

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor



Ellington E. Churchill, Jr.
Secretary

Michael S. Wilson
Chief of Police

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
MARYLAND CAPITOL POLICE
MEMORANDUM

May 18, 2021

TO: Maryland State Employees;
Maryland General Assembly;
Maryland Credentialled Press;
Maryland State House Visitors

SEC

FROM: Ellington E. Churchill, Jr., Secretary
Michael Wilson, Chief - Maryland Capitol Police *MS Wilson*

RE: COVID-19 Pandemic Building Entry Protocol for Visitors Entering the Maryland State House

Purpose:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding the revised building entry and screening protocols for visitors entering the Maryland State House. The below mentioned procedures will be implemented for visitors who enter the State House. The State House will be accessible to the general public starting on Friday, May 21, 2021, and the reopening was approved unanimously by the State House Trust on May 17, 2021. All other state office buildings are open to the public by appointment through the individual government agency or department.

Effective Date:

Effective Friday, May 21, 2021, the Maryland State House will be opened for visitation by the public. All COVID-19 protocols, including screening questions, social distancing, and thermal scanning will remain in place for all visitors entering the State House.

Procedures:

A. Building Entry Procedures:

1. The basement entrance is the primary entry for the public, staff, state employees and all individuals requiring a wheelchair accessible entry. The main stair entry will also be opened and used as a secondary exit or entrance for those staff who have already been screened.
2. Visitors must complete security checkpoint screening requirements at both locations, to include the following:
 - a. Present approved identification card.
 - b. Thermal temperature scanning.
 - c. Answer screening questionnaire.
 - d. Walk through the metal detector at these locations.
 - e. All loose items will be screened with X-ray machines.
3. State Employees will follow existing COVID-19 guidelines for building entry.

B. COVID-19 Protocol

1. Occupancy and operating requirements

- a. The capacity for the building will be set at 50% of total occupancy according to the fire marshal (251 individuals).
 - b. Tours and groups of visitors shall not exceed 25 individuals per group, not including the tour guide.
2. Thermal Scanning
- a. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been providing information to the American public on ways to prevent and reduce transmission of the disease. The current CDC guidance mentions temperature checks as one consideration that can be used as part of a comprehensive screening protocol.
 - b. The CDC guidance recommends that **employees found to have a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher** should be sent home immediately and instructed to promptly contact their doctor.
 - c. Personnel assigned to monitor the scanning system are required to deny entry to individuals determined to have an elevated temperature as identified by the screening application.
 - d. While these technologies are not able to diagnose individuals with COVID-19, using such technology will provide an initial screening that will help identify individuals who may require a more heightened scrutiny when they enter one of the state's facilities where this technology has been installed.

C. Prohibited Items:

- 1. Except for official purposes and by authorized personnel, an individual on the property may not carry open or concealed firearms, explosives, incendiary devices, or dangerous or deadly weapons into the State House (COMAR Sec. 04.05.01.03. Prohibited Conduct).