

COVID-19 Update

Talbot County Emergency Services
Clay Stamp, Director, Asst. County Manager
www.talbotdes.org



Talbot County Health Department
Dr. Fredia Wadley, Health Officer
<https://health.maryland.gov/talbotcounty/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Talbot County Partners to Address Needs Caused by Coronavirus

The Talbot County community is continuing to partner with local agencies and businesses to address the needs of individuals and businesses during the COVID-19 health crisis. Governor Larry Hogan announced today a series of new actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Maryland, including limiting gatherings to 10 people, ordering the closure of shopping malls, restricting access to the BWI Marshall Airport terminal, and urging the use of transit for essential travel only.

“Despite all of our repeated warnings for weeks, and in spite of the rapid escalation of this crisis across our state, the nation, and the world, some people are treating this like a vacation or a spring break with parties, cookouts, and large gatherings,” said Governor Hogan. “Let me be very clear—if you are engaged in this, you are in violation of state law and you are endangering the lives of your fellow Marylanders.”

Today’s daily count shows that Maryland has 107 confirmed cases of COVID-19—an 88 percent increase over 48 hours. Last night, Governor Hogan announced the state’s first death as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and today the state reported its first case of a child contracting the virus.

“This truly is one of the most daunting challenges our state has ever faced,” said Governor Hogan. “But sometimes the worst times have a way of bringing out the very best in people. Marylanders are a shining example of that, and we have seen so many examples of compassion and generosity in recent days. We are all in this together, and if we all do our part to rise to this challenge and to meet this moment, we will get through this together.”

Clay Stamp, Director of Emergency Services and Assistant County Manager stated, “As our agencies and community organizations provide COVID related information it is important for the public to tune in on a daily basis for updates to maintain a good understanding of current events.”

According to Talbot County Health Officer Dr. Fredia Wadley, “We need to continue to bring ideas to the table to help decrease the risk of exposure to our citizens.”

Talbot County Council President Corey Pack today shared that the counties on the Mid Shore are collaborating and that individuals and businesses are developing creative strategies to cope with shortages as well as with the growing anxiety of residents. “We are reaching out to our faith-based community and other volunteers to

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help address some of the worries and fears of our residents. It's important that we not only address the physical needs of our citizens, but the mental health needs as well."

Following is a summary of measures Talbot County's community partners are taking in response to this developing situation.

Meal Distribution Information

FREE meals are being distributed for children ages 2 through 18 at the following expanded list of locations from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday: **Easton Middle, Easton Elementary-Dobson, the corner of Dover and Aurora Streets, Magnolia Meadows, Pippin Farms, the Neighborhood Service Center, Unionville Church, St. Michaels Middle High, St. Michaels Police Dept., Chapel District Elementary, White Marsh Elementary, and Tilghman Elementary.** Meals include breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack.

- Meals packs for 600 children were distributed on 3/19/2020 including emergency and satellite site deliveries. This represents a total of 1,200 meals and a 500% increase in one day.
- CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT and be between the ages of 2 and 18. Adults cannot accept meals on behalf of children. No names need to be provided.
- Children do not have to be eligible for free and reduced-price meals.
- CarePacks will be delivered to as many sites as possible on Fridays to provide weekend meals, depending on supply.
- If families are unable to get to one of the sites due to an **emergency** situation (lack of transportation, work schedule conflict, illness in the family, etc.) to pick up meals or CarePacks, please use this link to sign up for meal delivery: [Emergency Meal Delivery Request](#) (Please note we cannot guarantee that delivery will be available). You may also email Ms. Emily Moody at emoody@talbotschools.org to set up a CarePacks delivery on Fridays.

Talbot County Department of Social Services

To slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland Department of Human Services has announced that each of the 24 local Departments of Social Services (DSS), including the Talbot County DSS Office, are closed to the public effective at noon on March 18, 2020.

