

# 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 June 12

- ✓ Maryland reported 416 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the statewide number to 60,613.
- ✓ Talbot County has a total of 102 confirmed COVID-19 cases and five deaths.
- ✓ Talbot County is working with small businesses and individuals to assist them financially through our new grant programs. Information can be found on [www.talbotcovid19.org](http://www.talbotcovid19.org)

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Businesses Reopen Though Health Threat Remains

Business owners across the state of Maryland and Talbot County breathed a sigh of relief when Gov. Larry Hogan announced this week that restaurants will be allowed to reopen for indoor dining at 50% of the Fire Marshal capacity effective at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 12.

Gov. Hogan's revised Executive Order also lifted the ban on gatherings of more than 10 people without specifying any new limit. The order opens other businesses and recreational activities, some on June 12 and others on June 19.

Talbot County is following the statewide strategy outlined in the Maryland Strong Roadmap for Recovery provided by Gov. Hogan outlining a phased approach for the safe reopening of Maryland. Still, it is important to note that the governor and the state health officer stressed that spread of the potentially deadly COVID-19 virus is still a real threat.

Deputy Secretary for Health Fran Phillips reminded the public that the steps we take as individuals to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities is the most important tool we have. She went on to say that "just because it's open doesn't mean you have to participate." Dr. Fredia Wadley, Health Officer for Talbot County echoes those sentiments.

"While we all recognize that reopening is inevitable with our economy tanking," Dr. Wadley says, "too many people have reverted to their pre-COVID-19 behavior as if there is no longer a risk of infection. This is far from the truth. Health officers and infectious diseases experts across the country are begging people to practice six-

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foot distancing, wear their facial coverings, and wash their hands frequently to continue protecting themselves as the country reopens.”

Summer has arrived, and Talbot County residents naturally want to get out and resume our normal lifestyles. But Talbot County Council President Corey Pack urges citizens to heed the directions from Dr. Wadley and other health professionals when it comes to stopping the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“We support our businesses and their efforts to remain open, we must all remain well informed,” Pack says. “We can choose where we go and what we do as individuals. Those businesses and organizers of activities who are following the guidance provided by the Governor through the Maryland Strong Roadmap to Recovery are the places people should frequent.”

Director of Emergency Services Clay Stamp agrees. “It remains important that we adhere to our public health professional’s guidance related to the continuing COVID-19 threat, while at the same time supporting individuals, our community, and businesses in achieving a safe new normal. Choose safety when deciding where to go and what to do each day.”

New reports from around the country indicate that there is true cause for alarm. NPR reports record-breaking COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas as the state begins to reopen. According to FOX Digital News, 21 states saw a surge in new coronavirus cases as businesses opened up. Bloomberg in Fortune notes that a second wave of COVID-19 is emerging as states reopen.

“Headlines across the country this week are going unheeded,” Dr. Wadley warns. “Reports from other states paint a picture that is not as rosy as we would like.”

Balancing the need to reopen businesses with efforts to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus is not going to be easy, she admits. But we must continue to be vigilant.

“I believe that we have to hold two priorities within our thoughts at the same time,” Wadley said. “We have to reopen businesses for the economy to survive, and we have to continue safety precautions because this virus can still infect and kill more of our people. It is not one or the other, but both that we have to recognize as the truth.”

Dr. Wadley says she tries to learn from her own mistakes and from history as she approaches problem solving. “I recently read articles on the Spanish Influenza in 1918 and 1919,” she says. “As the cases of flu decreased, there were grand parades in cities like Philadelphia to show support for our military during wartime with thousands lining the streets. Following this crowding, the flu spread and more died in the second wave than in the first one.

“But cities like St. Louis have far fewer influenza cases and deaths because they were among the first cities to shut down and among the last to reopen,” Dr. Wadley continues. The city implemented and practiced more infection precautions than most cities. There is a lesson here worth considering.”

Though the numbers in Maryland have declined, Dr. Wadley still gets a barrage of calls and emails from angry citizens reporting people who refuse to wear masks.

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“Some business owners have learned the loopholes and report that they have medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask as do all of their staff,” she continues. “They have learned that claiming a disability cannot be questioned by the police or the health officer.”

Dr. Wadley says that anyone who is afraid for their health should simply avoid the stores that refuse to comply with the recommended health and safety regulations. “Why would anyone worried about their health continue to give these businesses their patronage and money?” Dr. Wadley asks.

Gov. Hogan has asked businesses to take the pledge to follow COVID-19 safety precautions and display this pledge in their windows. Dr. Wadley recommends that businesses display the pledge prominently so customers can make educated choices before entering an establishment.

“I am personally not patronizing businesses that do not take the pledge and do not practice recommended guidelines,” Dr. Wadley says. “I urge all Talbot County residents who believe COVID-19 is still a threat to do likewise.”

“While Maryland’s numbers have improved significantly, the warning signs we are seeing in other areas of the nation give us pause,” says Pack. “It is our firm expectation that on the eve of opening businesses that all safety provisions established by the Governor for both individuals and businesses are followed and enforced.”

Guidelines for safely reopening businesses can be found at [www.talbotcovid19.org](http://www.talbotcovid19.org)

## 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>