

Charles County Emergency Services
Situation Report #20
New items will be italicized

<u>SITUATION</u>	
Situation Summary:	Global COVID-19 situation map here Maryland summary map here
COVID Confirmed cases in Charles County	164 cases total – <i>The State of MD is 136 reporting, which is the number of cases from the State Labs. The local number includes private lab results.</i> 9 of the above number have recovered <i>This number represents the number of persons that the Health Department has been able to confirm that they have had a positive test result, have also been through 14 days of isolation, and are currently symptom free.</i>
Total Casualties:	2 deaths of Charles County residents at this time. -1 Waldorf resident, Male, 50s (3/21/2020) -1, female, 70s (4/1/2020)
Total PUIs transported by Career & Volunteer EMS to date:	136— <i>total for 4/7/2020 - 24 of these are COVID+ per CRMC</i> <i>This number has changed due to erroneous statistical reporting from the First Watch data system deriving numbers from the computer aided dispatch system. The error has been corrected and reporting from this point forward will be more accurate.</i>
First Responders that have been exposed, are on quarantine or self-isolation	22 Self-isolation: responder is sick or test positive. +12 since last report (Law Enforcement) 5 Quarantine: the responder has been exposed and they can't come to work. No change since last report
EOC Safety Officer Update	-Safety message is being broadcasted twice daily on the public safety radio system. <i>Safety Messages are all posted here: https://tinyurl.com/ro8jg08</i> Today's Safety Message: <i>Facepieces and regulators, disinfect them after each use to prevent the communal spread of diseases."</i> <i>Total number of PUI's transported to date: 136</i> <i>Total number of first responder's on self-isolation: 0</i> <i>Total number of first responders on quarantine: 3</i> <i>Total number of patients transported by EMS testing + for COVID: 24</i> <i>Daily Estimated PPE Burn Rate: 30 sets/day</i>

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	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Total Patients</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>13-Mar</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>16-Mar</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>20-Mar</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>21-Mar</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>22-Mar</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>23-Mar</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>24-Mar</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>25-Mar</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>26-Mar</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>27-Mar</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>28-Mar</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>29-Mar</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>30-Mar</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>31-Mar</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>1-Apr</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>2-Apr</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>3-Apr</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>4-Apr</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>5-Apr</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>6-Apr</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>7-Apr</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>4/6/2020: "Cover the cough! Coughs and sneezes spread diseases."</p> <p>Total number of PUI's transported to date: 299</p> <p>Total number of first responder's on self-isolation: 0</p> <p>Total number of first responders on quarantine: 3</p> <p>Total number of patients transported by EMS testing + for COVID: 22</p> <p>Daily Estimated PPE Burn Rate: 30 sets/day</p>	Date	Total Patients	13-Mar	1	16-Mar	2	20-Mar	1	21-Mar	1	22-Mar	1	23-Mar	4	24-Mar	2	25-Mar	3	26-Mar	5	27-Mar	4	28-Mar	5	29-Mar	5	30-Mar	7	31-Mar	14	1-Apr	6	2-Apr	14	3-Apr	11	4-Apr	14	5-Apr	15	6-Apr	17	7-Apr	4
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Websites that include the official information:	<p><i>Maryland Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rumor Control Page. Marylanders are encouraged to visit the page at Bit.ly/Md-Covid19-Rumors.</i></p> <p>New County Webpage for the Dept of Health https://www.charlescountymd.gov/government/other-agencies/charles-county-department-of-health</p> <p>List of EPA Approved Disinfecting Agents for COVID-19 https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2</p> <p>FEMA's rumor control website: https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus-rumor-control?fbclid=IwAR3x4emdkgwiN9W1z_dMZVPFTjgvwxCExSi9THFHWkddzXjITI1g-py9iろ</p> <p>Updated CDC flyers have been added to the below site. Printable CDC Handouts & Posters: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html CDC COVID-19 website for informational purposes: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html Coronavirus.gov</p> <p>Maryland Dept of Health Coronavirus website: https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/</p> <p>Charles County Dept of Health Coronavirus website: http://www.charlescountyhealth.org/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-in-the-u-s/</p> <p>Charles County Government:</p>																																												

