



**Committee:** Direct to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney  
**Purpose:** To receive testimony/final action - vote expected  
**Keywords:** #COVID19PublicHealthOrder

AGENDA ITEMS 1A & 1B  
March 19, 2021  
**Introduction/Public  
Hearing/Action**

## SUBJECT

Resolution to adopt a First Amended Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County.

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Rice and Riemer

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr. Travis Gayles, County Health Officer

Dr. Earl Stoddard, Director of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Silvia Kinch, County Attorney's Office

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Whether to continue restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19 that are greater than the Governor's restrictions due to the numbers of infections in the County.
- Whether to update some of the existing restrictions on sports in the current Local Order.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Council sitting as the Board of Health, would introduce a resolution to adopt a First Amended Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County, hold a public hearing on the Regulation, and act on it.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

### This report contains:

Staff Report

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Proposed Board of Health Regulation (showing changes)

©1

Proposed Board of Health Regulation (Clean)

©13

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**MEMORANDUM**

March 18, 2021

TO: County Council

FROM: Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution to adopt Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County.

PURPOSE: Introduction/Public Hearing/Action– Council roll call vote expected

The Council, sitting as the Board of Health, is tentatively scheduled to introduce, hold a public hearing, and act on a First Amended Board of Health Regulation to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in the County on March 19, 2021.

**Background**

Maryland Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency on March 5, 2020, and renewed it on March 17, 2020, April 10, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 3, 2020, July 1, 2020, July 30, 2020, August 10, 2020, September 8, 2020, October 6, 2020, October 29, 2020, November 25, 2020, December 23, 2020, January 21, 2021, and on February 19, 2021 to control and prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 also known as COVID-19 within the state and both the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exist in Maryland.

Each of these Executive Orders authorized the County to issue a local order requiring additional restrictions on businesses, organizations, establishments, facilities (except schools), and individuals to limit exposure to COVID-19 within the County. County Executive Elrich issued a series of Executive Orders pursuant to this authority. The Council approved each of these Executive Orders and adopted each of them, sitting as the Board of Health, as a Board of Health Regulation.

Governor Hogan issued Executive Order No. 21-03-09-01 on March 9, 2021. Executive Order No. 21-03-09-01 removed many restrictions contained in prior Orders and retracted the authority granted to the County by the Governor to issue a Local Order that was more restrictive than the Governor's Order as of March 12, 2021 at 5 p.m. Although the Governor retracted this authority, the Council, sitting as the Board of Health, as independent authority to issue a public health regulation to continue restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the County. Md. Health-General Code Ann. § 3-202(d) provides:

- (d) **Nuisances; disease.** -- In addition to the other powers provided by law and subject to the provisions of this article, each county board of health may adopt and enforce rules and regulations on any nuisance or cause of disease in the county.

Md. Local Government Code Ann. § 10-328 provides the County with the following additional authority:

- (a) **In general.** -- A county may provide for the prevention, abatement, and removal of nuisances.
- (b) **Contagious diseases.** -- A county may provide for the prevention of contagious diseases in the county.
- (c) **Regulation of offensive trades.** -- A county may regulate any place where offensive trades are conducted or that may involve or give rise to unsanitary conditions or conditions detrimental to health.
- (d) **Construction.** -- This title does not affect:
  - (1) any power or duty of the Secretary of Health or the Secretary of the Environment; or
  - (2) any public general law relating to health.

Based on this authority, the Council, sitting as the Board of Health, adopted a Board of Health Regulation in Resolution No. 19-760 on March 12, 2021. The Board of Health Regulation adopted in Resolution No. 19-760 made the following changes from current local restrictions:

1. removed all local restrictions on childcare facilities and therefore require them to follow State requirements;
2. changed maximum capacity to align with fire or other occupancy permit;
3. increased outdoor gatherings to a maximum of 50 persons;
4. increased indoor gatherings to a maximum of 25 persons;
5. removed the 1 person per 200 square feet of space limits;
6. removed the alcohol limits on food service facilities;
7. removed the restriction on buffet service for food service facilities;
8. removed outdoor structure requirements for food service facilities;
9. permitted food courts in malls to operate in the same manner as other food service facilities;
10. increased capacity for religious facilities to 50%;
11. permitted arts and entertainment facilities to open at 25% capacity on March 26, 2021 provided they do not sell or permit food for consumption in the facility;
12. on March 26, 2021, the capacity limits for indoor dining at food service facilities, fitness centers, bowling alleys, escape rooms, museums and art galleries, personal

services facilities, pools, retail establishments, and recreation centers will increase from 25% to 50%;

13. permitted sports events to exceed the limits on the number of persons if a Letter of Approval is obtained; and
14. permitted the number of persons present at a youth hockey event played indoors to match up to 10% of the maximum capacity of the ice rink.

### **The First Amended Board of Health Regulation**

The First Amended Board of Health Regulation would update the guidance for sports. All organized sports played indoors or outdoor would need to obtain a COVID Protocol Plan approved by the Health Officer or the Health Officer's designee. The Plan would need to have a plan for:

1. contact tracing with an attendance tracking sheet that must be completed for all activities conducted;
2. requiring that face coverings be worn per guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics;
3. social distancing with at least 6 feet between all participants to the extent possible; and
4. requiring the use of a student attestation form or COVID-19 Athlete/Coach Monitoring Form at all activities conducted.

An organized youth sports league that was approved to operate under a prior Board of Health Regulation and was not classified as a high risk sport would not need a new COVID Protocol Plan approved for any event that complies with the gathering limits and restrictions of the prior approval. For example, a youth hockey event that was approved under Resolution No. 19-760 adopted on March 12 would fit under this exception.

Sports played outside of an organized league would have to follow social gathering guidelines (50 people maximum for outdoor sports and 25 people maximum for indoor sports). All persons must also use a face covering whenever social distancing is not possible.

### **Future Regulations**

The COVID-19 public health emergency has been a world-wide pandemic for more than one year. The restrictions necessary to limit the community spread of COVID-19 have changed over the past year as the rate of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths has changed. The currently known and available scientific evidence and best practices support continued limitations on large gatherings, increased use of face coverings, and continued social distancing to prevent exposures and transmissions and further mutations of the virus.

As the percentage of County residents are vaccinated against this disease, the community spread should lessen if we continue to practice limiting large gatherings, using face coverings, and socially distancing. The Board of Health and the County Health Officer are committed to continuing to review these regulations on a regular basis with the goal of loosening restrictions as soon as the science supports it. For example, this Regulation would permit high school sports to

resume without spectators. If these events do not result in significant spread of the virus, the Board of Health may consider permitting a limited number of spectators in the near future.

This packet contains:	<u>Circle #</u>
Proposed First Amended Board of Health Resolution showing changes	1
Proposed First Amended Board of Health Resolution (Clean)	13

F:\LAW\Resolutions\Board Of Health\COVID BOH Amendment - Youth Football\Intro-PH-Action Memo.Docx

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
SITTING AS THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Rice and Riemer

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**Subject:** First Amended Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County

Background

1. Lawrence J. Hogan, the Governor of the State of Maryland declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency on March 5, 2020, and renewed on March 17, 2020, April 10, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 3, 2020, July 1, 2020, July 31, 2020, August 10, 2020, September 8, 2020, October 6, 2020, October 29, 2020, November 25, 2020, December 23, 2020, January 21, 2021, and on February 19, 2021 to control and prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 also known as COVID-19 within the state and both the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exist in Maryland.
2. The effects of COVID-19 require that local officials be vigilant in advising all individuals in Montgomery County, Maryland of measures they can take to protect health, safety, and welfare.
3. There are multiple COVID-19 variants with the three primary variants being the United Kingdom variant (known as B.1.1.7) which may be associated with an increased risk of death, the South Africa variant (known as B.1.351); and the Brazil variant (known as P.1).
4. The potential consequences of emerging variants include the ability to: spread more quickly in people; cause milder or more severe disease in people; evade detection by specific diagnostic tests; decreased susceptibility to therapeutic agents such as monoclonal antibodies; and further delay or possibly evade natural or vaccine induced immunity.
5. Montgomery County is the only jurisdiction in Maryland with confirmed cases of all three primary variants.
6. It is imperative to control the community spread of COVID-19 to avoid further mutations which give rise to new variants until such time as a sufficient portion of the population of Montgomery County is inoculated against COVID-19.

7. To date only [18%] 11.8% of the population of Montgomery County has been vaccinated for COVID-19.
8. COVID-19 in Montgomery County has caused disease in Montgomery County which thus far has claimed the lives of [1,390] more than 1400 Montgomery County residents.
9. The currently known and available scientific evidence and best practices support continued limitations on large gatherings, increased use of face coverings, and continued social distancing to prevent exposures and transmissions and further mutations.
10. To reduce the threat to human health caused by transmission of COVID-19 and to protect and save lives, it is necessary and reasonable that individuals in Montgomery County continue to engage in social distancing, use of face coverings, and refrain from congregating in large groups.
11. It continues to be necessary to control and direct the occupancy and use of buildings and premises, as well as places of amusement and assembly within Montgomery County.
12. Due to Montgomery County's large population and the amount of interstate travel between the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, disease can spread faster.
13. On March 9, Director of the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases at the NIH and Chief Medical Advisor for COVID-19 to President Biden, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told the Montgomery County Council "Now is the time to keep our foot on the accelerator with regard to adherence to public health measures, such as masking, physical distancing, and other measures that we know work to protect people from the SARS CoV-2 virus, while we are ramping up efforts to vaccinate as many people as we can as quickly as possible."
14. On March 1, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said, "Please hear me clearly. At this level of cases with variants spreading, we stand to completely lose the hard-earned ground we have gained. These variants are a very real threat to our people and to our progress. Now is not the time to relax the critical safeguards that we know could stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, not when we are so close."
15. Both County Health Officer, Dr. Travis Gayles, and County Director of Emergency Management, Dr. Earl Stoddard, recommended a progressive, staged relaxation of restrictions so officials can disaggregate the data and assess the impact of the relaxation of the restrictions in other jurisdictions before deciding what is safest for the residents of Montgomery County.
16. Pursuant to Md. Code Ann. Local Government §10-328(b) a county may provide for the prevention of contagious diseases in the County.
17. A local Board of Health may, pursuant to Md. Code Ann. Health Gen. §3-202(d), adopt and enforce rules and regulations on any cause of disease in the County.

18. Pursuant to Montgomery County Code 2-65, the County Council is and may act as the County Board of Health.

19. The Council, sitting as the Board of Health, adopted a Board of Health Regulation in Resolution No. 19-760 on March 12, 2021. This Board of Health Regulation would amend Resolution No. 19-760.

