The new Coronavirus COVID-19 continues to be of concern for Howard County residents, as well for those nationwide and around the globe. HCPSS staff members have been diligent in efforts to remain fully aware of new information as it becomes available and are planning for every conceivable scenario. On issues of community health, we take our guidance from the experts at the Howard County Health Department, Maryland Department of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HCPSS is actively monitoring the situation and will continue to communicate with all parents via email, social media and website.

The Howard County Health Department has shared several recommendations to ensure that all Howard County residents are taking appropriate and effective actions to stay healthy and prevent the spread of all person-to-person viruses. These precautions also have been shared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and include:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Staying home when you are sick
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash (or coughing/sneezing into your sleeve or elbow)
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched objects and surfaces

Visit www.hcpss.org for complete information and updates, answers to frequently asked questions, and additional resources. Language supports are available by calling 410-313-7102.