



March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The health and well-being of each person in the community of your parish, regional, or diocesan Catholic school remains of the utmost priority at all times. As the global spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) of the Diocese of Wilmington has sought guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Governor's Office, and the Health Department of your respective state, Delaware or Maryland.

Given the current situation, all Catholic elementary and secondary schools – parish, regional, and diocesan – in the Diocese of Wilmington will be closed beginning Monday, March 16, through Friday, March 27. School administrators will communicate the means by which students will continue their learning during the time that schools are closed. In the event that schools may need to remain closed past Friday, March 27, an updated communication will be sent to you.

During the time in which schools will be closed, schools will be encouraged to engage in a thorough cleaning to prepare for the return of students and staff. Over the last few weeks, schools have reinforced best practices provided by the CDC. We encourage you to practice these procedures at home for your children and for you.

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash immediately or use the bend of the elbow.
- Limit physical contact with others such as handshakes and high fives.
- Stay home when sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Do not wear masks since the CDC does not recommend the routine of wearing masks outside the healthcare setting.

Included with this letter is information about talking to your child about the Coronavirus. Please review this information carefully and apply it age-appropriately. Acknowledging concern, without panicking, is appropriate and can result in taking actions that reduce the risk of illness.

Helping children cope with anxiety requires providing accurate prevention information and facts without causing undue alarm.

Working in partnership between the home and the school, we shall address this current challenge in a calm and professional manner for the children and adults in our schools.

We place ourselves under the care of our Blessed Mother and we pray for those who have died, those who are ill, and all those who are challenged by this virus throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Louis P. De Angelo

Louis P. De Angelo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools