



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 included prohibiting events that draw more than 10 people. Additionally, all “enclosed shopping malls and entertainment venues” in Maryland were required to close by 5 p.m. on March 19. Access to BWI Marshall Airport Terminal was restricted to ticketed passengers and employees; exceptions will be made for visitors assisting disabled passengers. The State also urged citizens to utilize transit for essential travel only.

On March 23, 2020, Governor Hogan ordered all non-essential businesses in the State to close. The action was prompted by concerns that Marylanders were not heeding warnings about COVID-19 and following the 6-foot physical distancing guideline.

In response to the escalation of the COVID-19 crisis in the National Capital Region, Governor Larry Hogan issued a Stay at Home Order on March 30, 2020 to protect public health and safety. The Order, which took effect at 8:00 p.m. on March 30, states that no Maryland resident should leave their home unless it is for an essential job or for an essential reason, such as obtaining food or medicine, seeking urgent medical attention, or for other necessary purposes. Additionally, Marylanders should not travel outside of the State unless such travel is absolutely necessary; those who have traveled outside of the state should self-quarantine for 14 days.

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 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. As always, please practice proper hygiene and follow the recommended 6-foot physical distancing guideline. In accordance with Governor Hogan's Executive Order, residents are prohibited from gathering in places where more than 10 persons are present.</p> <p>The Skate Park, basketball and tennis courts, and park pavilions are 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 05/31 canceled. New reservations not being accepted.
Trash Collection	No service change	Pickups on regular schedule
Bulk Pickup	Suspended until further notice	This includes tree branches and brush, metal, yard waste, and large item collections. Residents are encouraged to mulch grass clippings as a natural thatch fertilizer. No items should be placed at the curb, or you may be cited by Code Enforcement for property maintenance code violations.
Special Event Permits	Revoked through 05/31	Status of approved permits for the month of June will be reviewed by 05/15.

Park Pavilion Rentals	Revoked through 05/31	Status of approved rentals for the month of June will be reviewed by 05/15.
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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 to Be 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 SVisocsky@westgov.com.

City Rental Inspections Canceled
 Rental inspections conducted by the Housing Services Office are canceled through 05/31.

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 04/30
Easter Egg Hunt	Canceled	
Mommy/Son Date Night	Canceled	Refunds will be processed as soon as possible, but no later than 04/15
Flower & Jazz Festival	Canceled	

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.

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>