



I couldn't be prouder of Marylanders right now.

Because of the extraordinary sacrifices made by so many, we've begun to make measurable progress on our containment efforts and are working through the mitigation phase of the crisis now.

At the same time, we are actively consulting with experts from every walk of life to plan Maryland's recovery because I want our state to get back to work as quickly as possible, while keeping everyone safe.

In fact on Friday, I outlined the Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery, created from input by healthcare leaders and business owners – and based on President Trump's announcement that states must have 14 days of declining COVID rates before they can reopen. The three stages outlined in the roadmap will help every Marylander understand how we will safely and responsibly reopen our great state and begin the path back to economic growth and prosperity.

This roadmap allows for flexibility at the regional level, while restoring quality of life improvements for many. It will give hope to small business owners, working families, and citizens across the state.

With that said, there is no way we can simply flip a switch and restore "normalcy" to our great state.

With more than 20,000 coronavirus cases (over 3,900 so seriously ill as to require hospitalization) and nearly 1,000 people having been killed by the virus in Maryland alone – we cannot rush into anything that jeopardizes more of our friends and neighbors.

But there is good news too.

1,177 Marylanders have already recovered from the coronavirus and have been released from isolation.

And just ten days ago, the First Lady and I stood on the tarmac to welcome the first-ever Korean Air passenger plane at BWI Airport. That jet brought Maryland a very important payload of LabGenesis COVID-19 test kits.

The 500,000 tests in that plane give us the ability to have the largest testing effort per capita in the nation. And that robust testing will allow us to more quickly advance into recovery phases.

Marylanders should feel confident in knowing that we are doing everything in our power, going to every length, working with allies around the world, and using every tool and every resource at our disposal to defeat this deadly virus. And get us back to work.

Our sacrifices – and our decisive actions – have saved tens of thousands of lives and will save even more in the days ahead.

For now, we need to continue avoiding crowds, continue to practice physical distancing, and wear masks or face coverings because cases here are still increasing – not decreasing. There is clearly light at the end of the tunnel as the Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery outlines – but exactly how and when we will get to that light is up to each and every one of us.

Our great state – and the growing economy of the last six years – will be better and stronger in the future. We will make sure of it.

Together we changed Maryland for the better. We grew our economy faster than anyone predicted, we created more jobs, and we lowered taxes, fees, and tolls despite all the odds stacked against us.

By working together now, we will succeed. We will prevail. And we will overcome the challenges we face today.

For now, please stay at home. Please stay safe. And know that we are actively planning the next steps for Maryland's recovery.

Thank you,

Larry Hogan

Governor

P.S. If you can volunteer to help our neighbors – from donating blood to helping at a food bank – please visit Governor.Maryland.gov/MarylandUnites today to learn more.