



Baltimore City Health Department
1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor
Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner of Health

**BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
DIRECTIVE AND ORDER FOR QUARANTINE, ISOLATION AND PLACEMENT OF
VULNERABLE PERSONS IN NON-CONGREGATE SHELTERING**

Pursuant to Title 18 of the Health General Article and Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code, the Governor’s Executive Order 20-03-19-01, Section 56 of Article VII of the Baltimore City Charter, and Title 4 of the Baltimore City Health Code

I, Letitia Dzirasa, MD, Health Commissioner for Baltimore City, finding it necessary for the control and medical containment of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) and for the investigation of actual or potential exposures to COVID-19, hereby give the Directive and Order set forth below and in support thereof provide as follows:

WHEREAS, an outbreak of COVID-19 occurred in Hubei province, China, in late 2019, and has currently been detected in most countries worldwide, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease, resulting in illness or death, caused by the person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus, which was not previously found in humans; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, as a viral agent capable of causing extensive loss of life or serious disability, is a deadly agent; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization ("WHO") and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") have declared the COVID-19 outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern"; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidance to all state and local governments, and all citizens, recommending actions to slow community spread during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. issued a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency for the entire State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Mayor of Baltimore City, Maryland declared that a State of Emergency and Catastrophic Health Emergency exists in Baltimore City, Maryland in accordance with Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the transmission of the novel coronavirus in the City is a threat to human health in all of Baltimore City; and

WHEREAS, the person-to-person spread modeled by the CDC and WHO indicates that extensive loss of life or serious disability is threatened imminently in all of Baltimore City because of the transmission in the City of novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the impending threat to Maryland by COVID-19 is a catastrophic health emergency requiring the State and the City to deploy resources and implement the City's emergency powers to protect the health and safety of all those in Baltimore City; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health and safety of certain vulnerable members of the City's population, including but not limited to, first responders, health care providers, older adults, homeless persons, their families, and others who have been possibly exposed to the novel coronavirus or who need to be protected from exposure to the virus, the City will be arranging for non-congregate shelters; and

WHEREAS, under President Trump's March 13, 2020, national emergency declaration for COVID-19, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's ("FEMA's") Regional Administrators have been delegated authority to approve requests for non-congregate sheltering for the duration of the Secretary of Health and Human Services' declaration of a Public Health Emergency for COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the FEMA issued a Memorandum on Non-Congregate Sheltering, which includes several criteria, including a requirement that the "non-congregate sheltering must be at the direction of and documented through an official order signed by a state, local, tribal, or territorial public health official"; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the provision of non-congregate shelters, an order of the Health Commissioner for Baltimore City is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LETITIA DZIRASA, MD, HEALTH COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CHARTER AND LAWS OF BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND, AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY DIRECT THAT BALTIMORE CITY LOCATE AND RESERVE NON-CONGREGATE SHELTERS FOR VULNERABLE PERSONS IN NEED OF SHELTER OR QUARANTINED FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH OR THE HEALTH OF OTHERS.

This Public Health Directive and Order is effective as of the 27th day of April 2020.



Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

¹Non-congregate shelters are private or public facilities that, by design, provide a short-term lodging function and an increased degree of privacy over congregate shelters. Non-congregate sheltering provides alternatives for incidents when congregate sheltering is unavailable, overwhelmed, or longer-term temporary sheltering is required.
<https://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/disasterhousing/mspg.pdf>