[19.] 20. Rule 4(d) of the Council’s Rules of Procedure provide that before the Board of Health adopts a regulation, the Council President must advertise a public hearing in a newspaper circulated throughout the County at least 15 days before the hearing and notify the governing body or chief executive officer of each municipality in the County at least 15 days before the hearing. Rule 4(d) allows the President to waive these notice provisions if a public health emergency requires immediate action. The Council President has waived these notice requirements because of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19.

[20.] 21. The County Council, sitting as the Board of Health, finds after hearing the testimony and other evidence in the record of the public hearing that this public health regulation is necessary to protect the health of County residents.

**Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the County Board of Health, finds that this is an emergency and approves the following regulation amending the regulation adopted by Resolution No. 19-760:



1        1. Definitions.

- 2            a.        “Face Covering” means a covering that fully covers a person’s nose, mouth, and  
3                    chin and is secured to the person’s head, including cloth face coverings, scarves,  
4                    and bandanas. It does not include face covering with a valve; or solely wearing a  
5                    face shield.
- 6            b.        “Fitness Centers” means a fitness center, dance studios, health clubs, health spas,  
7                    gyms, training facilities, ice rinks.
- 8            c.        “Foodservice Establishment” means a restaurant, bars, or other similar  
9                    establishments that sell food or beverages for consumption on-premises in  
10                    Montgomery County and social and fraternal clubs with dining facilities.
- 11           d.        “Maximum Occupancy” means (i) the maximum occupancy load of a facility under  
12                    the applicable fire code or pursuant to applicable laws, regulations, and permits. If  
13                    a facility is not rated for maximum occupancy, a person per square foot option must  
14                    be used to calculate maximum occupancy.
- 15           e.        “Personal Service Establishments” means hair salons, barbershops, and  
16                    establishments that provide tanning, tattoo, waxing, threading, electrolysis,  
17                    cryotherapy, facial and other skin services, massage, and nail technician services.
- 18           f.        “Public Transportation” means shared-ride surface transportation services that are  
19                    open to the general public, including without limitation, taxi services, ride-sharing  
20                    services, car services, and transit services operating within Montgomery County.  
21                    Examples of Public Transportation include, but are not limited, to Ride-On bus  
22                    service, WMATA bus and train service, MARC train service, and Mobility and  
23                    Paratransit services.
- 24           g.        “Religious Facilities” means Churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other  
25                    similar religious facilities of any faith.
- 26           h.        “Social gatherings” means a gathering of persons from more than one household.  
27                    It includes parties, receptions, parades, festivals, conventions, fundraisers,  
28                    community, recreational, leisure, and non-professional sports gatherings and  
29                    events.

30        2. Face Coverings.

- 31           a.        *Requirement to Wear Face Coverings.*

- 32 i. All persons in the County over the age of two (2) years old must wear face  
33 coverings:
  - 34 1. pursuant to State Executive Order [21-03-09-01](#) paragraphs IV.a.i.1  
35 – IV.a.ii;
  - 36 2. at all times in a foodservice establishment unless actively engaged  
37 in eating or drinking; and
  - 38 3. when actively engaged in sports – except as recommended by the  
39 [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).
- 40 b. Exceptions. Paragraph 2.a. does not require persons to wear Face Coverings:
  - 41 i. Pursuant to State Executive Order 21-03-09-01 paragraph IV.b.
- 42 3. General Operating Requirements.
  - 43 a. Unless expressly stated to the contrary, all businesses, organizations,  
44 establishments, and facilities that are permitted to operate under this Order shall:
    - 45 i. require strict adherence to social distancing of greater than 6 feet between:
      - 46 1. employees and customers; and
      - 47 2. individuals or groups of individuals from different households;
    - 48 ii. utilize markings and signage to guide employees and customers;
    - 49 iii. provide employees with guidance and training to reflect updated Centers for  
50 Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidance for their workplace;
    - 51 iv. use CDC and Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) approved  
52 disinfectants to clean spaces daily; and
    - 53 v. require employees to wash their hands hourly.
  - 54 b. All businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities that are permitted to  
55 open shall post signage indicating that they are in compliance with all provisions  
56 of paragraph 3.a of this Order.
- 57 4. Letters of Approval.
  - 58 a. Requests for a Letter of Approval must be submitted a minimum of 5 business days  
59 before the scheduled event. Failure to submit a timely request will result in an  
60 automatic denial of the Letter of Approval.

- 61           b.       Failure to obtain a Letter of Approval prior to proceeding with an event will be  
62                   considered to be a violation of this Order and could subject the requestor, organizer,  
63                   and venue to the appropriate fines and sanctions.
- 64           c.       Any person, organizer, or venue who is found to have held an event without a Letter  
65                   of Approval will be automatically disqualified from receiving a future Letter of  
66                   Approval.

67       5. Gatherings.

- 68           a.       Unless expressly stated in another paragraph of this Order:
- 69                   i.       Outdoor gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited.
- 70                   ii.      Indoor gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited.
- 71                   iii..     The size of the location and venue of any gathering must accommodate  
72                   applicable social distancing for the number of attendees.
- 73                   iv.      If more than one household is present at a gathering each individual present  
74                   at the gathering must be counted for purposes of determining compliance.

75       6. Businesses that May Open.

