



BARRY GLASSMAN

HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harford County COVID-19 Update for April 10, 2020

BEL AIR, Md., (April 10, 2020) – *Harford County Executive Barry Glassman's weekly COVID-19 update for April 10, 2020:*

“As of this morning public health officials have reported a total of 111 positive cases of COVID-19 among Harford County residents compared to 41 last week, fortunately with no reported deaths at this time. The state is now reporting the number of negative tests and other demographic data, but that information is not currently broken down by county.

Maryland data show that 68% of people affected are between the ages of 20 and 60. This is a change from earlier when COVID-19 was thought to primarily affect those 60 and over.

The vast majority of Harford's cases are isolating at home, although some are hospitalized. Our fellow citizens remain in our prayers.

Changes this week

This week Governor Hogan announced that the White House and federal officials have designated the Baltimore-Washington corridor, including Harford County, as an emerging hotspot. Maryland cases overall are now estimated to peak around April 18 through early May, but keep in mind these estimates depend on many factors including how seriously people take social distancing.

New information about how the virus is spread led the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to recommend cloth face coverings where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in grocery stores and pharmacies. We now know that the virus can be spread before symptoms appear, it can be spread by speaking, and up to 25% of cases show mild or no symptoms. This means that everyone could be infectious, including yourself.

Details on the CDC's recommendations and how to make a face covering are accessible from our COVID-19 web page at <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/COVID19>. This page also has resources for businesses, unemployment insurance, seniors, food assistance, support for recovery and mental wellness and contact information if you're not sure where to turn. This week we also updated this page with a link to the state's new rumor control website.

Now that the virus is far more infectious than originally thought, the Maryland Department of Health has issued new orders to protect those in long term care facilities, and Gov. Hogan has created "strike teams" to assist nursing homes. Nevertheless, officials warn that more outbreaks are likely.

Keep in mind that the vast majority of COVID-19 cases recover, but my administration continues to plan for the worst and hope for the best. We are working closely with Gov. Hogan's office and local surge planning is ongoing with our health department and other partners, including first responders, hospitals, nursing homes, and those who serve vulnerable populations.

Even as we follow social distancing and recommended safety precautions, Harford County remains open for business thanks to our dedicated county employees, who are on the front lines. Nonetheless, the state shutdown is impacting our economy. On Monday I will release my budget recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2021, which will be posted on the county website at <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/1531/Budget-Efficiency>.

Finally, in this season of hope and renewal, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and Happy Passover."

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