



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

February 26, 2020

Topic: Novel Coronavirus 2019

Dear Catholic School Community,

The Diocese of Fort Worth has been actively following the Novel Coronavirus 2019 since it was announced on the news in January 2020.

The Novel Coronavirus is similar to influenza and prevention steps are important whether there is novel coronavirus in the community or not. Influenza season is here, and you should be diligent with washing your hands frequently with soap and water, keeping hands away from face and eyes, using good cough etiquette, and disposing of used tissue in the proper receptacles. You should remain home from school or work if you are sick and/or running a fever greater than 100° F for 24 hours without a fever reducing medication.

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring the 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus outbreak that was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. CDC has given a name to this coronavirus: COVID-19.
- Globally, 81,245 cases are now reported, most of these are in China. The virus has spread outside Mainland China, including 35 other countries and regions.
- At this time, the general American population is considered at low health risk, as the virus is currently not spreading in Texas or the U.S.
- Travel recommendation is at a Level 4: Do not travel to China
- CDC suggests that older adults and people with underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems may be at risk of severe disease if possibly exposed when traveling.
- Symptoms have ranged from little to no symptoms to those people being severely ill with lower respiratory illness, which include fever, cough and shortness of breath.
- Emergency response plans are being updated in Texas Department of State Health Services, working closely with CDC and locally with Tarrant County Public Health Department.

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THE CATHOLIC CENTER

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The situation is changing daily, attached are links to obtain current information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Texas Department of State Health Services: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

Tarrant County Public Health Department: <http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/public-health/disease-control---prevention/coronaviruas.html>

Sincerely,

Nancy Eder, RN

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