- 76           a.       *Foodservice Establishments.*
- 77                   i.       Total number of persons permitted in the indoor dining portion of the  
78                   foodservice establishment shall not exceed 25% of the maximum  
79                   occupancy.
- 80                   ii.      Outdoor dining at a foodservice establishment must follow [MDH Order No](#)  
81                   [2021-03-09-01](#) paragraph 2.A.
- 82                   iii.     May resume buffet service pursuant to [MDH Order No 2021-03-09-01](#).
- 83                   iv.      Must require all customers to wear Face Coverings unless actively engaged  
84                   in the act of eating or drinking (e.g. while seated at the table and talking but  
85                   not eating or drinking).
- 86                   v.       Must maintain a daily record of the date, time, name and contact  
87                   information for at least one person for each dining party and maintain the  
88                   daily record for at least 30 days, to assist with contact tracing: date;
- 89                   vi.      Must post signage at each outdoor dining entrance advising customers and  
90                   visitors that:

- 91                   1.     they must comply with the Face Covering requirements at all times  
92                   when they are not actively eating or drinking;
- 93                   2.     they must maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet when waiting  
94                   to be seated; and
- 95                   3.     failure to wear Face Coverings or maintain social distancing may  
96                   result in their being refused service and found to be in violation of  
97                   this order.
- 98           b.     *Cigar Bars/Hookah Bars/Vape Shops.* May open solely to sell retail goods.  
99                   Smoking on site is strictly prohibited.
- 100           c.     *Malls.*
- 101                   i.     Shopping centers with one or more enclosed pedestrian concourses may  
102                   maintain pedestrian concourses and other interior common areas open, but  
103                   solely to the extent necessary for the general public to enter and exit retail  
104                   establishments.
- 105                   ii.    Food courts located inside indoor malls shall follow paragraph 6.a.
- 106                   iii.   Congregating in any indoor area outside of retail stores is prohibited.
- 107                   iv.   Malls shall remove tables, chairs, benches, or any other items which could  
108                   encourage congregating from indoor areas outside of retail stores.
- 109           d.     *Religious Facilities.*
- 110                   i.     The total number of persons permitted in a religious facility may not exceed  
111                   50% of the facility's maximum occupancy.
- 112                   ii.    Occupancy numbers shall include faith leaders, volunteers, and  
113                   congregants.
- 114                   iii.   Must follow spacing, screening, cleaning, and music guidelines as stated in  
115                   the County's [Religious Facilities Reopening](#) page.
- 116           e.     *Sports.*
- 117                   i.     [Sports are categorized by level of risk pursuant to the [Maryland Sports](#)  
118                   [Commission Return to Play Report](#) with the following exceptions:
- 119                             1.     solo kayaking/canoeing is considered to be low risk;
- 120                             2.     tandem kayaking/canoeing is considered to be low risk if  
121                             participants are from the same household.]

122 Except as provided in paragraph 6(e)(vii), all organized youth sports may  
123 be played either indoors or outdoors only after a COVID Protocol Plan is  
124 approved by the County Health Officer or the Officer's designee. The Plan  
125 must align with guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and  
126 Prevention (CDC), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and  
127 Montgomery County, and include a plan for;

- 128 1. contact tracing with an attendance tracking sheet that must be  
129 completed for all activities conducted;
- 130 2. requiring that face coverings be worn per guidelines from the  
131 American Academy of Pediatrics;
- 132 3. social distancing with at least 6 feet between all participants to the  
133 extent possible; and
- 134 4. requiring the use of a student attestation form or COVID-19  
135 Athlete/Coach Monitoring Form at all activities conducted.

136 Although voluntary, regular testing should be part of the COVID Protocol  
137 Plan.

138 ii. [Rented sport equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected  
139 pursuant to CDC guidelines using EPA approved cleaners and disinfectants  
140 between usage.

141 iii.] A Letter of Approval must be obtained before any tournaments,  
142 championships, or events are held in Montgomery County that are expected  
143 to exceed guidelines.

144 [iv.] iii. All organized sports played in the County must comply with the  
145 gathering guidelines described in paragraph 6(e)(i), including limiting the  
146 participating athletes to those listed on the official roster as determined  
147 through the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association  
148 (MPSSAA) or the organization's governing body or league, coaches, and  
149 up to 12 additional participants acting in an official game capacity.

150 iv. Sports played outside of an organized league must follow [outdoor] social  
151 gathering guidelines and all persons must comply with the State mandate to  
152 use a face covering whenever social distancing is not an option. [and the]

153                    The total number of people present for outdoor sports played outside of an  
154                    organized league is limited to 50 and the total number of people present for  
155                    indoor sports played outside of an organized league is limited to 25. [This  
156                    includes staff, coaches, players, and any parents, guardians, or immediate  
157                    family. The 50 person limit may be exceeded for youth sports played  
158                    outdoors if a Letter of Approval is obtained before the event is held.]

159                    [v. Except for youth hockey, sports played inside must follow the indoor  
160                    gathering guidelines and the total number of people present is limited to 25.  
161                    This includes staff, coaches, players, and any parents, guardians, or  
162                    immediate family. The 25 person limit may be exceeded for youth sports  
163                    played indoors if a Letter of Approval is obtained before the event is held.  
164                    The total number of persons present for youth hockey played indoors must  
165                    not exceed 10% of the maximum occupancy for the ice rink facility.]

166                    [vi.] v. Play and games with teams from outside of Maryland, Virginia, or  
167                    the District of Columbia is prohibited.

168                    [vii.] vi. Sports may not open to the general public or spectators. [Parents,  
169                    guardians, and immediate family of players may spectate provided they  
170                    maintain the appropriate social distancing of greater than 6 feet between  
171                    non-family members and the total number of individuals present does not  
172                    exceed the applicable gathering size limit.]

