



Cleveland Central Catholic High School

6550 Baxter Avenue | Cleveland, OH 44105
www.centralcatholicshs.org

March 3, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please be aware of the steps we are taking to better prepare Cleveland Central Catholic students, faculty and staff for the potential community transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

At this time, there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Ohio. However, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend that schools actively plan and be prepared for possible scenarios.

As with any illness, please notify the school if your child is unable to attend school due to illness. Students, faculty and staff should remain home at least until they are fever-free without medication for 24 hours, longer if symptoms have not subsided. Anyone who exhibits symptoms should seek immediate medical attention.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, if a student, faculty or staff member travels to an area identified as a “community spread of coronavirus,” they may not return to school until it is safe to do so as determined by CDC guidelines. These guidelines continue to evolve and can be accessed at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

While this is a serious public health situation, the CDC continues to believe that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. Yet, in today’s connected world, outbreaks of diseases are always of concern.

Mission:

Cleveland Central Catholic High School is a coeducational school rooted in the Gospel values of Jesus Christ and focused on college and career readiness. Our mission is to challenge and encourage our students to excel academically, to deepen their faith in God, and to live a life of service, so that they may face the future with confidence and hope.

Soap and hand towel supplies are checked frequently by the Maintenance staff. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are available in all classrooms, offices and community areas.

Please remember:

- CDC also recommends making sure you practice good hygiene.
- Hand washing is the best preventative for the spread of germs. Students and staff should be washing hands frequently, especially before and after meal and including snack time.
- Avoid touching your face, cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and practice good overall health habits, including sleeping, eating and drinking water appropriately.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Remain at home when ill. Seek medical attention if your symptoms don't improve.
- If you received this season's flu vaccine; it won't prevent coronavirus, but it will reduce the risk of contracting regular influenza, which means fewer people will need medical care at the same time as any coronavirus patients.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Leo Hyland, Sr. Allison Marie, Sr. Erin, John Crawford, James Duke

The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland is following all directives from the Ohio Department of Health in regards to the Coronavirus. We will continue to monitor concerns across the country and in Ohio as they relate to the safety of students and staff members.

As of March 2, 2020 there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Ohio. Below are some links that may be helpful in communication with staff and families at your school.

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus/2019-nCoV>
Ohio Department of Health – daily updates for state of Ohio. Includes link to FAQs related to Coronavirus. *FAQ attached.*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Steps schools (with and without identified cases) can take to address Coronavirus.

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/02/28/9-things-educators-need-to-know-about.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=59054215&U=2995162&UUID=e386881c1eebee6a8ed200575844071d>
Education Week March 2, 2020. *9 Things Educators Need to Know About Coronavirus*

Addressing Coronavirus:

- Individual schools in the diocese act as their own decision agent for closure should any illness escalate. If a school needs to close due to illness, the same closing procedures currently in place would be followed: school communication system, local TV and radio stations.
- Each school has its own threshold for closure that is recorded on the Emergency Operations Plan. The percentages indicated on the EOP should be followed for disinfecting a building and for closure due to illness. In some cases, percentages for closure may be lower than indicated on the EOP based on directives from the Ohio Department of Health, the severity of illness, and/or the number of staff members impacted.
- Parents are to be the primary monitors for symptoms of illness with their children. School staff should inform the school nurse and/or administrator if a student becomes ill during the school day.
- Hand washing is the number one preventative for the spread of germs. Students and staff should be washing hands before and after meals, including snack time. Classrooms and restrooms need to have access to handwashing soaps and paper towels. Purell, Clorox/Lysol wipes and Wet Ones antibacterial wipes can be used in classrooms. “
 - “Wash your hands, often and with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing,” - CDC
 - The CDC also recommends making sure you’ve received this season’s flu vaccine; it won’t prevent coronavirus, but it will reduce the risk of contracting regular influenza, which means fewer people will need medical care at the same time as any coronavirus patients.

