

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

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

May 14, 2021

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TO FURTHER LIFT CAPACITY
RESTRICTIONS ON BUSINESSES DUE TO CONTINUED DECLINE IN
CASE NUMBERS**

*Capacity Restrictions Will be Fully Lifted for All Indoor and Outdoor Venues;
Face Coverings Still Required Indoors, on Public Transportation, and at Crowded
Outdoor Venues*

LARGO, MD – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that the County will align with the State of Maryland and lift capacity and distancing restrictions for all indoor and outdoor venues. These new guidelines will go into effect by Executive Order on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:01 p.m.

“Due to a rapid decline in key COVID-19 metrics, as well as increasing vaccination rates in the County, I am excited to announce that we will be able to further lift restrictions on our business community beginning Monday, May 17,” said Alsobrooks. “The way we will continue to trend in the right direction is by getting more residents vaccinated, so I encourage every Prince Georgian who has not yet received a COVID-19 vaccine to sign up and join the hundreds of thousands of Prince Georgians who are already Proud to be Protected against COVID-19.”

Beginning Monday, May 17 at 5:01 p.m., all indoor and outdoor venues in Prince George's County may resume normal operations. Face masks are still required for all indoor venues, while on public transportation, and at crowded outdoor venues including concert venues and ticketed sporting events. The County will consider future changes to mask requirements based on key COVID-19 metrics and vaccination rates among County residents.

COVID-19 metrics have dropped substantially in Prince George's County over the past week. In just five days, the positivity rate dropped from 4% to 3%, when previously it would take about 10 days to see a one-point decrease in that metric. In addition, the average daily case rate per 100,000 residents dropped from 14.2 to 8.7 in just five days. Finally, hospitalizations for COVID-19 cases have dropped significantly, from a high of 172 on April 15 to 80 as of May 11. According to health officials, these trends indicate that the vaccines have been effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19, including its variants.

Initially, the County Executive had drafted and sent legislation to the County Council to lift restrictions on a majority of businesses beginning Monday, May 17 at 5:01 p.m. That legislation was passed as Council Resolution 48-2021 on Tuesday, May 11. After that legislation was passed, the Governor announced a new statewide order lifting capacity restrictions for all indoor

and outdoor venues. After reviewing data on COVID-19 metrics and vaccination rates and consulting with County health officials, the County Executive made the decision to align Prince George's County with the new guidelines announced by the State. However, it is essential to remind residents that while things are going in the right direction, we are still in the midst of a health emergency. If the metrics turn in a negative direction, restrictions will unfortunately have to be reinstated.

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