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	https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/health-and-human-services/covid-19
Closures:	All closures for Charles County will be listed here: https://www.charlescountymd.gov/government/operating-schedule
Donations Management	We will be directing the public to call 301-609-3435 or to email desdonations@charlescountymd.gov if they wish to donate.
<u>EXECUTIVE ACTIONS</u>	
EOC Activation:	<p>Enhanced Activation – Monday-Friday 0800 to 1700 – Virtual on Weekends Effective tomorrow our Daily Conference Call/meeting with Core Planning Team will be at 1300 hours. Other EOC work groups meeting daily (Mon-Fri) and providing reports at the Core Meeting</p> <p>MEMA Full Activation of the SEOC – with staff will be operating Monday – Friday 0700 to 1700. Virtual on Weekends.</p> <p>EOC email addresses: despeersupport@charlescountymd.gov deseoc@charlescountymd.gov desplanning@charlescountymd.gov deslogistics@charlescountymd.gov desfinance@charlescountymd.gov dessafety@charlescountymd.gov desdonations@charlescountymd.gov</p>
State of Emergency:	<p>State of Maryland Declared on 3/5/2020 County Declared 3/16/2020 (for up to 30 days) County extended to April 30, 2020</p>
Protective Actions:	<p>All gatherings must be less than ten persons. Governor has issued stay at home orders. Social Distancing programs in effect from Governor's Order. New Executive Orders for Nursing Homes & Expansion of Health Officer Powers All Governor's Executive orders are posted here: https://governor.maryland.gov/category/executive-orders/</p>
County Government:	<p>County Government Buildings are Closed to the Public Telework for non-essential workers and some essential staff that can telework. Closures for County Government here: See here for Recreations, Parks and Tourism https://www.charlescountyparks.com/about-us/covid-19</p> <p>See here for Operating Status updates: https://www.charlescountymd.gov/government/operating-schedule</p>

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PIO:	PIO continues share information as needed and support the Health Department public information efforts.
Schools:	<p>Meals: <i>On 4/6/20 CCPS served 7,986 meals at the 11 meal distribution sites. Distribution went much smoother compared to Friday. Although the meals were higher than the usual 5500-6000 meals per day, we think we still had many customers decide to get a meals since they were already out getting packets.</i></p> <p><i>Below you can see the distribution count by site:</i></p> <p><i>Westlake - 1164 meals Mudd - 1014 meals St. Charles - 1008 meals Ryon - 963 meals Parks - 957 meals Somers - 756 meals McDonough - 534 meals Indian Head - 435 meals Higdon - 351 meals Mt. Hope - 309 meals Lackey - 165 meals</i></p> <p>Closure: <i>School closure through at least 4-24-20.</i></p> <p><i>During the closure, CCPS staff are teacher candidates via Webex, a team collaboration app for video & audio conferencing as well as hold staff meetings.</i></p> <p>Instruction:</p> <p><i>Online/Distance Learning seems to be running smoothly. Secondary students are working through APEX Learning, while elementary students are working online using CCPS created activities. All online activities are submitted online for grading and progress updates. Students that have picked up the learning packets at the distribution sites, will maintain possession of this work to turn in at a later date in a portfolio format. CCPS is NOT collecting any paper generated work at this time.</i></p> <p><i>Families that are not registered online with their teacher, or have not picked up a CCPS learning packet at a distribution site by Thursday, 4/9/20, will be contacted by CCPS staff to develop a plan to get learning supplies to them via mail or registration for online learning.</i></p> <p>Community WiFi: <i>Mt. Hope mobile WiFi is up and running.</i></p>

