

Dear St. John School Family,

We want to provide information on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and assure you that we are keeping track of this situation through proven and trustworthy sources: the Canton Board of Health, Archdiocese of Boston Risk Management Office, the Catholic Schools Office, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Updated information from the CDC on coronavirus in the United States can be found at:

Center for Disease Control- www.cdc.gov

Boston Children's Hospital- www.childrenshospital.org

MA DPH- www.mass.gov/org/departement-of-public-health

Canton Board of Health- www.town.canton.ma.us/139/board-of-health

Much is being learned about this newly emerged virus every day. Based on the current information, health officials are recommending local communities and schools should take the same steps to protect against coronavirus as we take to prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick and/or have a fever 100 or greater
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

While a new type of illness can be scary, we can protect our students, teachers, and the broader community by using simple everyday actions that protect people from respiratory viruses. Our teachers, school nurse, and staff are working carefully to encourage these simple and effective habits of frequent handwashing, covering every cough or sneeze, and cleaning classroom tables/surfaces frequently.

We will make sure you are informed of any other developments at St. John School or if other information becomes available from one of our partners. Your child's health and safety is of the utmost importance to us.

Chris & Mrs. St. James, BSN, RN, NCSN