



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

1011 First Avenue, New York, New York 10022 Phone: (646) 794-2801 Fax: (212) 758-3018

March 11, 2020

Dear Catholic Schools Families,

The public health crisis presented by the coronavirus is a situation that sees facts, figures and government policies regularly evolving, often several times a day. In keeping with government recommendations and directives, The Health and Safety Task Force of the Office of the Superintendent of the Archdiocese of New York will continue to provide you updates as it relates to our schools.

Since the news of the COVID-19 has reached us, we have enhanced the methods and procedures used in the daily cleaning and sanitizing of our schools, with more frequent use of disinfectants with attention to electronics, hard surfaces and frequently-touched items such as door handles, faucets, light switches and telephones using CDC approved guidelines.

Both in school and no doubt at home, children have been educated in the importance of thorough handwashing, and the best ways to carry that out. Several times a day, our schools are putting that into practice as students are brought to the rest rooms at regular intervals so as to maintain the best possible hygiene, with reminders and tips from their teachers.

In the event that one of our schools has a student, teacher or staff member that tests positive for COVID-19, **we will close the school for a minimum of 48 hours** in order to fully assess with government officials the implications for the school community and to ensure a full sanitization is carried out by qualified, licensed cleaning professionals as outlined by CDC disinfection guidelines.

A reality we recognize is the nearly inevitable likelihood that some of our schools will be exposed to the virus, or in fact themselves has a confirmed case of COVID-19. To that end, it is important that we (and you) become familiar with some terminology.

- If you are in direct contact with someone who has come down with the virus—or who is diagnosed with it shortly after—you would be considered in **Primary** contact.
- Anyone who came in contact with you would be considered **Secondary**.
- Anyone who came in contact with a **Secondary** person is considered **Tertiary**.

Thank you again for supporting and adhering to our policy for Catholic school students and school personnel, who travel outside of the United States. Remember that anyone returning from any international travel must receive medical clearance to return to school. Additionally, as per current CDC requirements, students and school personnel returning from a country that **the CDC classifies as Level 3** (Italy, China, South Korea, and Iran), would be required to remain home for 14 days from the date you returned to New York and provide the letter of medical clearance from a licensed medical professional. For regularly-updated travel information from the CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

Much of the technology we utilize that has resulted in our Catholic schools' consistently high test scores, such as Blended Learning and Google Classroom, has better positioned us to implement remote-teaching and



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virtual classrooms. Thanks to our dedicated principals, teachers and staff we will ensure the continuity of education for your children in the event of temporary school closures.

In our last update we shared resources for the children since it's that the primary focus, we have added additional resources to www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org. These resources are provided so you can talk with your children about the virus, any concern or angst they may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Deegan".

Mr. Michael J. Deegan
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York