



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
GOVERNOR'S REQUEST LETTER
MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Through: Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney
FEMA Region III
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § Emergency citation (206.35), I request that you declare an expedited Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Maryland as a result of the impacts of novel coronavirus disease ("COVID-19"). United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States on January 31, 2020 pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act. You declared a National Emergency on March 13, 2020 pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies.

I certify that I have taken the appropriate response actions under Maryland State law and directed execution of the State of Maryland's Consequence Management Operations Plan in accordance with the Stafford Act, Section 401. I declared a State of Emergency on March 5, 2020. The State Emergency Operations Center was activated and all state agencies were directed to take any and all actions necessary to respond and mitigate the threat posed by COVID-19. Additionally, I activated the Maryland National Guard on March 12, 2020 to assist with response efforts around the state. An additional \$10 million was added to the state budget to help with the response on top of the up to \$50 million the legislature authorized from the Revenue Stabilization Fund (rainy day fund). State and local governments continue to tirelessly work with surrounding areas and with other agencies to coordinate response and recovery operations.

I am requesting you authorize the following programs under the Individual Assistance Program:

Disaster Unemployment

Due to the closure of all non-essential businesses, and the reduction in some areas such as restaurant services, the number of unemployed Maryland residents has drastically risen. Since not all of the impacted employees will qualify for traditional Unemployment Insurance benefits, we are requesting that FEMA make the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program available.

Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program

The impacts from COVID-19 are having a negative effect on the mental health of many people across our state. Between lost jobs, loved ones with illness, and having to make significant lifestyle changes, Marylanders of all ages are requiring counseling services. For many residents who receive spiritual care within their house of worship, they have been unable to gather there due to restrictions on crowds. In accordance with the social distancing recommendations, counseling services are not being handled face to face, however other remote options could be made more robust with federal assistance.

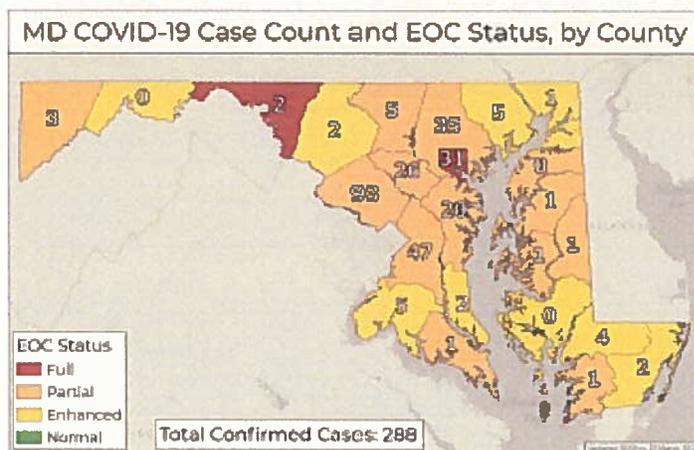
Other Needs Assistance

Some portions of the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program would help to fill gaps in currently existing programs for disaster-related child care, medical, dental, and funeral expenses. The numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths are climbing and it is expected that we will see this trend continue over the coming weeks.

Public Assistance

Additionally, I am requesting that you authorize Public Assistance, Category A, Debris Removal, to respond to the potential for medical waste and related debris. I am also requesting that you authorize Public Assistance Category B, Emergency Protective Measures, to continue to respond to the immediate threat to lives, public health, safety, and the environment, as well as control the spread of COVID-19. The state agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from event impacts, pursuant to Sections 403 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b and 5151, for the duration of this event.

As of today, 288 residents of Maryland have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, resulting in 3 deaths statewide. The number of positive cases is expected to rise as more testing becomes available. All of Maryland's jurisdictions have activated their local emergency operations centers.



Age Group (years of age)	Percentage of Cases
Under 18	1%
18-64	82%
65+	17%

On March 12, 2020, the Governor released several Executive Orders in response to COVID-19. State employees not involved in emergency or essential positions are advised to telework until further notice. Also, extensions are given for professional licenses, permits and other functions that require governmental authorization. The Port of Baltimore is closed in an effort to prevent spread of the virus. The Executive Order was augmented several times in order to further protect Maryland’s vulnerable populations. These amendments included closure of social, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting facilities. This Order also prohibits gatherings of over 10 people, and necessitates that all events and gatherings be cancelled or postponed. The latest amendment to this Executive Order will also close all non-essential businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities as of March 23rd until the health emergency has ended. In order to ensure that these orders are communicated and properly followed a number of state and local agencies and private nonprofits are working to ensure compliance and safety.

Prior to confirmed cases inside the state, there were shortages of PPE (respirators, gowns and gloves) and sanitizing products and equipment (hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and other sanitizing products). Additionally, personnel resources are being exhausted, due to many factors, including burnout, illness, and quarantine. As the virus continues to spread, PPE (N95 respirators, gowns, gloves, surgical masks, and eye protection) and sanitizing products remain items that are highly requested and that are hard to provide due to continued shortages. Infectious disease personnel such as nurses and other practitioners, ventilators, monitoring equipment, and hospital beds are increasingly requested by several counties as more people become ill and in need of care. Currently 54% of beds are occupied—though public health estimates this will dramatically increase—and ventilator usage has started to trend upwards. Testing kits and tents,

for triage purposes, are also in demand as the number of those who may have been exposed increases.

The State of Maryland has been previously impacted by several events and is still in the long term recovery phase and actively managing public assistance and hazard mitigation programs from Hurricane Sandy (FEMA-4091-DR-MD), 2016 Snowstorm (FEMA-4261-DR-MD), 2016 Ellicott City flash flood (FEMA-4279-DR-MD), 2018 Severe Storm and Flooding Washington and Frederick Counties (FEMA-4374-DR-MD), and 2018 Howard and Baltimore Counties (FEMA-4376-DR-MD). In addition to declared disasters, the state experienced localized impacts from storms causing damage in Garrett County (June 2019), Baltimore City, Carroll, Charles, Garrett, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties (July 2019), Carroll, Frederick, Caroline and Cecil Counties (February 2020) over the last 12 months, causing infrastructure damage and unplanned impact on local and state budgets. The state has also been the recipient of several Disaster Declarations from the Small Business Administration (SBA), including Allegany and Washington Counties for flooding in 2014, Baltimore City for civil unrest in 2015, flooding events in Frederick and Howard Counties in 2016, flooding in Frederick and Howard Counties, as well as Baltimore City in 2018, and a tornado in Carroll County in 2018.

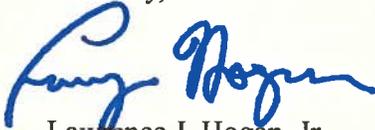
The state is self-insured for damages totaling less than \$2.5 million, after which a commercial policy takes effect. There is a \$1,000 deductible for claims made by state agencies. Several counties are also self-insured. This type of coverage does not apply to a public health event, such as this.

I certify that for this event the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal share costs as required by the Stafford Act. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

I have designated Russell Strickland, Executive Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Sara Bender as the State Coordinating Officer (SCO). They will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Your consideration of this request to assist Maryland in its response and recovery efforts is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Enclosures and Attachments:

FEMA Form 010-0-13

Requirements for other Federal Agency Programs (Enclosure C)

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

Individual Assistance Dates Performed Requested _____ Start _____ End _____

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
Due to the nature of this event, Joint PDAs are not possible

Public Assistance Dates Performed Requested _____ Start _____ End _____

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
Due to the nature of this event, Joint PDAs are not possible

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance N/A Individuals and Households Program Crisis Counseling Program Disaster Unemployment Assistance
 All Disaster Case Management Disaster Legal Services Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation.
Due to the widespread nature of this event, I request Individual Assistance on a statewide basis.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance N/A Debris Removal (Category A) Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) Permanent Work (Categories C-G)* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Due to the widespread nature of this event, I request Public Assistance on a statewide basis.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Request for Direct Federal Assistance

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

This request includes, but will not be limited to augmenting the State's current health care system capabilities with additional testing sites and ability, as well as additional temporary facilities to accommodate the increase in patients needing treatment as a result of COVID-19 infection. Additional personnel and logistical support will be needed for the above functions as well as distribution of food, medicine, PPE and other critical supplies. The potential for additional support for quarantined communities to need support in regards to power, water, and support for other critical infrastructure also exists.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

The widespread nature of this event has overwhelmed resources on a local, state and national level and thus exceeds our state's capacity to lessen the threat of the spread of the virus.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

Request for Snow Assistance

N/A I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation* Statewide **OR**

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date 8/25/21 b. Type of Plan Enhanced Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs** for additional information in support of this request*.

14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

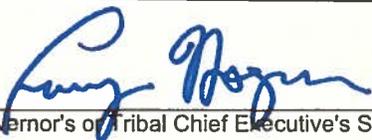
a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on 3/5/2020 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

Cover Letter Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)* Enclosure B (Public Assistance)*
 Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs) Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)
 Additional Supporting Documentation _____



Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

March 24, 2020
Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs

County/ Tribal	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	BIA	OTHER
ALL	TBD	Yes	TBD	TBD	TBD	Yes	TBD	TBD
Totals								

Note: Provide numbers and amounts, as appropriate