

Governor announced new orders to address the escalating coronavirus positive cases. Below are highlights of the revised orders, but we strongly urge you to read each order in full. In addition, the Governor also announced that he has instructed State agencies to allow those employees who can telework to do so and encouraged all employees in the State to allow telework. If you have any questions, please let us know.

AMENDED DIRECTIVE AND ORDER REGARDING VARIOUS HEALTHCARE MATTERS - [click here](#).

Page 2: New Travel Advisory Issued

All Marylanders who travel outside of Maryland, or who have traveled to or returned to Maryland, are strongly advised to:

- Immediately get a COVID-19 test upon arrival in Maryland or within 72 hours before travel to Maryland.
- Any Marylander who travels to a state with a COVID-19 test positivity rate above 10% or with a case rate over 20 per 100,000 in the past 7 days should get tested and self-quarantine at home until the test result is received. The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the States of Delaware and West Virginia are exempt from this recommendation.
- There are exemptions for employee commuters.

Page 10: Hospital Surge Plans

- Upon the Statewide Total Hospital Bed Census, as reported in CRISP, reaching 85% of the statewide number of hospitals staffed beds or 6,600, whichever is less, the following steps shall be taken starting at 7:00 am the following day:
 - As determined by the attending physician, all hospital inpatients and emergency department (ED) patients may be transferred to another appropriate setting that can meet their health care needs, such as another hospital or an alternative care site. ii. All hospitals shall stage their emergency plan for pandemics, including a surge plan for timely triage of patients in the ED arriving by emergency medical services or other means.
 - Each hospital and freestanding emergency medical facility shall report daily to MIEMSS with regard to attempts, and results, to transfer COVID-19 patients to alternative care sites.
 - MIEMSS may develop an intensive care bed surveillance system
 - MIEMSS may appoint or designate a director to coordinate statewide efforts under this section.
- Upon the Statewide Total Hospital Bed Census, as reported in CRISP, reaching 85% of the statewide number of physical hospital beds or 8,400, whichever is less, the following steps shall be taken starting at 7:00 am the following day:
 - MIEMSS may implement procedures to route COVID-19 positive patients to a specific, clinically appropriate care setting and away from an emergency room and utilize tele-triage procedures to assist the transporting EMS clinicians.
 - All hospitals shall implement their emergency plan for pandemics.
- Upon the Statewide Total Hospital Bed Census reaching the total statewide number of beds, including elective surgery beds, hospitals shall put into place a triage system for elective and non-urgent medical procedures in accordance with Section 5 of this directive (prohibition and resumption of elective procedures). The hospital shall put this system into place 24 hours after the statewide number of beds is reached.

Page 11: Nursing Home and Hospital Mutual Aid

- When an outbreak occurs in a nursing home, a nursing home shall coordinate with hospital(s) located in the nursing home's corresponding MIEMSS region to ensure adequate staffing support from the hospital, including direct clinical care, and infection control technical assistance where appropriate to ensure adequate continued care and infection control.
- Such support may include the provision of a certified infection control (CIC) professional to the nursing home.
- When contacted, a hospital shall render all assistance possible.
- All nursing homes shall establish at least one mutual aid arrangement with another nursing home facility to ensure continuity of operations, to include ensuring adequate staffing support.

Clinical Letter - Dated November 10, 2020 - click [here](#).

This letter provides the following guidance from MDH on elective hospital admissions and states that elective admissions that are likely to require prolonged artificial ventilation, ICU admission or may have a high probability of requiring post hospital care in a skilled nursing facility should be avoided.

NOTICE - COVID-19 Advisory - Large Gatherings, Essential Travel, Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs - click [here](#).

The Maryland Department of Health strongly recommends that Marylanders undertake the following measures to contain the recent surge in COVID-19 cases:

- All Marylanders should refrain from attending public and private indoor gatherings of more than 25 individuals in one location and should practice physical distancing to the extent possible.
- Reiterates the travel advisory in the Amended Directive and Order on Various Health Care Matters.
- About nursing homes and assisted living facilities, the notice states:
 - Marylanders should take all precautions to protect their loved ones at nursing homes and assisted living programs including staying home if sick and getting tested before they visit.
 - Nursing home and assisted living program staff should minimize their contact with large gatherings and work with their management on communicating early and often about infection control issues at their facilities.
 - Nursing homes and large assisted living programs (over 50 beds) are strongly encouraged to test their staff at least once a week for COVID-19, and where appropriate, more often, using a combination of rapid point-of-care testing and PCR lab testing.
 - Nursing homes and assisted living programs are reminded that indoor visitation is not permitted if the facility is currently conducting outbreak testing and in accordance with federal guidance on this subject.
 - Each facility may implement additional visitation restrictions, to include the number of individuals allowed in the facility at any given time or visitor testing, on a facility-specific basis given each facility's circumstances and infection control guidelines.
 - Nursing homes must also comply with the recent PPE requirements of 30 day and 60-day supplies.

AMENDED DIRECTIVE AND ORDER REGARDING FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT - click [here](#).

Page 2, Section 1. A. viii – effectively immediately, decreases occupancy from 75% to 50% for indoor food service establishments.