Frequently Asked Questions](#) page. If a business is eligible, they should contact a Claims Representative by emailing [UI.BulkClaim@maryland.gov](mailto:UI.BulkClaim@maryland.gov). For information on unemployment insurance qualifications, new provisions under the CARES Act, as well as an updated process to apply for benefits, visit [Labor's Unemployment](#) homepage.

### What resources are available to those who are working in response to the nationwide outbreak?

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has issued a national emergency declaration to provide hours-of-service regulatory relief to commercial vehicle drivers transporting emergency relief in response to COVID-19. Please [visit their website](#) for more information.

### How can my business help during the outbreak? Are there volunteer opportunities?

Below you will find the Maryland Emergency Management Agency's Service Guidelines for Companies looking to assist. Please forward your request to the appropriate contact to ensure it is seen by the best MEMA representative.

**Vendors** wishing to contract with the State of Maryland to lease, manufacture or supply goods or services, please contact [resource.mema@maryland.gov](mailto:resource.mema@maryland.gov).

**Volunteers:** MEMA will be the point of contact for LARGE Corporate Volunteers. Those wishing to volunteer large groups of staff and or a multi-jurisdiction statewide scale should send mail to

We encourage members of the business community to reach out with their questions by emailing [Secretary.Commerce@maryland.gov](mailto:Secretary.Commerce@maryland.gov). For more more resources, please visit [BusinessExpress.Maryland.gov/Coronavirus](https://BusinessExpress.Maryland.gov/Coronavirus)



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[ngs.mema@Maryland.gov](mailto:ngs.mema@Maryland.gov). Currently, the largest volunteer opportunity is the [Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps](#).

**Donations:** MEMA will accept product donations which are:

- Larger corporate donations delivered/transported by commercial carriers. Ex: 5 pallets of bottled water delivered via DHL or England, etc.
- Donations must be PACKAGED in their original packaging/shrink wrap. Ex: Boxed medical gowns or scrubs in sealed unopened sleeves in a sealed shrink wrapped box. No opened or repackaged donations will be accepted by the state.
- For **businesses**, please enter your donation into [this database](#).
- For **non-profits, non-government organizations, and individuals**, please enter your donations into [this database](#).
- MEMA will accept **corporate services** donations. Companies who wish to donate services should contact [psector@maryland.gov](mailto:psector@maryland.gov).
- **Donations** are also being accepted at four drop off locations in Maryland. Accepted items include specialized medical equipment and some cleaning supplies. [Find more information here](#).
  - **Cambridge:** 3105 Mallard Court, Cambridge, MD 21613
  - **Ellicott City:** 3291 St. John's Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042
  - **Hagerstown:** 10375 Retreat Way, Hagerstown, MD 21742
  - **Silver Spring:** 15930 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

**Requests:** MEMA does not accept direct requests for PPEs or other items from companies. Companies should contact their local jurisdiction via the [Emergency Manager Contact List](#). The local jurisdictions work with MEMA to fulfill requests from companies that are unable to be fulfilled by the jurisdiction.

For **charities or community organizations** that need help, email [ngs.mema@maryland.gov](mailto:ngs.mema@maryland.gov).

To find even more ways Marylanders can help, visit [Maryland Unites](#).

### My business is impacted by the outbreak. Where can I find financial assistance to help?

The Maryland Department of Commerce has announced three new business assistance programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a \$75 million loan fund, a \$50 million grant program, and a \$5 million incentive program to help Maryland manufacturers produce personal protective equipment (PPE). For more information, visit [this website](#) or visit the program [FAQ](#). For more information about all new business relief programs, [click here](#).



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Earlier this month, Governor Hogan announced that the entire state of Maryland has received official designation from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for its Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, which provides low-interest federal disaster loans for small businesses impacted by the Coronavirus. With the passage of the federal CARES Act, an additional \$10 billion has been added to the EIDL program. With the expansion, these loans are now available to tribal businesses, cooperatives, ESOP's, individual contractors, sole proprietors, and private non-profits with less than 500 employees. You can apply directly to the SBA for financial assistance [at this link](#). For more information about Maryland's designation, [click here](#).

