



**Department of
Catholic Education**

 11625 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32258
 (904) 262-0668
 schools.dosafl.com

February 27, 2020

Dear Catholic School Community,

The Diocese of St. Augustine has been monitoring the coronavirus both globally and locally. The schools in the diocese also have been monitoring each of the children who have been sick.

Even during this time of standardized testing, if your child is sick, we encourage you to keep your child home.

The Pastors, Principals, and Directors have been taking extra precautions regarding sanitizing our buildings including, but not limited to, classrooms, bathrooms, door handles, flat surfaces and other public areas of the campuses.

The following information is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

For information about handwashing, see [CDC's Handwashing](#) website.

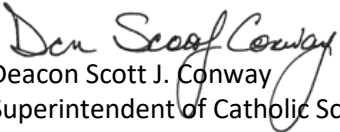
For information specific to healthcare, see [CDC's Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings](#).

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses. CDC does have [specific guidance for travelers](#).

Again, if you have a child who is sick, has a fever, cough, or is having difficulty breathing, you should keep your child home from school.

We will continue to monitor the information from the Florida Department of Health and the CDC. We will communicate with you if it becomes necessary. The health and safety of our students is the priority of our Pastors and the leadership of your school. If you have any concerns over what the school is doing, you should contact your school directly.

God Bless you and your family,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Deacon Scott J. Conway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Deacon" is written in a smaller, more compact script, while "Scott J. Conway" is written in a larger, more expansive cursive. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Deacon Scott J. Conway
Superintendent of Catholic Schools