

## September 1, 2020 - Governor Hogan Press Conference

Maryland is entering into Stage 3 of the state's reopening plan.

### School Reopening

- The governor commends the Maryland State Board of Education for voting to require school systems that haven't developed a plan for returning to in-person instruction until 2021 to reevaluate their reopening plans by the end of the first quarter.
- Every county school system was reauthorized to safely reopen, but the legal authority and final decision making ultimately rests with county boards of education.
- Less than 48 hours after the State Board of Education met to review the plans submitted by local school systems, the state announced a new set of statewide metrics.
- Two-thirds of county school systems have already developed and submitted plans that include returning children to schools for some form of in-person instruction this Fall.

### Elections

- Maryland State Board of Elections finally mailed the applications for voting by mail.
- Strongly encouraging Marylanders to take advantage of voting by mail.
- The state has helped drive more than 11,000 Marylanders to sign up to be election judges.

### Covid-19

- Maryland's positivity rate has been under 5% for 68 consecutive days, and under 4% for 24 consecutive days.
- Fifteen of 24 jurisdictions have positivity rates below 3.5%.
- Hospitalizations are down more than 77% from their peak.
- The state has seen a nearly 30% decline in ICU levels since July 25.

### Theaters, Outdoor Venues, Retail & Churches

- As of 5 p.m. Friday, indoor theaters where live performances occur or motion pictures are shown may open to the general public at 50% capacity, or 100 people per auditorium.
- Outdoor venues where live performances occur or motion pictures are shown outdoors may open to the general public at 50% capacity, or 250 people.
- Capacity for retail establishments and religious facilities may increase from 50% to 75%.

### Contact Tracing

- In collaboration with Apple and Google, Maryland will be one of the first states to deploy a new exposure notification tool to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Exposure Notifications Express is designed to help public health officials more quickly and easily provide notifications for their residents about potential COVID-19 exposure and guide them on recommended actions. This new technology will be optional for users.