- Other steps include avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth; staying home from work and school when you're sick; covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throwing that tissue in a trash bin; cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched household objects. The CDC does not recommend that people who are not sick wear a protective mask.
- If a family is traveling to any state and/or country being monitored for Coronavirus, the school will need to be notified.
 - "The U.S. State Department has issued Level 4 travel advisories, advising against travel to China and Iran due to coronavirus outbreaks. Americans are being advised to reconsider travel to Italy and South Korea (Level 3 advisory). Increased caution is advised in traveling to Japan (Level 2 advisory)." – *Ohio Department of Health*

Most common medical policies:

Students should not attend school if any of the following conditions below are present:

Fever - if your child has a fever of 99 or above your child may not attend school and cannot return to school until your child is fever free for 24 hours without medication to reduce the fever

Strep Throat - your child may not return to school following a positive strep throat culture until they have completed a full 24 hours of medication and have been fever free for 24 hours

Conjunctivitis (red/pink eye) – eyes with discharge and or crusting on lashes, pain and irritation. Your child may not return to school until they have had a complete 24 hours of treatment

- Incessant or deep cough, and or copious amounts of purulent discharge from the nose
- Vomiting within 24 hours
- Diarrhea within 24 hours
- Any skin lesions that are open and weeping
- Shortness of breath
- Contagious illness that is not cleared by medical provider

Q: What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

A: COVID-19, or coronavirus disease 2019, is an upper respiratory tract disease caused by one of the seven coronaviruses known to infect humans. It was first identified in humans in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The virus that causes COVID-19 is called SARS-CoV-2.

Q: Who is at risk?

A: The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers risk to the general public in most communities to be low. People who recently traveled to China, South Korea, Japan, Iran, or Italy, and people who care for patients with COVID-19 are at higher risk. As of February 28, 2020, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in Ohio.

Q: What are the symptoms?

A: Symptoms, which generally appear two to 14 days after exposure, include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Most people who become sick do not require hospitalization, but older adults, people with chronic health conditions, and people with compromised immune systems are more likely to require more advanced care.

Q: How does it spread?

A: Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. The virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 is spreading from person-to-person and someone who is actively sick with the disease can spread the illness to others. That is why CDC recommends that these patients be isolated either in the hospital or at home until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others.

Q: What can I do to prevent it?

A: There are no vaccines to prevent COVID-19. Implement the personal prevention protection methods used to prevent flu and other infectious diseases:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; dry hands with a clean towel or air dry hands.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

Also, clean high-touch areas – counters, tables, doorknobs, light switches, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, nightstands – every day using household cleaning spray or wipes according to label directions.

Q: Where is it spreading?

A: While the COVID-19 outbreak began in China, it is now spreading worldwide, threatening to cause a pandemic. Sustained, ongoing person-to-person spread in the community is occurring in some international locations. In the U.S., several instances of infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 have occurred in people with no travel history and no known source of exposure in several states. This has raised the level of concern about the immediate threat of COVID-19 for certain communities.

Q: Should I wear a face mask?

A: The use of face masks by people who are not sick is not recommended to protect against respiratory diseases. Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent spread of the disease and by health care workers and others taking care of someone in a close setting.

Q: Is it still safe to travel internationally?

A: The U.S. Department of State is advising against travel to China and Iran due to COVID-19 outbreaks and advising that travelers reconsider plans to go to South Korea and Italy. Increased caution is advised in traveling to Japan (Level 2 advisory).

Q: What should I do if I had contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?

A: Detailed information for people who have had close contact with a person confirmed to have, or being evaluated for, COVID-19 are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [here](#).

Q: Should I get tested for COVID-19?

A: Call a health care professional if you develop a fever or symptoms of respiratory illness -- such as cough or shortness of breath -- within 14 days of travel from China, South Korea, Japan, Iran, or Italy, or within 14 days of close contact with a COVID-19 patient. Testing is also advised for people who have severe, acute lower respiratory illness requiring hospitalization, and no other diagnosis to explain the symptoms.

Q: Will warm weather stop the outbreak of COVID-19?

A: It is not yet known whether weather and temperature impact the spread of COVID-19. Some other viruses, like the common cold and flu, spread more during cold weather months, but that does not mean it is impossible to become sick with these viruses during other months. At this time, it is not known whether the spread of COVID-19 will decrease when weather becomes warmer.