



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) continue to rise in the area. We continue to maintain contact with local health departments in dealing with situations related to the virus. Our schools continue to thoroughly clean surfaces in the building on a daily basis. The CDC released guidance for workplace, school, and home for decreasing the spread of the virus. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf> Preventive measures through good hygiene continue to be the best way to stay healthy.

In the event of long-term closings, our Catholic schools will follow district-wide closings similar to inclement weather closings. Please follow the school district in which your school resides. Your school has been developing plans for students in the event of closures for an extended period of time. A variety of learning materials will be provided by the school. Please consult your child's teacher and school for additional resources.

If your family is traveling currently or in the near future, please refer to guidelines established by the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

Fear, anxiety, and social stigma issues are rising. Consider speaking to your child about social stigma issues. Viruses do not target people from specific populations, ethnicities or racial backgrounds. Be wary of myths, rumors, and misinformation circulating online and elsewhere. Health information shared through social media is frequently inaccurate, unless coming from an official, reliable source such as the CDC, Maryland Department of Health (MDH) or other local health departments. The CDC address social stigma at this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/related-stigma.html>

I will continue to keep you informed during this fluid situation as it impacts our area. The Archdiocese of Washington is committed to providing a safe teaching, learning, and working environment to all students. We will continue to consult with local health officials to guide our schools. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of our school communities.

God Bless,

William Ryan, III
Secretary for Catholic Schools