Additionally, when applying to SBA, applicants can also request an emergency \$10,000 advance. This advance may be available even if your EIDL application was declined or is still pending, and will be forgiven. Due to high volume on their website, SBA is also accepting applications through email and fax. [Download the applications online](#). You can email them to [Ela.doc@sba.gov](mailto:Ela.doc@sba.gov) or fax to 202-481-1505. You can also [visit SBA's website for guidance](#) for businesses and employers. If you need additional help navigating the SBA process, [Maryland SBDC can help](#).

Also under the CARES Act, \$350 billion will be used to establish the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which provides loan guarantees to small businesses to assist with payroll costs for workers who are forced to stay home. A Q&A from the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship [can be found here](#). Additional information from the U.S. Department of the Treasury can be found [here](#).

We also understand that not everyone may qualify for the new state programs targeted towards small businesses impacted by the Coronavirus. There are additional state programs and resources that we recommend small businesses look into, including the [Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business Account](#), which is managed by several fund managers in different counties around the state; the [Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority](#), which helps provide financing to businesses that might not otherwise be able to obtain financing; and the [Neighborhood BusinessWorks program](#), which provides flexible financing to small businesses.

We will continue to update our website as we receive more information about SBA loans, additional financial resources, and more. Please continue to check back regularly as we push out information to the masses: <https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus>



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### What if I'm currently playing off an SBA loan from a previous disaster?

The U.S. Small Business Administration recently announced changes to help borrowers still paying back SBA loans from previous disasters. By making this change, deferments through December 31, 2020, will be automatic. Now, borrowers of home and business disaster loans do not have to contact SBA to request deferment. [Read more.](#)

### My business is hosting an event in the upcoming weeks. Should it be postponed?

Effective immediately, gatherings of more than 10 people, including social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings, are prohibited at all locations and venues. [Read the emergency order.](#)

Planned large gatherings and events must be canceled or postponed until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.

### I need to take off work to care for a family member. Where can I find help?

The [Maryland Department of Labor's Division of Labor and Industry](#) enforces the Maryland Health Working Families Act, also known as safe and sick leave, which may be useful for employees who need to take off from work due to COVID-19. To learn more about the [law](#), email [ssl.assistance@maryland.gov](mailto:ssl.assistance@maryland.gov).

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) published guidance pursuant to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) for [employees](#) and [employers](#) as well as a general [FAQ](#) sheet. Please find additional implementation guidance which includes two posters – one for [federal workers](#) and one for all [other employees](#) – that will fulfill notice requirements for employers obligated to inform employees about their rights under the new law. In addition, the Wage and Hour Division released a [questions and answers](#) document about posting requirements, as well as a [Field Assistance Bulletin](#) describing WHD's 30-day non-enforcement policy.



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### Are child care centers required to close?

As of March 27, all child care providers are to be closed by the end of the day, except those serving essential personnel. These programs are at no cost to designated essential personnel. Eligible programs may be found on the [MSDE website](#) or by using the LOCATE: Child Care resource, a telephone service that is available by phone Monday - Friday at 877-261-0060 between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. For more information, [click here](#).

If closed licensed child care programs are willing to provide child care to children of essential personnel, they may reopen beginning March 30, 2020, with the following requirements:

- Programs must apply with their Regional Licensing Specialists to be approved before they begin serving eligible families.
- These programs may only reopen after a thorough cleaning has been conducted.
- They must only serve the children of essential personnel.

### Are Maryland's casinos open?

Governor Hogan has issued an emergency order to close all Maryland casinos, racetracks, and simulcast betting facilities to the general public indefinitely. Please see [the latest announcement](#) for more information.

### What is the status of the state's cruise terminal and the Port of Baltimore?

The Port of Baltimore is open for business. With declines in international container volumes due to the coronavirus, Ports America Chesapeake, the company that operates Seagirt Marine Terminal, is open from 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. These hours only impact Seagirt. The five other public marine terminals at the Port of Baltimore are open regular hours, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. These terminals carry farm and construction equipment, cars/light trucks, paper products and breakbulk cargo (such as transit vehicles and yachts).

