

STATE *of the* STATE

MARYLAND'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

*“From 2015 to 2020, we achieved the greatest economic turnaround in America with more businesses open and more jobs created than ever before in the history of our state. And I have no doubt that **we can and we will do it again.**” — Governor Larry Hogan*

THE RELIEF ACT OF 2021

Governor Hogan renewed his calls for the General Assembly to pass the RELIEF Act of 2021, an [emergency legislative package](#) that will provide more than \$1 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The RELIEF Act:

- **Provides direct stimulus payments for low-to-moderate income Marylanders**, with benefits of up to \$750 for families and \$450 for individuals.
- **Repeals all state and local income taxes on unemployment benefits**, providing further support and assistance for Marylanders who have lost their jobs.
- **Supports small businesses with sales tax credits of up to \$3,000 per month** for four months—for a total of up to \$12,000—freeing up much-needed resources to protect payrolls.
- **Extends unemployment tax relief for small businesses**, staving off sudden and substantial tax hikes in 2021.
- **Safeguards Maryland businesses against any tax increase** triggered by the use of state loan or grant funds.

GOVERNOR HOGAN'S FY 2022 RECOVERY BUDGET

Governor Hogan also urged swift, bipartisan action to pass his [FY 2022 budget](#). This budget is 100% structurally balanced for the seventh consecutive year, and fully funds Maryland's top priorities without raising taxes, cutting services, or implementing furloughs and layoffs for hardworking state employees. Governor Hogan's budget:

- **Provides immediate tax and stimulus relief for Marylanders**, including a major tax cut for Maryland retirees.
- **Record-funds K-12 education for the seventh consecutive year**; holds schools harmless from declining enrollment, and record-funds school construction and community colleges.
- **Ensures that Maryland's most vulnerable citizens have access to critical healthcare services** with increased funding for local health departments and significant support for Maryland's Medicaid program.
- **Combats the silent epidemic of opioid abuse and other substance use disorders** by once again providing record funding for substance abuse treatment.
- **Fully funds Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts for the sixth consecutive year** and fully funds Program Open Space and other land conservation programs.

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MARYLAND'S COVID-19 RECOVERY

*“This crisis will not end overnight, but together we will bring it to an end. **We will get our kids back to school, get people back to work, and get life back to normal once again.**” —Governor Larry Hogan*

PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

After declaring a State of Emergency on March 5, 2020, the Hogan administration has taken unprecedented actions to save the lives of Marylanders and prevent hospitals from overflowing. These actions include:

- **Issuing more than 85 emergency orders** to preserve public health and cut through red tape for front line workers and healthcare heroes.
- **Opening alternate care sites and increasing the state’s hospital capacity** by an additional 6,000 beds.
- **Standing up a multi-agency task force to acquire and distribute millions of units of PPE** to hospitals, state agencies, local health departments, and front line workers.
- **Establishing a statewide testing infrastructure** that now regularly conducts more than 50,000 tests daily.
- **Launching a massive contact tracing operation** and an app for Marylanders to opt into COVID-19 exposure notifications.
- **Mobilizing the Maryland National Guard** to support testing operations, meal distribution sites, and rapid response teams to address outbreaks in nursing homes.

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

The nation has now begun the greatest peacetime undertaking in our history: an all-hands-on-deck effort to produce, distribute, and administer hundreds of millions of COVID-19 vaccines. In the past several weeks, more Marylanders have been vaccinated than the number of Marylanders confirmed to be infected with COVID-19. The state is working swiftly to help [providers](#) quickly and safely administer vaccines, including:

- **Dispatching National Guard Mobile Vaccination Support Teams** to assist local health departments with their vaccination clinics.
- **Standing up several regional mass vaccination sites**, two of which will open by February 5, with particular attention given to their proximity to underserved communities.
- **Expanding the pharmacy network of vaccinators** to include select CVS, Safeway, Rite Aid, Walmart, Giant, and Martin’s stores.
- **Addressing staffing needs at vaccination sites** by identifying and coordinating qualified volunteers and issuing orders that enable additional licensed healthcare providers to administer vaccines.
- **Issuing executive orders** to expedite data reporting and ensure that vaccine doses are prioritized for providers that can effectively administer them.
- **Launching a grassroots public outreach and equity campaign** to promote vaccine confidence.