



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER

Offices of the County Executive • 101 Monroe Street • Rockville, Maryland 20850

Subject COVID-19 – Local Order Amending and Restating Order dated September 29, 2020	Executive Order No. 117-20	Subject Suffix
Department Office of the County Executive	Department No.	Effective Date 9/29/2020

## BACKGROUND

WHEREAS, a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed by Lawrence J. Hogan, the Governor of the State of Maryland on March 5, 2020, and renewed on March 17, 2020, April 10, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 3, 2020, July 1, 2020, July 30, 2020, August 10, 2020, and on September 8, 2020 to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the state, and the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exists;

WHEREAS, the effects of COVID-19 require that local officials be vigilant in advising all individuals in Montgomery County, Maryland of measures they can take to protect health, safety, and welfare;

WHEREAS, the currently known and available scientific evidence and best practices support continued limitations on large gatherings, increased use of face coverings, and continued social distancing to prevent exposures and transmissions, and reduce the threat to especially vulnerable populations, including older individuals and those with chronic health conditions;

WHEREAS, to reduce the threat to human health caused by transmission of COVID-19 and to protect and save lives, it is necessary and reasonable that individuals in the Montgomery County continue to engage in social distancing, use of face coverings, and refrain from congregating in large groups;

WHEREAS, it continues to be necessary to control and direct the occupancy and use of buildings and premises, as well as places of amusement and assembly within Montgomery County;

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2020 Governor Hogan issued State Executive Order [20-09-18-01](#), which renews the authority previously given to Maryland counties to continue to impose limitations on business and personal activities that were more restrictive than those permitted by State Executive Order [20-09-18-01](#), if the political subdivision determines that it is necessary and reasonable to do so in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS Montgomery County has determined that it is necessary and reasonable to continue to impose limitations on business and personal activities that are more restrictive than those permitted by State Executive Order [20-09-18-01](#) in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN GOVERNOR HOGAN’S EXECUTIVE ORDER [20-09-18-01](#) AND IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT THE



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PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND SAFETY, AND CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, I HEREBY ORDER:

1. Administrative and Implementing Provisions.

County Executive Order Number 067-20 dated May 15, 2020, as amended and restated by Order No. 070-20 dated May 28, 2020, as amended and restated by Order No. 082-20, as amended and restated by Order No. 087-20, as amended and restated by Order No. 098-20, as amended and restated by Order No. 114-20, and as further amended and restated in its entirety as set forth herein.

2. Face Coverings.

a. Definitions.

- i. “Face Covering” means a covering that fully covers a person’s nose, mouth, and chin and is secured to the person’s head. The term “Face Covering” includes, without limitation, scarves, and bandanas. The term excludes Medical-Grade Masks.
- ii. “Medical-Grade Mask” means an N95, KN95, surgical, or other mask that would be appropriate for a health care setting.
- iii. “Public Transportation” means shared-ride surface transportation services that are open to the general public, including without limitation, taxi services, ride-sharing services, car services, and transit services operating within Montgomery County. Examples of Public Transportation include, but are not limited, to Ride-On bus service, WMATA bus and train service, MARC train service, and Mobility and Paratransit services.

b. Requirement.

- i. Except as provided in paragraph 2.c below, all persons in the County over the age of two (2) years old are required to wear a Face Covering
  - (1) in or on any form of Public Transportation;
  - (2) indoors at any location where members of the public are generally permitted, including without limitation, Religious Facilities, Retail Establishments, Foodservice Establishments, Fitness Centers, Gaming Facilities, Indoor Recreation Establishments, and Personal Services Establishments;
  - (3) outdoors and unable to consistently maintain at least six feet of distance from individuals who are not members of their household;
  - (4) obtaining healthcare services, including without limitation, in offices of physicians and dentists, hospitals, pharmacies, and laboratories; and
  - (5) engaged in work in any area where:
    - a. interaction with others is likely, including without limitation, in shared areas of commercial offices; or



