

Attention All MDH Employees:

All State agencies have been advised that premium pay will be ending for all agency designated emergency essential and mission critical personnel who have been required to report to a worksite, other than a home telework location, since the Governor's Executive Order, dated March 12, 2020, implementing an Elevated Level II of Pandemic Flu and Other Infectious Diseases Attendance and Leave Policy for Executive Branch State Employees.

Early yesterday morning all agency heads were directed to immediately implement "Access Protocols for All State Operated Facilities and Buildings" and "Guidance for Home Visiting Staff" (attached) to limit the spread of COVID-19 among State employees and within state operated facilities and buildings. These protocols have been created based on guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with health experts at the Maryland Department of Health.

The reason for these changes is because the new protocols adhere to CDC guidance for creating and maintaining a safe workplace as it relates to COVID-19. At this time, we we have taken the recommended, reasonable, and appropriate measures to protect employees and control the spread of this disease in our facilities.

As a result, premium pay for all designated emergency essential and mission critical personnel will cease at 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 22, 2020. This change does not alter the fact that all employees who have been directed to work at home should continue to work at home and all non-essential employees who cannot telework should remain at home on administrative leave.