



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
PRESS RELEASE

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**Olszewski Announces Aggressive New Actions in Response to COVID-19
Pandemic**

National Guard to support meal distribution; Saturday meal distribution expanding to 30 sites; Baltimore County announces hiring freeze for non-essential employees

TOWSON, MD— Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski today announced a series of aggressive new efforts to expand Baltimore County's coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **The Maryland Army National Guard will support food distribution efforts following a request from the County**
- **Baltimore County is significantly expanding the number of sites for Saturday meal distribution**
- **Olszewski has implemented a freeze on non-essential hiring**

Maryland Army National Guard to Support County's Food Distribution Efforts

Maryland Army National Guard troops will support the County's food distribution operations and continue to provide additional planning and logistical support to enhance the County's emergency response.

"These are neighbors from our communities here to help us in our time of need. We are so grateful for the Guard's commitment as our County continues to respond to this unprecedented pandemic," Olszewski said.

Beginning Friday, April 10, National Guard troops will support weekday meal distribution at all seven Department of Recreation and Parks locations. Full details on weekday meal distribution will be available at baltimorecountymd.gov/foodhelp.

Beginning Saturday, April 11, National Guard troops will support Saturday meal distribution at all Saturday distribution locations, including new locations. Full details on Saturday meal distribution will be available at baltimorecountymd.gov/foodhelp.

Olszewski previously requested the Maryland National Guard to provide humanitarian and emergency management assistance to County government.

County to Significantly Expand Saturday Meal Distribution Sites

To support food insecure families amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Olszewski also announced that the County is significantly expanding

the number of locations for its Saturday food distribution program.

This week, Baltimore County will purchase 23,100 frozen, prepacked meals to distribute to food insecure residents at 30 sites across the County. Sites were identified through data-analysis by Baltimore County and the National Guard based on prior meal distribution.

Previously, Baltimore County was providing weekend distribution at 11 sites.

“Ensuring every County resident has enough to eat during this crisis is a top priority,” Olszewski said. “Thanks to the Guard’s support, we can do even more for Baltimore County’s families and we’ll continue to work hand-in-hand to help provide food security, reduce the spread of the virus, and save lives.”

On Saturday April 11 at 11 a.m., meals will be distributed on a first come, first served basis at the following locations:

- Arbutus Community Center, 865 Sulphur Spring Rd, Halethorpe, MD 21227
- Bear Creek Elementary School, 1607 Melbourne Rd, Dundalk, MD 21222
- Cockeysville PAL Center, 9836 Greenside Dr, Cockeysville, MD 21030
- Colgate Elementary School, 401 51st St, Baltimore, MD 21224
- Dundalk PAL Center, 15 Commerce Place Dundalk, Maryland 21222

- Eastern Regional Park, 11723 Eastern Avenue Baltimore MD 21220
- Edgemere Elementary School, 7201 North Point Rd, Edgemere, MD 21219
- Edmondson Heights Elementary School, 1600 Langford Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207
- Fullerton Elementary School, 4400 Fullerton Ave, Nottingham, MD 21236
- Grange Elementary School, 2000 Church Rd, Dundalk, MD 21222
- Halethorpe Elementary School, 4300 Maple Ave, Halethorpe, MD 21227
- Hereford Senior Center, 510 Monkton Road, Monkton MD, 21111
- Hillcrest Elementary School, 1500 Frederick Rd, Catonsville, MD 21228
- Hillendale PAL Center 1111 Halstead Road Baltimore, Maryland 21234
- Lansdowne Elementary School, 2301 Alma Rd, Baltimore, MD 21227
- Mars Estates PAL Center 1498 East Homberg Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21221
- Martin Boulevard Elementary School, 210 Riverton Rd, Baltimore, MD 21220
- Parkville High School, 8711 Avondale Rd, Parkville, MD 21234
- Perry Hall Elementary School, 9021 Belair Rd, Nottingham, MD 21236

- Randallstown Elementary School, 9013 Liberty Rd, Randallstown, MD 21133
- Reisterstown Senior Center, 12035 Reisterstown Rd, Reisterstown, MD 21136
- Rogers Forge Elementary School, 250 Dumbarton Rd, Baltimore, MD 21212
- Scotts Branch PAL Center 3651 Rolling Road Baltimore, Maryland 21244
- Shady Spring PAL Center 8876 Goldenwood Road Baltimore, Maryland 21237
- Warren Elementary School, 900 Bosley Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030
- West Town Elementary School, 401 Harlem Ln, Catonsville, MD 21228
- Western Tech High School, 100 Kenwood Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228
- Winfield PAL Center, 8304 Carlson Lane Baltimore, Maryland 21244
- Woodbridge Elementary School, 1410 Pleasant Valley Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228
- Woodmoor PAL Center, 7111 Croydon Road Baltimore, Maryland 21207

Meals are being prepared by the following Baltimore County caterers: Black & Gold Catering in Towson, Classic Catering in Owings Mills, Martin's Caterers in Windsor Mill, Rouge Fine Catering in Hunt Valley, and Zeffert and Gold in Owings Mills.

This is the latest effort from Baltimore County to promote food security for Baltimore County families.

- Weekday Meals: The Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks is continuing to offer limited take-away meals from 4 to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at seven different locations on a first come first serve basis. More information is available at: baltimorecountymd.gov/foodhelp
- BCPS Meals: Baltimore County Public Schools is continuing to provide BCPS students. For the latest information, please visit the [BCPS Coronavirus Updates page](#).
- Food Distribution Sites Map: Baltimore County has released the Food Distribution Sites Map providing information about food pantries and locations offering free meals throughout the County.
- BaltCo To-Go Map: The County has released the BaltCo To-Go Map, allowing restaurants to self-report whether they are offering carryout and delivery services.

Residents with questions or who need assistance with food access can call 410-887-2594 or email food@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Seniors, or individuals contacting us on behalf of a senior with food access needs, can call 410-887-2594 or email aginginfo@baltimorecountymd.gov.

County Executive Olszewski Announces Hiring Freeze

In anticipation of budget pressures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski today announced that he has directed the Office of Budget and Finance to implement an immediate freeze on all non-essential hiring in County government.

The non-essential hiring freeze includes all positions except for first responders including Police officers, Firefighters, EMT's, Paramedics, 911 staff, Sheriff's deputies, Correctional officers and public health and human services workers responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

“We are in uncharted territory. While we do not know the full economic impact of this crisis, Baltimore County must take immediate and aggressive actions,” Olszewski added. “This is not an easy decision, but a fiscally responsible one. We will continue to prioritize our employees while continuing to provide essential government services for our residents.”

As a result of the impact of COVID-19, Baltimore County government currently projects that local revenues will decline by tens of millions of dollars in FY21.

Olszewski will announce his FY21 budget on Tuesday, April 14th.

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