



March 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on recent developments concerning the COVID-19 coronavirus. The St. Patrick School faculty and staff, and the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Paterson continues to monitor the alerts from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New Jersey Department of Health, and the New Jersey Department of Education. At this time, and with an abundance of caution, we are recommending that you take preventive actions and understand what proactive measures the school is undergoing in the event of a spread of the virus to our communities.

**Preventative Actions for Students, Families, Faculty & Staff:**

- If you or your student has not already done so, get a flu shot.
- Students as well as faculty and staff must stay home when they are sick and remain home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds with special focus on the fingertips, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Practice good hygiene for washing hands, sneezing and coughing with your children.
- Remind your children to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and immediately throw it in the garbage.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and frequently touched objects.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

**Proactive Measures:**

- If your child or members of your immediate family have traveled to a part of the world (China, South Korea, northern Italy, Iran, etc.) that is currently experiencing higher rates of infection, please contact the School Nurse. The school will contact the appropriate agency and the student must stay home for two (2) weeks.
- Our school has determined a location to isolate individuals who have respiratory or flu-like symptoms until their parents arrive, **which should not be longer than one hour.**
- Students with a fever will be sent home immediately.
- Our custodial crews and building maintenance have increased their daily cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and restrooms in all school buildings.
- The school faculty and staff have been working with the Diocese to curate online learning resources and to ensure that we are able to communicate with students, families and faculty/staff in the event of a school closure.

As we strive to do all that is possible to maintain a healthy environment, we thank you for supporting our efforts at home. St. Patrick School will continue to work with the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Paterson and all state and national agencies on the evolving situation and communicate additional information as necessary.

For more information, please review the links below:

<https://healthykidshappykids.com/2020/02/27/coronavirus-covid-19/>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

Please contact the School Office at [schooloffice@st-pats.org](mailto:schooloffice@st-pats.org) or at 973-635-4623 if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Christine Ross, Ed. D  
Principal