



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Robert R. Neall, Secretary

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools

December 1, 2020

Dear Local Superintendents of Schools and Local Health Officers:

Thank you for your continued support through the COVID-19 pandemic. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) appreciates all that you have done so far to address the spread of COVID-19 in your communities.

As you are aware, there is an overwhelming need for trained, licensed health care personnel across the state and across industries. To help address this need, we are urging you, local school superintendents and health officers, to ask your respective school nurses, and other school health services staff, to get involved in county level COVID-19 activities. These activities include contact tracing efforts, staffing COVID-19 test sites, and administering vaccines when they become available in your county and at your county health department. Over the summer, many school nurses worked with their local health departments to assist with COVID-19 testing. As school systems continue to operate virtually, we are asking for you to identify staff under your management that can be reassigned to meet some of the specific COVID-19 response needs of your counties.

MDH and MSDE sincerely appreciate all of the hard work that you and your staff have contributed to Maryland's COVID-19 response. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Dr. Jinlene Chan, Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services, jinlene.chan@maryland.gov or Dr. Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, karen.salmon@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jinlene Chan MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the bottom.

Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP
Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services
Schools

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the bottom.

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of