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## **NEWS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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### **Wind alerts as snow tapers off** *Restrictions issued for Chesapeake Bay Bridge*

The National Weather Service has cancelled the Winter Storm Warning for Delmarva as a few lingering snow showers taper off in Delaware. However, Joe Miketta, NWS Warning Coordinator, cautions that strong winds, including gusts up to 35 and 40 mph, will continue to contribute to blowing and drifting snow throughout the state.

Visibility on roads may be reduced as snow blows steadily or even in bursts. Blowing and drifting snow can also hamper crews working on clearing roads. Anyone who must drive is advised to exercise extreme caution, drive slowly and allow ample time to reach a destination.

The Maryland Transportation Authority has announced that Wind Restrictions are now in effect on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge due to sustained wind speeds of between 40 and 49 mph. House trailers, empty box trailers and other vehicles subject to strong winds are prohibited from crossing. Motorcycles and vehicles with roof-mount racks and other high profile vehicles are advised to use caution if planning to cross the bridge and to monitor bridge traffic conditions before traveling to the bridge.

For around-the-clock Bay Bridge traffic conditions call 1-877-BAYSPAN (229-7726) or visit [baybridge.com](http://baybridge.com) for the latest bridge lane-closure schedule and to view images of bridge traffic.

According to the NWS, the remaining snow showers this afternoon should result in only about half an inch additional accumulation on top of the snow that fell through the night and this morning. As the snow recedes, DelDOT road crews are focusing on clearing primary routes and will move to secondary and back roads as the main thoroughfares are cleared and safe.

Temperatures dropping into the teens overnight could result in freezing where there is wet snow and slush. All state emergency officials urge the public to restrict travel as much as possible until crews can clear and apply salt or sand to road surfaces.

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The winds today and Tuesday will also contribute to very low wind chill temperatures. Dangerous conditions exist for anyone who is not adequately dressed; even a relatively short term exposure can cause injury to bare skin. Those who must be outdoors are advised that several layers of lighter clothing can provide better insulation and warmth than a single large sweater or heavy coat. Head, ears and hands should be covered at all times.

Pets should be brought indoors or housed in adequately insulated or heated shelters. Owners should take care to provide fresh water and to clean animals' paws if they have traveled over treated road surfaces.

For up to date information on weather conditions and snow accumulation in local areas, the public can access the Delaware Environmental Observation System at [www.deos.udel.edu](http://www.deos.udel.edu). The site has links to specific local weather monitoring stations and includes access to the Snow Monitoring Network. Information is also available on the DEMA website, [www.dema.delaware.gov](http://www.dema.delaware.gov), the DelDOT website, [www.deldot.gov](http://www.deldot.gov), and the State of Delaware website, [www.delaware.gov](http://www.delaware.gov), delays and closings page.

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