



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.  
*Director*

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**DIRECTIVE AND ORDER FOR ENHANCED CONSUMER AND EMPLOYEE SAFETY**  
*Pursuant to Code of Maryland Regulations, Sec. 10.06.01.06*

I, Travis A. Gayles, M.D., Ph.D., Health Officer for Montgomery County, as a designee for Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health for the State of Maryland, finding it necessary for the control and medical containment of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“SARS-CoV-2”) and the disease that it causes – Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), hereby direct the following measures to be implemented to ensure consumer and employee safety in grocery stores (including farmers’ markets), pharmacies, and large chain retail establishments.

1. Customers will be required to wear face coverings in grocery stores, pharmacies, and large chain retail establishments (e.g. Home Depot, Walmart). Cloth masks/coverings are acceptable to be used as a face covering. Masks of surgical grade nature, such as N95 masks, should be reserved for individuals in health care. No citation or civil penalty will be in place.

2. Require grocery stores, pharmacies, and large chain retail establishments to establish capacity limits by setting limits on number of clients in the facility at a given time, and queues outside that promote social distancing spaces for customers while waiting.

3. Require grocery stores, pharmacies, and large chain retail establishments to provide their employees with access to clean and sanitary restrooms stocked with cleansing products, such as soap and sanitizer. Employers must allow employees to wash their hands at a minimum of every 30 minutes.

4. Require employees to wear facial coverings. Employers must provide such coverings or make provisions for employees to obtain.

5. Require compliance of existing state and local sanitation requirements and statutes. Any complaints will be followed and investigated according to standard protocols and

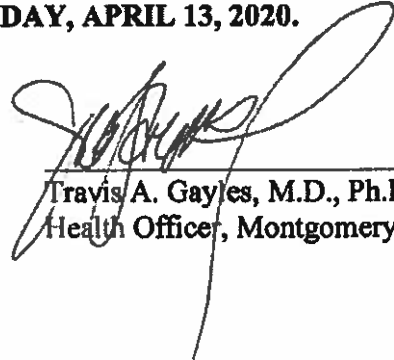
policy. Violations are subject to a Class A violation subject to a \$500 fine for initial violation, and \$750 for each subsequent violation.

6. Require implementation of physical distancing measures for workers, customers and visitors. Appropriate signage must be displayed.

7. Recommend employers of business who use shared equipment, such as baskets or hand carts, to provide sanitation equipment, such as handiwipes or alcohol swabs, for individual use.

8. Encouragement of installation of physical barriers (e.g. Plexiglas) between cashiers and customers, where possible.

**THIS DIRECTIVE AND ORDER IS ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 9TH DAY OF APRIL 2020, AND IS EFFECTIVE MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020.**



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Travis A. Gayles, M.D., Ph.D.  
Health Officer, Montgomery County