



March 10, 2020

Dear parents and families:

The health and safety of the students and staff in our school community are of the utmost importance. I am writing to provide you with an update on the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) health issue.

The Archdiocese of Chicago is closely monitoring the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please note that all school staff have received the following recommended preventive actions, based on CDC guidance, to help protect your child(ren) and others from this virus and all illnesses:

- **Wash your hands regularly** with warm or hot 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.
- **Cover your cough** or sneeze with a tissue, then throw in the trash.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces** or objects. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, or school, especially when someone is ill.
- **Stay home when you are sick.** Stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness. When at home, if possible, try to distance yourself from people who are sick.
- **Contact your health care provider immediately** if anyone in your home experiences any of the following symptoms: severe cough; rapid noisy, painful, or other difficult breathing; and dehydration.
- **We ask that you notify our school if anyone in your home has any Coronavirus (COVID-19) or influenza symptoms.** COVID-19 related student absences will be excused. We will work with affected students' families in providing schoolwork and alternate education arrangements (e.g. e-learning) to ensure the continuity of your child's education to the best of our ability.



A Lasallian School Sponsored by the Christian Brothers

St. Joseph High School is working to provide the following:

1. Hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes and tissues throughout our school: classrooms, offices, cafeteria, etc.
2. Cleaning and disinfecting transmission points regularly (doorknobs, light switches, desks, tables, water fountains, etc.)
3. School maintenance staff will increase sanitation and cleaning daily.

Travel-Related Recommendations ([cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers))

Per the CDC and actions being taken by other organizations, any travelers who enter the United States after being in a **level 3+ country on the CDC's travel advisory list** during the past 14 days should restrict their movements. If not already quarantined by government agencies upon return to the U.S., recently returned travelers from those countries are asked to closely monitor their health and practice social distancing for 14 days.

All non-essential, work-related travel to **level 2+ locations per the CDC** is suspended for Archdiocese of Chicago employees.

Sincerely,



David Hotek, AFSC
Principal