Community Connections Newsletter: COVID-19 Update

Prince George’s County Maryland sent this bulletin at 04/11/2020 06:34 PM EDT

COVID-19 Update: Face Coverings Required in Grocery Stores in Prince George’s County

Dear Prince Georgians:

Today I am writing to announce that I will sign an Executive Order requiring all patrons shopping in County grocery stores, pharmacies and large chain retail establishments to wear masks or face coverings to enter. The order also requires individuals who ride “TheBus”, our County’s bus transit system, to wear masks or face coverings onboard.

This Executive Order takes effect Wednesday, April 15, 2020. The order will also require that grocery stores, pharmacies and large retailers promote social distancing inside and outside of the stores while customers wait.
The safety and wellbeing of all Prince Georgians during this pandemic is my top priority. For the protection of employees who work in these establishments, as well as the customers who need these essential services, it is critical that each person does their part to cover their faces and minimize their exposure to others.

These steps will be critical to help us flatten the curve and prevent the spread of COVID-19. We know there are people with the virus who are walking around and showing no symptoms, and these actions will prevent them from spreading it to others.

I also want to remind Prince Georgians about the Governor’s stay-at-home order this Easter weekend. Please resist the urge to visit family members for large gatherings, and instead, host virtual celebrations with family and friends. While I know this will be difficult for many, it is necessary to help us prevent the further spread of this virus in our community.

Following these guidelines will not only protect you, but will also protect your fellow Prince Georgians. We are in this together and we will get through this crisis together. Stay safe, stay strong, and I wish everyone celebrating tomorrow a happy and blessed Easter!

Yours in service,

Angela Alsobrooks

Prince George’s County Executive

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**Executive Order**

**FACE MASK REQUIRED**

Effective Wednesday April 15, 2020

County Executive Angela Alsobrooks requires that

All Prince George’s County Residents & Visitors

must wear face coverings in grocery stores and while riding “TheBus”, the County’s transit system.

(You may cover your face with a mask, homemade mask, bandana or scarf)

**DON’T FORGET!**

You must still practice social distancing guidelines

~ 6 feet of distance between yourself and others.
Actualización de COVID-19: Se Requieren Coberturas para la Cara en Supermercados en el Condado de Prince George

Querido príncipe georgiano:

Hoy escribo para anunciar que firmaré una Orden Ejecutiva que requiere que todos los clientes de los supermercados, farmacias y establecimientos minoristas de cadena grandes del Condado usen mascarillas o coberturas para la cara para entrar. La orden también requiere que las personas que viajan en "TheBus", el sistema de tránsito de autobuses de nuestro condado, también usen mascarillas o coberturas para la cara a bordo.

Esta Orden Ejecutiva entra en vigencia el miércoles 15 de abril de 2020. La orden también requerirá que los supermercados, las farmacias y los grandes minoristas promuevan el distanciamiento social dentro y afuera de las tiendas mientras los clientes esperan.

La seguridad y el bienestar de todos los príncipes georgianos durante esta pandemia es mi principal prioridad. Para la protección de los empleados que trabajan en estos establecimientos, así como de los clientes que necesitan estos servicios esenciales, es fundamental que cada persona haga su parte para cubrirse la cara y minimizar su exposición a los demás.

Estos pasos serán críticos para ayudarnos a aplanar la curva y evitar la propagación de COVID-19. Sabemos que hay personas con el virus que están caminando y no muestran síntomas, y estas acciones evitarán que se propaguen a otros.

También quiero recordarles a nuestros residentes la orden de quedarse en casa del Gobernador este fin de semana de Pascua. Resista el impulso de visitar a miembros de la familia para grandes reuniones y, en su lugar, organice celebraciones virtuales con familiares y amigos. Si bien sé que esto será difícil para muchos, es necesario ayudarnos a prevenir la propagación de este virus en nuestra comunidad.

Siguiendo estas pautas no solo lo protegerá a usted, sino que también protegerá a sus residentes compañeros. Estamos juntos en esto y superaremos esta crisis juntos. ¡Manténgase seguro, fuerte, y deseo que todos celebrando mañana una Pascua feliz y bendecida!

Tuya en servicio,

Angela Alsobrooks

Ejecutiva del Condado de Prince George
Efectivo miércoles 15 de abril de 2020
La Ejecutiva del Condado requiere que
todos los residentes y visitantes del
condado de Prince George
deben usar coberturas para la cara en los
supermercados y al viajar en “TheBus”,
el sistema de tránsito del condado.
(Puede cubrirse la cara con una mascarilla,
una mascarilla casera, un pañuelo
o una bufanda)
¡NO OLVIDE!
Todavía hay que practicar las pautas
de distanciamiento social
~
6 pies de distancia entre usted
y los demás.

COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses

A Memo to Prince George's County Businesses
from Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Dr.
George Askew & Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter
Date: April 9, 2020
To: Prince George’s County Businesses
From: George L. Askew, MD, FAAP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services, and Education
        Ernest L. Carter, MD, PhD, Health Officer
Re: COVID-19 Guidance

COVID-19 is widespread throughout the Prince George’s County community. We thank you for your diligence and we strongly urge you to remain vigilant in practicing the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of your employees and consumers.

As a reminder, Governor Larry Hogan’s executive order closing all non-essential businesses went into effect at 5:00 p.m. on March 23, 2020 and has not been lifted. Willful violation of this order will be considered a misdemeanor and if convicted, violators will be subject to imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding $5,000 or both (https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/GA-GOC/PEP3RD-AMENDED-3.23.20.pdf). The Governor’s Office has also provided a comprehensive list of businesses deemed “essential” that are exempt from this order (https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/OLC-Interpretive-Guidance-COVID19-04.pdf), including grocery stores, funeral homes and pharmaceutical distributors. Essential businesses must ensure that employees and consumers stay safe while in your facility. The CDC has outlined information on social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting work space and maintaining effective hygienic practices. (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html)

Maintaining social distancing of at least 6 feet between people, proper and frequent hand washing and consistent and frequent work space disinfecting are necessary to protect your workers and customers. It will be necessary for you to evaluate and to subsequently implement operational changes that increase employee and consumer separation. When it is impractical for employees and/or consumers to maintain social distancing, the use of masks and gloves may be necessary. The CDC released an updated recommendation regarding the use of cloth face coverings in public (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-coverings.html). We strongly urge business employees who are in contact with the public to do so in accordance with CDC parameters. Reusable face coverings must be cleaned and laundered when soiled or wet, at least daily and before each daily use.

It is important to practice and maintain effective hygiene in order to reduce the chances of spreading the COVID-19 virus. This includes frequent and thorough hand washing, as well as consistent, and more frequent cleaning of surfaces with a disinfecting cleaner.

Page 2 of 2
As a reminder to all food facilities, sick employees should not be working in a food facility at any time. The requirements in the State of Maryland Food regulations (CCMAR 10-15.03) for workers in food facilities to include grocery stores, to wear gloves while handling food have not changed and retailers must follow the requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Department and Police Department staff will be working together in the community to enforce Governor Hogan’s Executive Order to Control and Close Unsafe Facilities to protect public health. Facilities not in compliance with the Order may be closed.

If you have any questions, please refer to the County website or email questions to covid19@co.pg.md.us.

If you are seeking resources to assist you in maintaining your business operations, please direct your inquiries to the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation (https://www.pgcedc.com/covid19) and Employ Prince George’s (https://www.employpg.org/covid19/).
Thank you for your diligence and let’s continue to work together to protect the public’s health by doing what is necessary to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.