

Coronavirus Update



Dear Parents and Guardians:

As a follow-up to the diocesan update provided in the Principal's Post last week (<https://conta.cc/2i10Mo0>), I am reaching out to provide a status update on new developments related to coronavirus, and share some additional details about the actions we are taking to protect our school community.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families will remain a priority. While the total number of coronavirus cases in Kentucky remain relatively small, the number in the U.S. has grown by the day and experts expect this number to continue to grow as testing increases and more individuals seek care. Currently, the key recommendations from public health agencies to prevent the spread of coronavirus are regular, thorough, handwashing and that symptomatic individuals remain home rather than going to work or school. We echo this recommendation and ask that students with any signs of respiratory illness or flu-like symptoms be kept home.

We have been in close contact with the Madison County Health Department to stay updated on the situation and take actions as needed. Our custodial staff continues to focus on regularly cleaning all surfaces and are concentrating on bathrooms, doorknobs, hand railings, countertops, and desks. Per diocesan policy, we will follow Madison County should they decide to close school. A school closure would also mean suspension of all school related activities including the school Fish Fry. If school closes tomorrow, this Friday's Fish Fry would be cancelled. If school is closed next week, next Friday's Fish Fry would be cancelled. Should our school need to close or if the situation changes quickly, we will notify you via Constant Contact, Remind101, ClassTag, FB, and all major news stations.

Our administration continues to discuss how student learning can continue should our school be closed temporarily. We are developing strategies for providing age-appropriate packets and remote lessons for students, taking accessibility to technology into consideration. We will communicate more details around what this will look like as it becomes necessary.

Many of you have reached out with questions and concerns regarding travel and Spring Break. We understand that there is additional anxiety around travel that families have planned for this time of year. At this time, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended against nonessential travel to South Korea, Italy, Iran, and China, but there are no other restrictions or recommendations against other international or domestic travel. Our governor has also recommended cancelling nonessential travel as a precaution. We will continue to monitor the situation for additional travel updates. If you are experiencing respiratory or flu-like symptoms following travel, please self-quarantine.

Finally, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the psychological impact of this situation. The organized worldwide response to coronavirus has been robust and generally encouraging. However, it has also been a challenge for our students (and really our entire community) to process. [This New York Times article](#) gives some good strategies on how to talk to children about coronavirus without raising the anxiety of anyone involved.

We have been struck by the patience, support, and resilience we've already seen in our community as we tackle these challenges. You are our greatest resource. We will continue to update our community regularly as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,



Cathy A. Cornett
Principal, St. Mark

Cc: Rev. Thomas P. Farrell, Pastor