

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

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**COUNTY EXECUTIVE ALSOBROOKS ANNOUNCES MODIFIED PHASE ONE  
REOPENING FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ON JUNE 1**

*County Executive Names Co-Chairs and Subcommittee Chairs of the Prince George's  
Forward Task Force*

**LARGO, MD** – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that the County will begin a modified phase one reopening on June 1, 2020. This decision was made under the advice of public health officials and the data that the County has been monitoring, including continued downward trends in the number of COVID-19 deaths, and hospitalizations.

“Prince George's County has the resources in place to reopen responsibly, so we are now prepared to move to a modified phase one reopening on June 1,” said Alsobrooks. “I want to caution that it will be critical that we maintain appropriate social distancing, wear face coverings, and practice good personal hygiene to help ensure that we don't see a spike in our numbers. If we are cavalier during this reopening, we could be back to square one.”

As part of the modified phase one reopening, the County Executive's Stay-At-Home Order will be lifted on June 1, 2020. However, residents are still encouraged to exercise caution and stay home as much as possible. The modified phase one reopening will also include the following:

- **Retail stores** will be able to open with curbside pickup only.
- **Manufacturing** will reopen with appropriate social distancing, use of PPE and following CDC guidelines on cleaning high contact surfaces. All employees must be trained on CDC COVID-19 guidance before returning to work.
- **Barbershops and hair salons** will be allowed to open for hair services only and by appointment only, with one customer per 200 square feet and use of PPE. This includes face masks and gloves for all employees. Customers must also wear masks, and shops must have appropriate floor markings to create adequate social distancing. Employees

will not be permitted to have clients waiting in a sitting area. All CDC guidelines for cleaning high use surfaces must also be followed.

- **Restaurants** may open with outside seating only. There can be no more than 6 people seated at a table, tables must be at least six feet apart, and no more than 50 people will be allowed at any outdoor restaurant establishment regardless of space. Employees must receive health screenings prior to their shifts, and all CDC guidelines must be adhered to. Additionally, all employees must wear face coverings, and restaurants must have hand sanitizer and appropriate hand washing facilities available. There will soon be a concierge service portal available to restaurant owners that will allow for them to apply for the appropriate expedited licenses, so that they may conduct dining operation outside. Information on how to access that portal will be available soon.
- **Houses of worship** can open for gatherings of 10 people or less. Otherwise, they must maintain online services only.
- **Farmer's markets** will be able to open for carryout only, maintaining proper social distancing, mask wearing and following CDC guidelines for cleaning high use surfaces.
- **Childcare facilities** will be able to open for essential employees and for employees who are returning to work as part of the modified phase one. In addition to the use of masks and gloves for all employees and having appropriate social distancing and disinfecting in place, they must also have a schedule for staggered drop offs and pickups, conduct daily symptom checks and have a strict dismissal policy in the event of positive cases.
- **Car washes** may open with automated systems, but drivers and passengers must stay inside of the vehicles at all times. Interior car cleaning is not permitted, but employees may wipe down the outside of the car as long as they wear masks and gloves.

Some restrictions and openings currently in place will remain. Parks, along with their golf courses and tennis courts, will remain open, with appropriate social distancing measures in place. Basketball courts and playgrounds will remain closed. Fitness facilities will remain closed. Residents and visitors must wear face coverings inside all businesses and on public transportation, and businesses must continue to enforce social distancing.

For County Government, buildings will remain closed to the public and employees will continue to telework. The County Government is still open and operational, adding a number of virtual services in our agencies to ensure that we can still serve our residents. Finally, the County is offering essential workers, first responders, County Government employees and their families COVID-19 tests even if they are not exhibiting symptoms. These individuals should call 301-883-6627 to make an appointment at our testing site.

The County Executive also announced the Prince George's Forward Task Force, which is charged with combining new data with expertise to provide well-reasoned recommendations on how the County should deal with the pandemic moving forward. While the Task Force will generate a final report, recommendations will be developed and implemented in real time to maximize the benefit to residents.

The Task Force will be co-chaired by Dr. Charlene Dukes, President of Prince George's Community College, and William Von Hoene, Senior VP and Chief Strategy Officer of Exelon. Over 40 experts from Prince George's County and across the State of Maryland are already

confirmed members. The Task Force will work on several broad recovery efforts through subcommittees, which are:

- Government Operations Subcommittee: Chaired by former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley.
- Economic Development Subcommittee: Chaired by Thomas Graham, founder of TH Graham and Associates.
- Education Subcommittee: Chaired by Dr. Darryl Pines, President of the University of Maryland, College Park.
- Health Subcommittee: Chaired by Dr. Joseph Wright, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of the University of Maryland Capital Region Health.
- Human Services Subcommittee: Chaired by Rosie Allen-Herring, President and CEO of the United Way of the National Capital Area.

The Task Force will also work with several outside organizations on the County's recovery, to include the Maryland Transportation Institute (MTI), part of the University of Maryland. Through the Maryland Transportation Institute, the Task Force will have access to cutting edge data that shows locations across Prince George's County that are at, or near, safe capacity. This location information will help us identify where we need to go to prevent new COVID-19 clusters. In addition, MTI will provide us with daily statistics about the trends in mobility, social distancing, and other useful health variables.

The County is providing the latest information on COVID-19 data trends to the public through an updated COVID-19 dashboard. This dashboard can be found [online here](#). For case numbers, the high was the week of April 26 with 2,370 new cases. During the week of May 10, we saw a 13.5 percent decrease in the total number of cases from the prior week. The numbers continue to decline. Three weeks ago, over 70 residents a week were dying from COVID-19, and that has now dropped to approximately 60 deaths per week.

For hospitalizations, on May 9, we had 262 COVID positive patients in our hospital. We have seen a decrease since then and we have stayed below 200 patients for more than a week. We have also seen our bed usage decline from a high of 192 on May 9. Last week we averaged 64 beds in use, down from 68 the week before.

The County plans to open additional testing sites, two by June 8 and another location by June 15. The testing site at Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center will open by Monday, June 1, at the latest. The County is confident it will expand testing to 9,000 tests per week. As a reminder, residents can schedule an appointment at one of our County Health Department testing sites by calling 301-883-6627. These tests are free, regardless of insurance coverage.

The County currently has 50 contact tracers and will begin to train County employees, contract workers and trained volunteers to serve as contact tracers starting next week. That will expand the County's contact tracing program to 150 individuals. The County has secured additional PPE through the National Strategic Stockpile, which will arrive next week. The State also provided 160,000 isolation gowns last week, with 40,000 going directly to Doctor's Hospital and the

remainder currently in the process of being distributed. The above data and efforts contributed to the County's decision to begin a modified phase one reopening on June 1.

For the latest COVID-19 updates and resources in Prince George's County, please visit [mypgc.us](http://mypgc.us).

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