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## NEWS RELEASE

# City Outlines Actions to Protect Public Health, Limit Spread of COVID-19

*The City is committed to protecting employees and residents during this pandemic and state of emergency.*

**FREDERICK, MD** – March 13, 2020:

Yesterday afternoon, Governor Hogan [announced significant actions](#) and guidance for the next two weeks as the State continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19. The City of Frederick has declared a State of Emergency in the City today and will be adjusting and adapting City operations accordingly.

The City knows the Governor's announcement prompted many questions and we are committed to ensuring we can share information quickly as we work to maintain continuity of operations for Frederick's residents and City employees. The City is also committed to our community's safety.

Effective immediately, until the end of the City State of Emergency, the following operational adjustments will be in effect:

- The William R. Talley Recreation Center and all satellite facilities will be closed. All classes and programs are suspended. Parks and city-owned fields will remain open to the community; however, all gatherings in these areas should follow the [Governor's recent Executive Order on mass gatherings](#).
- The Weinberg Center for the Arts will be closed. Please contact the Weinberg Center at 301-600-2828 for information on event rescheduling.

Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, until the end of the City State of Emergency declaration, the following operational adjustments will be in effect:

- Law enforcement operations will continue in full force and effect and emergency planning protocols are in place should the situation change.

- Public access to City facilities will be restricted and by appointment only. Residents should call the appropriate City staff member to arrange appointments. Please note that reduced staffing levels of some offices will likely occur as the City is committed to the safety and health of City employees. [View City Staff Directory](#).
- Mayor and Board of Aldermen workshops and public hearings will be occurring as scheduled. In-person public comment will not be available due to reduced public access to facilities. Details will be provided shortly on how residents can provide their comment. Representatives needed for necessary testimonies on agenda items will be permitted to attend public meetings in person.
- Quasi-judicial public meetings and workshops (which include Zoning Board of Appeals, Historic Preservation Commission, and Planning Commission) will be occurring as scheduled. In-person public comment and representatives needed for necessary testimonies on agenda items will be permitted to attend public meetings in person.
- All other City Board and Commission meetings will be canceled during the City State of the Emergency. Comprehensive Plan Special Workshops during this period will be postponed.
- The Frederick Community Action Agency will continue to operate the health center, foodbank, and soup kitchen. More information on daily operations is available on the [FCAA Website](#).
- Due dates for City bills, permits, licensures and citations will be extended to thirty days after the City State of the Emergency ends.
- City NAC meetings are suspended until the end of the City State of Emergency.

The City of Frederick appreciates the public's attention to this rapidly changing environment. Please continue to follow normal flu and cold prevention practices: cough and sneeze into your sleeve/elbow, wash hands frequently, practice social distancing, and stay home from work if you are sick. Stay alert for additional information at <https://www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/covid19> or call The City of Frederick Emergency Public Information Line at 301.600.1300.

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