



March 9, 2020

Greetings!

As you are likely aware, on Tuesday, February 25, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) gave a press conference updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and what steps should be taken. I wanted to share with you some of the steps our school is taking to prevent the spread of illness in our school.

As the CDC emphasized, there is ***not currently a coronavirus pandemic in the United States***. A pandemic occurs when a disease is spreading from a variety of sources across a large region, and the number of cases across the United States is still small. However, given how quickly the global situation is evolving, I will be monitoring new development and will continue to reevaluate our efforts.

In the meantime, the most effective way to stay healthy and minimize the spread of infectious disease is to follow basic health best practices like:

- Enforcing great hygiene, like washing hands thoroughly and covering coughs/sneezes
- Keep hands and fingers away from eyes, nose and mouth
- Using tissues and throwing away used tissues
- Reminding children to keep objects out of their mouths, especially shared items like pencils, markers and scissors
- Students who are feeling ill must stay home until they recover
- Students must be fever and vomit free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school
- Handshakes and holding hands at Mass are discouraged

Our teachers and assistants are washing down tables daily. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms. Students are encouraged to use this product with supervision from staff.

Please consider your spring travel plans...where are you going and how are you getting there? What is the availability of medical care?

It is important to remember that handling the spread of a serious contagion like the coronavirus is primarily a task for public health agencies. I will continue to monitor directives from the World Health Organization and CDC. There is no need to panic or over-react!

I am grateful for the strength and support of our school community.

Blessings!

Gina DeGennaro
Preschool Director