February 28, 2020

Dear CCPS Families:

I know that many of you are feeling nervous about the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and we wanted to provide some updates and additional information in order to help families feel better prepared. While the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers this a very serious public health threat, based on current information, the immediate health risk to the general American public is considered low at this time.

Please know that, as we do in all health-related cases, we are working closely with the Cecil County Health Department, Cecil County Department of Emergency Services, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and the CDC who will continue to advise us as we all closely monitor this matter.

It is important to understand that, as of today, there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Maryland. According to the CDC, to date there have been 15 confirmed cases in the United States, 12 of which were travel-related. However, this is a rapidly changing situation and one which we are monitoring closely.

In light of this and the ongoing flu season, it is important to practice good hygiene to limit the spread of viruses in our schools. A virus can live on surfaces such as desks and doorknobs. As a safeguard, custodial staff will continue to thoroughly clean classrooms and common areas. Our school nurses and staff will also continue working with students to promote good hygiene. Parents are asked to help in reinforcing healthy practices at home with children. Here are a few things you can do to help prevent the spread of germs:

- **WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY**
  Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. You can set a good example by doing this yourself. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.

- **AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, AND MOUTH**

- **COVER YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE WHILE COUGHING AND SNEEZING**
  Teach your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues and then throw tissues in the trash. If tissues are not available, encourage them to use their elbow, arm, or sleeve instead of their hand to cover coughs or sneezes. Remind your children that they should not share drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.

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• **STAY HOME IF YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK**

• **DO NOT SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.**
  Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home. Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs like acetaminophen (Tylenol). Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.

• **AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK**

• **CLEAN AND DISINFECT FREQUENTLY TOUCHED OBJECTS AND SURFACES**

If you would like more detailed information about the coronavirus, there are several websites with helpful information:
3. Any Cecil County-specific updates will be posted on the Cecil County Health Department website: [www.cecilcountyhealth.org](http://www.cecilcountyhealth.org).

If you have specific questions about the Coronavirus, please contact the Cecil County Health Department, at 410-996-5100.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Lawson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools