COVID-19 Update

Key Points for July 15

- ✓ Maryland reported 756 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the statewide number to 75,016.
- ✓ The state positivity rate continues to decrease, at 4.49% as of today. Talbot County's positivity rate has increased to 8.7%, the highest in the state currently.
- ✓ Talbot County has a total of 212 confirmed COVID-19 cases and five deaths.
- ✓ Talbot County has received 51% of its totals positive cases in the last 28 days, with our first case reported 122 days ago.
- ✓ Talbot County has established an Individual Assistance Program to provide emergency cash assistance for individuals who are out of work or whose income has been reduced because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Find more information here.

For Immediate Release
July 15, 2020

Ayuda for Non-English Speakers: ChesMRC Launches Helpline

The Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center (ChesMRC) has launched a new toll-free number for Talbot and Caroline county residents who do not speak English as their first language.

Callers will be greeted in Spanish, Haitian/Creole, or English, then transferred to someone who speaks their language. The goal is to connect non-English speakers with help and to answers to their questions more quickly. The line will be manned from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

"COVID-19 has changed how organizations do business," says ChesMRC Director Matthew Peters. "For many of our clients, calling an agency is now their only option. A typical phone system with its many questions and prompts is often a frustrating and impossible thing to navigate. We have streamlined our system so callers get someone to talk to in their own languages."

When a member of the immigrant community needs help, they often reach out to Peters and his staff at ChesMRC. Questions range from how to access local services to requests for information about the COVID-19 virus. They may need an appointment with a doctor, help getting a driver's license, or assistance with social services.

"We will have that information at hand, and we can get it to them immediately," Peters says. "If they need help setting up an appointment, we can three-way dial an agency and set it up while they are on the phone."

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The number is 1-877-772-9835. In Spanish, it also can be read as 1-877-77-AYUDA. The word *ayuda* means help in Spanish.

"This is a confusing, conflicting, tough time we're in," Peters says. "We are here to make sure that those who do not speak English are able to get the information they need. They have the same fears, questions, and confusion as the English-speaking population has about COVID-19.

"That's the spirit of this project," he continues. "We just want to help people get direct answers and direct appointments in a culturally diverse way. Everything improves when we can communicate well."

Talbot County Public Schools

The TCPS Draft Recovery plan will be presented to the Board of Education at their monthly meeting on July 15 at 6:00 p.m. TCPS will be taking comments on the plan until July 30th. A comment form along with the full plan draft will be posted on the website after the meeting. The link to the meeting and the agenda can be found on the TCPS website. https://www.tcps.k12.md.us/

Talbot County Senior Center

Brookletts Place Talbot County Senior Center continues to hold its weekly Pop Up Pantry each Friday, in conjunction with St. Marks United Methodist Church. The summer hours are 9 am until 11 am or until supplies are gone. The pantry is open to anyone 60 years of age or older.

Drive-Thru Food Distribution for the Community

WHEN:
Saturday, July 18, 2020
9am – 11am

WHERE:
Elks Lodge
502 Dutchman's Lane
Easton, MD 21601

Talbot Residents Only

No walk-ups allowed

DO NOT get out of your car. You will need to complete form given on site and a picture of form will be taken through closed window to limit contact. Please clear your trunk so food can be loaded without you exiting your car.

For more information contact 410-770-5515 or email talbotlct@talbotcountymd.gov.

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COVID-19 Update

Where to Find More Information

- **CDC COVID-2019 Website:** https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- **Talbot County COVID-19 Information www.talbotcovid19.org**
- **Shore Regional Health COVID Information https://www.umms.org/shore/patients-visitors/coronavirus**
- **Maryland Department of Health Website:** https://health.maryland.gov/pages/home.aspx
- **Talbot County Health Department Website:** https://health.maryland.gov/talbotcounty/Pages/home.aspx
- **Maryland COVID-19 Website:** https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus