

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is getting traction outside of China and has the possibility of taking hold in US cities. At St. John's, we're closely monitoring recommendations from the [Florida Department of Health](#) and the [Center for Disease Control](#). Currently, the state is reporting no confirmed cases in Florida.

Your child's safety is, as always, our primary concern and we remain vigilant in cleaning procedures, identifying student and faculty illnesses and educating our faculty, staff and students. Teachers and staff continually stress the importance of basic good hygiene practices such as thorough hand washing and sanitizing and covering mouths when sneezing or coughing. We have hand sanitizing stations throughout our campuses, we but encourage actual handwashing with warm water and soap. Custodial staff continues to disinfect public areas daily, including student desks and chairs, using antiviral cleaning agents. These agents are effective at killing viruses and preventing the spread of viruses through indirect contact.

We encourage you to continue to educate yourselves on this disease. See the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's official site <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> on COVID-19 for accurate and timely information. There is no vaccine yet to prevent COVID-19, so the CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help 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 using a regular household cleaner
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, particularly after going to the bathroom, before eating, or after blowing your nose, sneezing or coughing. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Finally, as we approach spring break, we encourage you to use caution in your travel plans, especially to China, South Korea, Iran, Italy, Japan, and Hong Kong. More information for travelers can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.