The State of Maryland

Executive Department

ORDER
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

AMENDING AND RESTATING THE ORDER OF MARCH 12, 2020, PROHIBITING LARGE GATHERINGS AND EVENTS AND CLOSING SENIOR CENTERS, AND ADDITIONALLY CLOSING BARS, RESTAURANTS, FITNESS CENTERS, AND THEATERS

WHEREAS, A state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed on March 5, 2020, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the state, and the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exists;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, is a public health catastrophe and has been confirmed in several Maryland counties;

WHEREAS, To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health recommend canceling large gatherings and social distancing in smaller gatherings;

WHEREAS, The currently known and available scientific evidence and best practices support limitations on large gatherings and social distancing to prevent exposures and transmissions, and reduce the threat to especially vulnerable populations, including older individuals and those with chronic health conditions;

WHEREAS, To reduce the threat to human health caused by transmission of the novel coronavirus in Maryland, and to protect and save lives, it is necessary and reasonable that individuals in the state refrain from congregating;

WHEREAS, To protect the public health, welfare, and safety, prevent the transmission of the novel coronavirus, control the spread of COVID-19, and save lives, it is necessary to control and direct the movement of individuals in Maryland, including those on the public streets;

WHEREAS, It is further necessary to control and direct in Maryland the occupancy and use of buildings and premises, as well as places of amusement and assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Response Team will continue to advise on related public health and emergency management decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, AND IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN THE STATE, DO HEREBY ORDER:

I. The Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland, dated March 12, 2020, entitled "Prohibiting Large Gatherings and Events and Closing Senior Centers" is amended and restated in its entirety as set forth herein.

II. Social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events ("large gatherings and events") of more than 50 people are hereby prohibited at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers.

III. Planned large gatherings and events must be canceled or postponed until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.

IV. All senior citizen activities centers (as defined in Section 10-501(i) of Human Services Article of the Maryland Code) shall be closed until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.

V. Restaurants and Bars.

a. This Order controls the occupancy and use of restaurants, bars, and other similar establishments that sell food or beverages for consumption on-premises in Maryland ("Restaurants and Bars"). This Order does not apply to food or beverage services in health care facilities, which are expressly excluded from the definition of "Restaurants and Bars".

b. All Restaurants and Bars are hereby closed to the general public, effective as of 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020, except that, to the extent permitted by applicable law, and in accordance with any social-distancing recommendations of the Maryland Department of Health, food and beverages may be:

i. sold if such food or beverages are promptly taken from the premises, i.e., on a carry-out or drive-through basis; and

ii. delivered to customers off the premises.

VI. Fitness Centers.

a. This Order controls the occupancy and use of fitness centers, health clubs, health spas, gyms, aquatic centers, and self-defense schools in Maryland ("Fitness Centers").

b. All Fitness Centers are hereby closed to the general public, effective as of 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020, except that the portion of any Fitness Center that is licensed or otherwise permitted by applicable law, regulation, or order to provide child care services may remain open to the general public for the purpose of continuing to provide such child care services.

VII. Theaters.

a. This Order controls the occupancy and use of theatres in Maryland at which live performances occur or motion pictures are shown ("Theaters").

b. All Theaters are hereby closed to the general public, effective as of 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020.

VIII. Government Buildings and Facilities with Large Occupancy or Attendance.

a. State and local government buildings and facilities with an expected occupancy or attendance of more than 50 people shall:

i. Promptly and conspicuously post in the building or facility a copy of the Maryland Department of Health recommendations for social distancing; and

ii. Provide all occupants and attendees with the capability to wash their hands.

b. A copy of this Order shall be made available to all occupants or attendees at any State or local government building and facility with an expected occupancy or attendance of more than 50 people.

IX. All bingo halls in Maryland are hereby closed to the general public, effective as of 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020.

X. Each law enforcement officer of the State or a political subdivision shall execute and enforce this Order.

XI. A person who knowingly and willfully violates this Order is guilty of a misdemeanor

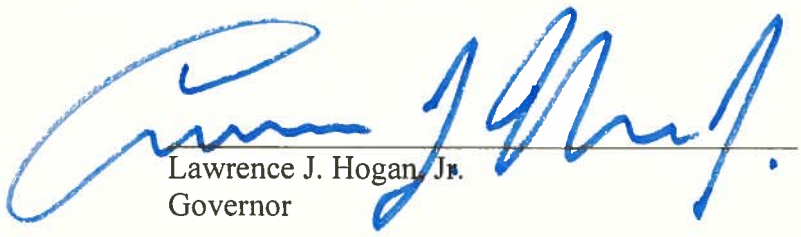
and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding $5,000 or both.

XII. This Order remains effective until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded, or until rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders.

XIII. The effect of any statute, rule, or regulation of an agency of the State or a political subdivision inconsistent with this order is hereby suspended.

XIV. The underlined paragraph headings in this Order are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Order.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 16TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020, AND EFFECTIVELY IMMEDIATELY.



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor