



March 2, 2020

Dear Cardinal Newman High School Parents and Guardians,

We write this letter out of an abundance of caution and there is no reason to believe COVID-19 is an immediate threat to our school. Please note that public health officials stress that the risk to the public remains extremely low.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) is an infectious disease caused by a new virus that had not been previously identified in humans. The virus causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, runny nose, sore throat, fever, difficulty breathing and in more severe cases, pneumonia. People with other medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), may be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill. (Source: World Health Organization)

Like all area schools, we are in regular contact with Sonoma County Public Health officials, who assure the community that there is no need to change daily routines in any way. We, of course, understand that with the strong media coverage, anxieties are heightened and our families and staff may have questions.

According to public health officials, students and staff should continue their normal routines and take the same precautions they would during cold and flu season, including:

- Handwashing remains our No. 1 defense against illness. Please wash hands often with soap and water.
- Daily cleaning of frequently touched surfaces with chlorine containing cleaners.
- If students are not feeling well while at school, or exhibiting signs of illness, have them check in with the main office staff. Main office staff will notify you regarding your child's concern.
- Communicate all health concerns with your physician.
- If a child has a fever, please keep them at home.
- There is no evidence to support wearing a mask prevents airborne illnesses from spreading. CDC does not recommend the routine use of N95 respirators outside of the healthcare setting. N95 masks are not designed for and should not be worn by children.
- Get your flu shot. The flu vaccine won't protect against COVID-19, but it is highly recommended to help keep you healthy.

The safety and wellness of our students, staff, and families is our top priority. Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Cardinal Newman High School Safety Team

Laura M. Held, President

Graham Rutherford, Dean of Student Life

Bernadette Calhoun, Dean of Technology and Instruction

Rich Herrmann, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction