

**BALTIMORE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE AND ORDER
FOR FACE COVERINGS IN INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES**

I, Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, Health Officer for Baltimore County, Maryland, as the designee of Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health for the State of Maryland, and Baltimore County Executive John A. Olszewski, Jr., finding it necessary for the control and medical containment of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“2019-nCoV” or “COVID-19”) and the disease it causes (“SARS-CoV-2”) and for the investigation of actual or potential exposures to 2019-nCoV, hereby give the following Directive and Order directing the following measures be implemented to ensure public safety and limited transmission of a potentially deadly contagious and infectious disease.

WHEREAS, there is continued community transmission of COVID-19 in Baltimore County despite the current prevention measures; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be an increase in the rate of positive test results for COVID-19 across the State of Maryland, particularly among young adults; and

WHEREAS, suppression of cases will support schools reopening in the fall; and

WHEREAS, suppression of cases will strengthen Baltimore County’s economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, preventing an increase in cases is essential to a safeguard the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence of the effectiveness of face coverings in preventing transmission of COVID-19 by symptomatic, pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, Health Officer for Baltimore County, Maryland, as the designee of Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health for the State of Maryland, pursuant to COMAR 10.06.01.06, the authority delegated to local Health Officers by Governor Hogan’s Executive Order No. 20-06-10-01, and the authority granted by the Baltimore County Code, 2015, and by the authority delegated from the County Executive to the Health Officer by Executive Orders issued pursuant to Baltimore County Code, 2015 (“BCC”) §§ 3-1-503 and 3-1-504, and finding it necessary for the control and medical containment of COVID-19 in Baltimore County, hereby orders and directs the following:

1. Individuals 2 years of age and older shall wear a face covering when in any indoor public space.
2. Individuals 2 years of age and older are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering while in outdoor public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of six (6) feet or more from persons who are not members of the same household or residence is not feasible.
3. The following are exemptions to Paragraph 1:
 - a. Non-public schools, child care facilities and youth camps should continue to follow guidance concerning face coverings issued by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health.
 - b. Individuals who cannot wear a face covering (as defined in Governor's Executive Order No. 20-04-15-01) due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability;
 - c. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication; or

- d. Individuals at food service establishments while eating or drinking, which shall all be subject to the same existing regulations and exceptions previously in place under the Governor's Executive Orders and the Health Officer Orders of the Maryland Department of Health ("MDH") including, but not limited to, Governor's Executive Order Nos. 20-06-10-01 and 20-04-15-01, associated issued guidance "Maryland Roadmap to Recovery, Best Practices for Opening Restaurants and Bars", MDH Order 20.20.06.10.01, and Baltimore County Executive Orders including, but not limited to Executive Order 2020-11, and all previously issued Baltimore County Health Directives/Orders. In addition, all non-seated parties, must wear a face covering when moving in or about a restaurant or bar premises.
4. Individuals are not required to show documentation that an exception applies.
5. All persons at any business, service, organization, establishment or facility servicing the general public shall also comply with the applicable directives in effect from the Secretary of Health, any applicable Health Officer Directives, and any applicable guidance published by the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health concerning face coverings.
6. (a) The Health Officer or his/her designee, in an effort to protect the public health, welfare, and safety of persons within Baltimore County and prevent the transmission of and control the spread of COVID-19, may enter any place of business or place of assembly for the purpose of inspecting it to ensure it meets proper health and safety standards.

(b) If the Health Officer or his/her designee determines that a condition exists which presents an immediate threat or hazard to contagious or infectious disease control that impacts public health and safety, the Health Officer or his/her designee may, in his/her discretion, issue a warning; issue an order modifying the operation of the business or place of assembly if the Health Officer or his/her designee determines that a specific business operation or facility poses an unreasonable risk of exacerbating the spread of COVID-19, which would include an unreasonable risk deemed to be the result of non-compliance with face covering requirements; order the immediate removal of the condition presenting an immediate threat or hazard to contagious or infectious disease control that impacts public health and safety, or immediately shut down the business or place of assembly.
7. The Health Officer or his/her designee may request the assistance of Baltimore County Code Enforcement or law enforcement, including the Police Department, the Fire Marshal and/or the Building Official, in accordance with the penalties set forth therein, in addition to any enforcement measures authorized by the Governor of the State of Maryland.
8. This Directive and Order is in addition to, and does not supersede, all previous County Health Directives/Orders, except to the extent any prior County Health Directive/Order is inconsistent with this Directive and Order, in which event this Directive and Order shall control.

TERMINATION DATE

This Directive and Order shall terminate on the date the local state of emergency ends in accordance with Resolution 71-20 or any subsequent Resolution of the County Council or on the date this Directive and Order is rescinded, superseded, amended or revised by the Health Officer.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION

A person who violates this Directive and Order, or any local Directive/Order, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.00 per violation under the County Code, or any and all other criminal penalties that may be available by and through the Governor's Order.

**THIS LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER DIRECTIVE AND ORDER IS ISSUED UNDER MY HAND
THIS 23rd DAY OF JULY 2020, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**



Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE, FACP
Health Officer, Baltimore County