



Maryland Municipal League  
*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

TO: Maryland's Municipal Leaders  
FROM: Scott A. Hancock, Executive Director   
DATE: June 1, 2020

**SUBJECT: MML UPDATE During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

All Maryland jurisdictions have now entered the first phase of Governor Hogan's [Maryland Strong- Roadmap to Recovery](#) plan which largely left many decisions on reopening to the local cities, towns, and counties. Municipalities are strongly encouraged to collaborate with their respective county leaders as much as possible on all reopening plans as we move through each of the three stages outlined in the Governor's report. Citizen confusion can result when a city or town has a plan that significantly differs from that of the unincorporated areas of the county.

MML also recommends that municipalities develop a plan for reopening public buildings, spaces, and local businesses around the Governor's guidance. There are several examples available in MML's [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) with new municipal plans being posted daily. Please take the time to share your community's plan with MML's Bill Jorch [bjorch@mdmunicipal.org](mailto:bjorch@mdmunicipal.org) so that we can post it on MML's website.

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Don't forget to register for MML's Virtual Summer Conference *Reimagining Tomorrow!!* (What a timely conference theme, President Spiegel!) The event will be held June 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The [preliminary program](#) provides many details of the exciting educational experience being developed for you. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with fellow municipal officials and attend for-credit Academy for Excellence classes online. Governor Hogan will address our membership, as well as National League of Cities President Joe

Busciano and Executive Director Clarence Anthony. Of course, a virtual Cabinet Secretaries Roundtable session is planned as are Learning Labs on Downtown Revitalization Strategies, Employment Issues and the 2020 Census. We will also have three prominent state leaders offering their perspectives on the current State of the State.

Registration information is available on MML's [Summer Conference webpage](#). I hope we will SEE you next month in *virtual* Ocean City!!

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Today, as we enter a new month of fighting an unseen enemy known as COVID-19 with a glimmer of hope to a return to some sense of normalcy, extremely disturbing images from Minnesota have sent municipalities across the country, already in crisis coping with reduced revenues, increased service delivery costs and pent up citizen frustrations with social distancing restrictions, to the brink of chaos. Maryland municipalities are not immune to the circumstances that occurred in the Midwest. This is a challenging time to be a municipal leader but lead, we must. Citizens need to have faith in the leaders they elected to keep the peace and order but, more importantly, to demonstrate empathy for the pain we are all feeling. It is a tough job and probably not the one you expected when you ran for public office, but being a part of an association of municipal leaders, the Maryland Municipal League, means that you are not alone in this journey. You can lean on your fellow municipal officials for best practices, ideas and to be a sounding board for your personal challenges. I encourage you to use the League's [Municipal Connections](#) page as a private space to share ideas and raise the questions everyone is thinking but not asking. Together, we are #Municipal Maryland Strong!! Thanks for all you do for your communities each day.