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<u>HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES</u>	
Medical isolation/quarantine for vulnerable populations:	0 persons in non-congregate care shelter at this time. 4/6/2020 - Still waiting for signed hold harmless agreements to be sent back to the County for execution. We will deliver the porta potties and sanitation stations upon execution of the agreements. Will be delivering porta-potties and sanitation stations to the higher population homeless encampments in the County.
Shelter Operation Plan:	Not Activated
Essential Personnel Childcare:	<p>Here is the guidance to see if your staff qualifies for the Child Care Access during COVID-19. See the Gov EO here: https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Child-Care-Access.pdf.</p> <p>Here is the list of approved child care facilities for COVID-19: https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/approved-emergency-personnel-child-care.</p> <p>Your staff may pick anyone of these facilities based on location.</p> <p>There are a few forms your staff need to fill out to take to the child care facility of their choice. Those forms can be found on the right side of the website copied here: http://marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/default.aspx</p>
Recreations, Parks & Tourism:	No report requested at this time. See cancellations here: https://www.charlescountyparks.com/about-us/covid-19
Department of Health:	<p><i>Below are links to the most up to date FAQ from MDH, Governor Larry Hogan's Executive Orders and other useful information. Most of you may be aware that the drive-thru VEIP testing site started operating on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. This week the testing site will operate today and Thursday, April 9, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. I was asked to be on site both days from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The schedule will change from week to week due to additional locations being open around the State. Fee free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great week.</i></p> <p><u>Maryland Department of Health Continues Appointment-Only COVID-19 Testing at Additional Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program Sites</u></p> <p><i>Maryland Department of Health FAQs-</i> <u>https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/#FAQ</u></p> <p><i>The current case count in Charles County is 164.</i> <i>Things are going well in the call center and we are averaging about 50 calls per day.</i></p>

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	<p><i>VIEP Sites - We have 50 test kits for today's testing site, with 39 appointments scheduled. We also have 50 test kits available for testing on Thursday, April 9th, with 5 in reserve.</i></p> <p><i>PPE Requests from local medical facilities - We have received 6 requests that are partially completed, and one additional request this morning.</i></p> <p><i>Our PIO team is working on a print advertisement and comcast video to get out to the public in the future.</i></p> <p><i>We continue our partner call and Long Term Care Facilities Conference Call on Thursday, April 9th.</i></p>
Social Services	<p>Charles County Department of Social Services is CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC</p> <hr/> <p>PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES/CONTACTS TO OBTAIN SERVICES:</p> <p><u>APPLY FOR ALL BENEFITS ONLINE:</u> mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us</p> <p><u>Questions Regarding Child Support or Other Benefits</u> Call Center (800) 332-6347</p> <p><u>Question Regarding Family or Children's Services?</u> Call (301) 392-6724</p> <p><u>To make a report of child or adult abuse:</u> Call Child Protective Services - (301)-392-6739 Call Adult Protective Services - (301)-392-6724</p> <p><u>YOU CAN SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS:</u> By FAX (301) 753-4353 By EMAIL charlescounty.fiadocs@maryland.gov At our office at 200 Kent Ave, La Plata Drop Box located near the front door</p> <p><u>NEED A REPLACEMENT EBT CARD:</u> Call (800) 997-2222</p> <p>WANT TO APPLY FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS? Contact the MARYLAND HEALTH CONNECTION: Call (800) 642-8572 Mon – Fri 8 am to 6 pm or visit marylandhealthconnection.gov</p> <p><u>CHILD SUPPORT</u> EPIC Card questions: Call (866) 213-4074 Payments may be mailed to the following address:</p> <p>Maryland Child Support Account P. O. Box 17396 Baltimore, Maryland 21297-1396</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments can be made online at www.md.smartchildsupport.com • Payments can be made by phone by calling (844) 324-3855 • Direct Deposit applications can be made online at www.mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us
Community Services:	<p><i>DCS Housing Authority staff are actively processing expedited changes in monthly Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) for current housing choice voucher clients who have experienced a loss of income. Tenants on the HCV program simply need to contact the Division to notify their designated worker of a documented change/loss of household income and the Specialist will work with them to adjust their HAP payment amount. This change will allow HCV tenants to continue making adjusted rental payments each month to avoid falling behind if they have experienced new unemployment or other reduced income due to COVID-19. Tenants can call 301-934-0130 and leave a voicemail indicating their name, the name of their designated housing worker, and that they need a HAP payment adjustment. They will receive a return call with instructions on next steps to expedite their request.</i></p> <p>For persons who may be in dangerous or abusive relationships, concerns are rising about co-quarantining in an unsafe home environment, especially as anxiety and tensions increase surrounding the public health crisis. To help address these concerns, the National Domestic Violence Hotline is available 24/7, throughout the COVID-19 crisis:</p> <p>Call toll free at: 1-800-799-7233;</p> <p>Live Chat at https://www.thehotline.org</p> <p>or reach out via Twitter at @ndvh</p> <p>For persons feeling unsafe to speak on the phone or chat via internet due to abuser surveillance, text LOVEIS to 22522.</p> <p>The organization also has TTY access at 1-800-787-3224.</p> <p>Anyone at <u>immediate risk for violence</u> is encouraged to contact 911.</p>
Lifestyles:	<p>Coordination</p> <p><i>Spoke with the owners from Waldorf site near shoppers. They are reviewing with their attorney. Gave a better understanding of the population being served and agreed to be available for further questions. Difficulty accessing the La Plata Walmart owner. Coordinating with EOC.</i></p> <p>Food services</p> <p><i>End Hunger in Charles County identified a vendor that may be able to provide additional food. Due to limitations at grocery stores and online we have had difficulty obtaining need items for distribution. We were able to obtain food for about 100 anytime bags. Working with Chef Kendal to order from his vendors.</i></p> <p>Meal deliveries: <i>Groceries were delivered to 12 families today. These meal deliveries are scheduled for weekday deliveries, utilizing homebound delivery protocols developed by the Maryland Food Bank. When the purchase of groceries is more efficient and economic it will be used as an alternative. Households must be pre-approved and requests for same-day delivery may be considered but not a guarantee of availability.</i></p>

