

# HOUSE BILL 187

J1, F2

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CF 0lr1562

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By: **Delegates Pena–Melnik, Lehman, and Reznik**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2020

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Institutions of Higher Education – Outbreak Response Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a public institution of higher education to submit an outbreak  
4 response plan to the Maryland Department of Health on or before a certain date each  
5 year; requiring a public institution of higher education to implement the outbreak  
6 response plan under certain circumstances; requiring the outbreak response plan to  
7 include certain protocols and processes and the provision of certain staff; requiring  
8 the Department, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission,  
9 to adopt certain regulations; defining a certain term; and generally relating to public  
10 institutions of higher education and outbreak response plans.

11 BY adding to  
12 Article – Health – General  
13 Section 18–214.2  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2019 Replacement Volume)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Health – General**

19 **18–214.2.**

20 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION”  
21 MEANS:

22 (1) A PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION, AS DEFINED  
23 IN § 10–101 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE; AND

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

2           **(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2021, EACH**  
3 **PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL SUBMIT AN OUTBREAK**  
4 **RESPONSE PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT.**

5           **(2) IF THERE IS AN OUTBREAK OF A LIFE-THREATENING**  
6 **CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OR SIMILAR HEALTH EMERGENCY AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION**  
7 **OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL**  
8 **IMPLEMENT THE OUTBREAK RESPONSE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**  
9 **THIS SUBSECTION.**

10          **(C) THE OUTBREAK RESPONSE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF**  
11 **THIS SECTION SHALL BE CUSTOMIZED TO THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER**  
12 **EDUCATION AND INCLUDE:**

13           **(1) A PROTOCOL FOR ISOLATING AND COHORTING INFECTED**  
14 **INDIVIDUALS UNTIL A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES THAT THE ISOLATED**  
15 **INDIVIDUAL IS NO LONGER A THREAT TO THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF OF**  
16 **THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;**

17           **(2) A PROCESS FOR EXPEDIENTLY NOTIFYING STUDENTS, FAMILIES**  
18 **OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF OF:**

19           **(I) THE OUTBREAK OF A LIFE-THREATENING CONTAGIOUS**  
20 **DISEASE OR SIMILAR HEALTH EMERGENCY;**

21           **(II) SUBPOPULATIONS THAT ARE AT HIGH RISK OF SEVERE**  
22 **COMPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE-THREATENING CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OR SIMILAR**  
23 **HEALTH EMERGENCY;**

24           **(III) GUIDANCE ON HOW STUDENTS, FAMILIES OF STUDENTS,**  
25 **FACULTY, AND STAFF CAN TAKE REASONABLE PROTECTIVE MEASURES; AND**

26           **(IV) INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF LABORATORY**  
27 **TESTING FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF;**

28           **(3) PROCESSES FOR IMPLEMENTING EVIDENCE-BASED OUTBREAK**  
29 **RESPONSE MEASURES;**

30           **(4) THE PROVISION OF STAFF TO SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT THE**  
31 **OUTBREAK RESPONSE PLAN DURING AN OUTBREAK OF A LIFE-THREATENING**  
32 **CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OR A SIMILAR HEALTH EMERGENCY AT THE PUBLIC**

1 INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

2 (5) A PROCESS FOR REPORTING AN OUTBREAK OF A  
3 LIFE-THREATENING CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OR SIMILAR HEALTH EMERGENCY AT  
4 THE PUBLIC INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO:

5 (I) THE DEPARTMENT;

6 (II) FEDERAL AND STATE SURVEILLANCE NETWORKS;

7 (III) CAMPUS HEALTH PROVIDERS;

8 (IV) LOCAL COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS; AND

9 (V) REGIONAL HOSPITALS; AND

10 (6) ANY OTHER MEASURE REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

11 (D) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND HIGHER  
12 EDUCATION COMMISSION, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS  
13 SECTION.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 October 1, 2020.