

## **Cancellations and Closings by the Housing Authority of Prince George's County Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions**

**March 13, 2020**

In response to concerns related to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Rental Assistance Division of the Housing Authority of Prince George's County (HAPGC) has considered the guidance provided from County officials to reduce exposure and limit public contact. The following cancellations and closings have been issued:

- The 245 in-person annual recertification appointments that were scheduled for the week of March 23, 2020 have been cancelled. (Many clients have already been notified by phone). HAPGC will send out notices today that allow clients to mail their documents instead. HAPGC will extend courtesies for any delays so subsidies will continue uninterrupted.
- The Landlord Briefing scheduled for March 18, 2020 is cancelled. As time permits, HAPGC intends to construct a webinar for new landlords with the intent to link to our website for interested parties. Until the webinar design is complete and the briefings resume, HAPGC anticipates additional phone calls from new landlords seeking guidance. Staff has been directed to exhaust every effort to educate new landlords, by phone, in a comparable manner.
- The Housing Choice Voucher Briefing (for new applicants exiting out waiting list) scheduled for March 19, 2020 is cancelled. We are presently contacting the fifteen (15) new applicants by telephone to advise them accordingly. A formal letter will follow.
- The HAPGC front lobby, located at 9200 Basil Court, Suite #107, Largo, MD, will be closed until further notice. Any activity that we normally facilitate from that office, such as receiving mail can be done via the normal postal system functions.
- Our Housing Inspectors will continue inspect vacant units for those clients needing to move immediately; however, we intend to suspend re-inspections of currently occupied units until safety masks are available.
- The Housing Authority will not accept walk-in payments but will accept mail-in payments. Rent payments are not considered late until after the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Housing Authority Board of Commissioners monthly meetings will be held via teleconference until further notice. Board Commissioners will be provided with the call in information prior to the meeting.

