

Important Update from Bishop Fenwick

March 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With all that is happening at Fenwick—and with the global concern regarding the Coronavirus—I wanted to share this important update with you.

To be clear, the news is good. There is no specific concern, no identified threat, and no diagnosed case of Coronavirus at Bishop Fenwick. Furthermore, we at Bishop Fenwick are following the latest guidelines provided by the leading public health experts and we are taking the appropriate precautions regarding the Coronavirus.

Coronavirus

While there is no specific concern, no identified threat, and no diagnosed case at Bishop Fenwick related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), it is important that we share this information with you. We do so out of an abundance of caution and also out of the sacred partnership we have with our families. I thought it best to provide a short list of Frequently Asked Question (FAQ's):

1. Has Fenwick been in contact with local, state, and federal health officials regarding the Corona virus?

Yes. We have been in contact with a number of authorities. These include the Peabody Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Our exemplary Nurse, Mrs. Jennifer Faragi, has been constantly and continually monitoring the situation, reading updates from various health organizations, and keeping Fenwick's administration thoroughly informed.

2. Has Fenwick taken any particular measures to protect its students, families, faculty, and staff?

Yes. In the past few weeks, including over the February vacation, we completed a thorough cleaning and disinfecting of the buildings on two separate occasions. This involves using a sanitizer that is commonly employed at many hospitals. We have also asked our cleaning company to pay special attention each night to the railings, doorknobs, and other places where there is frequent contact/use. Furthermore, we have done extensive cleaning of many spaces as part of the renovation project. Finally, as you may know, there are hand sanitizer dispensers in the corridors and café, and hand sanitizer is also available in the classrooms. Our dining hall continues to follow best practices and code requirements regarding the serving of all food, and we frequently remind students of the importance of good hygiene.

3. Have Fenwick students and/or faculty/staff traveled to China in recent weeks and returned to school?

No. Travel restrictions were in place during that time for people traveling to/from China. These restrictions included our international students from China who were unable to travel home over the February break. This was particularly difficult for many of them, because the Chinese New Year was being celebrated. To our knowledge, no student or faculty/staff member has travelled to China and returned to Fenwick since our Christmas break.

4. Have any Fenwick students and/or faculty/staff been diagnosed with the Coronavirus or been in contact with someone who has the Coronavirus?

No. No member of our community has been diagnosed with the Coronavirus or, to our knowledge, been in contact with anyone who has the Coronavirus. If any person in our community has travelled to an affected country and has questions/concerns about the appropriate precautions, we encourage you to contact our School Nurse, Mrs. Faragi.

5. Has any Fenwick student and/or faculty/staff member travelled anywhere abroad and decided voluntarily to complete an at-home quarantine?

Yes. Out of an abundance of caution, one of our part-time staff members is completing a voluntary at-home quarantine upon return from travelling to Europe during the February vacation. This part-time staff member did not and is not experiencing any symptoms of the virus, and we hope to have this person back with us after the 14-day quarantine is finished.

6. Has Fenwick reviewed the latest statement by the Archdiocese of Boston regarding the Coronavirus?

Yes. We have reviewed the recommendations from the Archdiocese of Boston: <https://www.bostoncatholic.org/news/monitoring-coronavirus>. Per the guidelines provided, we will forgo the shaking of hands during the sign of peace at Mass, we will forgo the use of holy water in the font outside the Chapel, etc. We are taking these measures simply as precautions.

7. What can we do to prevent risk of exposure to the Coronavirus?

Much like the flu, the experts tell us that the usual practices of good health and hygiene are the best ways to protect ourselves:

- Frequent hand washing and using hand sanitizers with 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available
- Protecting coughs and sneezes with tissues disposed of immediately, or cough into your elbow if tissues are not available
- Cleaning and disinfecting commonly used surfaces
- Avoiding contact with people who are ill
- Staying home if you are ill
- Avoiding the sharing of food or drink
- Following other healthy practices such as proper diet, sleep, and exercise

At Fenwick, if students, faculty, or staff are found to have a fever, they are required to go home. For additional information on our basic health policies, please consult our website:

- <https://www.fenwick.org/parent/health-services>
- https://www.fenwick.org/uploaded/documents/2019-2020/parent_news/Sick_Day_Guidelines.pdf

8. Do you have a list of resources for students and families that provide up-to-date information on the Coronavirus?

Yes, following the lead of the Archdiocese of Boston, we recommend the following:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/> (Center for Disease Control)
- <http://www.childrenshospital.org/> (Boston Children's Hospital)
- <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health> (MA Department of Public Health)

9. Does Fenwick check on the health status of visitors, contractors, and other service providers who visit our campus?

Yes. Mr. Nunan has been in contact with our general contractor regarding the Coronavirus and the various contractors and subcontractors related to the project. We are also monitoring the situation for those who staff our dining hall, clean our buildings, and provide services to our school. At this point, as stated above, there is no specific concern, no identified threat, and no diagnosed case of Coronavirus related to Bishop Fenwick.

10. Will we be receiving additional updates as necessary regarding the Coronavirus and Fenwick's response?

Yes. Whenever necessary, I will provide additional updates. This is a fluid situation that requires all of us to be ready and responsive. If there is reason to contact you regarding the Coronavirus, please know that I will be in touch with you. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Nurse Faragi, Ms. Marquez, Mr. Grocki, or me with any questions.