

February 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) and the Health Department understand the concerns many people have over the potential spread of coronavirus to our area. We want you to know that our schools have been limiting risks to students and school staff by monitoring attendance, cleaning high-touch areas, and encouraging students and staff to practice proper hand washing.

Currently, 60 Americans have been diagnosed with coronavirus. As of the writing of this letter on February 28, none of these infections have been in Maryland. Almost all cases involving U.S. residents were contracted overseas or through close contact with someone who was infected while overseas. No outbreaks have occurred in the U.S. As recent news reports from Italy and other countries have shown, however, outbreaks can begin at any point.

Although we may eventually have cases in Calvert, the work of public health agencies to slow introduction of coronavirus to America has provided additional time for hospitals, doctors and nurses, and emergency medical services (EMS) to better prepare to care for people with possible infections. This includes testing to accurately diagnose coronavirus and providing the best care for the sick, while protecting the health of other community members.

The Calvert County Health Department and CCPS work with health officials at the federal and state level, as well as with our counterparts in neighboring counties since viruses don't respect lines on a map. We also routinely work with our Calvert partners at the hospital, individual medical practices, and EMS, as well as non-health agencies, including the Department of Social Services in case people who may need to be isolated in their homes require help obtaining food or temporary assistance with other basic needs.

While no cases of coronavirus have presented in the region, we continue to prepare for the potential of a change at any time. Your child's school staff and the Health Department encourage everyone to make good, daily choices to decrease the spread of viruses.

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Keep children home from school or daycare until their fevers and symptoms have resolved for at least a full 24 hours.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer.
- Try to find ways to greet people other than shaking hands, particularly during flu season.
- When vaccines are available for an infection, protect yourselves and your children.

The less likely you are to get sick, the less likely you are to unintentionally pass a virus on to someone else with a weak immune system who may become very ill. As good neighbors, we have an obligation to look out for others.

Calvert County Public Schools and the Calvert County Health Department wish you and your family a healthy and safe remainder of the academic year. Beware of misleading claims on the internet about miracle cures and products that give people false reassurance. To keep up on the latest and most accurate coronavirus information, please check the Calvert County Health Department's website <https://www.calverthealth.org>, Facebook page, or Twitter account.

Yours truly,



Dr. Lawrence Polsky
Health Officer



Daniel D. Curry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

