



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Maryland Moves to Stage One

On April, 24, 2020, Governor Hogan issued the [Maryland Strong Roadmap to Recovery](#). Maryland Strong lays out a path to gradually and responsibly reopen Maryland's economy, and details the "new normal" necessary to do so.

In the plan, Governor Hogan has laid out the Four Building Blocks that are necessary for the State to move towards recovery. These include: (1) procuring sufficient personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers; (2) generating hospital surge capacity; (3) having adequate testing capacity; and, (4) a robust contact tracing program.

The Roadmap begins with "Low Risk" activities and moves through "High Risk" activities. As the State moves to permit higher risk activities and businesses, the impacted industry will have to meet higher standards and benchmarks to show that Marylanders can participate in these activities and feel safe.

On Friday, May 15, 2020, Maryland moved into Stage One of the Maryland Strong plan, which entailed implementation of a Safer at Home public health advisory. Stage One includes a gradual reopening of retail, manufacturing, houses of worship, and some personal services. Stage One is being implemented with a flexible, community-based approach that empowers individual jurisdictions to make decisions regarding the timing of reopening. Through a new interactive map on the above website, Marylanders will be able to see which counties are implementing Stage One, which are partially implementing Stage One guidance, and which counties remain closed. Please refer to that map for local county information.

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, certain City facilities were closed to the public. The City also implemented new staffing procedures to maintain the health of its employees for business continuity.

These measures remain in effect.

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 current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 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. Please be advised that many City staff members are currently working remotely; leave a message so your call can be returned. Remember you can pay bills online 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 remain in effect until further notice.
City Parks	Open, with restrictions	<p>City parks remain open for walking, running, bicycling, and relaxing. The City tennis and pickle ball courts and Skate Park are open to no more than 10 people at one time. As always, please practice proper hygiene and follow the recommended 6-foot physical distancing guideline. All public areas will be monitored regularly for compliance with the Governor’s Executive Orders, including issuance of temporary park ban notices when appropriate.</p> <p>Basketball courts and park pavilions remain closed until further notice.</p> <p>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.</p>
Community Room at Pool Complex	Closed	Reservations through 06/15 canceled. New reservations not being accepted.

City Pool	Closed for 2020 season	Refunds for annual pool memberships are being processed.
Park Pavilion Rentals	Revoked through 06/15	Status of approved rentals for the month of July will be reviewed by 06/15. New reservations not being accepted.
Household Trash Collection	No service change	Pickups on regular schedule.
Bulk Pickup	Reduced service: limited pickups will be made available only for scheduled items	This includes tree branches and brush, metal, yard waste, and large item collections. Residents must call the Streets Department at 410-848-9077 to request a pickup and will be advised of the future collection date. No items should be placed at the curb without confirmation of a collection date. Future available pickup dates will be announced two weeks in advance and will be posted to City website and Facebook pages.
Special Event Permits	Revoked through 06/30	Status of approved permits for the month of July will be reviewed by 06/15. New applications are not being accepted.

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 Street, 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 Being Held Virtually

Meetings of the Mayor and Common Council, as well as those of City boards/commissions, are being held virtually for the foreseeable future. The meetings will be live-streamed through the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WestminsterMD. Check the City website and the applicable meeting agenda for further information.

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 Comments@westgov.com.

City Rental Inspections Canceled

Rental inspections conducted by the Housing Services Office are canceled through 06/30.

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	Being held virtually	See note above about testimony and comments.
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Board/Commission Meetings	Being held virtually	Check meeting agenda for how to participate in the meeting.
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Beer & BBQ Stroll	Canceled	Refunds are completed.
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Other future events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, based on the information available at that time.

COVID-19 HEALTH GUIDANCE

Follow CDC recommendations about hand washing hygiene, 6-foot physical 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.

CARROLL COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners established a program to assist small businesses. Check <http://carrollbiz.org> for more information.

MARYLAND’S COVID-19 BUSINESS RESPONSE

Comprehensive information listing the State’s resources for the business community, including essential and non-essential business classification guidelines:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/md-coronavirus-business>