



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 24, 2020

NOTICE

Maryland Closure of Non-Essential Businesses

To further combat the spread of COVID-19, the Governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan, has issued an executive order temporarily closing all non-essential businesses. The Governor's executive order is available at <https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/03/23/essential-businesses/>.

How does this impact foreign missions and their members?

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in the state. However, all foreign missions are expected to adopt strategies aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as maximizing opportunities for their members to work from home (“telework”), applying social distancing of at least six feet, and avoiding local travel unless required for purposes of protecting health, safety, and protection of property.

When not performing those functions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents are expected to fully comply with the requirements of Governor's order, as well as any other applicable orders issued by local or municipal authorities.

Governor Hogan is encouraging people in the state to stay at home, but that he is not issuing a directive to shelter-in-place. However, the Governor believes residents of Maryland should stay in their homes unless they have an essential reason to leave.

The Department appreciates your patience and understanding as local authorities begin to implement these new restrictions.

Questions or Issues

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Resources

- COVID-19 in the State of Maryland: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>
- CDC's Coronavirus Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>
- Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM_Ambassador