

Coronavirus Update #2: March 9, 2020

Dear Students and Families,

Because of the understandable and ongoing concern regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Bishop Fenwick will provide a brief update each Monday until these updates are deemed no longer necessary.

1. **Evolving Situation:** The spread of the virus, the scale of the impact, and the scope of the appropriate response are continually changing. Indeed, the cases of the disease and measures to deal with the disease are both increasing and fluid. Please know that we continue to monitor the counsel and heed the advice of the health experts at the local, diocesan, state, and national levels. This means that we are taking our lead from:

- Peabody Department of Public Health: <https://peabody-ma.gov/health.html>
- Archdiocese of Boston: <https://www.bostoncatholic.org/coronavirus>
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departement-of-public-health>
- National Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

2. **Current Reality:** There is no confirmed diagnosis of a case of the Coronavirus at Bishop Fenwick High School or, to our knowledge, in the local community. We ask our faculty, staff, students, and families to keep us updated on any potential concern regarding such a diagnosis by contacting our School Nurse, Ms. Faragi, at jmf@fenwick.org.

3. **Building and Facility:** As noted last Monday, we had our buildings disinfected on two separate occasions in February. We continue having our cleaning company take the appropriate measures to ensure the safety of our students, families, faculty, and staff. This includes special focus on common areas such as the café and bathrooms as well as on particular “high traffic” areas such as doorknobs, door push-bars, railings, faucets, etc.

4. **Home Quarantine:** By way of update, the member of our faculty/staff who completed the 14-day quarantine, and who was symptom-free during that entire time, has rejoined our community. We are following the protocols recommended by some health care experts that a 14-day quarantine apply not only to those individuals returning from the five high-risk countries (China, Iran, South Korea, Italy, and Japan), but also to all of the members of their households, even if the individual returning—and the members of the household—display no symptoms of the virus. As a result, out of an abundance of caution, we presently have a second member of our community who recently began a 14-day home quarantine. Aside from this individual, we have no knowledge of any other member of the Fenwick community on a 14-day quarantine.

5. **School Trips:** At present, the only school trip planned in the coming weeks is the Select Chorus travelling to New York City at the end of March. We continue to monitor the situation with this particular trip and with all student travel at Fenwick. We will make a

determination on the NYC trip and any other potential trips at the appropriate time, following the recommendations of the health experts.

6. Prevention Tips: As noted on the CDC website, the following are ways to protect yourself from the Coronavirus:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask:
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).

7. Future Precautions: At this time, we plan to continue our regular rhythm and routine of school. Our school is clean and safe and our community is currently without a diagnosed case of COVID-19. Should additional measures need to be taken, as have occurred in some schools in Massachusetts where there is significant concern about the exposure to and risk from the Coronavirus (most often related to attendees of the recent Biogen conference), we will follow the guidelines issued by the health organizations listed above.

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to work through this challenging time. Take care. Tom.