

From: [Fewel Teresa](#)
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Principals,

Many of you have been receiving notices from the public schools in your area giving information to parents. Please know that the Office for Catholic Schools is continually monitoring the rapidly changing situation surrounding the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). I have talked with many of you about plans for deep cleaning, distance learning and school closures. We are following the guidance and recommendations of Washington State Public Health as well as the U.S. Center for Disease Control, in addition to the county health departments. Currently, there is no known, confirmed case in any of our schools. Should a school have an active case the recommendation would be to close school for the time that it takes to thoroughly clean the building, most likely two days. Families should be notified by email and text, similar to inclement weather notifications. The notification should include the dates of the closure and when school is likely to resume. We will follow the guidance of the Health Department should a longer, larger scale closure be needed.

Start by deep cleaning to help prevent a case from occurring. By deep cleaning it means two things: clean more frequently and clean all areas where folks touch or use surfaces. You can use your current disinfectants according to the manufactures guidelines. Bleach or Clorox is also good if diluted according to the manufactures recommendations. Clean high traffic areas especially; restrooms, lunch rooms, library tables, gym equipment, playground equipment, student desks, hand rails, door knobs, kitchen counter tops, etc. Anything that students or people are touching! Remind students NOT to touch their face. Hand sanitizer is a good item to have for each classroom.

Schools should be planning on how families may access school work. Not all schools have a Distance Learning option but using teacher web pages associated with school websites may be a way in the short term to communicate student work to families on a daily basis. It is important that whatever approach is taken by a school, it is equitable for all students.

However, it may be helpful to have students start bringing home academic work each day in the event of a school closure. I will begin researching some additional options.

You have received the Archbishop's guidelines sent to pastors and parish administrators. This is an opportunity for parish and school to come together as both of us work to stop the spread of the Coronavirus-19.

Please consider incorporating the following message as did Bishop Blanchet High School included in their communications to families. "We want to avoid creating unnecessary panic over the situation. Sharing accurate information is an important step our school community has taken to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading. Please be mindful that coronavirus is not connected to any race, ethnicity or nationality." It is unfortunate that we need to be reminded but important to do so! Diseases know no boundaries and can make anyone sick at anytime!!

I will send updated communications as I get information.

Thank you to all who have shared ideas and suggestions. Working together calmly and proactively will help ensure a stable approach as we navigate this quickly changing landscape. Please keep all the families impacted by the Coronavirus-19 in your prayers.

Blessings, Terri

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