

Under the guidance of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, our state is currently under Stage Two in his Roadmap To Recovery plan.

Stage Two lifts his order on non-essential businesses. Retail, specialty vendors, warehouses, financial institutions, auto dealerships and wholesalers are permitted to reopen if they wish. Face coverings are still strongly encouraged since the virus is still with us. Businesses that choose to reopen are encouraged to develop screening procedures for their employees and customers as well as reevaluate employee schedules, shifts, and office configurations to allow for social distancing. Teleworking is still encouraged when possible.

The governor has been clear that Marylanders, particularly older and more vulnerable citizens, should use good judgement and continue staying at home when you don't need to be out. Face coverings and distancing measures should continue. 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