## OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS

## For Immediate Release:

January 14, 2021

## **For More Information:**

Gina Ford Communications Director Office of the County Executive Prince George's County w. 301.952.4670 c. 202.744.3308 erford@co.pg.md.us

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXTENDS INDOOR DINING BAN AND OTHER COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES FOR RESTAURANTS AND OTHER BUSINESSES

**LARGO, MD** – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that the County will extend COVID-19 safety measures implemented last month for restaurants and other businesses, including a ban on indoor dining, as key COVID-19 metrics continue to rise in the County. The County Executive made the decision after conferring with County health officials that analyzed recent COVID-19 data and trends.

"Much to our dismay, COVID-19 cases continue to rise and our metrics show that we need to extend measures previously implemented to minimize the spread of this virus," said Alsobrooks. "While this is a difficult decision, we are continuing to do everything we can to support our restaurants during these difficult times, including allocating additional funding to our Restaurant Resiliency Fund. We need all Prince Georgians to continue doing their part to slow the spread of this virus, including wearing a mask, limiting travel, and avoiding gatherings."

The County made this decision based on COVID-19 data and trends over the past several weeks. The County reached a new single-day high of 762 cases on January 4, signaling that the recent holidays resulted in an increase in cases. Prince George's County's average daily case rate has climbed to 57 new cases per day per 100,000 residents as of January 9. The County's infection rate has also been steadily rising, sitting at 1.09 as of January 5. Finally, hospital capacity continues to be concerning, as the County has stayed above 200 inpatients with COVID-19 for over three weeks.

Indoor dining at restaurants (and other similar establishments) will continue to be prohibited, along with dining at banquets and receptions. Dining is also prohibited at conference centers, hotel meeting rooms and similar establishments. Outdoor dining will continue to be limited to 50% capacity, and restaurants may continue to offer takeout meals and curbside service. The casino's capacity will continue to be limited to 25% and retail establishments must continue to

restrict their capacity to 25%. These measures will remain in effect until at least January 29, 2021.

Businesses in Prince George's County continue to be required to follow all previously-mandated safety guidelines, including requiring staff and patrons to wear face coverings and enforcing physical distancing. These requirements will continue as County officials continue to track COVID-19 data.

To continue supporting restaurants adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Executive announced last week that the County's Restaurant Resiliency Fund was reopening for new applicants after she allocated an additional \$3.3 million to the program. Restaurants and food service establishments may apply for grants up to \$25,000 to promote long-term sustainability and resiliency of business operations. Applications are due by January 22 at 5:00 PM. Restaurants interested in learning more and applying should visit <a href="mailto:pgcedc.com/restaurantfund">pgcedc.com/restaurantfund</a>.

For the latest County COVID-19 updates, visit <a href="health.mypgc.us/coronavirus">health.mypgc.us/coronavirus</a>.

###