COVID-19 Update

Key Points for May 1

✓ Maryland reported 1,730 new cases today for a statewide total of 23,486. The sharp rise is related to increased testing and outbreaks in the poultry industry.

✓ Health officials have noted an increase in the number of children testing positive. To date, children account for only 3% of COVID-19 cases.

✓ Talbot County reported six new cases for a total of 44 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

✓ Maryland now has a total of 1,098 deaths with 51 the past 24 hours. Of these deaths, 529 or 45% have been related to nursing home outbreaks of COVID-19.

✓ Medical professionals have identified a new COVID-19 symptom—a rash that resembles frostbite of the toes, which is particularly prevalent in children.

✓ Maryland's state laboratory has deployed 2,000 test kits to Wicomico County for testing all workers of Maryland chicken processing plants and their household members. This initiative is a regional partnership between Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the processing plants, and the CDC.

✓ Snifters Craft Beer and Wine Bistro has teamed with the Tidewater Rotary to deliver hot meals to Easton's underserved communities.

✓ Last week alone, Talbot County's six food pantries and mobile units have served 1,731 individuals, helping those who are unemployed, low income, elderly, or disabled.

For Immediate Release
May 1, 2020

Talbot County Health Department Begins Training for New Contact Tracers

Dr. Fredia Wadley, Health Officer for Talbot County, began training yesterday for a group of 20 new and existing Health Department employees who will help with contact tracing, one of the key benchmarks in Gov. Larry Hogan's recovery plan.

In addition, three employees from the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center were in the first training session to learn about contact tracing. They will support Health Department staff in their outreach and support to the county's immigrant population.

"The governor has stated that we need four times our usual contact tracing capacity to be prepared for reopening businesses and schools," Dr. Wadley said. "With the new people we are training, we will be able to

meet and far surpass this requirement."

It takes a special person to work as a contract tracer. Knowledge of the infectious agent, in this case COVID-19, is one of the most important requirements. "Nurses and paramedics are well suited for this type of work because they already have a medical background," Dr. Wadley notes.

Excellent interview skills coupled with tenacity go a long way too. Contact tracers essentially interview COVID-19 patients and help them list the people with whom they may have had contact while infected. The next step is to reach out to these contacts—typically family, friends, and co-workers—to assess their health and quarantine them if necessary. Consistent follow up is part of the job description.

Those who work as contract tracers must also have compassion, as they are responsible for making sure anyone who is quarantined has everything he or she needs. The Health Department is required by law to make sure those in quarantine have their basic needs met.

Perhaps most important, though, contract tracers must be able to keep a secret. "I say this over and over when we are training new employees," Dr. Wadley says. "Confidentiality is key to working at the Health Department. If our patients don't trust us, they will not tell us who they've been in contact with and the virus will continue to spread."

Cooperation and trust are what make this system work, says Talbot County Director of Emergency Services Clay Stamp. "We look forward to your cooperation if one of our contact tracers reaches out to you, and we want to assure you that your privacy will be protected," he says. "Together, we can keep Maryland Strong."

Food Distribution

Drive Thru Food Distribution on 5/5/20 from 9am until food is gone.
Location: Elks Lodge
502 Dutchmans Ln, Easton, MD 21601

This is a Drive-Thru, no contact event. DO NOT get out of your car. You will need to complete form given on site and a picture of the form will be taken through closed window to limit contact. Please clear your trunk before you come so food can be loaded without you exiting your car. No walk ups allowed

Call the Talbot Food Resource Line with questions – 410-770-5515 or email talbotlct@talbotcountymd.gov

Talbot County Public Schools

COVID-19 Update

TCPS meals will be distributed Tuesday, May 5 and Friday, May 8 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at all school sites. Sodexo is now providing frozen food items that require refrigerated storage and reheating. If you are unable to pick up meals and need emergency delivery, please call Crystal Miller at 443-432-5091.

The TCPS Instructional Technology Help Desk will be open on Tuesday, May 5 from 9:00 a.m. to noon and Friday, May 8 from noon - 3:00 p.m. at Easton High School and St. Michaels Elementary School. Please send an email to helpdesk@talbotschools.org for virtual support or to schedule a help desk appointment for iPads or laptops.

TCPS encourages parents to wear masks/cloth face coverings during meal pickups or IT Help Desk visits to help fight the spread of COVID-19.

Help us celebrate the Class of 2020! We are asking our Seniors and their families to share photos of themselves wearing gear and/or holding signs to celebrate their commitments to college, career, or the military to post on the TCPS Facebook page. Please email photos to dgardner@talbotschools.org.

"We are holding steady, continuing with our Continuity of Learning to finish strong in the fourth quarter," said Dr. Kelly Griffith, Superintendent. "During this challenging time, many of our parents have let us know that they now understand so much more about what educators do! Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week so we ask everyone to please take a moment to thank our teachers for all that they do!"

Where to Find More Information

- o **CDC COVID-2019 Website:** https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- o **Talbot County COVID-19 Information** www.talbotcovid19.org
- o **Shore Regional Health COVID Information** https://www.umms.org/shore/patients-visitors/coronavirus
- o **Maryland Department of Health Website:** https://health.maryland.gov/pages/home.aspx
- o **Talbot County Health Department Website:** https://health.maryland.gov/talbotcounty/Pages/home.aspx
- o **Maryland COVID-19 Website:** https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus