

**County Executive
of
Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order: 2020-20
Dated: November 24, 2020
Subject: Amendment to Exercise of
Emergency Powers – Prohibitions on
indoor and outdoor social gatherings to
include social and fraternal organizations,
recreation sports and programs or events,
and wedding receptions at a wedding
venue**

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, on November 22, 2020, Howard County has reached an average rate of 26.7 cases per 100,000 residents, an increase from an average rate of 19.1 cases per 100,000 residents

from the previous week; and

WHEREAS, the County's COVID-19 positivity rate has increased to approximately 5.12%; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 16, 2020, I issued Executive Order 2020-19 that prohibited certain indoor and outdoor social gatherings and that imposed certain conditions on youth recreational sports or athletic programs; and

WHEREAS, because of the increase in the number of cases in such a short period of time, it is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare to impose additional restrictions on social gatherings to include social and fraternal organizations, recreation sports and programs or events, and wedding receptions at a wedding venue in the types of gatherings for which limitations apply 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:

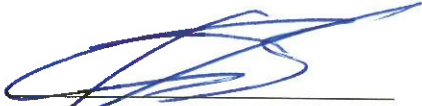
All provisions of State Executive Order Number 20-11-10-01 and County Executive Order 2020-19 shall apply and remain in full force and effect except that effective November 27, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., the definition of "social gathering" is amended to include:

- (a) Social and fraternal organizations and associations;
- (b) Recreation sports and programs or events; and
- (c) Wedding receptions at a wedding venue.

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 Ball, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland, have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 24th day of November 2020.



Calvin Ball
County Executive

