



COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY

COURTHOUSE

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DECLARATION ENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN TALBOT COUNTY

DECLARING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN TALBOT COUNTY DUE TO COVID-19 TERMINATED AND ENDED; PROVIDING FOR THE TALBOT COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER TO MOVE INTO THE RECOVERY PHASE WITH CONTINUED MONITORING AND COORDINATION IN SUPPORT OF THE TALBOT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS; AND, SUPERSEDING AND REPLACING THE FOURTH AMENDED EMERGENCY DECLARATION OF MAY 26, 2020

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the Governor of Maryland declared a State of Emergency in response to COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and can result in serious illness or death; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and,

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Talbot County Council adopted an Emergency Declaration declaring a state of emergency in the county for a period of 30 days and ordering the temporary closure of certain buildings and the suspension of certain meetings in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which state of emergency has been extended through June 30, 2020, by the County Council's Fourth Amended Emergency Declaration dated May 26, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on or about April 24, 2020, the Governor of Maryland released a statewide recovery plan titled "Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery", which identifies four building blocks for recovery (expanded testing capacity, increased hospital surge capacity, supply of personal protective equipment, and contact tracing) and breaks recovery from COVID-19 down into three gradual and distinct stages; and,

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2020, according to the Governor's Office, "with key statewide health metrics continuing to trend in a positive direction," the Governor announced "additional safe and phased re-openings through Stage Two of the 'Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery'"; and,

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2020, according to the Governor’s social media, “Maryland’s key COVID-19 health metrics continue to trend in a positive direction, with the statewide positivity rate dropping to 5.43%, ICU beds falling to their lowest level since April 5, and the State reporting its lowest number of new cases since March 31”; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 trends in Talbot County are consistent with or better than those at the State level announced, and significant progress has been made locally to sustain the four building blocks identified in the Governor’s Roadmap to Recovery; and,

WHEREAS, although Talbot County must remain vigilant and continue a high level response to COVID-19, the County can transition from a state of emergency posture to the recovery phase in terms of emergency response.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, PROCLAIMED, AND DECLARED, by the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland that, in accordance with the authority granted by the Charter and Laws of Talbot County, Maryland, and pursuant to any and all authority vested to the Council by the Maryland Constitution and the Laws of Maryland, including but not limited to § 14-111 of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and § 3-502 of the Health-General Article:

1. **Local State of Emergency Ended.** Effective immediately, the local state of emergency first declared by the County Council on March 16, 2020, and extended through June 30, 2020, pursuant to the Council’s Fourth Amended Emergency Declaration dated May 26, 2020, shall be and is hereby terminated and ended.
2. **Transition to Recovery Phase.** The Talbot County Emergency Operations Center team shall transition to the recovery phase with continued monitoring and coordination in support of the Talbot County Health Department and other stakeholders to maintain a state of readiness in the event recovery trends reverse.
3. **Federal and State Aid.** Notwithstanding the end of the local state of emergency, the County may continue to seek and accept all available federal and State aid, resources, and assistance to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Talbot County pursuant to Title 14 of the Public Safety Article, Md. Code Ann., and in accordance with all applicable State and local emergency plans.
4. **Reopening of Public Buildings.** Effective June 17, 2020, all Talbot County government buildings and facilities were reopened to the general public, subject, however, to certain COVID-19 protocols as adopted and amended from time to time, including without limitation those issued by the County Manager prior to the reopening of government buildings on June 17, 2020, a copy of which are attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated by reference herein. The general public shall abide by all such protocols when accessing Talbot County government buildings.
5. **Extension of Licenses.** The expiration date of any licenses, permits, registrations and professional licenses issued by Talbot County that expired by the later of (i) April 30, 2020 or (ii) otherwise during the County’s state of emergency, and were otherwise renewable in accordance with applicable law, is hereby extended to July 31, 2020.

6. **Supersedes Inconsistent Local Law; Severability.** This Declaration shall supersede and replace the Fourth Amended Emergency Declaration issued by the Talbot County Council on May 26, 2020, and shall supersede any inconsistent or conflicting local law, rule, or regulation. If any provision of this Declaration is held invalid in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Declaration which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Declaration are declared severable.
7. **Further Amendments.** This Declaration may be revised or amended from time to time as needed in the discretion of the County Council.

THIS DECLARATION IS HEREBY EFFECTIVE the 23rd day of June in 2020.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND THE GREAT SEAL OF TALBOT COUNTY, THIS 23rd DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR 2020.