173                    vii. An organized youth sports league that was approved to operate under a prior  
174                    Board of Health Regulation and was not classified as a high risk sport does  
175                    not need a new COVID Protocol Plan approved for any event that complies  
176                    with the gathering limits and restrictions of the prior approval.

177                    [viii. Low risk and medium risk sports may engage in practice, scrimmage,  
178                    games, matches, and competition.]

179                    [ix. High risk sports:

180                    1. may only engage in no-contact skills-building and drills; and

181                    2. may not engage in scrimmages, games, matches, and competitions.]

182                    7. Businesses that may open at 25% Maximum Occupancy.

183                    a. *Fitness Centers.*

- 184 i. Fitness Centers that provide sport-specific training for high-risk sports as  
185 defined in [Maryland Sports Commission Return to Play Report](#) must follow  
186 the restrictions in paragraph 6.e above.
- 187 b. *Bowling Alleys.*
- 188 i. all equipment (balls, shoes, etc.) and spaces (lanes, tables, seats) must be  
189 cleaned between each person(s) or group's use with CDC and EPA  
190 approved cleaners; and
- 191 ii. any foodservice establishment located within the bowling alley must follow  
192 paragraph 6 of this Order.
- 193 c. *Escape Rooms.*
- 194 i. Only private games of a maximum of 6 people all permitted.
- 195 ii. All games are by appointment only and must be staggered so as to prevent  
196 patrons from interacting with others outside of their group.
- 197 iii. Before and after each game, all items in game rooms and items provided to  
198 patrons (including but not limited to lock, props, and any touchable  
199 surfaces) must be thoroughly cleaned using CDC and EPA approved  
200 disinfectants.
- 201 d. *Museums and Art Galleries.*
- 202 i. Exhibits requiring contact (for example "please touch" exhibits or other  
203 interactive displays) must remain closed.
- 204 e. *Personal Services.*
- 205 i. Staff are required to wear gloves, and any other Personal Protective  
206 Equipment as appropriate to their workplace and provided service.
- 207 f. *Pools.*
- 208 i. Must strictly comply with any guidance issued by DHHS.
- 209 g. *Retail Establishments.*
- 210 i. Employees must use any additional Personal Protective Equipment as  
211 appropriate to their workplace.
- 212 h. *Recreation Centers.*

- 213 8. Other Businesses, Organizations, Establishments, and Facilities that may open on March  
214 26, 2021 at 25% capacity provided they do not sell or permit food for consumption at the  
215 facility.
- 216 a. *Amusement parks.* Including stand-alone types, such as, but not limited to merry-  
217 go-rounds and roller coasters.
- 218 b. *Bingo halls.*
- 219 c. *Go-kart tracks.*
- 220 d. *Roller skating rinks.*
- 221 e. *Social Clubs.*
- 222 f. *Theaters.* This Order controls the occupancy and use of theatres in Montgomery  
223 County at which live performances occur or motion pictures are shown  
224 (“Theaters”).
- 225 g. *Trampoline Parks.*
- 226 h. Any other establishment not listed above that is subject to the admission and  
227 amusement tax under Title 4 of the Tax-General Article of the Maryland Code.
- 228 9. Capacity Limits on March 26, 2021. The 25% capacity limits imposed for facilities in  
229 paragraphs 6a and 7 above are raised to 50% of capacity on March 26, 2021.
- 230 10. Minimal Operations. Staff and owners may continue to be on-site at any business,  
231 organization, establishment, or facility that is required to be closed pursuant to this Order  
232 only for the following purposes:
- 233 a. Facilitating remote working (a/k/a/ telework) by other staff;
- 234 b. Maintaining essential property;
- 235 c. Preventing loss of, or damage to property, including without limitation, preventing  
236 spoilage of perishable inventory;
- 237 d. Performing essential administrative functions, including without limitation, picking  
238 up mail and processing payroll; and
- 239 e. Caring for live animals.
- 240 11. This Order must be enforced by any County department or agency that has authority over  
241 the subject matter of any particular provision and the Montgomery County Police  
242 Department.
- 243 12. Applicability. This regulation applies Countywide.



244 13. Severability. If the application of this regulation or any part of it to any facts or  
245 circumstances is held invalid, the rest of the regulation and its application to all other facts  
246 and circumstances is intended to remain in effect.

247 14. Effective Date. This regulation takes effect on [March 12, 2021] March 19, 2021 at 5 p.m.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq., Clerk of the Council

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
SITTING AS THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Rice and Riemer

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**Subject:** First Amended Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County

Background

1. Lawrence J. Hogan, the Governor of the State of Maryland declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency on March 5, 2020, and renewed on March 17, 2020, April 10, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 3, 2020, July 1, 2020, July 31, 2020, August 10, 2020, September 8, 2020, October 6, 2020, October 29, 2020, November 25, 2020, December 23, 2020, January 21, 2021, and on February 19, 2021 to control and prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 also known as COVID-19 within the state and both the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exist in Maryland.
2. The effects of COVID-19 require that local officials be vigilant in advising all individuals in Montgomery County, Maryland of measures they can take to protect health, safety, and welfare.
3. There are multiple COVID-19 variants with the three primary variants being the United Kingdom variant (known as B.1.1.7) which may be associated with an increased risk of death, the South Africa variant (known as B.1.351); and the Brazil variant (known as P.1).
4. The potential consequences of emerging variants include the ability to: spread more quickly in people; cause milder or more severe disease in people; evade detection by specific diagnostic tests; decreased susceptibility to therapeutic agents such as monoclonal antibodies; and further delay or possibly evade natural or vaccine induced immunity.
5. Montgomery County is the only jurisdiction in Maryland with confirmed cases of all three primary variants.
6. It is imperative to control the community spread of COVID-19 to avoid further mutations which give rise to new variants until such time as a sufficient portion of the population of Montgomery County is inoculated against COVID-19.