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	<p>Outreach</p> <p>Street outreach was conducted in La Plata and two Waldorf sites. Solar showers were provided to each site. 23 People were provided items today to include nonperishables. The need for more of these items was evident during outreach. There were no children noticed during today's outreach.</p>
Charles Regional Medical Center	<p>Community Conversation Hosted by Charles Regional Hospital https://twitter.com/CharlesRegional/status/1245363734031319041</p> <p><i>The trigger point for starting up the tent operations outside of the hospital has not yet been activated. Activation will be determined by both staffing levels and patient census presenting to the ED.</i></p> <p><i>The hospital census for today 4/7/2020 = 84</i></p> <p><i>Confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 patient admissions in-house 4/6/2020 = 19</i></p> <p><i>There was 1 patient Positive for COVID-19 that was brought in by EMS on 4/06/2020</i></p> <p><i>There were 0 PUI brought in by EMS 4/06/2020</i></p> <p><i>CRMC has dedicating one unit specifically to be for COVID-19 positive patients or for PUI's that have been admitted to the hospital. The dedicated COVID-19 unit is on 3 South until further notice. That 3 South COVID-19 unit has been fully activated as of 4/3/2020.</i></p> <p><i>Number of ICU beds in-house is 10. There are currently 10 patients in the ICU, with an additional surge on a Surge ICU unit of 3 patient. There is 1 patient being held in the ED waiting for transfer to the ICU surge unit. Total in-house ICU patients to include surge for 4/7/2020 = 14</i></p> <p><i>Number of ventilators owned by CRMC = 17. As of 4/7/2020 there are 7 patients on ventilators. Six (6) of the ventilated patients are positive for COVID-19.</i></p> <p><i>An EMS Ambulance decontamination area has been established in a parking lot near the ambulance area (but not obstructing to it).</i></p> <p><i>CRMC has implemented a policy that requires ALL staff, visitors (which would be very limited), and contractors of any kind to wear a mask while in the hospital at all times.</i></p>
<u>OPERATIONS</u>	

