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Contact:  
Sarah Myers  
Communications Coordinator  
Garrett County Government  
203 South Fourth Street  
Oakland, MD 21550  
301-334-7242  
[smyers@garrettcountry.org](mailto:smyers@garrettcountry.org)



## **Reschedule Your Visit to the Mountains says Garrett Commissioners** Following Recommendations is the Only Way to Flatten Pandemic Curve

March 21, 2020, Oakland, MD – As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to change on a minute-by-minute basis, the Garrett County Health Department and the Board of Garrett County Commissioners are urging citizens to stay home, be responsible and avoid crowds.

State of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan also reminded Marylanders that the dramatic actions being taken across the country are to save lives.

“To further protect our residents, visitors and hospitality employees we request that visitors postpone trips to the mountains, Deep Creek Lake and the surrounding area beginning immediately,” commented Chairman Paul Edwards. “This action is necessary to ensure compliance with social distancing and flatten the curve of this dangerous coronavirus. At this point, the only weapon we have to combat this potentially fatal virus is to take drastic measures. All of us have to work together to outlast and shorten the cycle of this pandemic.”

Maryland has continued to take extreme actions to slow the spread of COVID-19. Governor Hogan announced several new statewide restrictions including limiting travel, closing shopping malls and enclosed entertainment venues and urging all Marylanders to stay home. Also, with the first COVID-19 death in Maryland, events and gatherings of 10 people or more are prohibited.

“We are urging citizens to stay home, be responsible and avoid large crowds. We will continue to monitor this changing situation and will not hesitate to take additional actions necessary to protect our community” said Garrett County Health Officer Robert Stephens.

Information and updates about COVID-19 in Garrett County and around the world are available at <https://www.garrettcountry.org/commissioners/coronavirus>. Residents can also call the Health Department COVID-19 Hotline at 301-334-7698

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**About Garrett County Government:** The County is governed by an elected Board of County Commissioners (the "Board"), whose three members serve four-year terms and must live in the District which they represent. The Board may exercise only such powers as are conferred by the General Assembly of Maryland. The County is administered under a line organizational method, with the County Administrator responsible for overseeing the financial planning, annual budget process, personnel management, and direction and management of operations within the organization.