

March 12, 2020

Dear ASA Families,

As you are aware, the situation regarding COVID-19 is changing rapidly. Student wellness and safety is always our number one priority, so please review this information thoroughly.

There have been two confirmed cases of the Corona virus in Michigan; however, there are currently no known cases of COVID-19 in Kent County. Because experts say it may eventually reach us, we continue to monitor the spread of the virus closely and have been taking precautions at school. We continue to follow the guidance of the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) and the Diocese of Grand Rapids (DOGR) to make decisions in the best interest of our school community.

As we have shared in previous parent communications, the best deterrent for the spread of viruses, such as influenza, the common cold and the new Corona virus, is prevention. In accordance with our normal school policy, we ask that sick students and staff stay home. If they become sick at school, they will be separated from the student body until they are able to be sent home. It is our responsibility to inform the Kent County Health Department of our absences due to communicable disease.

As they have all flu season, maintenance and janitorial staff have been diligently cleaning and sanitizing common and high volume areas. Teachers have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to wipe down spaces that students are in contact with frequently.

We are also reviewing [everyday preventive actions](#) with students, such as staying home when sick; appropriately covering coughs and sneezes; cleaning frequently touched surfaces; and washing hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water when hands are visibly dirty.

We will be changing a few things at our all-school Masses due to [new guidelines](#) issued by Bishop Walkowiak.

- Hands should not be held during the Our Father.
- Instead of shaking hands during the sign of peace, clasp your hands together, make eye contact with those around you, and say “Peace be with you,” or “Peace of Christ.”
- If you are feeling sick, please receive Holy Communion in the hand, rather than on the tongue. Distribution of the Precious Blood has been temporarily suspended at all Masses.

For all of our families who will be traveling for spring break: Review updated [CDC information for travelers](#), including [FAQ for travelers](#), and consult with state and local health officials. Individuals returning from travel to areas with community spread of COVID-19 must follow the guidance they have received from health officials.

We have received some questions regarding the possibility of closings or event cancellations. At this time, neither the KCHD nor the CDC have recommended school closures in Kent County. If/when that happens, we will promptly communicate to families and staff using our normal communication systems. Please make sure your contact information is up to date.

We have been developing a plan if the school has to be shut down for any reason. We are discussing methods of delivering lessons to your students via the internet (Canvas and other various online applications); we will release information on those plans in the event they need to be enacted.

[This informational prevention flyer](#) is being posted throughout our campuses. In addition, Spectrum Health is offering free virtual screenings for anyone experiencing symptoms. Please review the [Spectrum Health Hotline information here](#) for complete details.

As always, our goal is to keep you as informed as possible and keep your students safe while at All Saints Academy. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We appreciate your cooperation and trust as we proactively work together for everyone's safety.

God Bless,

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Our Community Partner/Sponsor of the week is: Tony Betten Ford



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