

COVID-19 Update

Talbot County Emergency Services
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Talbot County Health Department
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<https://health.maryland.gov/talbotcounty/>

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Key Points

- ✓ Effective March 12 at 5 p.m., capacity limits on indoor and outdoor dining, retail stores, religious facilities, fitness centers, personal services, casinos, bingo halls, bowling alleys, and skating rinks will be lifted.
- ✓ Restaurants and bars remain limited to seated and distanced (six-foot distancing) service only.
- ✓ Large indoor and outdoor venues may begin operating at 50% capacity, which includes conference and wedding venues, concert venues, conventions, theaters, racing facilities and sporting venues.
- ✓ Medical adult day care centers may reopen at facilities able to set restrictions and safety measures.
- ✓ Maryland residents who travel out of state are no longer required to quarantine upon return, though the Maryland Department of Health continues to advise getting tested upon return.
- ✓ A statewide mask mandate remains in place.
- ✓ All licenses, permits, and registrations issued by Talbot County that would have expired during the Governor's State of Emergency prior to June 30 are automatically extended through June 30, 2021.
- ✓ Some 25.8% of the county's population has received the first dose of the vaccine, currently the highest percentage in the state, and 15.8% are fully vaccinated.

Maryland Eases COVID-19 Restrictions, Effective March 12

Owners of Talbot County's businesses and event venues breathed a sigh of relief Tuesday as Gov. Larry Hogan announced the removal of many of the restrictions imposed in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Citing improving public health metrics, Hogan lifted capacity limits on indoor and outdoor dining, retail stores, religious facilities, fitness centers, personal services, casinos, bingo halls, bowling alleys, and skating rinks. The removal of restrictions begins on Friday, March 12 at 5 p.m.

Though capacity limits will be lifted on outdoor and indoor dining, restaurants and bars will still be limited to seated and distanced service only. The governor also expanded capacity at other large indoor and outdoor venues to 50%, including conference and wedding venues, concert venues, conventions, theaters, racing facilities and sporting venues.

The statewide order to wear masks remains in place, as do physical distancing requirements and other safety protocols for indoor and outdoor businesses and venues where groups may gather. Maryland residents who

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travel out of state are no longer required to quarantine upon return, though the Maryland Department of Health continues to advise getting tested for COVID-19 upon return.

“We will follow the governor’s orders,” says County Council President Chuck Callahan. “But we want to remind people that the pandemic is not over yet, and people should continue to use safe practices.”

Talbot County’s case numbers are now at the lowest rate since mid-November and the vaccine roll out is continuing. County Health Officer Dr. Maria Maguire says Talbot County residents have been eager to receive the vaccine, which is very encouraging. Some 25.8% of the county’s population has received the first dose of the vaccine, currently the highest percentage in the state, and 15.8% are fully vaccinated.

“The decrease in case rates we're currently seeing and the high vaccination rates in our county residents is very good news, but we are not out of the woods yet,” Dr. Maguire cautions.

“We continue to monitor for the more dangerous genetic variants of the virus and strongly recommend mask wearing and social distancing, even for those who have been fully vaccinated,” she continues. “The removal of some restrictions makes it even more important to be diligent about following these protective measures so that we continue the encouraging trajectory we are now on.”

Especially important to businesses is the governor’s amended order on licensing. All licenses, permits, and registrations issued by Talbot County that would have expired prior to June 30 are automatically extended through June 30, 2021.

“The County intends to follow the Governor’s Order and will process license renewals with June 30, 2021, as the date by which an affected license must be renewed,” says Acting County Attorney Anthony Kupersmith. “Deadlines governing license renewal applications set forth in the Talbot County Code will be adjusted to coincide with the June 30, 2021, expiration date.”

For additional details about your particular license, contact the County office that issued the license.

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Where to Find More Information

- **CDC COVID-2019 Website:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **Talbot County COVID-19 Information** www.talbotcovid19.org
- **Shore Regional Health COVID Information** <https://www.umms.org/shore/patients-visitors/coronavirus>
- **Maryland Department of Health Website:** <https://health.maryland.gov/pages/home.aspx>
- **Talbot County Health Department Website:** <https://health.maryland.gov/talbotcounty/Pages/home.aspx>
- **Maryland COVID-19 Website:** <https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus>