

CALVERT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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September 2, 2020

Dear Parents,

To put it very mildly, this has been a trying six months for everyone, especially for students whose routines and social supports have been fundamentally disrupted by the COVID pandemic. At the Calvert County Health Department, we worked with our Public School team to keep summer school students and staff safe and healthy. We will continue to partner with our local schools and parents throughout the 2020-21 school year.

There are plans for some students to return to school buildings for in-person learning early in the school year. It is our hope that more students will be able to return to their schools as the academic year progresses. We understand that important emotional and social supports take place in classrooms that cannot be replicated by virtual learning.

To these ends, we need your help to decrease the potential spread of COVID and other infections in our schools. Please monitor your children's health and keep them home if they develop the following:

If your child has had any **ONE** of the following during the last 10 days, she/he should not attend school:

- **NEW** onset cough
- **NEW** onset shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fever of 100.0 degrees or higher

If your child has had any **TWO** of the following during the last 10 days, she/he should not attend school:

- Chills
- Muscle Pain
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Stomach/intestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea)

Or, **if or your child has been in close contact with a person known to be COVID positive in the last 14 days**, she/he should not attend school.

Testing for COVID in each of the above circumstances should be determined by your child's doctor or nurse practitioner.

We're all in this together. It's not only the health of students and school staff that are at stake, but family members who are more medically vulnerable to complications from COVID. Some students live with their grandparents, and others have family members left more medically fragile as a result of chemotherapy or other health problems. Acting in consideration of others is critical as we move into the school year.

I will close with an encouragement to have your children and all family members vaccinated against influenza. Decreasing transmission of the flu will save lives, prevent our local hospital from becoming overwhelmed with patients, and decrease confusion regarding potential COVID outbreaks that may lead to further disruptions during the school year.

I hope you and your family have a healthy fall and winter,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurence Polsky MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurence Polsky, MD, MPH, FACOG
Health Officer- Calvert County