

St. Augustine High School
Coronavirus Update
Wednesday, March 11, 2020

St. Augustine High School holds the well-being, health, and safety of students and staff as a top priority. With this in mind, we are writing to update you on an evolving health issue involving the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Dear St. Augustine parents and guardians,

Given the current Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on you, your families, our students, and organization, I wanted to share what St. Augustine High School is doing during this uncertain period.

St. Augustine is actively monitoring information and updates from the New Orleans Health Department, The Louisiana Department of Public Health and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as consulting with local physicians and health care providers directly involved in the city's response to COVID-19. In addition, St. Augustine is also following the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools, which can be found here: [CDC Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

School to Remain Open - Canceled Events

While there are no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus on the St. Augustine campus, on a daily basis we are making decisions regarding school remaining open as the situation evolves. At this time, school will continue to operate. We ask that parents keep students home if they are ill.

There are several factors that the administration will use to determine whether a school closure is necessary, and this plan may change over time per the recommendations of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and other agencies. Should school need to close for any reason, we will have online education available to students. We are currently working on a plan to ensure that students' education will continue in a smooth and professional manner.

However, considering the growing number of local cases and in alignment with guidance from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, we are cancelling a number of school sponsored events, such as field trips. Additionally, we will cancel several on-campus school gatherings at this time. Rescheduling some events may be possible but we will revisit that in the coming weeks when we have more information.

Cancellations

- March 13: track and field meet.
- March 18: the St. Joseph Day Altar
- March 18: Report Card Conferences - please email or contact school for a phone conference until further notice.
- March 19: St. Joseph Day Mass - A prayer service will be held via the public address system.
- March 19: Parent Senior Trip Meeting
- March 23: Honor Roll Assembly
- All field trips through at least March 27th
- Saturday Detentions
- Moorehouse College FBLA Trip.

Other Preventative Steps

- We are not permitting unscheduled visits to our campus. We ask that current parents and guardians communicate with instructors via email.
- Teacher/Parent Conferences – please email or contact individual teachers to schedule a telephone conference until further notice.
- The St. Augustine weight room will be closed until further notice.
- The St. Augustine Bookstore will be closed at least through March 30.

Current Protocols

Cleaning Campus and Health Information Signage

Our facilities team is cleaning classrooms, bathrooms, the dining hall, and shared spaces nightly, with a specific focus on doorknobs and levers, light switches, faucet handles, bathroom partition handles, work surfaces, student desks, classroom tables, teacher desks, keyboards and mice, phones, and fitness center equipment.

In addition to enhanced cleaning, we have placed hand sanitizer dispensers in classrooms and in common areas.

Throughout campus, the school has placed signage with information on proper hygiene and how to avoid germ transmission, following the list of CDC recommendations for K-12 schools on common sense preventative actions for students and staff.

Health Safety Protocols

Students, faculty, and staff have been reminded about health-safety protocols for preventing the spread of germs, as well as a reminder that if they are sick, especially with a fever, signs of cough, flu or pneumonia, shortness of breath, or other respiratory conditions that could be contagious, to stay home and seek immediate medical attention.

School-Related Travel

The school will continue to monitor CDC recommendations for travel, making decisions that prioritize student health and safety and communicate updates to families with students enrolled on these trips.

Family Travel and Trips

Many St. Augustine families travel regularly and/or may have plans to travel over Spring Break. We will follow the travel recommendations put forward by the CDC. For any families with upcoming travel, the school recommends reviewing [CDC Travel Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#).

Thank you in advance for partnering with us to help ensure the health and safety of all members of our school community. May St. Joseph and St. Augustine continue to watch over our community throughout this period of uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. St. Charles, Ph.D. '81
President & CEO
St. Augustine High School