

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. Ferguson IV
President
Senate of Maryland
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker
House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Critical Life Threatening Incident Report required by Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21) (MSAR #11851) and Education Article §7-1510(g)(3) (MSAR #11594)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21), Education Article §7-1510(g)(3), and State Government Article §2-1257, the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) respectfully submits the following report, which contains identified lessons learned and school safety recommendations following a critical life-threatening incident on public school grounds.

If you have any questions about this report or would like additional information, please contact MCSS Deputy Director, J. Dino Pignataro at joseph.pignataro@maryland.gov or 410-281-2335.

Sincerely,



Kate Hession
Executive Director

Maryland Public School

Critical Life-Threatening Incident

After-Action Summary

On November 16, 2021 there was an incident involving a school within Calvert County Public School (CCPS) that met the criteria to be considered a *Critical Life-Threatening Incident* pursuant to Md. Ed. Art. § 7-1510 (g) and COMAR 14.40.05.

Notification [COMAR 14.40.05.04A]

On November 16, 2021 the CCPS school safety coordinator (SSC) notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

After-Action Meeting [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On December 21, 2021 an after-action meeting was held involving school representatives, law enforcement, and a representative from MCSS.

After-Action Report [COMAR 14.40.05.04C]

On December 23, 2021 CCPS submitted notes from their after-action meeting to MCSS.

Lessons Learned

Based upon the after-action review led by CCPS, the following lessons learned were identified:

1. Conducting regular all-hazard¹ exercises to test school emergency plans that include school staff and first responders prepare schools for real-life emergencies.
2. Developing pre-prepared messages can help dispel inaccurate information quickly and provide timely and accurate information to the school community.
3. Having access to bleeding control kits and trained staff to use such equipment may assist schools responding to life-threatening emergencies.

¹ "Comprehensive school emergency management planning considers all threats and hazards throughout the planning process, addressing safety needs before, during, and after an incident." U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools REMS TA Center, <https://rems.ed.gov/K12PlanningPrinciples.aspx>.

School Safety Recommendations

1. School emergency plans should be exercised regularly² and include exercises that test communication and coordination between school staff and first responders. Additionally, schools should develop a mechanism to track corrective actions to completion.³
2. To effectively understand the coordination among school staff and first responders during an emergency, local school systems should require school and school system staff to enroll in Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training on the National Incident Management System (NIMS)⁴ and Incident Command System (ICS)⁵. At a minimum, these trainings should include:
 - a. IS-700.b⁶: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System; and
 - b. ICS-100.c⁷: Introduction to the Incident Command System.
3. Schools should be equipped with bleeding control kits and administration, nursing, security, and other critical staff should be trained on their use. Schools should also consider providing bleeding control training to all school personnel and students.

² Schools in Maryland are required to conduct seven emergency exercises annually. COMAR 13A.02.02.04C

³ FEMA, Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program 6-2 (2020), <https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Homeland-Security-Exercise-and-Evaluation-Program-Doctrine-2020-Revision-2-2-25.pdf>.

⁴ NIMS sets forth national guidance on the prevention, protection, mitigation, response to, and recovery from incidents. FEMA, National Incident Management System Third Edition (2017), https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_nims_doctrine-2017.pdf.

⁵ ICS is a standardized national approach to managing emergencies. FEMA, National Incident Management System Third Edition (2017), https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_nims_doctrine-2017.pdf.

⁶ <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b>

⁷ <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>