



Dear Parents, Faculty, and Staff Members.

The recent outbreak of the coronavirus in China and other parts of the world understandably has the community concerned about the potential of the virus coming to Virginia. Please be assured that the safety of our students is our priority.

The Virginia Health Department has stated it is investigating reports of illnesses associated with the coronavirus (COVID-19), however, at this time there are no confirmed cases in Virginia. Read: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>

The Center for Disease Control has found no information supporting the idea that children are more susceptible to the virus than adults. However, we all must still be cautious to protect ourselves and our neighbors from spreading any sicknesses.

Here are some tips on how we can all help to prevent the spread of all illnesses in our schools:

- Sick children/staff/faculty should stay at home! Sick children/staff/faculty should only return to school once they are fever-free for 24 hours without medicine.
- Review proper handwashing and cough/sneeze etiquette with students both at home and school.
  - Handwashing <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/materials.html>
  - Cough/sneeze etiquette [https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing\\_sneezing.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html)
- Tissues, alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol) and disposable disinfecting wipes should be in all classrooms and common areas.
- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces (doorknobs, desks, tables, workstations).

As more guidelines become available from the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC, we will implement them and pass the information on to all of you.

Yours in Christ,

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Superintendent of Schools  
Catholic Diocese of Richmond