
Governor Hogan Announces Lifting of Capacity Limits, Masking and Distancing Protocols Maintained

With sustained vaccine progress and significant improvements in all of the state's key data metrics, Governor Larry Hogan announced new actions to further ease the COVID-19 mitigation measures currently in place.

EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, MARCH 12 AT 5 PM:

- **CAPACITY LIMITS LIFTED, MASKING AND DISTANCING PROTOCOLS MAINTAINED.** Capacity limits will be lifted on outdoor and indoor dining at restaurants and bars, retail businesses, religious facilities, fitness centers, casinos, personal services, and indoor recreational establishments. Bars and restaurants will be open for seated and distanced service only—patrons may not stand at a crowded bar. Masking, physical distancing, and other safety protocols will remain in place.
- **LARGE OUTDOOR AND INDOOR VENUES MAY OPERATE AT 50% CAPACITY.** Large outdoor and indoor venues may begin operating at 50% capacity. This includes theaters; concert, convention, and wedding venues; racing facilities, and outdoor entertainment and sporting venues. Masking, physical distancing, and other safety protocols will remain in place.
- **MEDICAL ADULT DAY CARE CENTERS TO REOPEN.** Medical adult day care centers may reopen, with facilities able to set appropriate restrictions and safety measures.
- **QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS LIFTED; TRAVEL ADVISORY REMAINS IN PLACE.** Quarantine requirements and other restrictions on out-of-state travel will be lifted. A Maryland Department of Health (MDH) travel advisory will remain in place, and Marylanders continue to be encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 upon their return from out-of-state travel.

ADDITIONAL ORDERS AND GUIDANCE:

- **TELEWORK.** With contact tracing continuing to show some transmission among individuals who are working outside the home, particularly in office settings, the state continues to encourage employers to support telework whenever possible.
- **LICENSING AND PERMITTING.** The governor's order authorizing the suspension of license and permitting expirations will sunset on June 30, 2021. Timeframe suspensions made before this order will remain in effect until June 30, though agencies may terminate them earlier. Agencies are explicitly authorized to conduct virtual hearings and meetings.