ADOPTED:

By the Council: June 23, 2020

Susan Moran

Susan Moran, Clerk of Council

Corey W. Paek
Corey W. Paek, President

Chuck F. Callahan
Chuck F. Callahan, Vice President

Frank Divilio
Frank Divilio

Pete Leshner
Pete Leshner

Laura E. Price
Laura E. Price

EXHIBIT "A"

Talbot County, Maryland – Plan for Upstaffing & Opening for Public Access

Overview

Re-opening the physical workplace at full capacity consists of more than announcing a reopening date and carrying on business as usual. To protect the health and safety of our employees and citizens, Talbot County Government will implement the below outlined approach to return employees to the work environment and in its reopening of County facilities to the public. This approach will take place in late May and/or June. As to a specific date, the County Council and County Manager's Office will be looking to the Talbot County Health Officer and Director of Emergency Services, for guidance on when to reopen the offices. This plan will be carefully implemented to ensure the health and safety of all team members and the public.

Workplace Safety Enhancement Protocols

When employees are in the office, the following safety protocols will be put in effect until further notice:

Employee Health Procedures

- In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 every employee will do self screening, including taking his or her temperature, when reporting to work. Employees should report to their department designated area upon arrival at work and prior to entering any other areas of Talbot County property.
- Each employee will be trained on how to use the forehead temporal thermometer and shall record their (own) temperature each day. The employee is responsible to sign and file (place in a folder) the form certifying their daily health status and adherence to the policy.
- Time spent waiting for the health screening should be recorded as time worked for nonexempt employees.
- Employees should wash their hands frequently and thoroughly using soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.

- An employee who has a fever at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit or who is experiencing coughing or shortness of breath will be sent home. The employee should monitor his or her symptoms and call a doctor or use telemedicine, if they are concerned about the symptoms.
- Employees will be required to wear a face mask when working in close contact with other employees or citizens, or entering a citizen's home or business. Less than six foot separation shall be the standard regarding the need for a face mask.
- Employees may wear their own personal mask or one that will be provided by Talbot County Government.
 - o Personal masks should be professional and not display any inappropriate wording, images, or logos, and should be safely worn and cleaned regularly.
- The Facilities Maintenance Department has installed hand sanitizers throughout County buildings. Employees will be provided with hand sanitizer in their workarea for their use.
- Employees will be provided latex or nitrile gloves upon request.
- An employee sent home can return to work when:
 - o He or she has had no fever for at least three (3) days; AND
 - o Any respiratory symptoms (cough and shortness of breath) have improved for at least three (3) days; OR
 - o A written medical clearance from a licensed medical professional releasing the employee to return to work has been obtained.

Visitor Health Procedures

- Visitors will be required to wear a County provided disposable mask, or their own personal mask, when in a County building.

Visitors will maintain a six foot separation at all times possible from staff and other visitors. Should the public area of the department not permit the separation, then access will be limited to one member of the public at a time.

Visitors are to be encouraged to call ahead and schedule an appointment with a county employee.

Cleaning Procedures

- Employees will frequently clean touched surfaces (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.) regularly using appropriate cleaning and disinfectant products.

- o When cleaning, ensure staff are trained on appropriate use of cleaning and disinfection chemicals.

- o Employees should wear disposable gloves and face masks for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.

Employees will clock in/out from their computers whenever possible.

After making contact with the referred/listed items an employee shall appropriately clean the surface with a provided disinfectant.

Social Distancing Guidelines

- All employees should try to avoid in-person meetings. Online conferencing, email or phone should be used when possible, even when employees are in the same building.
 - o Unavoidable in-person meetings should be short, in a large meeting room where people can sit at least six feet from each other, and employees should avoid shaking hands with people.
- Employees should not congregate in work rooms, pantries, copier or other areas where people socialize. Keep six feet apart when possible.
- Where appropriate, supervisors should stagger employee shifts and lunch/rest breaks.

Citizen and/or Visitor Contact Protocols

- Directing customer traffic through workplace.
- Limiting number of customers in any area at one time.
- No handshake greetings, remain six feet apart, as much as possible.
- Using video conferencing or telephone conferencing instead of in-person meetings.
- Providing contactless pick-up of requested items (plans, records, bills, etc.).

Suspension of Nonessential Business Travel

- Due to Talbot County's commitment to employee safety in light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, all nonessential business travel continues to be suspended until further notice.
- If nonessential business travel has already been booked, please work with your supervisor to cancel properly to receive an airfare and hotel refund or credit, if applicable.
- Please make sure your supervisor knows the status of all meetings cancelled due to this temporary suspension.

All employees are reminded of the expectation of mutual respect in the workplace and adherence to county policies pertaining to discrimination and confidentiality.

Please contact Administrative Services with any questions or concerns

5/15/2020 draft