

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan announced that beginning May 15 at 5 pm, Maryland would begin Stage One in his Roadmap To Recovery plan. His Stay At Home order will transition to a Safer At Home public health advisory. Under this change:

- Retail stores and personal service businesses like hair salons and barber shops may reopen;
- Houses of worship may reopen, with outdoor services strongly encouraged;
- Manufacturing can resume, in a safe manner;

All these businesses however are being permitted to reopen if they do so at no more than 50 percent capacity (not including manufacturing) and while still adhering to social distancing and face covering measures.

While these changes indicate progress, the governor was also very clear that Marylanders, particularly older and more vulnerable citizens, should continue staying home as much as possible. Teleworking should continue and individuals who can work from home should continue doing so. We should continue wearing masks in indoor public areas, stores, and while taking public transportation. Social distancing should continue, gatherings of more than 10 people should be avoided, and we should also continue with frequent handwashing and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces.

I am sure that most of you share my feelings that this has been one of the most challenging periods of our lives. However, I have been so impressed with how our industry, and more specifically the Port of Baltimore supply chain, has performed. To put it simply, you have each done an incredible job under extremely challenging circumstances.

Since the beginning of this crisis, transportation and the movement of cargo has remained essential. You have all played major roles in moving goods such as food, medical supplies, and desperately needed household items. You have helped deliver a strong and loud message that the Port of Baltimore, and its supply chain, remains open for business.

The men and women who make up our longshore labor force have been on the frontlines since the outset, loading and unloading ships and helping to support the nearly 140,000 jobs in Maryland that are linked to our Port. The Maryland Pilots have continued to provide services, as have our tug companies, terminal operators, freight forwarders, and truckers delivering cargo the last mile. Our strong security team, including our federal partners the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection, along with the MDTA Police and Allied Universal, has ensured our Port has remained safe and secure through the pandemic.

The MPA has been communicating regularly with our tenants to ensure that all of us have remained vigilant on social distancing and all CDC recommendations. The health and safety of each of our Port of Baltimore workers is paramount.

We ARE getting through this. The Port of Baltimore is one of the top ports in the U.S. for several different cargos. The key reason for that success is our supply chain workforce. Thank you again for all you have done and continue to do. Be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

David Thomas

MDOT Maryland Port Administration

Acting Executive Director