

# COVID-19 Update

Talbot County Emergency Services  
Clay Stamp, Director, Asst. County Manager  
[www.talbotdes.org](http://www.talbotdes.org)



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

## Key Points for May 20

- ✓ In the past 24 hours, Maryland reported 777 new COVID-19 cases and 41 deaths, bringing the statewide totals to 42,323 and 2,004 respectively.
- ✓ Of the 194 new hospitalizations, approximately 40% were admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. A total of 1,410 patients remain hospitalized statewide.
- ✓ Talbot County now has 72 confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- ✓ The Emergency Operations Center has been activated for 69 days and now has nine working groups that are addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Any patient scheduled for surgery at University of Maryland Shore Regional Medical Center at Easton must be tested for the COVID-19 virus before surgery.
- ✓ Graduation videos will be shared via Facebook Live and YouTube on June 1 at 6 p.m. for St. Michaels Middle High and June 2 at 6:00 p.m. for Easton High.
- ✓ The Talbot County Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 10 a.m. to consider legislation to reopen short-term rentals and B&Bs in time for Memorial Day.
- ✓ Teddy Bear Fresh received a USDA grant to provide 3,500 boxes filled with fresh produce to the Maryland Food Bank. Talbot County will receive 1,000 of those boxes for distribution at local food pantries.

**For Immediate Release**  
**May 20, 2020**

## Protect Yourself, Health Officials Say

As businesses begin to reopen, it important to remember that personal responsibility is still the key to protecting yourself from COVID-19, says Dr. Fredia Wadley, Talbot County Health Officer.

Along with every other state in the nation, Maryland is being called upon to balance public health with economic stability. Still, individuals are not helpless against this pandemic.

Director of Emergency Services Clay Stamp says, “We recognize people are becoming weary with the threat of the virus but after what could be recognized as a success in flattening the curve of infections here in Talbot County, we should remain diligent to maintain self-protection.”

# COVID-19 Update

Here are some things you need to remember as the economy continues to reopen.

## What You Need to Know About COVID-19 Now

1. The COVID-19 virus is more dangerous now because it is more widely spread in the community.
2. When you decide to get out or must go back to work, you can still protect yourself more than others can protect you. Learn what you can do to protect yourself.
3. This is especially true if you are over 65 years of age or have a chronic condition that could make the infection more deadly for you. No one is going to protect you if you aren't willing to protect yourself.
4. Outdoors is safer than indoors. The good ventilation and the disinfectant benefits of sunlight help limit the spread of the virus.
5. Even when you are outside, the virus is primarily spread by close contact with someone who is breathing, coughing, or sneezing droplets into the air closer than six feet from you. Stay six feet away from others. When closer than six feet to another person, wear a mask to keep from spreading a virus you may not know you have.
6. When you are outside in your yard or walking, jogging, or cycling, you do not need a mask. But take one with you in case you come into contact with someone closer than six feet while you are out.
7. You should care enough about your neighbors and community members to wear a mask. When individuals come closer than six feet without a mask, they are not taking care to protect you. You should not feel embarrassed to ask them to don a mask. Keep a clean face covering handy and offer it to them since they "must have forgot their's." If they are insulted, you are better off avoiding them until this pandemic is over.
8. COVID-19 can be spread a couple of days before a person has symptoms. Not every person who looks well is free of the virus.

## What To Look for In Open Businesses

"You don't need the health officer to tell you which businesses care enough to help protect their employees and customers," says Dr. Wadley. "You just need to look around and take notice of what measures the businesses are taking in response to COVID-19. Determining which business is looking after your well-being is really very easy. You can ask these simple questions before entering any public place."

1. Do they have signage at the entrance telling you to wear a mask, keep six feet apart, and cover coughs or sneezes?
2. Do they have shopping carts and someone to disinfect the carts between each use? At a minimum, disinfectant wipes should be available that you can use to disinfect your own shopping cart or basket.
3. Do they have someone at the door controlling the number of people entering the store? Small businesses may need someone all the time to keep those inside at a number that allows six feet separation.
4. Are all employees wearing a mask properly? (That means over their nose and their mouth.)

# COVID-19 Update

5. Do they have floor markings showing six feet distances? Do they have these markings for the checkout lane?
6. Are prices of objects visible without touching objects or price tags?
7. Is the ventilation in the business good? Small businesses can leave doors and windows open. This may not be energy efficient, but it helps decrease viral spread.
8. Do they have a plastic shield between you and the person checking you out?
9. Do they practice touchless paying? Can you put your credit card or money in a tray? Can they give you back change or your credit card using the same tray without making hand contact at either time. It is best to have the right amount of money. If you use a card, you need to disinfect it once you get it back.
10. Do they have hand sanitizer for their employees and their customers? Does the clerk use the sanitizer between each customer? Is the sanitizer at the counter so the customer can use it as they finish payment? Does the clerk disinfect your credit card before laying it in the tray or do they have wipes to allow a customer to disinfect their card?

Many businesses locally have adopted effective ways to conduct their operations with the safety of their customers and staff being their main priority. Stamp states, "It is encouraging to see our businesses in Talbot County embracing innovation and creativity in meeting customer needs which now includes an unprecedented level of attention to safety through cleanliness and distancing."

"Those with special conditions that put them at higher risk should only choose to visit the businesses that can implement the safest conditions for their customers," Dr. Wadley notes. "Remember, you are the most important person for protecting yourself from COVID-19."

## Talbot County Public Schools

TCPS meals and CarePacks will be distributed on Friday, May 22 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at all school sites. If you are unable to pick up meals and need emergency delivery, please call Crystal Miller at 443-432-5091.

On Tuesday May 19, TCPS distributed 7176 meals and snacks, providing food for 598 children.

The TCPS Instructional Technology Help Desk will be open on Friday, May 22 from noon to 3:00 p.m. at Easton High School and St. Michaels Elementary School. Please send an email to [helpdesk@talbotschools.org](mailto:helpdesk@talbotschools.org) for virtual support or to schedule a help desk appointment for iPads or laptops. TCPS encourages parents to wear masks/cloth face coverings during meal pickups or IT Help Desk visits to help fight the spread of COVID-19.

Registration is underway for new Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Please use this link to pre-register now: [2020-2020 Pre-Registration](#). School staff will contact families to complete the process when possible.

# COVID-19 Update

Please continue to send photos of graduating seniors wearing gear and/or holding signs to celebrate their commitments to college, career, or the military by emailing them to their guidance counselors or to [dgardner@talbotschools.org](mailto:dgardner@talbotschools.org). Graduation Videos will be shared on June 1 at 6:00 p.m. for St. Michaels Middle High and June 2 at 6:00 p.m. for Easton High. Congratulations to the class of 2020!

As a reminder, TCPS received a waiver from the Maryland State Department of Education in order to use Monday, May 25 as a make-up day for one of the 10 days of school closure in March. The last day of school for students will be June 12. Please look for updates from your child(ren)'s school(s) regarding turning in laptops and iPads and other year-end details.

“As we approach the final weeks of the school year, I encourage staff, students and families to “FINISH STRONG” in this very unique fourth quarter,” said Dr. Kelly Griffith, Superintendent. “Please make the most of the teaching and learning opportunities that are being provided, and submit assignments as requested. If you are having any difficulties with this please don’t hesitate to ask teachers or school administrators for help. And remember to Stay Tuned, Stay Healthy, and Stay Hopeful!”

## Talbot County Free Library Announces Phased Reopening

The Talbot County Free Library is diligently working on plans for a phased reopening of its services and facilities. While the library does not yet have a reopening date, staff have been hard at work planning for your safe return.

- The library has adopted a plan that makes safety the top priority while also offering the essential services our patrons have so sorely missed.
- Because of the continued threat of COVID19, the library is taking a cautious approach toward reopening which includes taking time to plan and get equipped with supplies and institute procedures needed to ensure the health and safety of our staff and patrons.
- Based on guidance from best practices recommended by health and safety organizations, the library has implemented a more rigorous cleaning and sanitation plan; reorganized work spaces to promote social distancing; purchased face coverings, sanitizer, and cleaning supplies; and is training staff on new operations and safety procedures.
- The library’s reopening plan consists of four phases. The first phase includes opening up the book drop for returns and bringing staff back to prepare for reopening. Returned books and DVDs will be quarantined for a minimum of 96 hours before being returned to the shelf.
- No fines will be assessed for materials that were loaned prior to the library closing.
- In the second phase, the library will launch a new books-to-go service so that patrons can once again reserve and pick up library materials.
- Future phases of the plan will include reopening the library for patrons to browse the collection, use public computers, and get help from reference and public service staff. Although dates have not yet been set for these phases, more information will be available soon on the library’s website and Facebook page as dates are determined.
- In the meantime, there are a host of eResources and virtual programs available for everyone to enjoy on the library’s website at [tcfl.org](http://tcfl.org).
- If you don’t already have a library card, you can get a temporary card online at [tcfl.org](http://tcfl.org).
- Wi-Fi continues to be available around the clock outside both the Easton and St. Michaels branches.

# COVID-19 Update

- Updates on the progress of the library's reopening plan will be shared on the library's website, Facebook page and via media outlets. For more information, visit [tcfl.org](http://tcfl.org), email [askus@tcfl.org](mailto:askus@tcfl.org), or call 410-822-1626.

## Where to Find More Information

- **CDC COVID-2019 Website:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **Talbot County COVID-19 Information** [www.talbotcovid19.org](http://www.talbotcovid19.org)
- **Shore Regional Health COVID Information** <https://www.umms.org/shore/patients-visitors/coronavirus>
- **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>
- **Maryland COVID-19 Website:** <https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus>