

**March 12, 2020—Message sent to families and staff through School Messenger**

Calvert County Public Schools continues to work daily with the Calvert County Health Department to monitor the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Please visit the Health Department website, [www.calverthealth.org](http://www.calverthealth.org), for up-to-date local information about the virus.

Our schools continue to limit risks to students and staff by monitoring attendance and encouraging proper hand washing. Our building services staff uses hospital-grade disinfectant and cleaning products that include a virucide and are recommended for use in schools. In addition to the regular cleaning routine, building service workers will be cleaning high-touch areas, such as doorknobs and handrails, more frequently.

Dr. Karen Salmon, Maryland Superintendent of Schools, has issued a statement that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), is advising that all scheduled out-of-state and international field trips sanctioned by local school systems for students and staff be cancelled indefinitely. CCPS has therefore cancelled all such field trips.

If local residents test positive for COVID-19, the school system will consult with the health department to determine the best course of action. The decision to close schools is not one we take lightly. In addition to lost learning time, many students and families depend upon the school system for meals and other services. Although CCPS has some resources available for digital learning, not all children have laptops, and not all families have internet access. We are not, therefore, at the readiness point to move preK-12 instruction exclusively online.

For additional, current information about COVID-19, visit the Maryland Department of Health website, [www.health.maryland.gov](http://www.health.maryland.gov), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).