



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

As many of you are aware, on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) held a press conference providing an update on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID19) both internationally and nationally. According to the CDC, the current risk to the U.S. public is considered low at this time, but ultimately, schools must be prepared to respond if the coronavirus arrives in our archdiocese. It is important that we plan not only for the prevention of spreading the virus, but also for managing our school communities if the virus arrives to our region or school community.

We will continue to follow the direction and guidance of our local health departments, as well as, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). During the winter season, many other viruses that cause respiratory illness, such as flu, are common. Please review the information below:

- Teach and practice with your children the appropriate strategies to prevent the spread of a virus by promoting good hygiene
 - Cover mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing
 - Use nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use
 - Perform hand hygiene (e.g., handwashing, alcohol-based hand rub)
- Monitor news/governmental agencies, and the school website for updated information
- Check, on a daily basis, for communications from teachers on assignments and homework
- Provide a good learning atmosphere during a school closure, taking into account the effects the crisis is having on your family (a quiet learning environment free of distractions if possible). Provide structured activities for your child.
- Strictly follow any guidance provided by the school on when a sick student can return to school once the school is reopened.

We have provided excellent resources for schools. Our schools are prepared with a plan, in the event they are impacted by COVID19. For more information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19), visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>.

We will to provide updates to our school communities, as new information is available. Please reach out to your school leaders if you have further questions.

Thank you for your support and working with us to maintain a safe and healthy environment for your children to learn and grow. We will continue to pray for those affected by this illness.

Sincerely in Christ,

William H. Ryan, III
Secretary for Catholic Schools