

**Subject:** Principal Communication: COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2020 at 1:02:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Ellicott Mills Middle School

**To:** Jennifer Johnson



**Ellicott Mills Middle School**

## **EMMS Principal Communication Concerning COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

As the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation changes minute by minute, I want to assure you that Ellicott Mills has been taking the appropriate measures to ensure that we have the safest learning environment possible. We continue to monitor all communication coming from HCPSS, Local and State Health Departments, and the CDC to ensure that we are responding and adjusting expeditiously to any situation.

How can students reduce the risk of flu at EMMS? EMMS is equipped with three hand sanitizer stations. They are located in Health Suite and two in the Cafeteria. We are encouraging students to use these stations during the lunch shifts or when they enter the Health Suite. We are also encouraging students to regularly wash their hands. We are closely monitoring our bathrooms to ensure that the soap and paper towel dispensers remain full. Additionally, through our morning news program, we will be running weekly reminders stressing health hygiene habits. We are also allowing and encouraging students to carry and use personal hand sanitizer during school hours. Below are further recommendations from the Howard County Health Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Wash 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
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash (or cough/sneeze into your sleeve or elbow)

As much as we want your child here at school, if you suspect your child is coming down with something or is sick, please keep them home. If they are presenting with flu like symptoms, students must stay home for 24hrs after being asymptomatic without the use of fever reducing medicines.

It is also important to use this opportunity to acknowledge and confront use of COVID-19 as a means to demean or target groups of people. Ellicott Mills and HCPSS will not tolerate any type of culturally insensitive behavior and may consider such acts as a violation of HCPSS Policy 1060: Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation. I have encouraged EMMS Staff to be extra vigilant in monitoring any such behavior. Please encourage your child to share any information with their teacher or a trusted adult in the unfortunately event that a situation has occurred.

For regular updates, please visit the [HCPSS website](#), it is the best source of information related to the school system's response to the COVID-19 threat with details, resources and answers to frequently asked questions.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Peter Gaylord  
Principal  
Ellicott Mills Middle School

---

### Connect with Us:

**Address**

4445 Montgomery Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**Phone**

410-313-2839

**Website**

[emms.hcpss.org](https://emms.hcpss.org)

**Twitter**

[@hcpss\\_emms](https://twitter.com/hcpss_emms)

---

Howard County Public Schools would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Howard County Public Schools directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