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- b. food is prepared or packaged.
- ii. Single-use Face Coverings shall be properly discarded in trash receptacles. It is recommended that all reusable Face Coverings be cleaned frequently (at least once per day).
- iii. Wearing a Medical-Grade Mask satisfies any requirement in paragraph 2.b to wear a Face Covering, but all persons in Montgomery County are urged to reserve Medical-Grade Masks for use by health care workers and first responders.
- c. Exceptions. Paragraph 2.b does not require persons to wear Face Coverings:
  - i. if, due to a bona fide disability or medical condition, it would be unsafe for the person to do so;
  - ii. to the extent wearing a Face Covering would impede communication by or with persons who have a hearing impairment or other disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
  - iii. if wearing a Face Covering would subject the person to an unsafe working condition, as determined by federal, state, or local occupational safety regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
  - iv. to the extent wearing a Face Covering would make it impossible to receive services requiring access to the face, mouth, or head, including without limitation, dental care, shaving, and facial treatments;
  - v. while consuming food or beverages;
  - vi. while swimming or engaging in other physical activities where the use of a Face Covering is likely to pose a bona fide safety risk;
  - vii. for individuals under the age of eighteen (18) who are engaged in sports – as recommended by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#); or
  - viii. while operating any Public Transportation conveyance, provided that the person is (1) the sole operator of the conveyance, and (2) located in a separate compartment that is off-limits to riders.

### 3. General Operating Requirements.

- a. Unless explicitly stated in another provision of this order, all businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities that are permitted to operate under this Order shall, as a condition of their continued operation:
  - i. require employees and customers to maintain social distancing of greater than 6 feet, whenever possible, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Maryland Department of Health (“MDH”);
  - ii. utilize markings and signage to guide employees and customers;
  - iii. comply with the face covering requirements in paragraph 2.b;



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- iv. provide employees with guidance and training to reflect updated CDC guidelines for their workplace;
- v. use CDC and Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) approved disinfectants to clean spaces daily; including use of disinfectants to wipe down high contact surfaces at least once every 2 hours while staff or customers are present (“high contact surfaces” are surfaces that will have human contact at least once an hour);
- vi. require employees to wash their hands hourly; and
- vii. follow review and implement new CDC, MDH, and Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services (“DHHS”) guidelines as they are issued.

b. All businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities in Montgomery County shall comply with any directive or orders issued by the Local Health Officer, pursuant to State Executive Orders [20-04-05-02](#) (“Delegating Authority to Local Officials to Control and Close Unsafe Facilities”) and [20-09-18-01](#) (“Amending and Restating the Order Allowing Reopening of Certain Businesses and Facilities Subject to Local Regulations and Generally Requiring Use of Face Coverings”), as may be amended from time to time.

c. All businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities that are permitted to open shall post signage indicating that they are in compliance with all provisions of paragraph 3.a of this Order.

d. Unless explicitly stated to the contrary, the General Operating requirements apply to all provisions in this order.

#### 4. Gatherings.

a. Unless explicitly stated in another paragraph of this Order:

- i. Gatherings of more than 50 people continue to be prohibited at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parties, receptions, parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers. Planned large gatherings and events must be canceled or postponed until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.
- ii. Social, community, recreational, and leisure gatherings may resume provided the following physical precautions are met and followed:

- (1) limited to 1 person or household per 200 sq. ft. or a maximum of 50 people, whichever number is lower; and
- (2) the size of the location and venue must accommodate applicable social distancing for the number of attendees.



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## 5. Businesses, Organizations, Establishments and Facilities That May Be Open.

- a. *Bowling alleys.* May open provided:
  - i. number of patrons is limited to 50% occupancy or a maximum of 50 people, whichever number is lower;
  - ii. all equipment (balls, shoes, etc) and spaces (lanes, tables, seats) must be cleaned between each person(s) or group’s use with CDC and EPA approved cleaners; and
  - iii. any foodservice establishment located within the bowling alley must conform to all of the standards as established in paragraph 5.e. of this Order.
  
- b. *Childcare.* Must follow any guidance issued by MDH and as amended from time to time.
  
