



# IMPACT UPDATE

## Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III  
Superintendent

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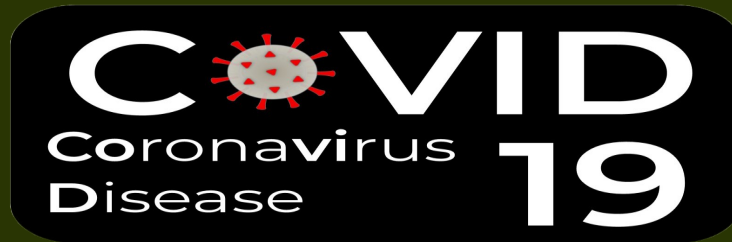
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## MSP Takes Steps To Reduce COVID-19 Exposure For Employees And Citizens

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – In compliance with the Executive Orders of Governor Larry Hogan and as a partner in the state's ongoing efforts to reduce exposure to COVID-19, steps have been taken by the Maryland State Police to reduce the potential of exposure to our employees and to the citizens we serve.

Public safety services provided by the Maryland State Police are continuing. However, there have been modifications made to how some of those services are provided. They include the following:

**CALLS FOR SERVICE:** In addition to the information routinely obtained during a 911 call or other request for police service, callers will be asked additional questions that include: Do you, or anyone with you, have a fever? Do you, or anyone with you, have difficulty breathing or shortness of breath? Do you, or any-

one with you, have a cough?

If the answer is yes to those questions, or anytime a trooper responds to a scene suspected to be associated with COVID-19, the information will be relayed to the duty officer who will ensure all troopers responding to the scene put on the personal protective equipment they carry. Contact will also be made with emergency medical services for assistance, if possible.

When possible, contact with all victims, witnesses or suspects will be made outside of the home or building in order to reduce exposure. If possible, a distance of six feet from all persons will be maintained.

Persons should not be offended if troopers maintain their distance or have protective equipment on during the encounter. Precautions are being taken to protect our employees and our citizens.

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## COVID: Keeping Residents Safe Amid Pandemic

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**Telephone Reporting:** Troopers will take reports by telephone from incidents including the following: malicious destruction of property, theft, tampering with a vehicle, attempted vehicle theft, credit or debit card theft, telephone misuse, trespassing (not in progress).

Troopers will continue to respond and will not take a report via telephone if: the incident is in-progress, the suspect is still on scene, in the vicinity, or the potential for immediate arrest exists, there is any injury or the likelihood for injury exists, an identifiable suspect exists, or there is physical evidence.

**Access To Barracks:** Citizens are asked to limit any personal visits to a barrack to emergency issues or situations absolutely necessary. Upon arrival, they will see signs posted at the entrance notifying them that if they are sick, they are not to enter the barrack. For those who do enter, screening questions may be asked by the duty officer.

Anyone planning to visit a State Police barrack for a safety equipment repair order verification should delay that visit. The state of emergency declaration has suspended the due date of repair or-

ders until 60 days after the state of emergency has been lifted.

**Licensing Division:** The Maryland State Police Licensing Division at 1111 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, is closed to the public for walk-in service. The Licensing Division remains open and will continue to serve the citizens of Maryland and process all applications and requests in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements. Applications not electronically submitted should continue to be submitted via the US Postal Service or by a commercial postal service.

For those insisting on submitting their application(s) in person, a temporary mail drop box is available outside of the Licensing Division, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 am and 3 pm. You may also reach the Licensing Division by telephone: 410-653-4500

Maryland Regulated Firearm Dealers may continue to contact the Licensing Division via the Livehelp Now feature within their Licensing Portal. If you have questions about a safety equipment repair order, please email: [mssp.sero@maryland.gov](mailto:mssp.sero@maryland.gov).

**Forensic Sciences Division:** Pursuant to the state of emergency

declaration, the Forensic Sciences Division made certain staffing reductions, but does remain open and continues to serve the citizens of Maryland and provide forensic services to our law enforcement partners across our state.

All Forensic Sciences Division services are still available. Crime scene technicians are responding to crime scenes and forensic scientists are analyzing cases. Casework is still being accepted and released by appointment at each of our three laboratories located in Pikesville, Berlin, and Hagerstown.

