

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE
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For Immediate Release:

October 8, 2020

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TO REMAIN IN PHASE 2 REOPENING

*Releases Community Guidance for Halloween, Advising Against Traditional
Door-to-Door Trick-or-Treating*

LARGO, MD – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that the County will remain in Phase 2 reopening since the County's key metrics have not stabilized at low-enough levels. This decision was made under the advice of County health officials after analyzing COVID-19 data and trends over the past two weeks.

“While we have made some progress over the last two weeks, our COVID-19 metrics are still higher than we would like, and we have reached a plateau in our data,” said Alsobrooks. “We will continue to rely on science and the advice of our health officials to determine when it will be safe for the County to move to a modified phase 3 reopening.”

Preliminary data for last week shows the County's positivity rate has increased to 4.2%, after hitting a low of 3.5% for the week of September 20. The fluctuation is concerning, but the County has now been under a 5% positivity rate for three straight weeks. The County's infection rate briefly dropped below 1.0 before increasing again, sitting at exactly 1.0 as of September 28. This means that the virus is spreading in the County in a slow but controlled manner.

Finally, the County's average daily case rate last week was 11.5 new cases per day per 100,000 residents, which is an increase from the week of September 20 where the average daily case rate dropped to 10.1. County health officials want this number to stabilize to at least under 10 new cases per day. The County will continue to monitor and analyze the data and trends, providing an update on the County's progress in another two to three weeks.

As part of the County's phase 2 reopening, drive-in movie theaters will be able to open with requirements starting Friday, October 16 at 5:01 PM. In order to open, drive-in theaters must apply for a permit and submit plans that will be approved by the County's COVID-19

Compliance Team. Drive-in theaters should reach out to covidcompliance@co.pg.md.us for more information and to submit opening plans for approval.

The County is also not moving forward with several guidelines issued by Governor Hogan last week. Because the County remains in phase 2 and out of an abundance of caution, indoor visitations at nursing home facilities will not resume. Also, childcare facilities will not be able to raise their children-to-teacher ratios past the current limits in place.

In addition, the County has released guidance for Halloween. The County does not recommend traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating, and indoor haunted houses will not be allowed. Traditional trunk-or-treats should be shifted instead to one-way, drive-thru distributions for candy, and residents are encouraged to attend those sponsored by County Government or municipal governments. Large street parties or festivals are discouraged.

Low-risk activities that families can consider for a safe Halloween include pumpkin carving or decorating with members of your household, indoor/outdoor scavenger hunts with your household, virtual Halloween costume contests, and Halloween movie nights with members of your household. If anyone gathers with members outside of their household, they should wear a face covering at all times.

For individuals wearing Halloween costumes, the County is advising against traditional Halloween costume masks. Costume masks have mouth and nose holes, and when worn alone, do not provide the same protection as face coverings. Residents should consider creating or using Halloween-themed face coverings instead. Also, do not share masks, fangs or similar items. Additional guidance can be found online at health.mypgc.us/coronavirus.

Finally, County Executive Alsobrooks announced that 22 ballot drop boxes are officially available throughout the County, installed last week. These drop boxes will be available until 8:00 PM on Election Day, November 3, and are monitored by security 24/7. An additional 20 drop boxes will be available by October 17, 2020. To find a full list of ballot drop boxes, [click here](#).

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