



FAQs on what is allowed to open and required to stay closed in Anne Arundel County

Updated Friday, September 4, 2020

County Executive Steuart Pittman's Executive Order 29 can be found [HERE](#).
County Executive Steuart Pittman's Executive Order 27 can be found [HERE](#).
County Executive Steuart Pittman's Executive Order 25 can be found [HERE](#).
Anne Arundel County Health Department COVID-19 updates can be found [HERE](#).

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1. When is a face mask or covering required? As the county moves toward recovery from COVID-19 and in an effort to keep Anne Arundel County open, everyone needs to continue to wear face coverings. Face masks or coverings are required to be worn in the following situations:

- **Outside in public spaces when you cannot keep 6 feet away from others who are not in your immediate household**
- Inside at all times when you are face to face with the public
- In retail establishments
- At a restaurant or bar (including outside dining) when you are not eating or drinking
- When providing or receiving personal services at a hair salon, tattoo parlor or nail salon
- In a business that does not serve the public, a face covering is *recommended* when you are not in an office alone with the door shut OR you cannot keep 6 feet away from others

In Maryland, face coverings are mandated by the [Governor's Executive Order 20-09-01-01](#) (pages 9 &10). More information on face masks can be found [HERE](#).

2. Is there a limit to the size of social gatherings? Executive Order No. 27 prohibits indoor social gatherings of more than 25 people and outdoor social gatherings of more than 50 people. You can read a full FAQ on Executive Order No. 27 [HERE](#).

3. What indoor recreation businesses are permitted to open? Effective Friday, June 19 at 5:00 p.m., indoor aquatic centers, indoor recreation centers; bingo halls, bowling alleys, roller and ice skating rinks, and the indoor areas of any other establishments that are subject to the admission and amusement tax under Title 4 of the Tax-General Article of the Maryland Code are permitted to open at 50% limited capacity.

4. What social clubs are permitted to open? Effective Friday, June 19 at 5:00 p.m., social and fraternal clubs (including without limitation, American Legion posts, VFW posts, and Elks Clubs) are permitted to open at 50% limited capacity.

5. Are casinos, racetracks and simulcast betting operations permitted to open? Yes. Effective Friday, June 19 at 5:00 p.m. these facilities can resume operations at 50% capacity of the gaming facility's maximum occupancy.

6. Are shopping malls open? Yes. Effective Friday, June 19 at 5:00 p.m. malls may open following the required face mask guidelines in retail and food establishments and other applicable guidance. In accordance with Executive Order No. 27, food service establishments located in food courts in indoor shopping malls shall be limited to carry-out service only; dining at tables or other spaces in food courts is prohibited. You can read a full FAQ on Executive Order No. 27 [HERE](#).

7. Are gyms or fitness centers or dance studios allowed to be open? Yes. Effective Friday, June 19 at 5:00 p.m. these facilities may reopen at 50% capacity and following State guidance found [HERE](#).

8. Are playgrounds open? Yes. Effective Friday, June 19 at 5:00 p.m., county and private playgrounds are open for use.

9. Are organized sports permitted to resume? Yes, athletic fields are open for use if you have an approved permit from Rec & Parks and Return to Play Guidelines must be followed as outlined [HERE](#). More information can be found [HERE](#).

10. What type of Rec & Parks Fall programming is being offered? The Fall 2020 Program Guide features several classes, programs and events that are being offered in our parks and virtually. Learn more [HERE](#).

11. What county park amenities are open? Dog parks, dog beaches, county park beaches, pavilions (reservations required), and playgrounds are open. Private youth camps are allowed to open under state guidance. These amenities may also open within private communities. **Visitor Centers remain closed at all regional parks; see notice [HERE](#).**

12. Have regional park fees been reinstated? Yes, all regional park entry fees were reinstated on Tuesday, September 1. See the notice [HERE](#).

13. Are county park restrooms open? Yes, effective Saturday, June 20 park outdoor restrooms will open and be cleaned regularly.

14. Are the Arundel Olympic Swim Center and the North Arundel Aquatic Center open? Both Arundel Olympic Swim Center (AOSC) and North Arundel Aquatic Center (NAAC) are planning to reopen on Tuesday, September 8. This date is subject to change following COVID-19 or other unforeseen circumstances. The pools will reopen for Adult Fitness and Lap swim by reservation only. The water park and hot tubs will not reopen and programs/lessons will not resume at this time. This date is subject to change following COVID-19 or other unforeseen circumstances.

15. Are the North County and South County Recreation Centers open? Both of these recreation centers are now open for scheduled programs.

16. Are community beaches/swimming open? Yes. County and community beaches are open. All beaches have been tested by the Health Department and the results can be found on the Health Department website found [HERE](#).

