



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

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### **Behavioral Health Administration**

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Local Wellness and Recovery Center Leadership,

Over the past few days, our office has been notified that a number of Maryland's Wellness Recovery Centers and Recovery Community Centers have temporarily suspended operations due to the ongoing response to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We thank these programs for their attention to the safety of their members and for continuing to provide telehealth recovery support to those in need.

At this time, Governor Larry Hogan has directed that gatherings of more than 10 individuals be suspended and that social distancing of six feet in between all individuals be maintained. Under those guidelines, we are strongly encouraging each of our local Wellness Recovery Center and Recovery Community Center partners to consider how best to proceed with providing recovery support to individuals in their jurisdictions.

If services cannot be provided in accordance with the Governor's state of emergency declaration or do not follow CDC guidance, we are asking that programs transition to providing recovery support services via telehealth or warm line support.

In an attempt to help all program closure announcements reach as many people as possible, we have been sending email updates throughout BHA's Peer Listserv. With that said, as plans are developed to discontinue in person recovery support services, please share that information with BHA's Office of Consumer Affairs and your Local Behavioral Health Authority.

Announcements related to program closures and alternative means of accessing recovery support services should be sent to [Kaylin.mcjilton1@maryland.gov](mailto:Kaylin.mcjilton1@maryland.gov). Please include the closure announcement and details about how individuals can connect with telephonic recovery support services while the physical location is closed.

We thank you for your ongoing partnership and support for individuals seeking wellness and recovery during these unprecedented times.

Brendan Welsh, CPRS