

Statement for Teachers to Read to Students – COVID-19

Please take a moment to read the guidelines and student statement below.

We would like you to read the statement to students shortly after arrival. Please allow some time for students who may be late to arrive at school.

Considerations for when you read the statement:

- *Be aware of students who have a chronic illness or family members with medical conditions.*
- *After you read the statement, give the students some time to ask questions and process the information they have just heard.*
- *Please contact an administrator or school counselor if a student appears to need individual attention.*

Elementary Statement for Community Circles for Students

I want to talk to you about the COVID-19 virus, which may also be called the Coronavirus.

How many of you have heard about this?

(ask for a show of hands)

How many of you have heard that schools will be closed for two weeks, starting next week?

(ask for show of hands)

The people in charge of the state of Maryland decided to close schools for two weeks. They are closing schools to help slow down the spread of COVID-19. This will also help doctors help the people who may be sick and will let everyone stay as safe as possible.

While there is a lot of concern surrounding the virus, there are actually very few cases involving children and teens across the world. Children and teens who have been sick with the virus usually have had mild cases, which means they get better quickly.

There are several things we should all do to protect ourselves, friends, and family from getting sick, such as washing our hands. What are other things we can do?

(allow students to share, fill in with responses as needed).

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash (or cough/sneeze into your sleeve or elbow)
- Only touch your face if needed and wash your hands before and after touching your face, especially if you touch your mouth, nose, or eyes

(continued on back)→

If you are worried, what can you do? Who can you talk to?
(allow students to share ideas, fill in with responses below as needed)

Here are some good steps you can take:

- Talk to an adult you trust, such as your parents, a relative, teachers, or a school counselor.
- Remember, not everything you see and hear on TV, radio and social media is true.
- Do things other than watch TV and play videogames.
- If you have more questions, please speak with your parents, teachers, or other trusted adults.

What do you think you can do at home for the next two weeks?
(allow students to share, fill in with responses below as needed)

- Keep a daily routine (*possibly describe*).
- Keep healthy eating and sleep habits.
- Spend at least 20-30 minutes reading a preferred book or magazine.
- If you are sick, stay at home and avoid contact with others.
- Keep objects and surfaces clean in your room and house.

We are looking forward to our return to school. Please ask your family to check the HCPSS website regularly for any updates.