

News Release

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Comptroller Forum on COVID-19 Economic Impact Postponed

*Event will be rescheduled when public health crisis
passes and state of emergency is lifted*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 19, 2020) - In accordance with Governor Hogan's Executive Order to limit social gatherings to no more than 10 people and the closure of entertainment venues, Comptroller Peter Franchot has postponed the Forum on the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Maryland that had been scheduled to be live-streamed on Tuesday, March 24.

"While the economic impact of this pandemic is extremely important, our first priority is protecting public health and heeding calls to practice social distancing," said Comptroller Franchot. "The possibility that further restrictions on non-essential and non-emergency travel may be put into place makes it prudent that we hit the pause button and look to reschedule an in-person forum once the state of emergency concludes."

Once rescheduled, the forum, hosted by Comptroller Franchot and the Schaefer Center for Public Policy, will bring together state health officials, fiscal experts and business leaders to discuss the growing impact that the coronavirus is having on our state and national economy.

"All indications are that we remain in the early stages of this public health crisis and the situation will worsen," Comptroller Franchot said. "With restaurants and retailers already being forced to scale back or close, employees being laid off or having their hours curtailed and small business owners facing financial ruin or drastically altered financial outlooks, it's already clear that the economic impact will be severe."

The Comptroller's Office has taken several actions to support small businesses, including:

- [Conforming with the Internal Revenue Service's 90-day extension of federal income tax payments](#) from April 15 to July 15, 2020. Maryland individual and corporate income taxpayers will be afforded the same relief for state income tax payments. No interest or penalty for late payments will be imposed if 2019 tax payments are made by July 15, 2020.
- [Extending business-related tax filing deadlines](#). The June 1 extension applies to certain business returns with due dates during the months of March, April and May 2020 for businesses filing sales and use, withholding, admissions & amusement, alcohol, tobacco, and motor fuel taxes, as well as tire recycling fee and bay restoration fee returns. Business taxpayers who file and pay by June 1, 2020 will receive an automatic waiver of interest and penalties.
- [Suspending enforcement of limits](#) imposed on customers purchasing beer and distilled spirits from Maryland-based craft breweries and distilleries for carryout and off-premise consumption
- Working with the Governor's Office on [an Executive Order](#) that allows restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, distilleries and other licensed alcohol manufacturers to deliver off-premises, which includes home deliveries.
- Urging Governor Hogan and the General Assembly to [use at least \\$500 million from the State's Rainy Day Fund](#) for small business relief.
- [Compiling a daily updated list of restaurants, bars and related businesses](#) (organized by county) offering takeout or delivery service and encouraging Marylanders to order from these establishments to the extent possible.

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