

**County Executive  
of  
Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order: 2020-08  
Dated: May 15, 2020  
Subject: Exercise of Emergency Powers –  
Restrictions applicable to State Executive  
Order 20-05-13-01 related to facilities  
which remain closed in Howard County**

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of the State of Maryland, declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19, a communicable respiratory disease that may result in serious injury or death within the State of Maryland, including Howard County, a political subdivision of the State, and that emergency still exists; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, pursuant to his authority under Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, Governor Hogan signed an executive order recognizing that the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, the Howard County Health Department was informed of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 and, pursuant to the authority granted by sections 6.103 and 6.104 of the Howard County Code, I signed Executive Order No. 2020-02 declaring a state of emergency in Howard County and ordered the closure of specified places of public assembly, namely, the Mall in Columbia and all businesses in the Mall proper, excepting restaurants with entrances outside the Mall; the Shops at Savage Mill; and the AMC Columbia and Regal Theater at Snowden Square movie theaters; and

**WHEREAS**, by passage of Council Resolution No. 41-2020, the state of emergency shall continue and remain in effect while the state of emergency and/or the catastrophic health emergency declared by Governor Hogan remains in effect or until terminated by Executive Order issued by the County Executive, whichever is later; and

**WHEREAS**, since March 12, 2020, Governor Hogan has issued several State executive orders which apply to all political subdivisions in the State of Maryland, including Howard County, restricting and/or limiting business operations of both essential and non-essential businesses, permissible gatherings, and travel throughout the State and imposing a Stay at Home Order; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 2020, Governor Hogan issued State Executive Order Number 20-05-13-01 allowing the reopening of specified businesses and providing that political subdivisions are not prohibited from opening certain outdoor public spaces to the general public, subject to conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, State Executive Order Number 20-05-13-01 delegates to local jurisdictions, including Howard County, the authority to impose restrictions and limitations on business and personal activities that are more restrictive than those permitted by the State Executive Order if the political subdivision determines that doing so is necessary and reasonable to save lives or prevent exposure to COVID-19, and to issue local local orders to carry out the authority to:

- i. require any businesses, organizations, establishments, or facilities to close or modify their operations; and/or
- ii. require individuals to remain indoors or to refrain from congregating; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 outbreak has caused and will continue to cause unsafe conditions throughout Howard County including, but not limited to, the spread of infectious disease to all populations and harmful outcomes for vulnerable populations and these conditions pose a risk of imminent harm, or even death, to individuals and threaten the lives, health, and safety of individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, while Howard County has made progress and is on track to continue increasing contact-tracing and testing, there are still concerns about Howard County's proximity to other jurisdictions with substantially higher rates of COVID-19 infection and death, the County's ability to obtain and utilize necessary testing reagents, and whether the County will be able to sustain the progression in combating COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the County will rely on data points that are specific to Howard County, Howard County General Hospital (HCGH), and our infrastructure to combat COVID-19, including the number of new cases, the number of new hospitalizations, the number of patients admitted to the ICU, the number of tests conducted, the amount of available Personal Protection Equipment, and surge capacity at HCGH, as this framework will allow us to make thoughtful decisions about how to responsibly reopen; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the authority set forth in State Executive Order Number 20-05-13-01, County residents should continue to stay at home as much as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, section 6.104(a) of the Howard County Code authorizes the County Executive to exercise certain emergency functions during a declared state of emergency within the County, including, but not limited to the following:

- (1) Control traffic, including public and private transportation;
- (2) Designate zones in the area of the emergency in which occupancy and use of buildings and vehicles may be controlled;
- (3) Control places of amusement and places of assembly; and
- (4) Control individuals on public streets.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED** by the County Executive of Howard County, Maryland, that, in accordance with the authority granted by section 6.104(a) of the Howard County Code and the State Executive Order Number 20-05-13-01, **effective 5:00 pm on Friday, May 15, the following businesses and facilities shall operate subject to the restrictions set out below:**

1. **Religious Services** – in-person religious gatherings may resume in Howard County with 10 people or less and persons participating are strongly encouraged to hold such services in outdoor settings.
2. **Retail** –
  - a. Except as otherwise provided in this order that certain business establishments shall remain closed, all Howard County retail businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities that principally sell goods may open, but are restricted to curbside pick-up or delivery only, including, but not limited to, the following:
    - Art galleries
    - Bookstores
    - Clothing and shoe stores
    - Florists
    - Furniture stores
    - Jewelers
    - Lawn and garden stores
    - Pawn shops
    - Sporting goods stores
    - Tobacco and vape shops
  - b. The following retail businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities may operate at 50% of the maximum occupancy load of the establishment pursuant to the Fire Code, as set forth on a certificate issued by the local Fire Code Official; or if no such certificate has been issued, the maximum occupancy of the establishment pursuant to applicable laws, regulations and permits:
    - Pet Groomers
    - Animal Adoption
    - Car Washes

3. **Manufacturing** – Howard County manufacturing businesses may open following the guidelines issued by the State of Maryland.
4. **Barber Shops/ Hair Salons** –
  - a. Howard County barber shops and hair salons may open by appointment only with only one customer allowed in a location at a time. Businesses shall follow guidelines issued by the State of Maryland such as:
    - Both the Customer and Barber/Hair Salon staff must wear Face Coverings, except to the extent that a Face Covering on the Customer would make it impossible for services to be performed.
    - After each Customer, the Barber/Hair Salon must clean and disinfect the area where services were performed in accordance with applicable guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health.
    - The Barber/Hair Salon must obtain telephone contact information for each Customer.
  - b. Consistent with the State Executive Order Number 20-05-13-01, Howard County nail salons, esthetician services, or massage parlors will remain closed.
5. **Archery/Shooting Ranges** – Howard County outdoor archery and shooting ranges may open with appropriate physical distancing and mask requirements.
6. **Campgrounds** – Howard County campgrounds will remain closed.
7. **Marinas/Watercraft Rental** –
  - a. Howard County Recreation and Parks boat rentals will remain closed.
  - b. Columbia Association’s boat rentals will remain closed.
8. **Horse Boarding/Riding Facilities** – Howard County horse boarding and riding facilities may open with appropriate physical distancing and mask requirements.
9. **Malls** – The Mall in Columbia and the Shops at Savage Mill shall remain closed to the public except all stores (interior and exterior access) may open for curbside pick-up or delivery only.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, consistent with State Executive Order Number 20-05-13-01, the following non-essential businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities shall remain closed, including, but not limited to:

- Bingo halls

- Bowling alleys
- Pool halls
- Amusement parks
- Roller and ice skating rinks
- Miniature golf establishments
- Social and fraternal clubs, including American Legion, VFW, Elks Clubs
- Any other establishment subject to the admission and amusement tax
- Tattoo Parlors
- Tanning salons
- Massage parlors
- Establishments that provide esthetic services or provide nail technician services
- Movie Theaters

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that Howard County government buildings will remain closed at this time to members of the public.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that:

1. This Executive Order shall be promptly publicized; and
2. A copy filed with the Administrator to the County Council of Howard County.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I, Calvin B. Ball, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland, have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 15th day of May 2020.



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Calvin B. Ball  
County Executive