



Catholic Schools
A Faith-Based Education
that Lasts a Lifetime

January 30, 2020

Dear School Leaders,

With the recent news about a coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in Wuhan, China, the Catholic Schools Office is following information released from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the District of Columbia Health Department, and the Maryland Department of Health. Because this is an evolving situation, health departments are providing updated information on a regular basis. For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV is considered low.

The 2019-nCoV is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. Commonly reported symptoms of 2019-nCoV infection include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and pneumonia.

Although there is no vaccine available, people can protect themselves and others from respiratory viruses by taking the following precautions:

- Wash your hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap & water
- Cover your mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you are sick, stay home from work or school
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Practice good health habits

Attached please find a CDC fact sheet for your review. In addition, for further information, please consult the following sites:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Maryland Department of Health - <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>

DC Health - <https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-outbreak-frequently-asked-questions-faqs>

God Bless,

William H. Ryan, III
Secretary for Catholic Schools

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782 | Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260 | www.adwcatholicschools.org | 301-853-4518 | schools@adw.org