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Peer Support Team: Will be reporting weekly on Mondays.	<p>despeersupport@charlescountymd.gov</p> <p>**NEW NUMBER** - 240-532-0558</p> <p><i>New Peer Support Poster has been distributed with phone number</i></p> <p>Face-to-Face visits: 22 employees via 10 station visits</p> <p>Phone Contacts: 15 employees via phone</p> <p>1 volunteer officer reached out for guidance for one of their volunteers. Their EAP is currently closed and offering telehealth. Resources were provided.</p>
HazMat:	Providing Logistics support for the EOC
Law Enforcement: MSP & CCSO	<p><i>Internal PUIs Charles County Sheriff's Office:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 sworn officer quarantined (1 positive test) • 13 officers isolated (no test pending) • 1 correctional officer quarantined, 1 isolated (1 positive test, 1 tested negative) • 8 civilians isolated (1 positive test, 1 tested negative, 1 pending test) <p><i>Maryland State Police: None local</i></p> <p><i>Maryland Transportation Authority: None local</i></p> <p><i>La Plata Police Department: None local</i></p> <p><i>Natural Resources Police: 1 sworn officer isolated (test to be taken)</i></p> <p><u>Governor's Order Violations</u></p> <p><i>Violation sustained calls for service: 18</i></p> <p><i>Warnings: 17</i></p> <p><i>Charges later: 0</i></p> <p><i>On-scene arrest: 1</i></p> <p><i>PUI Intake at CCDC: 2</i></p>
Career EMS & Volunteer Fire & EMS:	<p>Items Being Worked On:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction of Force Policy – <i>Information gathering occurring.</i> - Station Health Screening Policy – <i>Draft Version under review.</i> <p>Stations/Apparatus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Fire or EMS Stations with any contamination issues. - No Apparatus with any contamination issues. - No Service Deliverability Issues with Apparatus O.O.S. <p>Personnel (10 Members / 4 Stations):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Station 1 - 1 Member --- Due to possible work exposure. Effective March 30th COVID Test Negative.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Station 2 - 3 Members --- Due to Domestic Travel to New York. Effective March 25th (Quarantined.) - Station 7 - 2 Members --- In County EMS Call. 14 days ends April 4th. No Issues reported so far. (Quarantined.) -14 Days Completed. No issues and personnel have returned. - Station 8 - 1 Member ---- Due to Family Member with Positive Test. Effective April 1st (Quarantined.) - Station 11 - 4 Members --- 1-DC FF, 2- Due to Family Members being Quarantined, 1-DES/Hospital Employee, 1-Hospitalized at John Hopkins expected to be released today---Released from JH. COVID Negative Now. - Station 12 - 2 Members --- In County EMS Call. Effective March 30th (Quarantined.) <p>Incidents/Call Volume:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Major Incidents to Report related to COVID-19 - Yesterday's EMS Call Volume was average, and Fire Call Volume was average. <p>51 Ems Related Incidents ----- 22 Fire Related Incidents</p> <p>Other Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personnel have been briefed on Ambulance Decon Procedure - MWAA has restricted Employees from participating in Secondary Employment - Mutual Aid Partners have been briefed about Decon Procedure.
Special Operations Collapse Team:	<p>No report requested at this time.</p>
Emergency Management:	<p>Submitted resource request for two Medical Tents to be delivered and setup outside of CRMC in addition to the triage tents that CRMC is currently using. The tents will help with medical surge beyond ER triaging. Also requested additional ventilators.</p> <p>Continuing to facilitate daily meetings with the Core Planning Group. Sending out updates as needed.</p> <p>Webpages for sharing SitReps/Safety Messages/Special Orders with responders and others in the public.</p> <p>Short code websites:</p> <p>Sit Reps: https://tinyurl.com/vcfuvw7</p> <p>Safety Messages: https://tinyurl.com/ro8jgo8</p> <p>Comms Memos https://tinyurl.com/r9zjagh</p> <p>EMS Special Orders https://tinyurl.com/t2l9hzu</p>
Animal Control/CART:	<p><u>Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD</u></p> <p>15 mins .</p> <p><i>Thinking about your emergency plan for your pet?</i></p> <p><i>Wondering what boarding facilities and pet sitters are available in Charles County?</i></p> <p><i>Below is a reference for pet owners.</i></p> <p><i>It is recommended that you screen them in advance to determine their suitability for you and your pet.</i></p> <p><i>Remember that Red Rover has emergency boarding grants for pet owners that require hospitalization for COVID-19. https://redrover.org/relief/emergency-boarding-grants/.</i></p>