Please be aware that the availability of appointments for the submission and retrieval of evidence is currently limited due to our reduced staffing. We appreciate your flexibility in scheduling appointments. The Central Receiving Unit in Pikesville can be reached at [mssp.cru@maryland.gov](mailto:mssp.cru@maryland.gov).

If Forensic Sciences Division operations must change in the future due to escalating COVID-19 concerns, a message will be distributed to all of our customers advising them of the changes.

If you have a specific question about submissions or casework, please reach out via email to the appropriate unit as you normally would.



# IMPACT UPDATE

## State Police Enforcement of Governor's Executive Orders Continue

(PIKESVILLE, MD) — Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Woodrow Jones III has directed troopers to continue their public education and enforcement efforts regarding the Governor's Executive Orders and last month issued specific instructions regarding the stay-at-home order. Those instructions are as follows:

- Enforcement of the expanded Governor's Executive Order will be conducted by Maryland state troopers. However, troopers will not make traffic stops simply to ask drivers where they are going to determine if their travel is essential or not.
- If, in the course of the regular performance of his/her duties, such as during a crash investigation or a traffic stop, the trooper develops information indicating the individual was engaged in non-essential travel, enforcement action can be taken, in consultation with the state's attorney's office in that jurisdiction.
- While it is not necessary for drivers in Maryland to have documentation about the purpose of travel, having such documentation may help resolve questions.



- Troopers will continue to initiate enforcement action when a business or group of more than 10 people is observed in violation of the Governor's Executive Order.
  - The Order does not prohibit people from going to the store to get groceries or prescriptions, seeking medical attention at an urgent care facility, getting cleaning or laundry supplies. In addition, the Order does not prevent people from going out to get necessities for pets or other livestock.
  - The Order allows for travel to care for a family member, friend, pets, etc. Citizens are also permitted to travel for transporting family, friends, pet or livestock for essential health and safety activities.
- essential health and safety activities.
- The Order also allows for travel to and from an educational institution to receive meals or instructional materials for distance learning.
  - The Order allows for outdoor exercise activities (done in accordance with social distancing guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and crowd gatherings of 10 people or less. However, such activities may not be done at a park that has been closed by state or local government.
  - Restaurants can be visited if obtaining food for carry-out or drive-thru only.



# IMPACT UPDATE

## Changes To ASED Services Effective Immediately Due To COVID-19 Response

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – While Maryland State Police are an integral part of the COVID-19 defense and response to assist Maryland citizens, changes within the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division (ASED) went into effect March 19.

Until further notice, assistance with Safety Equipment Repair Orders, or related services by ASED personnel has been suspended. These services will not be taking place at any of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) branches.

For those individuals seeking to become Maryland Safety Inspectors, all Inspection Mechanic tests have also been suspended until further notice. At this time, the MVA is not allowing testing to take place within their facilities. If anyone has already signed up to take an Inspection Mechanics test, the receipt will be honored once restrictions have been lifted and we are allowed to test again.

For mechanics that have taken the written test and are awaiting their Demonstrative Ability Test (DEMO) we will not be giving



these tests until restrictions are lifted for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The requirement to be DEMO tested within a 6-month period after passing the mechanics written test will be waived for those mechanics that are affected by the restrictions.

Once the pandemic restrictions are lifted, we will contact the mechanics needing the DEMO test and will schedule them accordingly.

Governor Larry Hogan signed an Executive Order that prevents any suspensions or cancellations to occur or action taken for un-renewed or suspended registrations or driver's licenses, until further notice.

For more information, visit [COVID-19](#)

If you have any questions about these changes please reach out to your assigned ASED investigator. You can also email the ASED at: [msp.ased@maryland.gov](mailto:msp.ased@maryland.gov).



# IMPACT UPDATE

## MSP Charges Man With Violating Governor's Executive Order, Hosting Teen Party

(WESTMINSTER, MD) — Maryland State Police charged a man with violating the Governor's Executive Order and providing alcohol to teens during a party he hosted March 29 at a Carroll County hotel.

The suspect is identified as Ryan M. Serra, 26, of Lutherville, Md. He is charged with violation of the Governor's Executive Order and ten counts of allowing a minor to possess alcohol. Serra was charged on a criminal summons, which was served on him by State Police at his home.

Shortly after 7 p.m. on March 29, the Maryland State Police Westminster Barracks received a call reporting a party being held in a room at the Boston Inn, located in the 500 block of Baltimore Blvd. The caller indicated the party involved individuals under the legal drinking age.

Troopers responded to the room and, after knocking and announcing their presence multiple times, made contact with the suspect. The suspect said other people were in the room and multiple males and females, later determined to be ages 15-17, came out of the bathroom area of the hotel room where they



had apparently been attempting to hide. An empty liquor bottle was observed in the room.

Further investigation developed evidence indicating Serra was hosting the party, had purchased alcohol for the juveniles, and was aware those attending were underage. In addition to Serra, there were six males and four females in the room. No one in the room appeared to be intoxicated.

The juveniles were identified and their parents were contacted. The juveniles were turned over to the custody of their parents. Troopers contacted the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office and, after consultation with officials there, applied for charges against the suspect with the District Court Commissioner's Office. Charges were issued on a criminal summons by that office. Charges were not filed

against any of the teens.

As part of the state's effort to combat the COVID-19 virus, Maryland State Police will continue to enforce the Governor's Executive Order which requires non-essential businesses to close, assembly of only 10 persons or less and staying at home unless travel is essential.

The charge for violating the Governor's Executive Order is punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$5,000.

UPDATE: As of May 4th, troopers have charged more than one dozen people with violating the Governor's Executive Order. Information about the requirements of the Executive Order and interpretive guidance can be found at [governor.maryland.gov/covid-19-pandemic-orders-and-guidance/](https://governor.maryland.gov/covid-19-pandemic-orders-and-guidance/)



# IMPACT UPDATE

## Maryland State Police Celebrates National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

### Statement from MSP Superintendent Col. Woodrow Jones III:

It is with the sincerest gratitude and appreciation that I salute our police communications operators, police communications supervisors and each person involved in their support staff, during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, which [was] observed April 12-18, 2020. I readily admit we could not fulfill our mission each day without your dedication to duty and the professionalism with which you do your jobs every minute of every day.

Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is one of my favorite times of the year because of the opportunity to honor those who do all the wonderful things you do, most of which usually go unnoticed.

Throughout my nearly 28 years of service in the Maryland State Police, I have seen these themes repeated over and over by the incredible people who are our police communications professionals. The women and men who sit at that radio console night after night, day after day, are the vital link to our troopers on the road and the



citizens we serve. You speak daily with people in moments of crisis who are often angry, distraught, or scared to death. You take abuse from disgruntled citizens and are often underappreciated by sworn personnel.

What impresses me most about our police communications personnel is your genuine concern for our troopers. Our staff behind the microphone is relentlessly vigilant in monitoring situations involving our troopers that range from nighttime traffic stops to barricades and other obviously life-threatening situations.

You are certainly the 'team behind the scenes.' You take the call, locate the nearest trooper and ensure he or she gets there and stays safe while they are there. You are the 'calm in the chaos.'

Finally, as proven by situations like that, you are women and men who have 'nerves of steel and hearts of gold.' While chaos is erupting around you, your focus remains on your job and the safety of our troopers. I know how hard you work to ensure our troopers have every bit of information available about a situation before they walk into it. Your hearts of gold are on display every day, in the ways you care for our Maryland State Police family.

I cannot express how much I appreciate all you do for us. Thank you for choosing to serve in this job that is often underappreciated, but always vitally important to the success of our mission. You are a valued member of our Maryland State Police family. I am truly grateful to each of you for what you do for us every day.



# IMPACT UPDATE

## Westminster Barrack Helps Welcome Young Cancer Patient Home After Treatment

(WESTMINSTER, MD) — Social distancing put in place in Maryland and across the country has led to communities all over searching for unique and original ways to express support for those who need it the most.

Such an effort recently took place in Carroll County and members of the Maryland State Police were among those assisting in the effort.

A young lady from Westminster, Lauren Ralston, 12, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in the fall. She has spent the last 6 months at



Troopers from the Westminster Barrack were among those who helped welcome home 12-year-old Lauren Ralston, who recently completed six months of care at Johns Hopkins Hospital for cancer treatments.

Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

As a show of support to Lauren and her family, Maryland State Police troopers teamed with the

Westminster Fire Department and members of Lauren's community to welcome her and her parents' home last month.

Also the Westminster Barrack served as a drop-off point for cards and notes from the community to Lauren during her stay at Johns Hopkins. Each week, the cards



Questions or comments? Email us at [msh.media@maryland.gov](mailto:msh.media@maryland.gov) or call 410-653-4236



# IMPACT UPDATE

## College of Southern Maryland Students Win Vehicle Theft Prevention PSA Contest

As Seen On TV and Heard On the Radio: The key to preventing vehicle theft is in your hands. Lock your car, take the key.

Since its inception, the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council (VTPC) has implemented the combined use of public awareness, prevention and education while playing an integral role in the decline of vehicle theft. In partnership with the Maryland/DC Anti Car Theft Committee and the Maryland State Police, the VTPC has been awarding college students since 2009 for their creative work in producing public service announcements. The PSA's have been used to help combat auto theft in Maryland while raising awareness and educating motorists about vehicle crimes.

This year, \$5,000 in scholarship money was awarded to students from the College of Southern Mar-



land for their winning entries into the annual radio and television public service announcement competition.

Each year, the winning entries are seen and heard throughout the state as their 15- and 30-second spots are broadcast on WBAL-TV, WBAL NewsRadio 1090 and 98 Rock, the media sponsors of the competition. The winning entries can also be viewed on social media throughout the year to reach a target audience who has little ex-

perience in practicing crime prevention.

This year's grand prize video winner was a team effort. Cole Pepin and Elijah Green created a 30-second spot to remind motorists how to prevent themselves from becoming a victim.

The first runner-up in the video category was a two-time winner this year. Jacob Buchanan, who won for both his audio entry and video entry this year, created a new tag line and ended his 30-second video PSA with a graphic to remember: "Lock It or Lose It"

"While vehicle theft is a crime of opportunity, the PSA's created by the students serve as an education for motorists about the methods to protect their vehicle and personal property to avoid becoming a victim," said Christopher McDonold, executive director of the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council.







# IMPACT UPDATE

## Maryland State Police Charge Somerset County Caregiver In Theft From Clients

(PRINCESS ANNE, MD) – Maryland State Police have charged a Somerset County woman working as a caregiver after an ongoing investigation indicates she allegedly stole money from the individuals she was caring for.

The accused is identified as Sandra J. Elliott, 34, of Marion Station, Md. She is charged with more than two dozen charges including two counts each of unauthorized use or disclosure of a credit card, unauthorized use or disclosure of a signature, forgery of private documents, issuing false documents, forgery of an order for money/goods, issuing a counterfeit order, obtaining goods/money through forgery, four counts of fraudulent identification info theft between \$1,500 and \$25,000, and multiple other related charges. She was released on \$20,000 bond and is awaiting trial.

During the last week of December 2019, Maryland State Police at the Princess Anne Barracks were contacted by a victim who reported the alleged thefts. Responding troopers began an initial investigation that was turned over to criminal investigators in the Maryland State Police Crimi-



nal Enforcement Division. The victim, in his 60's, reported he and his elderly father were both disabled and live together in a home in Princess Anne, Md. Both men require in-home assistance and the accused had been hired in November 2019 to provide that help.

The State Police investigation developed evidence indicating the accused made unauthorized purchases, ATM withdrawals and cashed fraudulent checks involving both victims. The total amount of thefts from both victims is believed to be in excess of \$20,000.

A State Police investigator from the Criminal Enforcement Divi-

sion applied for and obtained an arrest warrant charging Elliott with 27 counts of theft, fraud, forgery and related charges. On Jan. 28, 2020, Elliott was arrested and transported to the Salisbury Barrack.

She was later taken to the Wicomico County central booking unit for processing and her initial appearance before a court commissioner.

The investigation is continuing.

Anyone who may have had association with Sandra Elliott and believes they may be a victim of a theft is urged to contact Maryland State Police at the Princess Anne Barracks at 443-260-3700.