17. Are outdoor pools open? The Department of Health began inspections of county and community outdoor seasonal pools on Friday, June 5 and is continuing inspections on a rolling basis. Pools can open once they are approved after inspection. Seasonal outdoor pools are inspected each spring prior to their opening and this year those inspections were postponed due to the suspension of all non-essential activity.

18. Are senior centers open? No. Senior Centers remain closed as required by the [Governor's Executive Order 20-09-01-01](#) (page 11)

19. Are movie theaters open? No, not at this time. [Executive Order No. 29](#) requires that all Indoor Theaters and Outdoor Entertainment Venues (as defined in the Governor's [Executive Order 20-09-01-01](#)) shall remain closed to the general public.

20. What outdoor recreation businesses are permitted to open? Effective Friday, June 12 at 5:00 p.m., amusement parks; miniature golf establishments; go-kart tracks; and the outdoor areas of any other establishments that are subject to the admission and amusement tax under Title 4 of the Tax-General Article of the Maryland Code may open following state guidance found [HERE](#).

21. Are restaurants/bars/social clubs open for INDOOR dining? Yes. As of Friday, June 12 at 5:00 p.m. foodservice establishments, which include restaurants, bars, and social clubs with dining facilities, may serve food and beverages for consumption indoors and in outdoor seating areas in accordance with [state guidance](#). Indoor seating may not exceed 50% of the Foodservice Establishment's Maximum Occupancy.

In accordance with Executive Order No. 27, Restaurants, bars, and other similar establishments in Anne Arundel County that sell food and alcoholic beverages, or alcoholic beverages only, for consumption on-premises in indoor dining facilities ("Restaurants") shall cease all indoor service at 10:00 p.m. daily. You can read a full FAQ on Executive Order No. 27 [HERE](#).

The Office of Planning and Zoning will authorize outdoor seating for food and beverage service uses as a temporary use for up to 180 days commencing at 5:00 p.m. on 5/29, until or unless the emergency is lifted or revised by Executive Order. A permit application is not required for this temporary use, if it complies with the specific criteria. Specific details and guidance are available [HERE](#).

22. Can restaurants/bars/social clubs serve alcohol in their outdoor dining areas? Yes, as long as they already have a valid liquor license for indoor dining. The hours that they are allowed to serve liquor do not change. Nothing in either the Governor's nor the County Executive's orders grant a liquor license to an establishment that did not previously have one.

23. Are churches, places of worship, and religious facilities open? Yes. Under County Executive Order 23 and based on meeting social distance, large gatherings and face mask requirements, all houses of worship in Anne Arundel County may hold services inside and outside and operate under specific guidelines outlined [HERE](#).

24. Can Funeral Homes hold funeral services? Yes. Indoor and outdoor funeral services may be held based on meeting social distance, large gatherings and face mask requirements. Funeral Homes were never closed, but they were subject to the 10 or less limit on groups. Funeral Home services should adhere to the same guidance as churches as outlined in the document found [HERE](#).

25. Are barber shops and hair salons open? Yes. In accordance with County Executive Order 24, barber shops and beauty salons in Anne Arundel County are open based on meeting social distance, large gatherings and face mask requirements. These requirements will stay in effect until further notice. Refer to the Guidance Document found [HERE](#).

26. Are nail salons, tanning salons, tattoo studios, or massage studios permitted to open? Yes, in accordance with County Executive Order 24, personal service establishments including tattoo parlors, tanning salons, massage parlors and establishments that provide esthetic services in Anne Arundel County are open based on meeting social distance, large gatherings and face mask requirements. These requirements will stay in effect until further notice. Refer to the Guidance Document found [HERE](#).

27. Are pet groomers allowed to open? Yes. Occupancy is required to be 1 person per 150 square foot of occupied space and follow retail/non-essential business guidelines. [HERE](#).

28. What non-essential businesses are permitted to be open? In accordance with County Executive Order 24, non-essential businesses including offices, car dealerships, financial institutions, specialty vendors, construction and warehouses in Anne Arundel County based meeting social distance, large gatherings and face mask requirements. These requirements will stay in effect until further notice. Refer to the Guidance Document found [HERE](#).

29. Are retail businesses open? Yes. The maximum number of occupants (customers and employees) will be calculated based on 150 square feet per person. Businesses will be required to have protective measures in place regarding physical distancing and face coverings will be required for everyone in the store, with exemptions for those with medical conditions. Specific details and guidance are available [HERE](#).

30. Are photography studios allowed to be open? Yes. They are open but must adhere to the retail/non-essential guidelines, including the capacity limitation of one person per 150 square feet of total occupied area. You can find the complete guidelines [HERE](#).

31. Can manufacturing and warehousing businesses and facilities open? There is no change to prior orders, these businesses can continue to be open with social distancing and face masks.

Note: For all businesses that are allowed to open, any applicable directives from the County Department of Health, State Secretary of Health, and State and local directives, including the requirement for face masks and applicable social distancing guidance published by the Centers for Disease Control and the Maryland Department of Health remain in effect.