

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS**

PRESS RELEASE

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**COUNTY EXECUTIVE ALSOBROOKS OFFICIALLY DECLARES A STATE
OF EMERGENCY IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DUE TO COVID-19**

LARGO, MD – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that she has declared a state of emergency in Prince George's County in response to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. The number of cases of COVID-19 now stands at 11 in Prince George's County.

“This declaration will allow us to further access resources to assist our residents and help small businesses and all those impacted as we continue to confront this pandemic,” said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. “We will continue to take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure we can contain the spread of this virus in our community.”

Of the new cases in Prince George's County, patient 5 is a man in his 40s who had made contact with patient 1, a 55-year-old woman who acquired the virus after attending a conference out of state. The man has experienced no symptoms. Patient 6 is a woman in her 30s who was hospitalized and released on March 15. She is now self-quarantined at home. Patient 7 is a man in his 50s who had contact with Patient 6. Patient 8 is a woman in her 60s who is self-quarantined at her home. Patient 9 is a man in his 20s who was released from the hospital and is doing well. He had close contact to Patient 10, a woman in her 40s, who was hospitalized for issues unrelated to COVID-19. Patient 11 is a man in his 40s who is self-isolating and currently experiencing only mild symptoms.

County Executive Alsobrooks also announced she has ordered the implementation of directives outlined today by Governor Larry Hogan, including closing all restaurants, movie theaters, gymnasiums and bars. Restaurants may continue to operate drive-thrus and carry-outs. Businesses that provide essential services, such as grocery stores and banks, will continue to operate. Gatherings of more than 50 people have been prohibited until further notice.

Dr. Ernest Carter, the Prince George's County Health Officer, stressed the importance of social distancing as the strongest method to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This includes staying home as much as possible, avoiding large crowds when out in public, and avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

"The best medicine to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is strong social distancing," said Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "Prince Georgians need to focus on following the advice of public health experts and stay in our homes as much as possible to protect ourselves and protect each other."

To effectively practice social distancing, County Executive Alsobrooks announced that County Government buildings will be closed to the public starting today, March 16, 2020. In addition, a number of new resources were announced for Prince Georgians who may be affected by closures and other measures put in place by the County and the State of Maryland, detailed below.

Capital Area Food Bank: To assist families experiencing hardships due to the closures, the County has partnered with the Capital Area Food Bank to provide three pop-up food pantries starting tomorrow, March 17, 2020. Additional details will be provided via social media and the County's website as soon as they are available. The pop-ups will run from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at three Giant parking lots:

- 6000 Greenbelt Road
- 7074 Allentown Road
- 10480 Campus Way S

PGCPS Student Meals: Prince George's County Public Schools expanded its meal program during the school closures from March 16 through March 27. Effective Tuesday, March 17, student meal sites have been expanded from nine to 25, and hours extended to 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. In addition, the grab-and-go bags, which originally only included lunch, will now include breakfast and a snack. Children may pick up their meals with or without an adult, but adults may not pick up meals for children. There will be school system staff in the cafeteria or parking lot, depending on weather, to distribute the meals. The 25 meal sites are:

- Andrew Jackson Academy
- Benjamin Tasker Middle School
- Buck Lodge Middle School
- Carmody Hills Middle School
- District Heights Elementary School
- Drew Freeman Middle School
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School
- Hillcrest Heights Elementary School
- J. Frank Dent Elementary School
- John Blayne Elementary School
- Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School
- Longfields Elementary School
- Kenmoor Middle School
- Langley Park-McCormick Elementary School

- Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School
- Nicholas Orem Middle School
- Port Towns Elementary School
- Samuel Chase Elementary School
- Stephen Decatur Middle School
- Suitland Elementary School
- Templeton Elementary School
- Thurgood Marshall Middle School
- Walker Mill Middle School
- William Paca Elementary School
- William Wirt Middle School

Senior Meal Delivery: Due to the closing of senior centers and other sites, meal deliveries are now available to seniors who are part of the Senior Nutrition Program managed by the County's Department of Family Services. Family Services, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Transportation, will be delivering a frozen pack of seven meals to those seniors who are part of the Senior Nutrition Program between 10 AM and 4 PM on their regularly scheduled day. Seniors or their caregivers must be present to receive the meals.

For more information about County building closings, as well as for more information about COVID-19 resources in Prince George's County, visit mypgc.us.

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