
Maura J. Rossman, M.D., Health Officer

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Dear Local Health Improvement Coalition Members:

As efforts regarding COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus continue, I want to provide you with another update on our local efforts. We have entered a new phase of the response and we will continue to see new cases in Howard County. As a community, we can mitigate the impact of the coronavirus through social distancing, hand washing and staying home as much as possible. School closures, business closures, telework, event cancellations, and restricting group gatherings has the potential to significantly reduce the spread, limit the number of cases, and reduce fatalities. For these efforts to work, we must all do our part.

We know many of you have questions. The Howard County Health Department has a Coronavirus Information Line for answers to health and medical questions about the virus. Call 410-313-6284. The line is available from 8:00am until 8:00pm seven days a week. Over the coming weeks, we will need everyone's support to ensure that the critical needs of our community are met.

Howard County has a very strong Local Health Improvement Coalition with over 400 individuals and 140 organizations. During this time, we have an opportunity to work collaboratively and creatively to employ innovative ways to support each other, help our community mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and manage the expected surge of healthcare services.

Like us, many of you are already starting discussions about how to address needs related to access to care, nutrition, physical activity, and addressing anxiety and isolation for people of all ages in our community in the coming weeks. Coalition staff members will be in contact with you about what you are doing, what your organization's stakeholders needs are and how together, we can creatively develop best practices and pilot ideas to manage these challenging times.

Out of challenges can come great achievements and I believe that we can see good come from this difficult time if we intentionally choose to seek it together. I am thankful to all of you for your continued dedication to the health of our community.

Maura



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