

3/12/2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update for March 12th

Dear St. Francis de Sales Parish School Community,

Updated Information about COVID-19 as of March 12th

There are now 32 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Illinois (up from 25 yesterday). Today I received the [following notification sent from the Foglia YMCA](#) in regards to the confirmed case in Lake County per the [Lake County Health Department](#). If you played basketball at Foglia YMCA in Lake Zurich on Saturday, February 29th between 6:45am and 9am you are advised to self-quarantine. If you know that you were in contact with someone that meets that description you are advised to contact Lake County Health Department and please notify the school office as well. ***Please read to the end and complete a brief survey about your perspective on COVID-19. While SFS is following the guidelines from local health agencies, within those guidelines there is room for local decision makers to incorporate attitudes of the school community in decision-making. Completing the survey ensures your perspective is considered.***

UPDATE to Proactive and Preventative Plans and Policies and Additional Information

1. **UPDATE: Although not a direct connection to our school community, the Lake County case connection to Foglia YMCA means there is only one degree of separation of our school from a confirmed case. So, effective immediately, we are increasing the level of precaution.**
2. [All information from yesterday's update letter is still relevant and applicable, except as updated below.](#)
3. School policy will be to follow the guidelines and recommendations of health departments. **UPDATE: Up until now the applicable guidelines are those for communities without a case of COVID-19. Given the proximity of the confirmed case, we are now also considering some of the guidelines for communities with a case and implementing the applicable guidelines.**
4. Most cases of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school results in a school closure of some period of time. **UPDATE (underlined): There are indications that districts and schools throughout the state,**



including D95, are preparing for a state-wide school closure by updating their e-learning plans and capabilities. Parents are advised to have childcare plans in place for a spur-of-the-moment emergency closing in the event of a local health department advised school closure or in the event of a state/systemwide closure such as was recently announced in Ohio. In the press conference today, Governor Pritzker stated "We are not closing our schools, but we are monitoring the situation on a day to day basis." For a statewide perspective you can view the ISBE school closure webpage:

<https://www.isbe.net/coronavirus> Please note that a closure decision at St. Francis will be due to a recommendation from IDPH or LCHD and NOT due to what other schools in the state in different situations may be doing. Additionally, even if IDPH or LCHD do not directly advise us to close, St. Francis will participate in a system-wide closure if that is announced by the Office of Catholic Schools.

5. **UPDATE: Faculty at the school continue to review and update our e-learning plans in the increasing likelihood of e-learning days implementation in the near future.** K-8 teachers will be posting assignments on their [school website personal webpages \(just click on the name of the teacher whose page you want to view\)](#) in the event of an e-learning day for school closure. **UPDATE: Students should prepare at dismissal for the possibility that the following day is an e-learning day and take appropriate resources home.**

Event Updates

1. School masses will include all the liturgical precautions sent from the parish to parish and school families.
2. Science Club originally scheduled for Friday, March 13th – rescheduled to April 17th
3. Scholastic Bowl originally scheduled for Friday, March 13th – postponed indefinitely
4. Mother Son Bowling originally scheduled for Sunday, March 15th – postponed until TBD
5. PTO March Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16th – cancelled – next meeting is April 20th
6. NCAA Watch Party scheduled for Thursday, March 19th – cancelled
7. Carmel 7th Grade Visit originally scheduled for April 17th – postponed indefinitely
8. Conference volleyball games through the end of March – cancelled/postponed indefinitely

School and family partnership

1. [All information from yesterday's update letter is still relevant and applicable, except as updated below.](#)
2. **UPDATE: If your child had contact with someone at Foglia YMCA that matches the description in the YMCA letter referenced above please contact LCHD and notify the school office.**
3. Please consider [taking this very short survey of parental attitudes toward SFS COVID-19 communication and response.](#)

For additional questions about COVID-19 you can visit the [IDPH website](#) or any of the other resources linked above or call 1-800-889-3931.

For questions about school policies or the school's preparedness contact me via phone at 847-726-4826.

In your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Schmitt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Principal Kyle Schmitt