7. To date only 11.8% of the population of Montgomery County has been vaccinated for COVID-19.
8. COVID-19 in Montgomery County has caused disease in Montgomery County which thus far has claimed the lives of more than 1400 Montgomery County residents.
9. The currently known and available scientific evidence and best practices support continued limitations on large gatherings, increased use of face coverings, and continued social distancing to prevent exposures and transmissions and further mutations.
10. To reduce the threat to human health caused by transmission of COVID-19 and to protect and save lives, it is necessary and reasonable that individuals in Montgomery County continue to engage in social distancing, use of face coverings, and refrain from congregating in large groups.
11. It continues to be necessary to control and direct the occupancy and use of buildings and premises, as well as places of amusement and assembly within Montgomery County.
12. Due to Montgomery County's large population and the amount of interstate travel between the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, disease can spread faster.
13. On March 9, Director of the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases at the NIH and Chief Medical Advisor for COVID-19 to President Biden, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told the Montgomery County Council "Now is the time to keep our foot on the accelerator with regard to adherence to public health measures, such as masking, physical distancing, and other measures that we know work to protect people from the SARS CoV-2 virus, while we are ramping up efforts to vaccinate as many people as we can as quickly as possible."
14. On March 1, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said, "Please hear me clearly. At this level of cases with variants spreading, we stand to completely lose the hard-earned ground we have gained. These variants are a very real threat to our people and to our progress. Now is not the time to relax the critical safeguards that we know could stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, not when we are so close."
15. Both County Health Officer, Dr. Travis Gayles, and County Director of Emergency Management, Dr. Earl Stoddard, recommended a progressive, staged relaxation of restrictions so officials can disaggregate the data and assess the impact of the relaxation of the restrictions in other jurisdictions before deciding what is safest for the residents of Montgomery County.
16. Pursuant to Md. Code Ann. Local Government §10-328(b) a county may provide for the prevention of contagious diseases in the County.
17. A local Board of Health may, pursuant to Md. Code Ann. Health Gen. §3-202(d), adopt and enforce rules and regulations on any cause of disease in the County.

18. Pursuant to Montgomery County Code 2-65, the County Council is and may act as the County Board of Health.
19. The Council, sitting as the Board of Health, adopted a Board of Health Regulation in Resolution No. 19-760 on March 12, 2021. This Board of Health Regulation would amend Resolution No. 19-760.
20. Rule 4(d) of the Council's Rules of Procedure provide that before the Board of Health adopts a regulation, the Council President must advertise a public hearing in a newspaper circulated throughout the County at least 15 days before the hearing and notify the governing body or chief executive officer of each municipality in the County at least 15 days before the hearing. Rule 4(d) allows the President to waive these notice provisions if a public health emergency requires immediate action. The Council President has waived these notice requirements because of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19.
21. The County Council, sitting as the Board of Health, finds after hearing the testimony and other evidence in the record of the public hearing that this public health regulation is necessary to protect the health of County residents.

### **Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the County Board of Health, finds that this is an emergency and approves the following regulation amending the regulation adopted by Resolution No. 19-760:

1       1. Definitions.

- 2           a.       “Face Covering” means a covering that fully covers a person’s nose, mouth, and  
3                   chin and is secured to the person’s head, including cloth face coverings, scarves,  
4                   and bandanas. It does not include face covering with a valve; or solely wearing a  
5                   face shield.
- 6           b.       “Fitness Centers” means a fitness center, dance studios, health clubs, health spas,  
7                   gyms, training facilities, ice rinks.
- 8           c.       “Foodservice Establishment” means a restaurant, bars, or other similar  
9                   establishments that sell food or beverages for consumption on-premises in  
10                  Montgomery County and social and fraternal clubs with dining facilities.
- 11          d.       “Maximum Occupancy” means (i) the maximum occupancy load of a facility under  
12                  the applicable fire code or pursuant to applicable laws, regulations, and permits. If  
13                  a facility is not rated for maximum occupancy, a person per square foot option must  
14                  be used to calculate maximum occupancy.
- 15          e.       “Personal Service Establishments” means hair salons, barbershops, and  
16                  establishments that provide tanning, tattoo, waxing, threading, electrolysis,  
17                  cryotherapy, facial and other skin services, massage, and nail technician services.
- 18          f.       “Public Transportation” means shared-ride surface transportation services that are  
19                  open to the general public, including without limitation, taxi services, ride-sharing  
20                  services, car services, and transit services operating within Montgomery County.  
21                  Examples of Public Transportation include, but are not limited, to Ride-On bus  
22                  service, WMATA bus and train service, MARC train service, and Mobility and  
23                  Paratransit services.
- 24          g.       “Religious Facilities” means Churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other  
25                  similar religious facilities of any faith.
- 26          h.       “Social gatherings” means a gathering of persons from more than one household.  
27                  It includes parties, receptions, parades, festivals, conventions, fundraisers,  
28                  community, recreational, leisure, and non-professional sports gatherings and  
29                  events.

30       2. Face Coverings.

