



ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

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Dear All Saints Academy Parents and Guardians,

We are all acutely aware of the news coverage on the recent Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. As our federal and local governments are planning for a variety of possible situations, so are our schools. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing daily updates and recommendations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>). The CDC continues to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. Yet COVID-19 is an evolving situation that we are monitoring closely and will continue to update families as information is shared with us.

As part of our preparedness, we participated in a Diocesan meeting this week to discuss in what ways our Catholic schools can also be ready. Attached to this letter is one from Dr. Perda, Superintendent of Schools outlining the Catholic Schools Office guideline, which we are following. Today, we also participated in a COVID conference hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) which further elaborated on best practices and procedures for schools.

Here at ASA, faculty and staff have met to brainstorm what actions can be taken now, and what preparations we can begin to make. It is important to note that at this time Massachusetts residents are much more likely to become sick with a cold or the flu than to be exposed to COVID-19. **Many of the precautions that help prevent colds and the flu can also help protect against other respiratory viruses.** There are general precautions that our school nurse, Mrs. Megas, the DPH, and CDC recommend:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, if unable to wash, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers (Mrs. Megas suggests having students sing *Happy Birthday* twice while they are washing their hands, including between fingers and the backs of their hands.);
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Cover your coughs or sneezes by doing so into the bend of your elbow;
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick, and;
- ***Be fever-free and vomit-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing or other medicine) before returning to school, which is our existing school policy.***

Furthermore, custodians and staff alike are vigilantly sanitizing our educational spaces as we typically do during the cold and flu season.

Please also know that the teachers and I are in process of discussing options for learning to continue to take place should the decision be made to close our school for any period of time.

Thank you for your help in keeping our students and school personnel healthy and safe. We will endeavor to keep families updated as new information becomes available.

Yours in Christ,

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