



April 27, 2020 There is a lot of discussion in the news about the “reopening” of states.

Good afternoon, Raptors. I'm hoping you got a little outdoor time on Saturday. The lovely weather created a few social distancing challenges on my favorite walking routes, but at least I'm getting my Fit Bit steps in. Staying active, while still avoiding close contact, continues to be encouraged by health experts.

As you know, there is a lot of discussion in the news about the “reopening” of states. Governor Larry Hogan keeps reminding us—as he did Friday—that Maryland will not lift its restrictions until the targets established in his plan are met. These include fourteen days of declining numbers of hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19. Unfortunately, the weekend saw an increase in new cases and Saturday saw the largest single day jump in fatalities in Maryland. This trend is certainly disheartening, but health experts tell us that our efforts at social distancing have prevented even larger losses of life in our state. As the governor noted, we will need to stay committed to these practices until conditions are safe to step into the next phase.

Here at the College we are closely watching the guidance provided by the county, the state, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Simultaneously, College leaders are meeting remotely to identify the variables that will be central to decisions about our own operations. This is a complex process, requiring collaboration and careful planning, which will be thoroughly informed by health guidance and responsive to evolving conditions. If you missed [Governor Hogan's publication](#) of his own plan on Friday, you can see some more detail here on the metrics he will use to make statewide decisions.

As we move into week six, please continue to reach out if you need assistance. Two sites are being updated regularly: the College's [Coronavirus webpage](#), and this [County website](#), with links to food resources, employment-assistance, and health care.

Finally, I want to give a shout out to the MC public safety and facilities employees who continue to work on our campuses, even during this protracted crisis. While the large majority of us are sheltering at home, in keeping with state mandates, the College has a limited presence on campuses in case of a building emergency. These employees' dedication allows the rest of us to continue working at home and flattening the curve. On behalf of the College, I want to say thank you. And to everyone in their home offices and virtual classrooms, have a healthy, MC-Strong week.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "DeRionne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "D" being large and prominent.

DeRionne P. Pollard, PhD

We empower our students to change their lives, and we enrich the life of our community. We are accountable for our results.