



KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



COUNTY OF KENT

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STATE OF MARYLAND

KENT COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW STAGE ONE REOPENINGS

May 29, 2020- On Wednesday, Governor Larry Hogan announced that due to successful Stage One reopenings across the state and improvements in key data and metrics, the State of Maryland can now move forward with the completion of Stage One of the 'Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery,' which includes the resumption of outdoor dining and outdoor activities such as youth sports and youth day camps, and the reopening of outdoor pools and drive-in movie theaters.

Effective today, Friday, May 29, at 5:00 pm, the following changes will be in effect in Kent County:

OUTDOOR DINING. Restaurants as well as social organizations such as American Legions, VFWs, and Elks Clubs will be able to begin safely reopening for outdoor dining following strict public health requirements consistent with the CDC, FDA, and the National Restaurant Association. Restaurants must:

- Ensure patrons are appropriately distanced with no more than six people seated at a table, with the exception of members of the same household.
- Ensure patrons are seated at least six feet away from each other, except for households seated together.
- Use single-use disposable paper menus or sanitize reusable menus between each seating.
- Sanitize outdoor tables and chairs between each customer seating.
- Train staff in current COVID-19 health and workplace guidelines.
- Begin screening procedures including daily temperature checks of all staff.
- Ensure staff wear masks or face coverings when interacting with other employees or patrons.

Additional guidance for Kent County restaurants can be found at <http://kenthd.org/covid-19/>

YOUTH SPORTS. Outdoor youth sports may resume following appropriate CDC guidelines including:

- Limited, low-contact outdoor practices focused on individual skill building versus competition.
- Limited group sizes.
- Limited touching of shared equipment and gear.
- The ability to engage in physical distancing while not actively engaged in play.

At this time, organized team/field sports activities are not permitted on Kent County Department of Parks and Recreation grounds. Updates will be made available at <https://www.kentparksandrec.org/publications.php>

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YOUTH DAY CAMPS. Outdoor activities at youth day camps may resume under the following guidance:

- Capacity limitation of no more than 10 individuals in a group.
- Daily COVID symptom checks for youth camp staff and campers.
- No out-of-state or overnight campers will be permitted.
- Physical distancing and masks will be required for all staff and campers.

Kent County Parks and Recreation Summer Camp programs will not be offered this summer. All camp programs (Kiddie Camp, Day Camp, Youth in Action Camp and Leaders Club) are cancelled.

OUTDOOR POOLS. All outdoor pools may reopen with strict safety guidelines including:

- 25% capacity restrictions.
- Strict physical distancing and sanitization measures.
- Patrons will be required to sign-in and sign-out.
- All pools will be required to post signage warning anyone who is sick not to enter.

At this time, the decision whether to open Kent County Parks and Recreation swimming pools and the concession stands this summer has not been determined. Updates will be made available at <https://www.kentparksandrec.org/publications.php>.

Kent County residents, particularly those who are older and more vulnerable, are strongly advised to continue staying home as much as possible. Employers should continue to encourage telework for their employees when possible. Individuals who can work from home should continue to do so. Kent County citizens must continue wearing masks in indoor public areas, retail stores, and on public transportation. Additionally, Kent County citizens must continue practicing physical distancing, continue avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people, keep washing their hands often, and frequently sanitize high-touch areas.

Kent County leaders will continue to monitor this phased implementation closely and will put additional safety measures into place should the need arise. “Our community is taking this virus seriously and continues to do a good job following state and local orders,” commented Bill Webb, Health Officer. “We expect that our residents and business leaders will comply with these new strict safety guidelines to do their part in slowing the spread of this virus.”

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To view the Governor's new Executive Order and view the guidelines and best practices for restaurants, sports, camps, and pools, visit

<https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/05/27/governor-hogan-announces-resumption-of-outdoor-dining-additional-activities-to-complete-stage-one-of-recovery/>

For information, call Kent County Health Department @ 410-778-1350, M-F. Residents can also call Maryland's 24/7 information line at 2-1-1. Anyone feeling ill should contact their health care professional. All emergencies should continue to call 9-1-1.

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