



# Archdiocese of Newark

*Office of Catholic Schools*



March 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Schools in the Archdiocese of Newark are monitoring the evolving situation in respect to coronavirus (COVID-19). The health and safety of all in our school communities is of paramount importance. The New Jersey Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are reminding everyone to practice proper respiratory hygiene:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home from class and work if you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Get a flu shot – it is not too late to be protected.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.

For additional information and resources go to: <https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

The World Health Organization advises, “If you are not in an area where COVID-19 is spreading, or have not travelled from an area where COVID-19 is spreading, or have not been in contact with an infected patient, your risk of infection is low.”

Anyone planning to travel should be aware of travel notices provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in relation to the coronavirus/COVID-19. The latest information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. Those traveling to areas significantly impacted by the coronavirus may have restrictions and/or monitoring requirements placed on them by health officials when they return. It is important that parents notify school officials of any travel to these areas so proper precautions can be taken before a student’s return to school. Schools will follow guidance from the CDC, local health professionals and the Archdiocesan Schools Office to determine appropriate timelines and procedures in each case.

All schools in the Archdiocese of Newark have been reminded of the importance of following standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting. This includes daily sanitizing of surfaces and objects that are touched often. Schools are in the process of developing plans for the continuation of learning in the event that a prolonged closure is required. Your school’s principal will inform you about specific plans for your school.

Be assured that we are monitoring the evolving situation with the coronavirus/COVID-19 and its potential impact for our school communities. Updated guidance will be provided to school administrators as the need arises.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dolan

*Acting Superintendent of Schools*

ARCHDIOCESAN CENTER

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