- c. *Cigar Bars/Hookah Bars/Vape Shops.* May open solely to sell retail goods. Smoking on site is strictly prohibited.
  
- d. *Fitness Centers.* May open provided:
  - i. limit 1 patron per 200 sq. ft. of indoor space;
  - ii. require individuals to wear masks while exercising; and
  - iii. follow the State’s [Best Practices for Fitness Centers, Martial Arts, Dance Studios](#) as amended from time to time.
  - iv. Fitness Centers include, but are not limited to dance studios, health clubs, health spas, gyms, training facilities, and other indoor physical activities.
  - v. Fitness Centers that provide sport-specific training for high-risk sports as defined in [Maryland Sports Commission Return to Play Report](#) must follow the restrictions in paragraph 5.1 below.
  
- e. *Foodservice Establishments.*
  - i. Restaurants, bars, and other similar establishments that sell food or beverages for consumption on-premises in Montgomery County (“Restaurants and Bars”), social and fraternal clubs (“Social Clubs”) with dining facilities, and foodservices in healthcare facilities, to the extent permitted by applicable law:
    - (1) Must follow all provisions of the MDH’s [Amended Directive and Order Regarding Food Service Establishments](#) (Order No. MDH 20-09-18-01) that do not conflict with any provision of this Order;
    - (2) total capacity of an indoor food service establishment shall not exceed 50% of that facility’s maximum occupancy;
    - (3) shall cease service of alcoholic beverages for on-premise consumption at 10 p.m.;



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- (4) may, to the extent permitted by law, continue to sell food and beverages that are promptly taken from the premises, i.e., on a carry-out, drive-through, or delivery basis;
- (5) must follow any guidelines issued by DHHS; and
- (6) must post signage at each entrance advising customers and visitors that:
  - a. they must comply with the face covering requirements at all times when they are not eating or drinking;
  - b. they must maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet when
    - i. waiting to be seated
    - ii. when seated at a bar
  - c. failure to wear face coverings or maintain social distancing may result in their being refused service and found to be in violation of the COVID-19 Local Order and subject to criminal penalties as stated in the Order.
- ii. Food service establishments with no prior history of citations or closings due to violations related to any State or local executive order related to COVID-19 may apply for a Late-Night Alcohol Sales Program permit which would allow for alcohol service from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.
  - (1) To receive a Late-Night Alcohol Sales Program permit a food service establishment must agree to the following requirements:
    - a. designate a staff member (or hire a contractor) whose sole responsibility is to monitor and enforce face covering and social distancing requirements of this Order, and any subsequent amendments thereto;
    - b. ensure that all alcoholic beverages are off all tables and collected from patrons by 12 a.m.;
    - c. suspend the sale or provision of alcoholic beverages after 12 a.m.; and
    - d. follow all protocols and guidelines issued by DHHS and the Board of License Commissioners related to this Program.
  - (2) Food service establishments that receive a Late-Night Alcohol Sales Program permit will be subject to frequent and unscheduled inspections.
  - (3) Food service establishments that are found to have violated any of the Late-Night Alcohol Sales Program requirements will be subject to:
    - a. immediate revocation of the permit;
    - b. the suspension or revocation of their license to sell alcohol; and/or
    - c. fines up to \$20,000.
  - (4) The Late-Night Alcohol Sales Program will be automatically suspended if:



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- a. the 3-day test positivity average in Montgomery County exceeds 3.25%;
- b. the 3-day average of confirmed COVID-19 cases exceeds 100;
- c. there is an increased association of Indoor and Outdoor dining with COVID-19 positive contacts of greater than 3% combined;
- d. more than 10% of inspected participants result in findings that warrant a citation, closure, or revocation of a permit.

f. *Malls.*

- i. Shopping centers with one or more enclosed pedestrian concourses may maintain pedestrian concourses and other interior common areas open, but solely to the extent necessary for the general public to enter and exit retail establishments.
- ii. Food courts located inside indoor malls shall be limited to carry-out services only; dining at tables or other spaces in food courts is prohibited.
- iii. Congregating in any indoor area outside of retail stores (including food courts) is prohibited.
- iv. Malls shall remove tables, chairs, benches, or any other items which could encourage congregating from food courts and other indoor areas outside of retail stores.

