

**County Executive  
of  
Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order: 2020-19**

**Dated: November 16, 2020**

**Subject: Exercise of Emergency Powers –  
Prohibitions on indoor and outdoor social  
gatherings; youth recreational sports or  
athletic programs**

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19, a communicable respiratory disease, and that emergency still exists; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, by Executive Order No. 2020-02, pursuant to the authority granted by Howard County Code sections 6.103 and 6.104, I declared a state of emergency in Howard County and Council Resolution No. 41-2020 continues the state of emergency 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**, through successive County Executive Orders, and in compliance with State Executive Orders giving discretion to local jurisdictions, I put into place restrictions on the opening or operation of businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities that took into account relevant COVID-19 data and its impact in the County and information from public health experts; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about June 12, 2020 and based on the data points that existed at that time, I lifted restrictions on certain institutions, establishments, and businesses, to be consistent with State Executive Orders issued by the Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, State Executive Order Number 20-11-10-01 provides that certain types of business organizations, establishments and facilities may open, subject to local orders, and that political subdivisions may issue orders that are more restrictive than those permitted by State Executive Order Number 20-11-10-01, if the political subdivision determines that it is necessary and reasonable to do so to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past two weeks, the 7 day case average per 100,000 residents and the 7 day average positivity rate have increased dramatically; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's COVID-19 positivity rate has increased to approximately 5% (4.99%) and the County's confirmed cases, per 100,000, is 19.12; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the data points set forth above, it is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare to impose certain restrictions on social gatherings in order to slow the recent increased incidences of COVID-19 in Howard County; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health recommend social distancing and limitations on the size of large gatherings to reduce the spread of COVID-19; 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, the Howard County Charter, and the State Executive Order Number 20-11-10-01, that:

1. All provisions of State Executive Order Number 20-11-10-01 shall apply except that effective November 17, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., social gatherings shall be limited as follows:
  - a. Indoor social gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited; and
  - b. Outdoor social gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited.
2. For purposes of this Order, a “social gathering”:
  - a. Includes family gatherings, parties, cookouts, parades, festivals, conventions, fundraisers, and other gatherings not associated with operating or patronizing a business that sells merchandise.
  - b. Shall not include retail stores, offices, foodservice establishments, social and fraternal organizations and associations, recreation sports and programs or events, religious gatherings, wedding receptions at a wedding venue, indoor theaters and outdoor entertainment venues.
3. Residents and business owners, including those listed in Subsection 2b., above, shall comply with State Executive Order Number 20-11-10-01 as required, as well as other applicable directives for social distancing, wearing masks, best practices for operations of particular industries, CDC guidelines, and recommendations or other directives of the Maryland Department of Health or County Health Officer, as referenced in State Executive Order 20-11-10-01.
4. County businesses, organizations, establishments, or facilities that are required to be closed by State Executive Order 20-11-10-1 shall continue to be closed.

5. For all types of businesses, organizations, establishments, or facilities for which State Executive Order 20-11-10-1 addresses maximum occupancy, the maximum occupancy for Howard County businesses, organizations, establishments, or facilities shall be calculated using guidance for calculation of maximum occupancy issued by the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, Office of the Fire Marshall.
6. Youth recreational sports or athletic programs or events held at private indoor or outdoor facilities are subject to the following restrictions:
  - a. Teams and/or players from states other than Maryland may not participate in athletic programs or events; and
  - b. Attendees are limited to a maximum of one per child participant.

**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 16th day of November 2020.



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Calvin Ball  
County Executive

