



Community & Economic Development

Advancing the Economy, Image and Quality of Life

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN
Department of Community & Economic Development

COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Last Updated 03/22/21



The City of Hagerstown Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) will be updating this “**Business Resources” Guide** frequently as information changes and as new information becomes available.

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SCHEDULE A VIRTUAL MEETING

Please contact DCED staff if you would like schedule a meeting or talk through program options.

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TOGETHER WE RISE

The City of Hagerstown Department of Community & Economic Development is a collaborative partner in the **Together We Rise** platform for response, recovery and rebuilding. Businesses are encouraged to also visit the [Together We Rise website](#) for information and resources.



SECTION 1 – VACCINE INFORMATION

State of Maryland Vaccine Information

- Website provides current vaccine phase, eligibility by phases, information about how and where to get the vaccine, dashboard statistics and more.
- Provides link to Pre-registration at a mass vaccination site
- Provides a tool to search for hospitals, local health departments and pharmacies that are also offering the vaccine.
- [Learn more at this website.](#)

Washington County Vaccine Information

- Website provides current vaccine phase, eligibility by phases, information about how and where to get the vaccine, dashboard statistics and more.
- [Learn more at this website.](#)

Hagerstown & Washington County Mass Vaccination Location

- A mass vaccination site is scheduled to begin Thursday, 3/25/21 at the Hagerstown Premium Outlets.
 - Eligible individuals may [pre-register at this website.](#)
 - The website states: “Your information will be added to the COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration list. The pre-registration list will allow us to contact you when you are eligible to schedule an appointment at one of our Mass Vaccination Site locations.”
 - The website stresses: “Pre-registration does not schedule an appointment for you to get a vaccine, it is just the first step in the process. This is not a first come, first served list.”
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SECTION 2 – UTILITIES AND CITY SERVICES

Utility Information

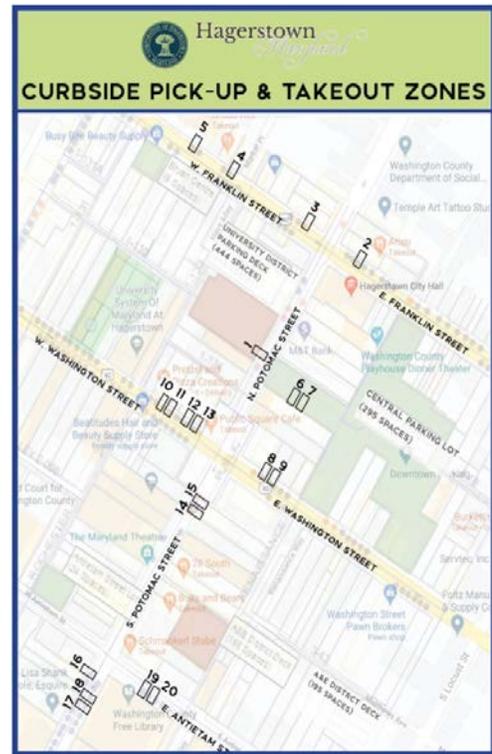
- Late fees resumed being charged on March 22, 2021.
- Customers with questions their electric, water, or wastewater serviced by the City of Hagerstown can [learn more at this website.](#) The website also provides links to assistance programs.
- Potomac Edison customers can [learn more at this website.](#)
- Customers can make payments online, over the phone (fee free), or via the City Hall drop box on Franklin Street. If you need to schedule a move, make payment arrangements, or inquire about an account can email customerservice@hagerstownmd.org or by calling 301-790-4160.
- The [Washington County Community Action Council](#) (CAC) is one provider that is available to help with utility payment assistance for eligible clients.

