Coronavirus Fact Sheet
Bureau of School Health
Date 2/28/2020

Note: This is a rapidly evolving situation. Information provided is current as of 2/27/2020. Information and guidance may change as the outbreak continues. Up to date information can be found on the websites listed below.

What is the concern about COVID-19?

There is an ongoing, international outbreak of a new disease, called COVID-19, formerly known as 2019-nCoV. While many of the early cases in this outbreak primarily involved people living in Wuhan City, China, health officials have now reported thousands of cases globally. This virus can cause a mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Symptoms of COVID-19

• Fever
• Cough
• Shortness of breath

Ways to prevent the spread of viruses

• Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
• Use an alcohol-based (60%) hand sanitizer, if soap and water are not available
• Cover your mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing
• Avoid close contact with people who are sick
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
• If you or your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater, you or your child should stay home.
• Before you return to work or your child returns to school there should be:
  o No fever for 24 hours without medication according to the Maryland Communicable Disease Summary

What if a student traveled to China and has no symptoms? Can they come to school?

It depends on when the student was last in China. Students who arrived from China prior to February 4, 2020 and who are well (without symptoms) are not restricted from school or other activities. Because of the wider spread of the virus in China, potential exposures in China are now greater.

• Children who arrived from China on February 14, 2020 or later should stay home from school until it has been 14 days since they left China.
• After the 14-day period is over, those students are able to return to school with no restrictions on their activities.

What if a student has traveled to an area with widespread or sustained COVID-19 transmission and is sick with fever and respiratory symptoms?

If a student who has traveled to an area with widespread or sustained COVID-19 transmission in the
last 14 days develops fever or respiratory symptoms (especially cough or difficulty breathing), they should stay home from school and be assessed by their primary care provider. If the student does not have a primary care provider, schools should contact the local health department for further guidance.

**What if a student has traveled to an area with widespread or sustained COVID-19 in the last 14 days and while in school becomes sick with fever and respiratory symptoms?**

- The School Health Services staff will follow a protocol that will include giving the student a surgical mask to wear.
- The student will be placed in a safe isolation area visible to the school health services or assigned school staff separate from the rest of the health room.
- The parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the student immediately and take them for further evaluation (which might include laboratory testing).

**Are travelers from other countries in addition to China at risk for COVID-19?**

The situation for COVID-19 is rapidly changing. As of Thursday, 2/27/2020 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified the following countries as those with widespread or community transmission:
- China
- Iran
- Italy
- Japan
- South Korea

Individuals who have traveled to these countries and develop symptoms of fever and cough or shortness of breath may be at risk for COVID-19, and should report to their healthcare provider. **Please Call Ahead.**

**What should I do if I or my child is concerned about COVID-19 and wants to see a physician?**

It is very important to CALL AHEAD to you or your child’s doctor, or urgent care center, if you are concerned you may have COVID-19.

**Please be aware that the risk for getting the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) remains relatively low at this time. There have been no confirmed cases of the virus in Maryland as of February 27, 2020.**

**It's not too late to get your flu shot!** While the influenza vaccine does not protect against coronavirus infection, it can help keep you healthy during the flu season.

**Where can I find more information?**

More information on COVID-19 can be found here:

- Maryland Department of Health: https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx