



March 12, 2020

Dear SMCPs Community:

As the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) grows in our area, St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPs) remains committed to providing all families, staff and students with updated and accurate information regarding the effect on our school communities. We are facing an unprecedented community health concern and our first priority is to focus on the well-being of our students and staff.

This afternoon, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon announced that all Maryland public schools will be closed for two weeks, **effective Monday, March 16, 2020**, with a plan to **reopen Monday, March 30, 2020**. Updates to school operations will be posted on our website, www.smcps.org. Any and all activities previously scheduled in schools are also canceled. Additional details regarding marking periods, make up days, and other school business will be provided over the coming days.

SMCPs and the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) are working closely with local, state, and federal agencies to monitor ongoing changes to the situation. In addition, the SMCHD continues to provide updates on their [website \(www.smchd.org/coronavirus\)](http://www.smchd.org/coronavirus), which is accessible on each school's website.

The [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and local health officials continue to share the following best practices as important steps to prevent the spread of this virus:

- Avoid interaction with people who are sick/ill.
- If you are sick, please stay at home.
- Do not travel if you are sick/ill.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

Individuals who believe they are at risk or have been exposed to the coronavirus are encouraged to contact their personal healthcare provider.

SMCPs will provide ongoing updates as they become available..

Sincerely,

J. Scott Smith
Superintendent of Schools