



## **Reopen Maryland**

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### **Hogan Recovery Plan: Tone-Deaf to Marylanders' Needs, Little Transparency or Attention to Emerging Studies**

Riverdale, MD—This afternoon, Governor Larry Hogan unveiled his Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery. Much like prior communication from the Governor, this plan provides little transparency and leaves much to be concerned about.

We agree with the Governor on one key point: as he mentioned, “This is guesswork.” Destroying a state’s economy, restricting civil liberties, and straining families’ emotional well-being requires a far higher level of certainty than “guesswork.” It is time for the Governor and his team—all of whom are presumably still receiving their salaries—to consider the emerging research calling into question the expected fatality rate of this virus, to share their modeling and projections including confidence intervals and errors to date, and to transparently disclose the way that they are gathering and utilizing data. Reopen Maryland shared these requests in a public press release on April 22 and has yet to receive a response from the Governor.

We remain concerned about the Governor’s continued use of the DC/ Virginia/ Maryland region as a reference point. While regional and national concerns are understood, the Governor’s focus must be on the heartbreaking struggles of Maryland small business owners, whom he barely mentioned, and Maryland families and children. In considering reopening, we call upon the Governor’s task force, as well as the Maryland State Department of Education, to respond to recent findings that evidence for school closure to combat coronavirus is “very weak” and provides a minimal reduction in fatality at enormous social cost.

The Governor’s task force lacks stories and voices vital to understanding the correct path forward. We call on the Governor to immediately add to his task force multiple small business owners who have lost their income, as well as families of children with special education needs. These Marylanders, just as much as the well-heeled elites who still draw salaries, must have a voice in a recovery process that is funded with their tax dollars and affects their families.

Last, Reopen Maryland members are deeply concerned about the privacy and civil liberties invasion that will be the Governor's contact tracing apparatus. Based on emerging data that the coronavirus has been in the United States far longer than initially known, reputable researchers are calling into question the utility of contact tracing at this point in the epidemic. Reopen Maryland calls upon Governor Hogan to immediately provide additional information about this aspect of the plan, including clarifying whether it is his intent to enforce quarantine for healthy asymptomatic contacts of infected individuals. Reopen Maryland also calls upon the Governor to provide details about his newly signed contracts for contact tracing, including public funds expended and their beneficiaries.

Reopen Maryland is a grass-roots, nonpartisan group representing over 20,000 Marylanders. We advocate for an end to the overly broad, economically and socially destructive shutdown and lockdown policies that have injured countless Maryland families and businesses and had a chilling effect upon civil rights.

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