



**ARUNDEL CENTER**  
**P.O. BOX 2700 -ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21404**  
**Phone: 410-222-1821 -Fax: 410-222-1155**  
[www.aacounty.org](http://www.aacounty.org)

**STEUART PITTMAN**  
**County Executive**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 18**

**CLOSING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2020, Maryland Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. proclaimed a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency for the entire State of Maryland pursuant to Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the State Code, due to the impending threat and continuing impact of the contagious disease known as COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the Worldwide Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a pandemic outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, County Executive Steuart Pittman issued Executive Order No. 16 proclaiming a civil emergency in Anne Arundel County due to the rapid onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 30, 2020, Governor Hogan issued Executive Order No. 20-03-30-01, Amending and Restating the Order of March 23, 2020, which, among other things, ordered all persons living in the State of Maryland to stay in their homes except when engaged in certain essential activities, and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease, causing illness or death, transmitted by person-to-person contact of the novel coronavirus, which had not previously existed in humans; and

**WHEREAS**, the novel coronavirus is a viral agent capable of causing extensive loss of life or serious disability, and presents a particular risk of transmission in places where people congregate at close quarters; and

**WHEREAS**, the transmission of the novel coronavirus in Anne Arundel County is a direct threat to the human health of all citizens of Anne Arundel County; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 poses an immediate and serious threat to public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Anne Arundel County; and



**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a public health catastrophe and constitutes a civil emergency under Article 1, Title 6, of the Anne Arundel County Code, requiring Anne Arundel County to deploy resources and implement the emergency powers of the County Executive to protect the health and safety of its citizens; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Steuart Pittman, County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Charter and laws of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and §§ 1-6-101 *et. seq.* of the Anne Arundel County Code, and in an effort to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within Anne Arundel County and the State of Maryland, do hereby proclaim and order on this 31st day of March, 2020:

1. That public playgrounds and private community playgrounds are places where people congregate in close quarters and therefore present a particular risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus among the public.

2. The use of such playgrounds is not deemed one of the “essential activities” allowed under Governor Hogan’s March 30, 2020, Executive Order # 20-03-30-01.

3. In light of the health risks involved, all public playgrounds and private community playgrounds are hereby closed for the duration of the state of emergency declaration by the Governor.

4. This Order does not prohibit the use of private play equipment on private residential lots, provided any such use is in compliance with social distancing guidelines and the Governor’s Executive Order No. 20-03-30-01 (as amended), including the prohibition of gatherings of more than 10 people.

4. Violation of this Order is a misdemeanor subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding six months.

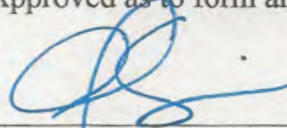
5. The Public Information Officer shall immediately disseminate notice of this Executive Order to the appropriate news media and to the general public.

This Executive Order shall be archived at the Office of Law and remain in existence until altered or terminated by a subsequent Executive Order.



STEUART PITTMAN  
County Executive

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



---

Gregory J. Swain  
County Attorney