Dear Parents and Guardians,

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/health-alerts) (CDC) and the [Oregon Health Authority](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/emerging-respiratory-infections.aspx) (OHA) are closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.  The disease, called COVID-19, has spread to other parts of China and at least 32 other countries including the US. While novel virus infections in people are always a public health concern, the CDC feels risk of exposure to COVID-19 to individuals in the US is low at this time. (Retrieved form <https://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/health-alerts>)

The Department of Catholic Schools is following the information provided by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), CDC, and OHA in regard to COVID-19. The health and safety of our students, staff, and communities is of the utmost importance and appropriate action will be taken as needed. The Oregon Department of Education has published bulletin for school communities on the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Please click [HERE](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORED/bulletins/27e2e97) to read the document.

In the event schools close due to illness, each school will need to coordinate alternative instructional delivery tools depending upon local resources. For example, those schools with sophisticated technology may plan web-based delivery of educational pieces, even simply using school e-mail rosters to make connections with infirm students. Others may decide to prepare hard-copy lesson packets prepared in advance. Some may mail lessons home on a regular basis. Advanced planning, coordination and creativity at each local site will determine the best way(s) to make this happen! Schools will communicate plans as needed with students and families.

If a school is forced to close for an extended period of time due to a high rate of infected students and staff and becomes non-standard (i.e., it falls below the minimum number of instructional days), the Archdiocesan Superintendent should be consulted in order to determine the best course of action in addressing this dilemma. It is possible that, though a school may be closed, learning may still continue at the “home site” with the school’s implemented alternative instructional delivery program. In this scenario and, given the unpredictability of how the flu may affect each school, the solutions may vary. Other considerations may involve adjusting school vacation/holiday periods and/or lengthening the school year to make up for lost days. Again, decisions will be made locally, and each school will communicate directly with families.

This letter was intended to assist, guide, and offer some “best practices” in addressing this potential health threat and in making school health-related decisions. This document is not intended to be an exhaustive response; rather, it is simply intended to be helpful in responding to this potential health-related threat, along with other important sources of information, especially offered by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), civil authorities, local health departments, and department of education. Please review the following COVID-19 resources for more information:

Oregon Health Authority: Public Health Division

* [Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet](https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/LE2356.pdf) English
* [Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet](https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/LS2356.pdf) Spanish
* [Coronavirus Prevention Flyer](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Emerging%20Respitory%20Infections/Novel-Coronavirus-Flyer-Prevention.pdf) English

Center for Disease Control

* [CDC Connects and Prepare Communities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/infographic-cdc-protects-508.pdf)
* [What you need to know about COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf) English
* [What you need to know about COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet-sp.pdf) Spanish