

STATE OF MARYLAND



Proclamation

Declaration of State of Emergency and
Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergency — COVID-19

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, is transmitted easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death and, as a viral agent capable of causing extensive loss of life or serious disability, is a deadly agent;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that emergent variants, such as the B.1.1.529 variant of SARS-CoV-2, known as the Omicron variant, are more transmissible than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus;

WHEREAS, according to available data, these variants are the predominant SARS-CoV-2 variants in Maryland;

WHEREAS, there are currently more than 3,000 persons hospitalized in Maryland because of COVID-19, which is more than at any prior time during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, data suggests that the number of persons hospitalized in Maryland because of COVID-19 could continue to increase significantly in the near future;

WHEREAS, the number of persons hospitalized in Maryland because of COVID-19 is straining critical healthcare resources, as evidenced by, among other things, the fact that some hospitals in Maryland have implemented crisis standards of care;

WHEREAS, the widespread health impacts of COVID-19 are a public health catastrophe and public emergency;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses an immediate danger to public safety; and

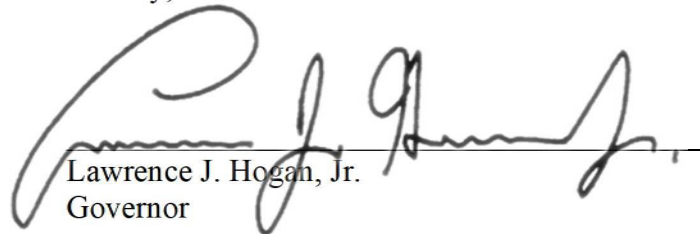
WHEREAS, the impending and imminent threat to human health in Maryland by COVID-19 is a catastrophic health emergency requiring the State to deploy resources and implement the emergency powers of the Governor to protect the health and safety of Marylanders;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND CODE, AND IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN THE STATE, HEREBY PROCLAIM, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY EXISTS WITHIN THE ENTIRE STATE OF MARYLAND.

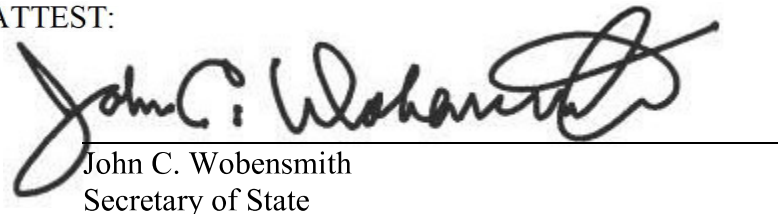
Health care providers who act in good faith under this catastrophic health emergency proclamation, including orders issued under the proclamation by the Governor and by other State officials acting at the direction of or under delegated authority from the Governor, have the immunity provided by § 14-3A-06 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland in the City of Annapolis, this 4th day of January, 2021.


Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:


John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State