

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Since our message to you last week regarding our response to the global Coronavirus, or COVID-19, outbreak, we have learned that there are now three confirmed cases of COVID-19, in Cuyahoga County. Reports tell us that all three individuals are quarantined and people with whom they have been in close contact are being monitored and tested. As the outbreak moves closer to our area, we continue to be vigilant about this ever-changing situation. Our entire staff will meet this week to discuss our emergency preparedness plans. With a student body of over 530 and a staff of over 70, as you can imagine, planning for a response to an event such as this has many facets. Among those we are focusing on are the health and safety of our students and staff and the academic implications involved in whatever decisions must be made.

In the meantime, we continue to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and the Summit County Health Department. Our clinic is staffed daily by two registered nurses who are following the same screening procedures being used at Akron Children's Hospital and local pediatric practices. Students presenting with symptoms that include fever, cough and shortness of breath, which may be symptoms of COVID-19, as well as other illnesses, are being referred to their pediatrician for further evaluation. Symptoms may appear anywhere from two to 14 days following exposure to COVID-19. The CDC continues to consider the health risk from coronavirus to be low among the general public in the U.S.

Our building is cleaned daily and our maintenance staff is regularly disinfecting surfaces in the building. As you know, we have twice disinfected our entire building while students have been out of the building. In addition, all students have been instructed on and continue to be reminded daily of proper handwashing techniques. All of our staff members are reminding students to use a tissue when they sneeze or cough and to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth. We continue to make use of hand sanitizer as long as supplies last, as well as disinfectant wipes, and, of course, soap and water. Remember that hand sanitizer must be alcohol based and contain at least 60% alcohol to be effective in killing COVID-19.

Effective this week, new practices are also in place for all Masses, including school Masses beginning this Friday, March 13. Students will be directed to not shake hands during the sign of peace, but wave to each other. We will discontinue distribution from the cup. Eucharistic Ministers will be instructed to use hand sanitizer prior to distributing. Please help us further control the spread of infection by reminding your children not to place used tissues in or on the pews. The Baptismal Font water is chlorinated and filtered, so it should not pose a danger.

At this time, our eighth grade students' field trip to the Maltz Museum on March 19 is proceeding as planned. Maltz Museum officials have informed us that the Museum continues to be open for tours and programs. Their cleaning service is providing extra cleaning on surfaces, rails, door handles and high traffic areas, as well as increasing the number of times these surfaces are cleaned each day. The Museum is also positioning additional containers of hand sanitizer within main areas of the Museum.

We are in communication with the Summit County Health Department to monitor this evolving situation. If, at any time, it appears the health and safety of our students and staff could be compromised, we may choose to cancel activities and/or close school. At this time, all classes and extracurricular activities are continuing as scheduled. In the event we close school for an extended period of time, teaching staff will be providing lessons and assignments for students to complete.

In the meantime, as is always our policy, if your child has a fever, he or she must stay home from school. Students must be free of fever and not taking any fever reducing medication for 24 hours in order to return to school. If you are concerned that an ill member of your family may have been exposed to COVID-19 please contact your primary care provider. We encourage you to visit the following websites for accurate, up-to-date information, and to beware of scams and malicious phishing attempts that may seek to prey upon our fears.

[Center for Disease Control](#)

[Ohio Department of Health](#)

[Summit County Health Department](#)

We will continue to monitor this situation and update you as to any changes in the status of our school operations. We ask that you continue to join us in praying for the health and safety of our students, staff, and the global community during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Woodman
Principal