



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Maryland Continues Forward with Stage Two

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 laid out the Four Building Blocks 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 included a gradual reopening of retail, manufacturing, houses of worship, and some personal services.

On Friday, June 5, 2020, Maryland moved into Stage Two, which included opening more business types such as personal services and salons at 50% capacity and required appointments. Teleworking and physical distancing are still highly recommended and encouraged where feasible.

On Friday, June 12, 2020, indoor dining resumed at restaurants across the state at 50% capacity, with distancing and strict public health requirements. Outdoor amusements and rides, miniature golf, and go-kart tracks were also allowed to resume with appropriate health and safety protocols.

Effective Friday, June 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., indoor gyms and other studio fitness activities may begin to safely reopen at 50% capacity with strict health, distancing, and sanitization measures. Casinos, arcades, and malls may also resume operations with strict safety protocols.

During a Press Conference on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, Governor Hogan reiterated the importance of avoiding crowded indoor environments and out-of-state travel, and continuing the Safer at Home public health advisory.

Each Stage 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, found at <https://governor.maryland.gov/recovery/>, Marylanders will be able to see which counties are implementing each Stage, which are partially implementing Stage 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.

Some of 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	Open	<p>Updates to operations will continued to be posted on the City website and Recreation and Parks Department Facebook.</p> <p>Please note the new schedule for the Fitness Center: Monday-Friday 6am-8pm and Saturday & Sunday 8am-1pm. Childcare operating hours will be Monday-Friday 8:30-11:30 am & 5:30-7:30pm and Saturday 8-11am.</p> <p>As required by the State, entrants will be monitored until 50% capacity is reached. Masks are strongly suggested upon entry, in locker rooms and when exiting, but are not required when working out.</p>
Household Trash Collection	No service change	Pickups on regular schedule.

Community Room at Pool Complex	Closed	Reservations not being accepted.
City Pool	Closed for 2020 season	
City Parks	Open	<p>Users are encouraged to practice proper hygiene and follow the recommended 6-foot physical distancing guideline.</p> <p>Park pavilions and playground equipment should be used at your own risk; the City cannot sanitize equipment. Always wash hands after using park equipment.</p> <p>Please note that the public bathrooms remain closed at this time.</p>
Park Pavilion Rentals	Open	New reservations now being accepted.
Bulk Pickup	Regular collection services available	Weekly curbside collection of yard waste resumed on July 8, and bi-weekly curbside collection of tree branches and brush, metal, and large items resumed the week of July 13. Residents must call the Streets Department at 410-848-9077 to request a pickup following the collection schedule available on the City website. No items should be placed at the curb without confirmation of a collection date.
Special Event Permits	Applications being accepted	All new applications will be reviewed and considered in light of the latest CDC guidance.

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

The Housing Services Offices is conducting rental inspections via landlord self-certification, virtually, or for empty units until further notice.

Utilities

Per the Governor's order, public utilities are prohibited from charging late fees or shutting off service during this emergency through August 1, 2020.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Mayor and Common Council Meetings	Being held virtually	See note above about testimony and comments.
Board/Commission Meetings	Being held virtually	Check meeting agenda for how to participate in the meeting.
Beer & BBQ Stroll	Canceled	Refunds have been processed.
Fall Fest	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.

CARROLL COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Check <http://carrollbiz.org/> for more information about available resources.

MARYLAND'S COVID-19 BUSINESS RESPONSE

Comprehensive information listing the State's resources for the business community:

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