



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

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## **Westminster Implements Restrictions in City Parks Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic Cited**

The City of Westminster has implemented new restrictions for use of its parks in light of the ongoing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. The newly implemented restrictions and facility closures are outlined below:

- City of Westminster parks remain open for walking, running, bicycling, and relaxing. Those visiting City parks are encouraged to practice proper hygiene and follow the recommended 6-foot physical distancing guideline. In accordance with Governor Hogan's Executive Order, park users are prohibited from gathering in places where more than 10 persons are present.
- The Westminster Skate Park, basketball and tennis courts, and park pavilions are closed until further notice.
- Playground equipment should not be used; the City cannot sanitize equipment nor can it ensure proper physical distancing in its playgrounds. According to the National Institutes of Health, COVID-19 can live on certain surfaces for three days, possibly longer.

In announcing this decision, Mayor Joe Dominick stated, "As our community continues to confront the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the health of those visiting our parks is our highest priority. In developing these restrictions and closures, we have strived to recognize that Westminster's parks offer a welcome respite from the anxiety and disruption caused by the pandemic, and allow them to be used in a safe manner that complies with the Governor's Executive Order and public health guidelines."

Below are some steps you can take to protect yourself and your family, and to limit the spread of COVID-19:

- Minimize unnecessary person-to-person contact by practicing the recommended 6-foot "physical distancing" guideline. Try to stay home as much as possible and limit trips to only those which are essential.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer when handwashing is not possible.
- Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces often; when opening doors (especially bathroom or other public area doors) or touching other public surfaces, use a paper towel, tissue, or disposable glove.

- Use only your knuckle to touch light switches, elevator buttons, etc.
- Cough into a tissue or your elbow and avoid touching your face.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Prepare a kit of supplies such as water, food, and medicine like you would for a winter storm or hurricane, in case you need to stay home while ill or in quarantine. Only buy what you need for a few weeks, so that everyone has what they need to stay healthy.
- Stay informed with reliable information from local, state, and federal public health sources.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about COVID-19 can be found at:

**[Maryland Department of Health COVID-19 FAQ.](#)**

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