g. *Museums and Art Galleries.* May open provided:

- i. limit 1 patron per 200 sq. ft of exhibit-space or in-store space; and
- ii. exhibits requiring contact (for example “please touch” exhibits or other interactive displays) must remain closed.

h. *Personal Services.*

- i. Hair salons, barbershops, and establishments that provide tanning, tattoo, waxing, threading, electrolysis, cryotherapy, facial and other skin services, massage, and nail technician services (“Personal Services Establishments”) may open, by appointment only, provided the following physical precautions are met and followed:
  - (1) all staff are required to wear gloves, and any other Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”) as appropriate to their workplace and provided service;
  - (2) limit of 1 customer for every 200 sq. ft of service delivery space;
  - (3) limit of 1 customer in a waiting area at a time, other customers waiting for appointments must wait outside the Personal Services Establishments;
  - (4) follow the State’s [Best Practices for Personal Service Establishments](#) as amended from time to time.



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- i. *Pools*. Must strictly comply with any guidance issued by DHHS.
- j. *Retail Establishments*. May open provided:
  - i. limit 1 customer per 200 sq. ft of in-store space; and
  - ii. employees use any additional Personal Protective Equipment as appropriate to their workplace.
- k. *Religious Facilities*. Churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other similar religious facilities of any faith (“Religious Facilities”) may open to the general public for indoor and outdoor services provided the Religious Facility complies with the following:
  - i. Gathering size.
    - (1) shall be determined by dividing the total square footage of the worship space by 50, however total number of individuals shall not exceed 40% of permitted occupancy; and
    - (2) occupancy numbers shall include faith leaders, volunteers, and congregants.
  - ii. Spacing.
    - (1) seating must be marked to reflect appropriate distancing;
    - (2) facilities with fixed seating or pews, every other row must remain empty and marked off to prohibit seating;
    - (3) individuals that are not a part of the same household must maintain 6 feet of social distance from the point of entry into the facility through their exit from the facility; and
    - (4) only exceptions are where the core activity or safety require shorter distance (for example, pallbearers).
  - iii. Other requirements.
    - (1) Prior to the first service of each day in which they participate, faith leaders, volunteers and other staff must:
      - a. be screened (verbally, in writing, or online) using the following questions:
        - i. Are you suffering from any of the common symptoms of COVID-19 (coughing, difficulty breathing, loss of taste etc.)?
        - ii. Have you had close personal contact with anybody known to have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis over the past two weeks?
      - b. where allowed by religious tenant, have their temperature screened:
        - i. anyone with a temperature in excess of 100.4°F must be excluded from the religious facility until at least 72 hours after symptoms resolve.





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- c. exclude anyone that exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 until at least 72 hours after their symptoms resolve; and
- d. notify Montgomery County Disease Control at 240-777-1755 if they learn that a person who attended or participated in a religious ceremony is diagnosed with or develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

(2) Use CDC and EPA approved disinfectants to clean restrooms and high contact surfaces between each religious service.

- iv. absent a Letter of Approval from DHHS, the number of outdoor service participants shall not exceed 150 participants.

1. *Sports.*

- i. All sports are categorized by level of risk as detailed in the [Maryland Sports Commission Return to Play Report](#) with the following exceptions:
  - (1) flag football is considered to be a high-risk sport;
  - (2) solo kayaking/canoeing is considered to be low risk;
  - (3) tandem kayaking/canoeing is considered to be low risk if participants are from the same household.
- ii. Only the play of low-risk and medium-risk sports is permitted.
- iii. The play of high-risk sports is prohibited, however no-contact skills-building and drills are permitted.
- iv. High-risk sport scrimmages, games, matches, and competitions are prohibited.
- v. All sports participants, regardless of age must comply with the face covering requirement in paragraph 2.b, and the social distancing and hygiene requirements of paragraph 3.a.
- vi. Rented sport equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected pursuant to CDC guidelines using EPA approved cleaners and disinfectants between usage.
- vii. All tournaments, championships, or events are strictly prohibited unless a Letter of Approval is issued by the County.
- viii. Sports played outside must follow outdoor gathering guidelines and the number of people present is limited to 50. This includes staff, coaches, players, and any parents, guardians, or immediate family.
- ix. Sports played inside must follow the guidelines and size restrictions for fitness centers.
- x. Play and games with teams from outside of Maryland, Virginia, or the District of Columbia is prohibited.
- xi. Sports may not open to the general public or spectators other than those identified in paragraph 5.1.xi.(1).