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	<p><i>Apple Jacks Kennel 301-884-7547</i> <i>Blue Spring Kennel 301-705-7704</i> <i>Diana's Pet Care 240-350-9192</i> <i>Five Pups 240-903-2329</i> <i>Happy Tracks 301-893-0028</i> <i>K9 Divine 202-769-5359</i> <i>Mt. Victoria Kennel 301-259-2849</i> <i>Playful Pups 301-305-7282</i> <i>Ridge Kennel 301-934-1916</i></p> <p><i>4 Pet's Sake Pet Sitting Services, LLC 301-203-5600</i> <i>Joanne's Pet Services 301-710-5359</i> <i>Positive Paws 804-393-0998</i> <i>Rover Rover.com</i> <i>Total Care Pet Sitting 240-339-3617</i></p>
Economic Development	Continuing to facilitate the SBA declaration and other programs that are important to the local business community. Information and updates are available through the www.meetcharlescounty.com website.
<u>INFRASTRUCTURE</u>	
Power Outages: (SMECO)	None at this time
County Roads:	No report requested at this time.
Debris Removal:	Not activated
Communications:	Continuing to provide screening for PUIs and sending emails to internal staff when PUIs are identified. Updating policies and sending out safety messages for staff.
Utilities:	Not activated
PGM(DA Teams):	Not activated
County CIP/B&T:	Not activated
<u>LOGISTICS</u>	
	Nick Ellis, serving as our Logistics Officer asks that you please complete the ICS 213 RR form and send any and all forms/requests to deslogistics@charlescountymd.gov . Please complete the appropriate check boxes (Requestor name, item #, etc.)
<u>FINANCE</u>	
	CONTINUE tracking any response costs your agency may have now.

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	<p>An email address has been established for finances: desfinance@charlescountymd.gov</p> <p>We received good news during our conference call with MEMA – We are now eligible for reimbursement through public assistance, Jennifer Adams reminds the group to please contact her to get directions to submit an RPA.</p> <p>We will be beginning the Public Assistance request process. Jen Adams will be reaching out to complete the Request for Public Assistance RPA forms for all response partners.</p>
<u>STATE SUPPORT</u>	
	<p>Actively coordinating with MEMA & MDH</p> <p>Child Care service has extended hours to respond to increased call volume during the pandemic. Parents should call 877.261.0060 between Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. A real time chat feature is available Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM or use the self-guided web version of LOCATE: Child Care 24/7 both at marylandfamilynetwork.org. Specialized services for parents of children with special needs as well as Spanish language LOCATE: Child Care are also available.</p> <p>MEMA Full Activation of the SEOC – with staff will be operating Monday – Friday 0700 to 1700. Virtual on Weekends.</p> <p>State Coordination calls will occur every day at 1500 hours for the duration of the event.</p>
Governor's Representative	<p><u>STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS</u></p> <p><i>The Maryland Departments of Commerce is offering three new business assistance programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:</i></p> <p>(1) Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Fund: This \$75 million fund makes available loans of up to \$50,000 to businesses with less than 50 employees. The loans carry no interest or principal payments for the first 12 months. After 12 months, the loans convert to 36-month term loans that include principal and interest payments with an interest rate at 2% per annum. Learn more.</p> <p>(2) Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund: This \$50 million program makes available grants of up to \$10,000 to businesses with less than 50 employees. Learn more.</p> <p>(3) Maryland COVID-19 Emergency Relief Manufacturing Fund: This \$5 million incentive program helps Maryland manufacturers to produce personal protective equipment ("PPE"), such as face masks and gloves. To learn more, please email fpaaworkflowcoordinator.commerce@maryland.gov.</p> <p>For the most up-to-date information pertaining to the business community and COVID-19: visit https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus.</p>

