



March 23, 2020

Good afternoon,

Earlier today, Governor Larry Hogan announced that, as of 5 p.m. today, all non-essential businesses, facilities and organizations should be closed. Please note that this is not a directive to “shelter in place” and should not be construed as such. The order does not apply to essential or critical industries as defined by the federal government’s Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidelines, which can be found [here](#). Additional guidance specific to the state of Maryland can be found [here](#).

During his press conference earlier today, the governor also announced \$175 million in new economic relief packages for small businesses and employees from the Maryland Department of Commerce. The Maryland Department of Labor has also established several programs to assist employers and employees. All details on the programs were unveiled today, as well as a comprehensive list of resources, which can be found by visiting businessexpress.maryland.gov.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce remains steadfastly dedicated to supporting our state’s business community throughout this unprecedented global crisis. Our staff is working diligently almost around the clock to compile resources from our partners at government agencies and other subject-matter experts to convey them in real-time to our membership. Please visit our resource page for real-time updates.

Also, we’d like to invite all members and partners of the Maryland Chamber to join us for a conference call tomorrow, March 24, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM (EDT), to share important resources, receive an update on the federal and state response to the crisis, and ensure we are addressing our members’ challenges and concerns during this trying time. To register, please [click here](#).

As always, please let the team at the Maryland Chamber know how we can best assist you, your business and your employees during these unprecedented and uncertain times.

Stay safe,

Christine Ross
President & CEO