Talbot County Department of Social Services is providing services through the following:

- Please call us at 410-770-4848 with questions. Child support customers should start with the DHS Call Center at 1-800-332-6347.
- DHS online portal (MyDHR) should be used when possible to apply for SNAP (Food Stamps) and all emergency cash assistance programs (<https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/>)
- Applications can also be submitted by mail (301 Bay St, Unit 5, Easton, MD 21601), by email (talbot.customer@maryland.gov), or by fax (410-820-7117)
- Medical Assistance or health insurance applications can be submitted on the Maryland Health Connection website. The Maryland Health Connection has opened an emergency enrollment period. Information and online application access can be found on the Maryland Health Connection website (<https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>).

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- Long Term Care Medical Assistance applications can be submitted at <https://mymdthink.maryland.gov/home/#/home>
- Child Support information and/or questions can also be submitted by email at talbot.customer@maryland.gov
- Child support payments can be made by mail, phone or online. If making payment by mail, include your name and child support case number on the payment and mail to:
Maryland Child Support Account
PO Box 17396
Baltimore, MD 21297-1396

To make a one-time credit card child support payment over the phone, call 1-844-324-3855. Child Support payments may be made online at <http://www.mdsmartchildsupport.com/>. At this link, you can establish a one-time or recurring automatic draft from your savings account or pay using Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express.

- Reports of suspected child or vulnerable adult abuse or neglect should continue to be reported to 410-770-4848.

Easton Utilities

Easton Utilities understands the importance of supporting our community efforts during this unprecedented time. While we continue to provide the essential services our customers rely on every day, we want to follow the recommendations of our state and local agencies to protect the health of the public and our employees.

In addition to the recommended precautions we are currently following, below please find the additional changes as of March 19, 2020:

- Employees are no longer entering customer homes unless it's an emergency.
 - For Easton Velocity issues (internet, cable, phone), technicians will work with the customer remotely to troubleshoot problems.
- The Customer Service Center and Lobby are CLOSED to all customers and visitors.
 - The drive-thru will remain open.
- Customers are encouraged to utilize online bill pay, phone or mail for transactions.
 - Please contact our Customer Service Reps if assistance is needed to set up an online account.
- As always, we remain flexible and willing to work with customers facing financial hardships during this time.

We will continuously monitor and update our policies to ensure we are providing the best possible service to our customers while maintaining the safety of all concerned. Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Customer Service at 410-822-6110.

Talbot County Free Library

- **New Service:** County residents that do not have a library card may now register for a temporary library card number that will allow them to access eBooks, audiobooks, movies, music, magazines, and other eResources. Go to www.tcfl.org and click on the "find" dropdown menu to find information on online

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registration for a temporary library card number. This number will allow new patrons to use the library's eResources at home, 24/7. Once the library reopens, new patrons may come in and register for a regular library card that will allow them to use a computer and check out all sorts of physical library materials as well.

- All patrons are encouraged to try the library's eLearning opportunities and downloadable resources. For more information, about any of these eResources visit www.tcfl.org.

Talbot County Council President Corey Pack added that the Council wanted to thank everyone for stepping up to help whether it is as frontline personnel in our agencies and healthcare facilities who are showing up every day for work, or volunteers and local businesses who are coming up with creative solutions to solve developing needs. He shared the example of the local Lyon Distilling Company in St. Michaels, MD which is producing 30 gallons of hand sanitizer a day.

He commented, "This is just one of the many creative efforts we need to happen to continue to address the needs arising in our community during this crisis."

Where to Find More Information

- **CDC COVID-2019 Website:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **Talbot County COVID-19 Information** <http://www.talbotdes.org/covid19.asp>
- **Maryland Department of Health Website:** <https://health.maryland.gov/pages/home.aspx>
- **Talbot County Health Department Website:**
<https://health.maryland.gov/talbotcounty/Pages/home.aspx>
- **Talbot County Health Department Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TalbotHealthMaryland/>
- **Talbot County Department of Emergency Services Website:** <http://www.talbotdes.org/default.asp>
- **Talbot County Department of Emergency Services Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/talbotdes>