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(1) Parents, guardians, and immediate family of players may spectate provided they maintain the appropriate social distancing of greater than 6 feet between non-family members.

m. *Youth Camp Programs.*

- i. Must follow all provisions in applicable directives and orders issued by the Secretary of the MDH that do not conflict with this Order.

6. Other Businesses, Organizations, Establishments and Facilities That May Be Open.

- a. *Car Wash.*
- b. *Farms.* For “pick-your-own” produce by members of the public.
- c. *Manufacturing.*
- d. *Miniature golf.*
- e. *Office space.*
- f. *Outdoor recreation.*
  - i. parks for personal fitness and fitness classes;
  - ii. golf courses and driving ranges;
  - iii. outdoor archery and shooting ranges;
  - iv. marinas and watercraft rental businesses;
  - v. campgrounds;
  - vi. horse boarding and riding facilities; and
  - vii. playgrounds.
- g. *Ice skating rinks.* Remain closed to the public but may operate as a Fitness Center for the purpose of individual or group training pursuant to paragraph 5.1.

7. Other Businesses, Organizations, Establishments, and Facilities Required to Close.

- a. *Amusement parks.* Including stand-alone types, such as, but not limited to merry-go-rounds and roller coasters.
- b. *Bingo halls.*
- c. *Escape rooms.*
- d. *Go-kart tracks*
- e. *Recreation centers.*
- f. *Roller skating rinks.*
- g. *Senior Centers.*
- h. *Social Clubs.*
- i. *Theaters.*
  - i. This Order controls the occupancy and use of theatres in Montgomery County at which live performances occur or motion pictures are shown (“Theaters”).
  - ii. All Theaters shall remain closed to the general public.



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- j. *Trampoline Parks.*
  - k. Any other establishment not listed above that is subject to the admission and amusement tax under Title 4 of the Tax-General Article of the Maryland Code.
8. *Minimal Operations.* Staff and owners may continue to be on-site at any business, organization, establishment, or facility that is required to be closed pursuant to this Order only for the following purposes:
- a. Facilitating remote working (a/k/a/ telework) by other staff;
  - b. Maintaining essential property;
  - c. Preventing loss of, or damage to property, including without limitation, preventing spoilage of perishable inventory;
  - d. Performing essential administrative functions, including without limitation, picking up mail and processing payroll; and
  - e. Caring for live animals.
9. This Order shall be enforced by any County department or agency that has authority over the subject matter of any particular provision and the Montgomery County Police Department.
10. I hereby adopt by reference the following portions of State Executive Order 20-09-18-01:
- a. paragraph III.k (“Determination of Maximum Occupancy”); and
  - b. paragraph VII (“General Provisions”) and all its subparagraphs.
11. Pursuant to State Executive Order [20-09-18-01](#) paragraph VII.b, a person who knowingly and willfully violates this Order is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.
12. Enforcement of this Local Order shall be done in accordance with the provisions established in State Executive Order [20-09-18-01](#) and any other applicable local law.
13. This Local Order may be amended, upon consultation with the Local Health Officer and the approval of the Montgomery County Council.
14. If any provision of this Local Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Local Order are severable



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15. This Local Order shall take effect September 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

By:   
MARC ELRICH  
County Executive

Approved as to form and legality:  
Office of the County Attorney

By:   
Silvia C. Kinch, Division Chief

Date: 9/26/2020