

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2020

Media Contact:

Matt Wilson
Public Affairs Officer
P: 410.313.6233
mwilson@howardcountymd.gov

Health Department Reopening for Critical In-Person Services **Services will be available by appointment only**

Columbia, MD – Beginning Monday, July 20, 2020, the Howard County Health Department will reopen its main office located at 8930 Stanford, Blvd., Columbia, MD 21045, for limited in-person services **by appointment only**. These critical services, not easily accessible virtually, include: Maryland Children’s Health Program consultations, clinical testing & screening, and some environmental health services. Telemedicine services will continue to be offered for many programs.

Steps have been taken to ensure social distancing and other health/safety protocols are being followed. Visitors will be pre-screened before entering the building, required to wear a face covering at all times and hand sanitizing stations will be accessible at all building entrances. Groups are asked to include no more than two people to help limit the number of guests in the main lobby. Only those people receiving services should enter the building at their designated appointment time.

“In March, the Health Department began operating virtually in response to the Covid-19 pandemic,” said Health Officer Dr. Maura J. Rossman. “We’ve taken careful steps to ensure we can keep our offices safe for staff and visitors and we want to ensure our community has access to health services during this period. The Health Department provides important healthcare services to community members who may be unable to access care elsewhere and we encourage those who need assistance with these programs to call us and schedule an appointment.”

“Under our HoCo RISE framework for re-opening Howard County government, we have begun to methodically and safely resume some in-person government services,” said Howard County Executive Calvin Ball. “I want to thank the Howard County Health Department for their hard work in virtually serving our community during this pandemic, and for taking all the proper preparations to return to in-person consultations. While the health focus of our county, state, and nation has been on COVID, we are mindful that many of our residents continue to have other critical health needs that we must engage personally.”

The Health Department will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 4:30pm. Individuals who wish to visit the Columbia office for one of the services listed below must first call **410-313-6300** (or the number listed below) to schedule an appointment.

Birth Certificate Services:

- Monday through Friday 8:30am – 3:30pm

Access to Healthcare:

- In-person services available by appointment only. Call 410-313-5845 for appointment
- Healthcare Access Maryland insurance navigators will continue to work remotely. Call 1-855-642-8572 or visit www.marylandhealthexchange.gov

Behavioral Health:

- In-person services available by appointment only. Call 410-313-6202. In a crisis, call 410-531-6677 (local) or 211 (statewide)
- For resources and referrals, call 410-313-6202 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/gethelp.

Clinical Services:

- STI/HIV, Reproductive Health, Immunizations, Tuberculosis: clinics will be open by appointment only. Call 410-313-7500.
- WIC: all appointments will be conducted via phone through September. Call 410-313-7510.

Health Promotion:

- Cribs/Car Seats for Kids Program distribution: Available one day a month. Call 410-313-6109.

Environmental Health:

- Appointments available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am – 12:00pm. For customers who have plans/blueprints/documents to submit for review, there will be a contactless drop box located outside the building entrance. These will be received daily by staff. No appointment necessary to drop plans off.
 - Well & Septic Program: 410-313-1771
 - Food Protection Program: 410-313-1772
 - Community Hygiene Program: 410-313-1773

Many Health Department services also continue to be offered online or over the phone. You can visit www.hchealth.org for more information. For the most up-to-date information about Covid-19 you can follow the Health Department on social media or visit the [Covid-19 information page](#).

###