

Alan J. McCarthy
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CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

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May 1, 2020

Dear Cecil County Citizens,

On Friday, April 24th, Governor Larry Hogan released his plan, [Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery](https://governor.maryland.gov/recovery/), to gradually reopen Maryland in a series of phases dictated by the number of COVID-19 cases and the number of related fatalities. You can review the plan by clicking on this link: <https://governor.maryland.gov/recovery/>

I am in complete agreement with Governor Hogan in that, while we support our businesses and the needs of our citizens to have access to all of the amenities and services pre-COVID-19, we must be cautious that we do not unintentionally endanger the well-being of Marylanders and, in our case, over 100,000 Cecil County citizens. Using the data suggested, tracking whether the disease is spreading and the ultimate impact of citizens losing their lives as a result of the coronavirus are critical factors. What we do not want to do is reopen prematurely and recreate an even larger issue than we currently face.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to join a conference call conducted by the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee. On the call were approximately thirty local business and organization representatives. An excellent discussion was held using Governor Hogan's "Roadmap to Recovery" as the focus.

Several factors and perspectives were shared not exclusive to the following:

- When businesses reopen, will COVID-19 testing equipment and supplies be available to continue to check the health of our workers?
- Will there be supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) be available for workers and customers to fulfill the State mandates required to be implemented?
- Will businesses be given specific instructions on what precautions to incorporate to be eligible to reopen?
- There was also discussion regarding what potential liabilities a business might incur due to COVID-19 more than in the normal course of doing business.

Having operated several small businesses throughout my career, I fully empathize with our business owners. As County Executive, I will work with our Maryland state agencies to seek their responses and support to ensure that our Cecil County businesses are fully prepared when the notice to open is given.

In the meantime, even though it may be tiresome and frustrating, please keep adhering to all of the proper hygiene protocols as we strive to defeat this pandemic. This State lockdown commenced on Monday, March 16th and I fear will last awhile longer. If we stay vigilant and work together to battle this crisis, we will succeed.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan J. McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Dr. Alan J. McCarthy
Cecil County Executive