- 31          a.       *Requirement to Wear Face Coverings.*

- 32 i. All persons in the County over the age of two (2) years old must wear face  
33 coverings:
- 34 1. pursuant to State Executive Order [21-03-09-01](#) paragraphs IV.a.i.1  
35 – IV.a.ii;
- 36 2. at all times in a foodservice establishment unless actively engaged  
37 in eating or drinking; and
- 38 3. when actively engaged in sports – except as recommended by the  
39 [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).
- 40 b. Exceptions. Paragraph 2.a. does not require persons to wear Face Coverings:
- 41 i. Pursuant to State Executive Order 21-03-09-01 paragraph IV.b.
- 42 3. General Operating Requirements.
- 43 a. Unless expressly stated to the contrary, all businesses, organizations,  
44 establishments, and facilities that are permitted to operate under this Order shall:
- 45 i. require strict adherence to social distancing of greater than 6 feet between:
- 46 1. employees and customers; and
- 47 2. individuals or groups of individuals from different households;
- 48 ii. utilize markings and signage to guide employees and customers;
- 49 iii. provide employees with guidance and training to reflect updated Centers for  
50 Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidance for their workplace;
- 51 iv. use CDC and Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) approved  
52 disinfectants to clean spaces daily; and
- 53 v. require employees to wash their hands hourly.
- 54 b. All businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities that are permitted to  
55 open shall post signage indicating that they are in compliance with all provisions  
56 of paragraph 3.a of this Order.
- 57 4. Letters of Approval.
- 58 a. Requests for a Letter of Approval must be submitted a minimum of 5 business days  
59 before the scheduled event. Failure to submit a timely request will result in an  
60 automatic denial of the Letter of Approval.

- 61           b.       Failure to obtain a Letter of Approval prior to proceeding with an event will be  
62                   considered to be a violation of this Order and could subject the requestor, organizer,  
63                   and venue to the appropriate fines and sanctions.
- 64           c.       Any person, organizer, or venue who is found to have held an event without a Letter  
65                   of Approval will be automatically disqualified from receiving a future Letter of  
66                   Approval.

67       5. Gatherings.

- 68           a.       Unless expressly stated in another paragraph of this Order:
- 69                   i.       Outdoor gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited.
- 70                   ii.      Indoor gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited.
- 71                   iii..     The size of the location and venue of any gathering must accommodate  
72                   applicable social distancing for the number of attendees.
- 73                   iv.      If more than one household is present at a gathering each individual present  
74                   at the gathering must be counted for purposes of determining compliance.

75       6. Businesses that May Open.

- 76           a.       *Foodservice Establishments.*
- 77                   i.       Total number of persons permitted in the indoor dining portion of the  
78                   foodservice establishment shall not exceed 25% of the maximum  
79                   occupancy.
- 80                   ii.      Outdoor dining at a foodservice establishment must follow [MDH Order No](#)  
81                   [2021-03-09-01](#) paragraph 2.A.
- 82                   iii.     May resume buffet service pursuant to [MDH Order No 2021-03-09-01](#).
- 83                   iv.      Must require all customers to wear Face Coverings unless actively engaged  
84                   in the act of eating or drinking (e.g. while seated at the table and talking but  
85                   not eating or drinking).
- 86                   v.       Must maintain a daily record of the date, time, name and contact  
87                   information for at least one person for each dining party and maintain the  
88                   daily record for at least 30 days, to assist with contact tracing: date;
- 89                   vi.      Must post signage at each outdoor dining entrance advising customers and  
90                   visitors that:

- 91                   1.     they must comply with the Face Covering requirements at all times
- 92                   when they are not actively eating or drinking;
- 93                   2.     they must maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet when waiting
- 94                   to be seated; and
- 95                   3.     failure to wear Face Coverings or maintain social distancing may
- 96                   result in their being refused service and found to be in violation of
- 97                   this order.
- 98           b.     *Cigar Bars/Hookah Bars/Vape Shops.* May open solely to sell retail goods.
- 99                   Smoking on site is strictly prohibited.
- 100           c.     *Malls.*
- 101                   i.     Shopping centers with one or more enclosed pedestrian concourses may
- 102                   maintain pedestrian concourses and other interior common areas open, but
- 103                   solely to the extent necessary for the general public to enter and exit retail
- 104                   establishments.
- 105                   ii.    Food courts located inside indoor malls shall follow paragraph 6.a.
- 106                   iii.   Congregating in any indoor area outside of retail stores is prohibited.
- 107                   iv.    Malls shall remove tables, chairs, benches, or any other items which could
- 108                   encourage congregating from indoor areas outside of retail stores.
- 109           d.     *Religious Facilities.*
- 110                   i.     The total number of persons permitted in a religious facility may not exceed
- 111                   50% of the facility’s maximum occupancy.
- 112                   ii.    Occupancy numbers shall include faith leaders, volunteers, and
- 113                   congregants.
- 114                   iii.   Must follow spacing, screening, cleaning, and music guidelines as stated in
- 115                   the County’s [Religious Facilities Reopening](#) page.
- 116           e.     *Sports.*
- 117                   i.     Except as provided in paragraph 6(e)(vii), all organized youth sports may
- 118                   be played either indoors or outdoors only after a COVID Protocol Plan is
- 119                   approved by the County Health Officer or the Officer’s designee. The Plan
- 120                   must align with guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and



