

Dear Families,

In our commitment to the health of our students, families, and greater school community, we reach out to you today to convey the latest information regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the proactive measures we are taking in our schools.

There is updated information from the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) available as guidance when responding to COVID-19. While the risk level for COVID-19 remains low for the United States, we want to assure you that we are following the CDC's guidance to prevent the spread of viruses and will be prepared to respond to this virus should it surface.

We ask that all members of our school community assist with the prevention of spreading viruses by following the CDC's recommendations:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Get a flu vaccine.

The CDC continues to update the Risk Level for each country. The Diocese of Scranton will continue to monitor this information and work to prevent this virus from spreading in our schools. With that in mind, the Diocese of Scranton may require students and families who have been exposed to COVID-19 or are returning from countries designated as Risk Level 3 to remain home from school for 14 days upon returning to the United States or after contact with someone known to have or have been exposed to COVID-19. Students will be required to provide a notice from a healthcare professional that they are free from flu-like symptoms in order to return to school and school functions.

To date, the CDC indicated the following risk levels related to COVID-19:

Level 3 (Avoid Nonessential Travel) – China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea

Level 2 (Practice Enhanced Precautions) – Japan

Level 1 (Practice Usual Precautions) – Hong Kong

If you have travelled or are planning to travel to countries indicated with Risk Level 3, please contact your principal to discuss plans for return to school. The Diocese of Scranton may require students to wait a full 14 days after arriving in the United States and have notice from a healthcare professional that they are free from flu-like symptoms in order to return to school and school functions.

We continue to take additional precautions in our classrooms and shared areas, and we ask that you assist with these efforts in your homes. Our custodial staff for each school thoroughly clean

our classrooms and common areas daily to minimize the spread of viruses. In order to support the prevention of viruses at all schools, we recommend that your child stay home from school if experiencing flu or cold symptoms. To decide whether or not to send your child to school, please consider the following guidelines.

**Guidance to keep student home from school due to illness:**

- Fever-greater than 100°F and your child should stay home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever. This should be determined without the use of fever-reducing medicines (any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen).
- Vomiting (even once)
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- General malaise or feelings of fatigue, discomfort, weakness or muscle aches
- Frequent congested (wet) or croup cough
- Lots of nasal congestion with frequent blowing of nose

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter!

Sincerely,

For additional support and information about COVID-19, please visit the following sites:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>