If you have **business assistance-related questions**: email secretary.commerce@maryland.gov.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The CARES Act: This law was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. Read an overview [here](#) and a Q&A document from the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship [here](#). Additional information from the U.S. Department of the Treasury can be found [here](#). Of particular note to counties and municipalities:

- The CARES Act establishes a refundable, 50% payroll tax credit (the [Employee Retention Credit](#)) covering up to \$10,000 per employee, including benefits from the period of March 13, 2020 to December 31, 2020. [Read more](#) and find additional IRS guidance on coronavirus tax relief [here](#).
- Guidance on COVID-19-related tax credits for businesses providing paid sick-leave can be found [here](#).
- The CARES Act also includes support for economic development agencies and programs, including funding for the Community Development Block Grant, assistance to minority business development centers and minority chambers of commerce, several million for state arts and humanities agencies and partners, and more, to assist businesses in need. [Read more](#).

Additional Small Business Assistance: The federal Small Business Administration has also established programs to assist small businesses. Individual businesses can apply directly to the SBA for low-interest loans through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. Visit [SBA's website](#) to apply now.

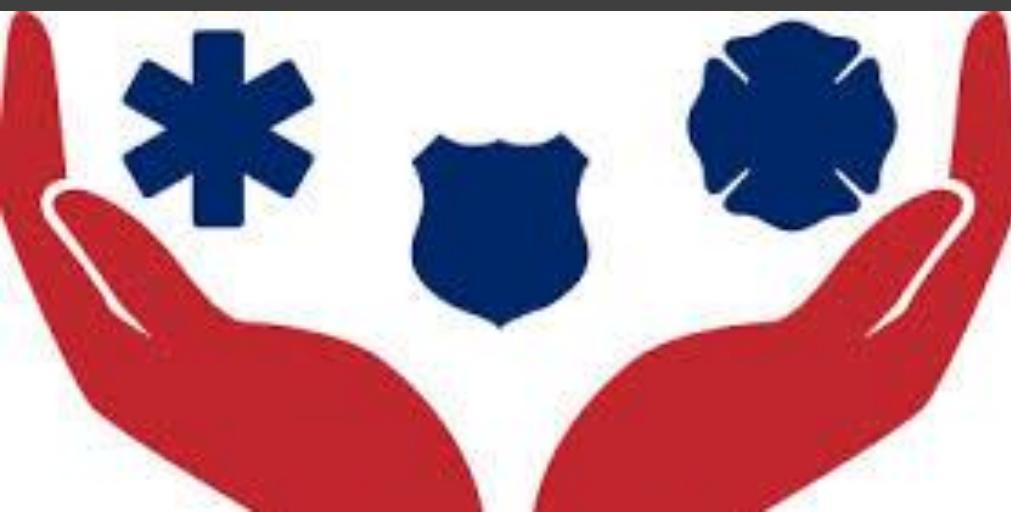
General SBA guidance for businesses can be found [here](#). If you need additional help navigating the SBA process, the [Maryland Small Business Development Center](#) can assist you.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The Maryland Department of Labor [unemployment insurance program](#) is fully operational. Employees who have been laid off can file a claim immediately (there is no waiting period) by phone or online (recommended). The state has temporarily waived all work-search requirements. Maryland is allowing workers who have not been terminated to collect unemployment insurance if a) his or her employer has been closed due to COVID-19; b) he or she has been quarantined; or c) he or she is caring for a family member who is quarantined.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

As a supplement to the resources listed above, an ongoing list of frequently asked questions for Maryland businesses planning for and responding to the coronavirus is available [here](#). Click [here](#) for translations of these FAQs in more than 10 different languages.



First Responder Peer Support

Want to talk? Contact us at: 240-532-0558
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