In accordance with Governor Larry Hogan's March 12 [executive order](#), the cruise terminal is closed. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of Coronavirus connected to Port of Baltimore-based cruise ships. For updates, go to their [Website](#), [Twitter](#), or [Facebook](#).



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### How have operations at BWI Airport changed?

BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and Martin State Airport are open and operating, but access is restricted to ticketed passengers and badged airport workers. The only exception is for people assisting disabled travelers. The airport is offering the “first hour free” in its hourly garage to allow family and friends to wait in the garage for arriving travelers. Sit-down restaurants and bars in the airport have suspended dine-in services. Where available, carry-out is being provided, with limited seating in food courts.

The airport is coordinating with TSA to close some lanes in security checkpoints to provide additional separation between passengers. The airport also is working with airlines to adjust ticketing and bag check functions, where possible, to provide added space. Regarding flights, travelers should contact their airlines for updated flight status information. Airline information is available on the [BWI Marshall website](#). For other updates, follow on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### If restaurants are closed, are breweries closed too?

Governor Hogan has ordered the closure of all bars, restaurants, and similar establishments to the general public effective March 16 at 5PM. Drive-thru, carry-out, and delivery services will continue. [Read more here](#). Additionally, to help these establishments, the Governor has clarified that breweries, wineries, and distilleries can still sell/deliver products. [Read more](#).

In an effort to help Maryland’s craft alcohol manufacturers keep their businesses afloat through the COVID-19 pandemic, Comptroller Peter Franchot announced that his office is temporarily suspending its enforcement of limits imposed on customers purchasing beer and distilled spirits. Current state law restricts how much product a Maryland-based craft brewery and craft distillery can sell to its customers for carryout and off-premise consumption.

This action puts local manufacturers on a level playing field with Maryland's package stores, which are not bound by the same sales limits. It also could preserve jobs for brewery and distillery employees who may otherwise have been laid off during the state of emergency. [Read more](#).

### Are Maryland’s Welcome Centers open to the public?

As of Friday, March 13, all state Welcome Centers are closed until further notice. All centers have signs being placed to announce the closure. Rest areas, including bathrooms and parking, remain open.



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More information can be found by calling 877-333-4455 or going to [visitmaryland.org](http://visitmaryland.org). You can also email questions to [info@visitmaryland.org](mailto:info@visitmaryland.org). Phones are being monitored during normal business hours, and emails will be responded to within 24 hours, if possible.

### Are Maryland's State Parks open to the public?

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center and park has closed to the public. Additionally, all [Maryland State Park beaches are closed](#). Most state parks are open but some have been closed or have restricted areas. Please choose a park nearest your home to limit travel and be sure to check the [Department of Natural Resources' website](#) before you leave for the park and read the [guidelines for social distancing](#) in state parks.

### What's the best way to get tested?

The Maryland Department of Health is taking the lead on providing health guidance to the general public. If you have recently traveled to any geographic area of concern or were in contact with someone with COVID-19, and you become sick with fever, cough or have difficulty breathing, seek medical care right away.

Follow these steps:

- Call your doctor or emergency room before you go
- Tell them about recent travel and close contacts (such as people in your household)
- Wear a mask, if one is available

Please visit the [Maryland Department of Health](#) for more information.

### Where can I find the latest information on COVID-19?

Please visit the Maryland Department of Health who is providing updates as they become available: [health.maryland.gov/coronavirus](http://health.maryland.gov/coronavirus)

### Where can I find the latest updates from Governor Larry Hogan on the state's response to the outbreak?

Please visit the Office of Governor Larry Hogan online:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/>

We encourage members of the business community to reach out with their questions by emailing [Secretary.Commerce@maryland.gov](mailto:Secretary.Commerce@maryland.gov). For more resources, please visit [BusinessExpress.Maryland.gov/Coronavirus](http://BusinessExpress.Maryland.gov/Coronavirus)