



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Governor Imposes New Restrictions

On March 16, 2020, Governor Larry Hogan issued new, more stringent orders regarding gatherings and business establishments. Restaurants, bars, gyms, and movie theaters were closed to the public as of 5 p.m. on this date, except for pickup and delivery of food.

Governor Hogan announced new restrictions on March 19, 2020, to adhere to federal guidelines aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Those restrictions include prohibiting events that draw more than 10 people. Additionally, all “enclosed shopping malls and entertainment venues” in Maryland must close by 5 p.m. on March 19. Access to BWI Marshall Airport Terminal is now restricted to ticketed passengers and employees; exceptions will be made for visitors assisting disabled passengers. The State is urging citizens to utilize transit for essential travel only.

Mayor Issues Emergency Proclamation

Mayor Dominick issued a proclamation declaring a public health emergency in the City as of 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2020. The Mayor’s declaration was prompted by the ongoing threat of widespread infection by the virus known as COVID-19.

In conjunction with Mayor Dominick’s public health emergency declaration, the City temporarily closed the Westminster Family Fitness Center on March 14, 2020. The City’s administrative offices were subsequently closed to the public. The City has also implemented new staffing procedures to maintain the health of its employees for business continuity.

City Government Remains Operational

Westminster government remains fully operational. The manner in which City services are provided has been modified in accordance with Governor Hogan’s Executive Orders and the current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control. Further information on the City’s current operational status can be found below.

STATUS OF CITY OF WESTMINSTER PUBLIC FACILITIES		
City Administrative Offices <i>56 West Main Street</i> <i>11 Longwell Avenue</i>	Closed to the public	Phone lines are being monitored, and City staff is available to assist you. Remember you can pay bills and conduct some City business online or by telephone.
Police Department	Limited access	See note below
Westminster Family Fitness Center	Closed	The temporary closure will continue through 03/29, at which time City officials will re-evaluate the facility’s status.

City Parks	Open	While City parks remain physically open, residents are discouraged from gathering in places where more than 10 persons are present.
Community Room at Pool Complex	Closed through 04/30	Reservations through 04/30 canceled. New reservations not being accepted.
Trash Collection	No service change	Pickups on regular schedule
Bulk Pickup	To be suspended temporarily	Last pickup will be the week of 03/23 until further notice.
Special Event Permits	Revoked through 04/30	Status of approved permits for the month of May will be reviewed by 04/15.
Park Pavilion Rentals	Revoked through 04/30	Status of approved rentals for the month of May will be reviewed by 04/15.

SPECIAL INFORMATION

Westminster Police Department

The door leading to the Police Department lobby is locked and closed to the public. Visitors are still welcome to enter the small vestibule area just inside the front door. Communications Center staff will be happy to assist you there utilizing the intercom system. Alternatively, you can call (410) 848-4646 for assistance.

Payment of red light camera fines may be paid online, via the payment drop box at 56 West Main, or mailed to attention of the Finance Department, 56 West Main Street, Suite 1, Westminster, MD 21157. Payments made by check should reference the citation number so that the payment can be properly applied.

Those wishing to make a police report in a non-emergency case can now do so by calling WPD directly at (410) 848-4646. In most cases, an officer will not respond in person to take non-emergency reports, unless there is a pressing need to do so.

City Meetings to Be Held Virtually

Meetings of the Mayor and Common Council, as well as those of City boards/commissions, will be held virtually for the foreseeable future. The public will have the opportunity to participate in these meetings. Details are still being finalized; check the City website and the meeting agenda for further information on how to participate in the meeting.

Those wishing to submit testimony for public hearings or to offer comments under the Citizen Comments portion of the Mayor and Common Council meeting agenda can send an email to SVisocsky@westgov.com.

City Rental Inspections Canceled

Rental inspections conducted by the Housing Services Office are canceled through 03/31.

Utilities

Per the Governor's order, public utilities are prohibited from charging late fees or shutting off service during this emergency.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Mayor and Common Council Meetings	To be held virtually	See note above about testimony and comments
Board/Commission Meetings	To be held virtually	Check meeting agenda for how to participate in the meeting
Westminster Wine Stroll	Canceled	Refunds will be processed as soon as possible, but no later than 04/15
Easter Egg Hunt	Canceled	

Other future events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, based on the information available at that time.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Follow CDC recommendations about hand washing hygiene, social distancing, and what to do if you suspect you may have COVID-19 (www.cdc.gov)

Consider using delivery or curbside pickup services for groceries and prescriptions

Carroll County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline number: (410) 876-4848

Maryland Department of Health Hotline number: (410) 767-6871

The State of Maryland has issued the following FAQ documents:

Testing - https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/coronavirus_testing_FAQ.pdf

For Older Adults - https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/FAQ_covid19_older_adults.pdf

More information is available on the City's coronavirus page at www.WestminsterMD.gov/covid19.