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County Executive

On March 10, 2020, County Executive Alsobrooks announced the first cases of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in Prince George's County. The following is a synopsis of the County Government's actions and responses:

Risk to Residents:

- The potential risk of illness to the general public is still low. Our public health experts, along with emergency management officials, are continuing to work closely with state and federal health officials to respond and plan should the situation change.

Preventative Actions for Residents:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- If you are sick, stay home except to get medical care.
- The CDC recommends travelers, particularly those with underlying health issues, defer all cruise ship travel worldwide.
- For those at higher risk, it is especially important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of exposure. Higher risk people are older adults and people who have severe chronic medical conditions like lung, heart, or kidney disease. The CDC recommends this group:
 - Stay at home as much as possible.
 - Make sure you have access to several weeks of medications and supplies in case you need to stay home for prolonged periods of time.
 - When you go out in public, keep away from others who are sick, limit close contact and wash your hands often.

Symptoms & Exposure:

- Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, or if you live in or have recently been in high exposure areas.

Closings:

- At this time, we have not had community-wide spread of coronavirus in the County. However, we expect to see more cases in our community. When considering an upcoming community event, we are recommending a cautious approach with the health and safety of residents in mind. If an event includes older adults or those with chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, or lung disease you may wish to consider postponing since this population has a higher risk for complications.
 - We strongly encourage you to stay informed about coronavirus COVID-19, and to utilize the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Community Event Guidance](#) to prepare for a community event.
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Office of Central Services

Supplies & Resources:

- OCS is working with the Office of Emergency Management to quickly obtain essential items ranging from sanitizing supplies and cleaners to protective clothing and equipment. OCS intends to make full use of its 100,000 square foot warehouse for stocking, inventory and fast delivery of essential items and supplies.

Cleaning of Government Buildings:

- OCS is incorporating approved EPA products against COVID-19 into already existing daily cleanings of County buildings.

Office of Community Relations

311:

- 311 is prepared and ready to answer calls if residents happen to call about coronavirus. They may be able to answer general questions and will refer more advanced questions or concerns to the Health Department hotline at 301-883-6627.

Department of Corrections

Preparation:

- DOC is screening every arrestee/inmate for coronavirus symptoms and increasing sanitation efforts.
- Plans are in place to isolate and quarantine inmates who show symptoms of coronavirus or test positive.
- Visitation and community service activities will be canceled in the event of a community outbreak.

Office of Emergency Management

Preparedness/Planning Tasks:

- OEM is monitoring the disease and coordinating preparedness efforts with the Health Department and County, as well as providing guidance to municipal governments, businesses, residents and visitors.
- The Office is also assuring a plan is in place for continuity of government, as well as operational planning in for isolation/quarantine.

Emergency Operations Center:

- The EOC is the location where the County government provides interagency coordination and executive decision-making in support of the COVID-19 response and recovery operations. The EOC also is the centralized location where public safety, health, other County agencies, community services and County partners coordinate planning and support activities. Some of our main objectives for the COVID-19 event are:
 - Collecting, evaluating and disseminating COVID-19 information; managing resource requests in support of public safety agencies, the Health Department, hospitals, and recovery operations.
 - Receiving and disseminating warnings and public emergency notifications.

911:

- Public Safety Communications is prepared and ready to answer calls related to COVID-19 and other emergency service requirements.

- Residents are reminded to only call 9-1-1 in event of an emergency. Our Health Department hotline is available to answer general questions/concerns about COVID-19 at 301-883-6627. Maryland 2-1-1 is also available 24/7.

Department of Family Services

Nursing Homes/Senior Facilities:

- Nursing homes have implemented CDC procedures, including screening visitors for cold/flu like symptoms.

Seniors in General:

- Fact Sheet distributed to Senior Nutrition Sites and homebound meal delivery (includes Meals-On-Wheels); senior apartment facilities; municipal governments.

Disabilities:

- Working with community partners to disseminate fact sheets, information and other resources to disability population.

Fire/EMS Department

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Currently, the Fire/EMS Department have an adequate supply of PPE for COVID-19 response.

Protective Measures for Employees:

- Fire/EMS personnel have been provided with education and information and procedural guidance is in place on the appropriate way to properly protect personnel/members when coming in contact with and transporting a Patient Under Investigation (PUI).
- The Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) process has been enhanced to include questions that can identify a PUI and provide that information to Fire/EMS Department personnel/members prior to them arriving on the scene of an incident.

- The Fire/EMS Department will be tracking personnel/members who transport a PUI utilizing our normal infectious control measures and the guidance provided in our COVID-19 check sheet.

