

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you have heard, six people have tested "presumptive positive" for coronavirus in Arkansas, according to Gov. Asa Hutchinson. The cases are considered "presumptive" because the tests are positive in Arkansas but are being sent to the CDC for confirmation. With the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus throughout our country, we pray for those affected both directly and indirectly. It is important that we prepare for the possibility of outbreaks in our local communities. As with all our Emergency Response Plans, we hope and pray that we do not have to implement them. Here is information about our plan of action should the Covid-19 virus become an issue that affects our school community.

Today we asked all students to take everything from their lockers home with them so that they have all items necessary if school were to be canceled. At this time, we plan to be in session as usual tomorrow.

- We will abide by the Department of Health guidelines and by the Secretary of Health and Secretary of Education's recommendations regarding a possible future school closure due to this virus. If the public schools in our area close due to the virus, we will close.
- The situation will be monitored closely.
- Teachers are preparing lesson plans which will be utilized in case of school closure. Teachers will be available to continue instruction via electronic methods. Hours of availability will be announced should a closure occur.
- We recommend that your family consider developing a childcare plan.
- We recommend all families planning to travel over Spring Break reconsider those plans. This is from the Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner's Memo issued this morning. "All citizens are asked to review and rethink travel plans to consider whether plans will put themselves or others at higher risk of transmission."
- During Spring Break if you or anyone in your direct family travel to a country that has been identified as a CDC Level 3 or higher risk rate or a domestic hot zone, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible.
- If you travel to a Level 3 destination, we ask that your family self-quarantine for 14 days based on the CDC recommendation. Check the CDC website concerning risk levels of each country.
- The school will continue to be proactive in daily cleaning and sanitation methods.
- We ask for your cooperation in following the school policies regarding illness. If your child has a fever or illness keep them home until they are free of fever, naturally, for a full 24 hours.
- Coach your child on proper hand washing methods (20 seconds with soap is recommended), as well as the proper method of coughing or sneezing into the elbow or into a tissue that is to be thrown away.
- We will keep you apprised as information becomes available.

We need to all work together as a community during this time. We thank you for your cooperation. Please pray for our school, our country and our world.

Dr. Karen Hollenbeck

Principal, Trinity Catholic Junior High