



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260
301-853-4500 TDD 301-853-5300

March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last evening, Governor Larry Hogan announced that three Maryland residents in Montgomery county have been diagnosed with coronavirus (COVID-19). According to Governor Hogan, all three individuals contracted the disease during overseas travel and all three are in quarantine. The situation remains fluid. We will continue to monitor the situation and follow guidance and direction from local health departments, as well as, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At this time, we are requesting that anyone traveling to a [high-risk area](#) (China, Italy, Iran, or South Korea), contact their county or state health department for instructions, prior to departure, and before returning to school or work.

The Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Office has a plan in place, in conjunction with our schools, to continue student learning should any school need to close due to COVID-19. The Catholic Schools Office will follow the guidance of the CDC and local health departments within the five counties of Maryland and the District of Columbia, in determining potential school closures.

Schools are actively cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, encouraging those who are not well to stay home, and promoting good health hygiene. Please encourage these preventive measures:

- Wash hands multiple times a day for at least 20 seconds
- Cover mouths with a tissue when sneezing or coughing. Throw away tissues immediately, or sneeze or cough into the bend of your elbow
- Do not share food or drinks
- Avoid handshakes
- If your child is ill or has a fever, keep them home from school
- Encourage a balanced diet, get enough sleep and exercise regularly; this will help develop a strong immune system to fight off illness

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) offer guidelines for talking to your children.

[Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) - A Parent Resource](#)

https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/02292020_NASP_NASN_COVID-19_parent_handout.pdf

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[Hable con sus hijos sobre el COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Un recurso para padres](#)

https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/02292020_NASP_NASN_COVID-19_parent_handout_Spanish.pdf

For the most current information about COVID-19, please use the links below:

District of Columbia Government

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>

Maryland Department of Health

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The Catholic Schools Office will continue to provide support and guidance for our schools regarding the coronavirus and how this may impact your school and surrounding communities.

Thank you for your support and working with us to maintain a safe and healthy environment for your children to learn and grow. Please continue to pray for the people who have been affected by this illness.

Sincerely in Christ,



William H. Ryan, III

Secretary for Catholic Schools