



**Joseph L. Smith**, *Chairman, Board of Commissioners*  
**Janet Abrahams**, *Chief Executive Officer*

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Housing Authority of Baltimore City Provides Meals to Residents & Families, Ensures Safe, Healthy Delivery with City Partners**

*All CDC, State and Local health department directives & guidelines are followed throughout entire distribution process*

**(BALTIMORE – April 2, 2020)** – As part of ongoing efforts to provide residents and families who are most in need of essential services during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) is providing free food services throughout its housing communities. HABC has partnered with the Maryland Food Bank, the City’s Department of Planning and other government partners to deliver the food.

This effort is made with the intent to prioritize low-income residents in the city’s emergency food response, to include children, families and seniors. These services are operating under directives provided by state and federal governments to ensure that all food services follow the guidelines set forth by the government agencies that are coordinating food distribution.

“As we seek every opportunity available to us right now to provide food services, we need to ensure that all precautionary measures are being taken throughout the entire process,” said HABC’s CEO, Janet Abrahams. “Federal, state and local authorities have issued directives and guidelines that all food distributors and handlers must follow in order to combat the spread of the coronavirus. The health and safety of all residents, their families and our staff is always our number one priority.”

The Mobile Meal Distribution provides meals to HABC families with children 18 years and younger Monday through Friday at different times throughout the day. The meals are provided at all resident communities, including McCullough Homes, Gilmore Homes, Rosemont/Dukeland, Cherry Hill Homes, Perkins Homes, Douglass Homes, Latrobe, Poe Homes, Brooklyn Homes, Westport Homes and O’Donnell Homes. The delivery schedule by location is available at [Coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov](https://www.coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov)

“The outpouring of support by the Baltimore City business, non-profit, and religious communities to our neighbors in need shows the best of our city during these difficult times,” said Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department. “We ask that all restaurants, non-profits, religious and commercial organizations interested in making food donations ensure that all staff and volunteers are abiding by CDC and Baltimore City Health

Department guidance related to food preparation and distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, My Groceries to Go!, also known as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program that provides nutritious USDA food to low-income seniors, has started distributing meals to participants at HABC developments. The food boxes for April will contain almost double the amount of nutritious food as usual to respond to the increased need during the COVID-19 health crisis. The Maryland Food Bank is delivering the allotted food packages under the following schedule:

- O'Donnell Heights – April 2
- Latrobe Homes – April 3
- Rosemont Towers – April 7
- Cherry Hill Homes – April 7
- Gilmor Homes – April 7
- Douglass Homes – April 10
- Perkins Homes – April 10

The My Groceries to Go! residents will receive a phone call to inform them of the updated delivery process, which is based on state and federal recommended practices to minimize the spread of COVID-19. The shelf-stable food packages will be delivered to the residents' homes. Staff will knock on their door to alert them their package has arrived but will refrain from entering the home and maintain safe social distancing.

“All staff involved in the delivery process to get the food to the residents' doors will wear masks and gloves to protect residents and themselves,” said Abrahams. “We require everyone to follow health and safety guidelines at all times, no exceptions.”

HABC provides updates and schedules on its website, [www.habc.org](http://www.habc.org), and stay connected on its various social media platforms.

###