The State of Maryland

Executive Department

ORDER
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

PROHIBITING LARGE GATHERINGS AND EVENTS AND CLOSING SENIOR CENTERS

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. Social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events ("large gatherings and events") of more than 250 people are hereby prohibited at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers.

II. 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.

III. All senior citizen activities centers (as defined in Section 10-501(i) of Human Services Article of the Maryland Code) shall be closed beginning on Friday, March 13, 2020 until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.

IV. 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 250 people shall:

i. If the Maryland Department of Health releases recommendations regarding social distancing, promptly and conspicuously post a copy of such recommendations in the building or facility; 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 250 people.

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

VI. A person who knowingly and willfully violates this Order is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding $5,000 or both.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 12TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020, AND EFFECTIVELY IMMEDIATELY.

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor