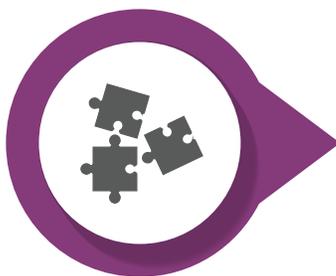


CONSUMERISM During COVID-19



GENERAL INFORMATION

- By order of the governor, **no evictions will be carried out** until the state of emergency is terminated.
- All **utilities have been prohibited from shutting off** any residential service during this state of emergency.
- The courts have **postponed all civil cases** until further notice.
- By order of the governor, **vehicles may not be towed** solely for having expired tags.



PRICE GOUGING

By order of the governor, during this state of emergency, **businesses are prohibited from increasing prices, commonly known as price gouging.** If you find a retailer who is increasing prices, email the Office of the Attorney General at consumer@oag.state.md.us (include a picture of the item and price sticker for reference), or by phone at 410-528-8662 (voice/relay).



BOGUS PRODUCTS AND ONLINE SCAMS

Beware of **coronavirus-related scams**, such as robocalls offering **free testing** for the coronavirus; anyone selling **products to cure COVID-19**; or the **availability of a vaccine** against the virus. **To date, there are no approved products to cure COVID-19!** If you get any of these promotions, **do not click on ANY links**, as this may allow online access to your personal and bank account information. Never click on unsolicited, online offers and **only follow COVID-19 news from a trusted source** like the CDC, WHO, Howard County's or your local hospital's website.



FRAUDULENT CHARITIES

Be cautious of fraudulent charities. Contact the Maryland Secretary of State at 410-974-5521 to **make sure a charity is registered before sending donations.** And **NEVER** give out access to your bank information! If you have any consumer-related questions, contact the **Howard County Office of Consumer Protection.**

 Howard County Office of
Consumer Protection
Department of Community Resources and Services

410-313-6420 (VOICE/RELAY)
consumer@howardcountymd.gov



Calvin Ball
Howard County
Executive