Health Department

Testing Kits & Criteria:

- The state's lab, as well as some private labs now, are conducting tests on an ongoing basis.
- Medical providers in Maryland can now order COVID-19 testing for patients from LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics and get results from those labs.
- The County is only notified if there is a positive result. So, we won't know the total number of people in Maryland or Prince George's County that have been tested.
- The risk assessment of a patient is based on CDC guidelines and is conducted by the medical provider, and takes into consideration travel history and exposure as a close contact with someone with COVID-19, as well signs and symptoms of patient.

Department of Housing & Community Development

Preventative Steps:

- Securing masks for all housing inspectors to ensure voucher home inspections program continues.
- All housing voucher holders are being notified of alternative methods to submit documents and reach out to their rental specialists.

Response Plans:

- Working in conjunction with Health Department to have plans in place in the event that a resident in one of our housing facilities tests positive.

Office of Human Resources Management

Telework Policy:

- Our Office of Human Resources Management will be encouraging telework when appropriate, to reduce the number of staff in the workplace.

Travel:

- Business travel for government employees is suspended through March 31, 2020. The decision will be reevaluated at that time.

Memorial Library System

Facilities:

- Maintaining enhanced daily cleaning/sanitization protocols in all public facilities.

Operations:

- Leadership Team has revised the Library's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and is providing regular updates to staff and the public, based upon guidance from the Health Department and Office of the County Executive.
- Because the Library serves so many vulnerable members of the County community (e.g. homeless, immigrants, and homebound residents), staff are prepared to maintain operations throughout an outbreak in the County.
- Digital services will be maintained throughout any closures (including e-book loans, music/movie/tv streaming, and digital reference services).

Department of Parks & Recreation

Facilities:

- Facilities are being monitored to ensure supplies are on hand and areas are properly cleaned.
- Contingency plans have been put in place to handle any potential cases of COVID-19 at M-NCPPC facilities and ensure spaces are properly disinfected and safe to occupy.

Programming:

- At this time the Department's programs and services will continue as regularly scheduled.

Department of Permitting, Inspections & Enforcement

Continued Operations:

- DPIE has a plan and has identified functions that can be performed offsite to ensure continuing of operations for the entire Department.
- Fees can be paid online and staff can help residents with questions remotely by email, phone, teleconferencing and instant messaging.
- Enforcement and inspections will be able to be conducted remotely with little modification to their current process.

Prince George's County Police Department

National Harbor Exposure Incident:

- Chief Stawinski and leadership called all 360 officers who worked at the CPAC event and sent an email to officers instructing them of what to do if they are experiencing symptoms.

Preparations:

- PGPD is not changing operations and are servicing calls as usual.
- The Department is securing appropriate PPE for officers in case it is needed, as well as disinfectant agents for their police cruisers.

Prince George's County Public Schools

Prevention Strategies:

- In addition to daily cleanings of school and office buildings, we are encouraging all students and staff to take preventive steps (i.e., wash hands with soap and water, cover your sneezes and coughs, avoid people who are ill).
- Starting this week, we will designate times during the day for younger children to wash their hands and to remind older students to do the same.
- All international travel sponsored by PGCPS is suspended until further notice.
- PGCPS has relaxed its doctor's note requirement (a note from a parent now suffices) to encourage parents to keep their students at home if they are ill.

Outbreak in a School:

- The determination to close a school will be made in conjunction with County and State Health Departments.
- In the event of an outbreak at a school, we would temporarily close the school for 14 days.
- As with snow days, students and staff would not be expected to work or study during that time, but we would make up time when the school reopens (adding time to the end of the school day and/or year).

Department of Public Works & Transportation

TheBus:

- At this time there are no service adjustments to The Bus or paratransit services, including senior meal delivery and transportation for seniors.
- Buses are already cleaned inside and out daily, following universal precautions for infection control, and hard surfaces are cleaned throughout the service day.

Call-A-Bus:

- We have held driver chats, provided "go bags" that have hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes and gloves, fact sheets from the CDC and emphasized staff who are ill remain at home and seek medical attention, if needed.

Taxi Operators:

- DPW&T sent awareness information to taxi operators and stressed the importance of disinfecting cabs throughout the day.

Contingency Plan:

- DPW&T is preparing alternative modes of transportation for dialysis patient transports, as well as services for seniors like homebound meal deliveries.

WMATA:

- We are working with WMATA to ensure the public is notified of any operational changes that would affect our residents.

Department of Social Services

Contingency Plans:

- Working with the State to determine what programs are critical and what can be delayed in the event of a significant staff shortage

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Working with Office of Emergency Management to secure PPE for essential staff, specifically abuse investigators.

Homeless Shelters:

- Working with homeless shelters to ensure pandemic plans are current and that the appropriate staff have proper PPE.