Code Administration Virtual Inspections

- Virtual inspections are offered for some occupied residential properties
- Customers must be Wi-Fi/4G wireless device and a device with a webcam
- Google Duo or FaceTime is required
- [Learn more at this website](#) and download [PDF Handout.](#)

Curbside Parking Information

- Customers can safely support Hagerstown business owners during COVID by placing an order for takeout and/or curbside pick-up.
- There are 25 designated curbside parking zones downtown. Parking is free for 10 minutes and subject to enforcement after 30 minutes.
- Look for a bright blue sign on a meter from East Franklin Street to South Potomac Street, or check the map below to find the location closest to your business or destination.
- [Learn more at this website](#) and download a [PDF Map Handout](#).



SECTION 3 – TAX INFORMATION

Federal Tax Deadline

- The 2020 Federal tax deadline is on April 15, 2021
- Deadline to file for those requesting an extension on their 2020 tax returns is October 15, 2021
- Find additional IRS guidance [at this website](#) and Coronavirus tax relief information [at this website](#).

State of Maryland Tax Deadline

- The 2020 State tax deadline has been extended for certain filers to July 15, 2021.
- [Learn more at this website](#).
- For more information on Maryland taxes see [Maryland Comptroller](#) and [Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation \(SDAT\)](#).

MARYLAND RELIEF Act of 2021

- Governor Larry Hogan has introduced the RELIEF Act of 2021, an emergency stimulus and tax relief package that will provide more than \$1 billion for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more at this website](#).
 - SALES TAX CREDITS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES - The RELIEF Act makes a \$200 million commitment to supporting small businesses with sales tax credits of up to \$3,000 per month for three months—for a total of up to \$9,000.

- UNEMPLOYMENT TAX RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES -An employer’s 2021 tax rate will be calculated based on their non-pandemic experience by excluding the 2020 fiscal year, and instead by using the last three fiscal years of 2017, 2018, and 2019.
 - COVID-19 LOAN AND GRANT FORGIVENESS - The RELIEF Act’s loan and grant forgiveness plan would safeguard Maryland business owners against any tax increase triggered by the use of state loan or grant funds.
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SECTION 4 – EMPLOYER AND WORKER ASSISTANCE

Maryland Department of Labor – Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation Financial Relief Guide for Marylanders

- This financial relief guide is intended for Maryland residents and their families.
- Guide covers: Federal Stimulus Payments; Mortgage Payments & Foreclosures; Rental Evictions; Student Loans; Automobile, Mobile Home & Personal Loans; Collections & Garnishment; Credit Reporting; Income Taxes; Insurance Coverage & Payments; Utility Phone & Internet Service; Additional Consumer Assistance & Resources; Regulatory & Consumer Protection Agencies
- [Learn more at this website](#) and download [PDF Guide Handout](#).

Maryland Department of Labor – Maryland Unemployment Insurance Division Information for Employers and Employees

- [Maryland Unemployment Insurance Division Website](#)
- BEACON 2.0 – Application Portal – Three different website based on type of applicant.
For Claimants – [Learn more at this website](#).
For Employers – [Learn more at this website](#).
For Third Party Agents – [Learn more at this website](#).
- The Maryland Unemployment Insurance Division Website provides information about:
 - Fraudulent Unemployment Insurance Activity – what to do if you believe your information and your employees’ information has been used to fraudulently file an unemployment insurance claim
 - Unemployment Insurance Taxes and 1099-G IRS Form – forms that employees who collected unemployment benefits in 2020 will need as benefits are subject to federal and state income tax.
 - The Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act – legislation that provides additional federal unemployment benefits.
 - Triggered Off Extended Benefits or EB Program – notification to Maryland that the final benefit week of Extended Benefits or EB Program was the week ending December 12, 2020
 - Access to the BEACON 2.0 Unemployment Insurance Portal, Portal User Guide and Glossary, Mobile App, Tutorial Videos, Contacts for Help.
 - Important Contact Information and Links for Claimants and Employers
 - Frequently Asked Questions
 - COVID-19 Work Search Exemption – a temporary exemption from the work search requirement for individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

Maryland Department of Labor – Unemployment Insurance Bulk Claims

- Any employer with 25 or more employees who will be impacted by a coronavirus-related layoff or shutdown may use this service.
- Eliminates need for employer to complete a “Request for Separation Notice” for each employee.
- Satisfies employer’s part only, and employees still need to file a claim and file subsequent webcerts/telecerts.
- Businesses start by emailing UI.BulkClaim@Maryland.gov or if can’t email, call 410-853-1700
- [Learn more at this website.](#)

Maryland Department of Labor - Work Shares Program

- The Work Shares Program provides a way for businesses to avoid layoffs
- Provides the gap funding for employees created by reducing wages
- Employer is able to retain employee groups by reducing hours of work by a percentage equal to a layoff
- Work Shares Program helps pay for lost hours for each employee
- [Learn more at this website.](#)

Maryland Department of Labor – Office of Small Business Regulatory Assistance (OSBRA)

- Assists businesses with compliance to and adoption of regulations, such as the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, commonly referred to as Sick and Safe Leave.
- Facilitates responsiveness of state government to small business needs
- Serves as central clearinghouse of information for business assistance programs and services available in the state
- Helps resolve problems, move through regulations and compliance procedures, remove barriers, provide resources and connect with other state agencies.
- Email osbra.inquiry@maryland.gov or call 410-230-610.
- [Learn more at this website.](#)

Maryland Commerce Department Q&A

- Maryland Commerce has developed an extensive Questions & Answer Document.
- Learn more at this website and download the [PDF Q&A Handout](#).

The Maryland Insurance Administration

- [COVID-19 Resources Website](#)
- Provides important FAQs, business resources, health information, and property and casualty information.

U.S. Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Division

- [COVID-19 and the American Workplace Website](#)
- The requirement that employers provide paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave under the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)** expired on December 31, 2020.
- Learn more about workers’ and employers’ rights and responsibilities after this date. [Learn more.](#)

SECTION 5 – WORKPLACE GUIDANCE WEBSITES AND PUBLICATIONS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [Workplaces & Businesses Website](#)
- Provides guidance for employers, workers, essential services sector and specific industries. Includes guidance, fact sheets and tools for many industries and occupations including restaurants and bars, manufacturing, construction and more.
- For all Employers - [Guidance for Businesses & Employers](#)

U.S Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

- [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Website](#)
 - Provides guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace, Hazard Recognition, Control and Prevention; Preparing Workplaces and Returning to Work. Also provides information by industry and topic.
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SECTION 6 – ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS, DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MD MEP)

- The Maryland Manufacturing Network Supplier Portal allows buyers to search for suppliers who represent they possess the capability to produce PPE and other critical Items related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Form for manufacturers or suppliers that have the skills, capability and capacity to quickly produce PPE.
- [Learn more at this website.](#)

Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland

- **Maryland Made to Save Lives directory** lists Maryland manufacturing companies that make components, technologies, materials and products needed to fight COVID-19.
- View the list/add your business to the list.
- [Learn more at this website.](#)

Maryland Emergency Management Agency

- Vendors wishing to contract with the State of Maryland to lease, manufacture or supply goods or services, please contact resource.mema@maryland.gov.
- Volunteers: MEMA will be the point of contact for LARGE Corporate Volunteers. Those wishing to volunteer large groups of staff and or a multi-jurisdiction statewide scale should send mail to ngs.mema@Maryland.gov.
- One volunteer opportunity is the [Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps](#).
- For charities or community organizations that need help, email ngs.mema@maryland.gov.
- To find even more ways Marylanders can help, [visit Maryland Unites](#).
- To Request Emergency Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the State Government – email request.mema@maryland.gov

- To Volunteer or Make Donations to the State Government – email ngs.mema@maryland.gov or [Learn more at this website.](#)

Hospitality for Hope Initiative by the America Hotel and Lodging Association

- The American Hotel and Lodging Association has created the Hospitality for Hope Initiative to boost collaboration between the hotel industry and local, state and federal governments to help employees and communities during the crisis.
 - The program includes matching hotels properties with the needs of health community.
 - [Learn more at this website.](#)
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