- 121 Prevention (CDC), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and  
122 Montgomery County, and include a plan for;
- 123 1. contact tracing with an attendance tracking sheet that must be  
124 completed for all activities conducted;
  - 125 2. requiring that face coverings be worn per guidelines from the  
126 American Academy of Pediatrics;
  - 127 3. social distancing with at least 6 feet between all participants to the  
128 extent possible; and
  - 129 4. requiring the use of a student attestation form or COVID-19  
130 Athlete/Coach Monitoring Form at all activities conducted.
- 131 Although voluntary, regular testing should be part of the COVID Protocol  
132 Plan.
- 133 ii. A Letter of Approval must be obtained before any tournaments,  
134 championships, or events are held in Montgomery County that are expected  
135 to exceed guidelines.
  - 136 iii. All organized sports played in the County must comply with the gathering  
137 guidelines described in paragraph 6(e)(i), including limiting the  
138 participating athletes to those listed on the official roster as determined  
139 through the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association  
140 (MPSSAA) or the organization's governing body or league, coaches, and  
141 up to 12 additional participants acting in an official game capacity.
  - 142 iv. Sports played outside of an organized league must follow social gathering  
143 guidelines and all persons must comply with the State mandate to use a face  
144 covering whenever social distancing is not an option. The total number of  
145 people present for outdoor sports played outside of an organized league is  
146 limited to 50 and the total number of people present for indoor sports played  
147 outside of an organized league is limited to 25.
  - 148 v. Play and games with teams from outside of Maryland, Virginia, or the  
149 District of Columbia is prohibited.
  - 150 vi. Sports may not open to the general public or spectators.

151                   vii.     An organized youth sports league that was approved to operate under a prior  
152                             Board of Health Regulation and was not classified as a high risk sport does  
153                             not need a new COVID Protocol Plan approved for any event that complies  
154                             with the gathering limits and restrictions of the prior approval.

155     7. Businesses that may open at 25% Maximum Occupancy.

156           a.     *Fitness Centers.*

157                   i.     Fitness Centers that provide sport-specific training for high-risk sports as  
158                             defined in [Maryland Sports Commission Return to Play Report](#) must follow  
159                             the restrictions in paragraph 6.e above.

160           b.     *Bowling Alleys.*

161                   i.     all equipment (balls, shoes, etc.) and spaces (lanes, tables, seats) must be  
162                             cleaned between each person(s) or group's use with CDC and EPA  
163                             approved cleaners; and  
164                             ii.    any foodservice establishment located within the bowling alley must follow  
165                             paragraph 6 of this Order.

166           c.     *Escape Rooms.*

167                   i.     Only private games of a maximum of 6 people all permitted.  
168                             ii.    All games are by appointment only and must be staggered so as to prevent  
169                             patrons from interacting with others outside of their group.  
170                             iii.   Before and after each game, all items in game rooms and items provided to  
171                             patrons (including but not limited to lock, props, and any touchable  
172                             surfaces) must be thoroughly cleaned using CDC and EPA approved  
173                             disinfectants.

174           d.     *Museums and Art Galleries.*

175                   i.     Exhibits requiring contact (for example "please touch" exhibits or other  
176                             interactive displays) must remain closed.

177           e.     *Personal Services.*

178                   i.     Staff are required to wear gloves, and any other Personal Protective  
179                             Equipment as appropriate to their workplace and provided service.

180           f.     *Pools.*

181                   i.     Must strictly comply with any guidance issued by DHHS.

- 182 g. *Retail Establishments.*
- 183 i. Employees must use any additional Personal Protective Equipment as
- 184 appropriate to their workplace.
- 185 h. *Recreation Centers.*
- 186 8. Other Businesses, Organizations, Establishments, and Facilities that may open on March
- 187 26, 2021 at 25% capacity provided they do not sell or permit food for consumption at the
- 188 facility.
- 189 a. *Amusement parks.* Including stand-alone types, such as, but not limited to merry-
- 190 go-rounds and roller coasters.
- 191 b. *Bingo halls.*
- 192 c. *Go-kart tracks.*
- 193 d. *Roller skating rinks.*
- 194 e. *Social Clubs.*
- 195 f. *Theaters.* This Order controls the occupancy and use of theatres in Montgomery
- 196 County at which live performances occur or motion pictures are shown
- 197 (“Theaters”).
- 198 g. *Trampoline Parks.*
- 199 h. Any other establishment not listed above that is subject to the admission and
- 200 amusement tax under Title 4 of the Tax-General Article of the Maryland Code.
- 201 9. Capacity Limits on March 26, 2021. The 25% capacity limits imposed for facilities in
- 202 paragraphs 6a and 7 above are raised to 50% of capacity on March 26, 2021.
- 203 10. Minimal Operations. Staff and owners may continue to be on-site at any business,
- 204 organization, establishment, or facility that is required to be closed pursuant to this Order
- 205 only for the following purposes:
- 206 a. Facilitating remote working (a/k/a/ telework) by other staff;
- 207 b. Maintaining essential property;
- 208 c. Preventing loss of, or damage to property, including without limitation, preventing
- 209 spoilage of perishable inventory;
- 210 d. Performing essential administrative functions, including without limitation, picking
- 211 up mail and processing payroll; and
- 212 e. Caring for live animals.

- 213 11. This Order must be enforced by any County department or agency that has authority over  
214 the subject matter of any particular provision and the Montgomery County Police  
215 Department.
- 216 12. Applicability. This regulation applies Countywide.
- 217 13. Severability. If the application of this regulation or any part of it to any facts or  
218 circumstances is held invalid, the rest of the regulation and its application to all other facts  
219 and circumstances is intended to remain in effect.
- 220 14. Effective Date. This regulation takes effect on March 19, 2021 at 5 p.m.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq., Clerk of the Council