

**Important Update from Bishop Fenwick
March 11, 2020**

Coronavirus Update #3

Introduction

As we know, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a significant concern for our state, our country, and our world. Understandably, it is also a concern for our School. Please know, as stated in our previous two updates, that we continue to monitor this fluid situation, to seek the latest counsel from the health care experts, and to make the best decisions to ensure the safety of our students, families, faculty, and staff. Providing everyone in our Fenwick Family with up-to-date communication is essential at this time. We hope this latest communication is helpful to you.

Current Status

Nothing at Bishop Fenwick has changed with regard to the number of cases or quarantines at Bishop Fenwick since our last communication two days ago. There is no confirmed or presumed case of the Coronavirus in our Fenwick community. One faculty/staff member completed a self-imposed 14-day quarantine and one member of our community is currently completing a 14-day quarantine. If anything changes, you will be notified.

Production of *Freak Friday*

Currently, we are planning to move forward with our production of *Freaky Friday* this weekend. We are, however, making some alterations.

First, we are cancelling the following performances:

- Thursday Morning Performance for Catholic Elementary Schools
- Sunday Afternoon Performance

Some of the Catholic elementary schools planning to attend tomorrow morning's performance chose not to attend. In order to minimize the risk for everyone—here at Fenwick and from other schools—we thought it best to cancel the entire performance.

With the Sunday performance, we want to be sure that all of the students involved with the production have a day to rest and recover. Additionally, this particular day-time performance usually attracts an older audience; given the CDC's guidelines for those who have weakened immune systems, we expect that the crowd would be very small.

Therefore, you have three opportunities to see *Freaky Friday* this weekend: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 7:00 PM. With regard to your attendance, we respectfully ask that you consult the CDC guidelines, being particularly mindful of the following:

- If you have recently travelled to China, South Korea, Italy, Iran, or Japan, or to any other high-risk area, please refrain from attending.
- If you have had exposure to people diagnosed with COVID-19 or have been in the company of those presumed to be diagnosed with COVID-19, please refrain from attending.
- If you are not feeling well or believe you may be experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19, please refrain from attending.

We are working with our maintenance staff and cleaning company to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved with the show—from actors to audience members. The cast and crew of *Freaky Friday* are excited to present the show and we look forward to seeing you this weekend. As always, if things change, we will let you know.

Out-of-State Trips

There are three out-of-state trips currently on our calendar this month:

- Encounter Retreat: Camp Sentinel; Tuftonboro, NH; March 12-14, 2020
- HYPE Ethics Conference: Univ. of New Hampshire; Durham, NH; March 19, 2020
- Select Choir: Carnegie Hall; New York City; March 27-30

Heading the directive of Governor Baker that urged K-12 schools in Massachusetts to cancel out-of-state travel, we will cancel the Encounter Retreat and withdrawal from the HYPE Conference. We are currently exploring a variety of options regarding the Concert Choir Trip to New York. We are working with the venue, the sponsor, and our families to protect the health and wellbeing of our students and, secondarily, to minimize the financial impact of a decision by Fenwick (rather than the venue or sponsor) to cancel.

Large Gatherings

We have a number of community gatherings on our immediate calendar:

- State-of-School and Sneak Peek for Parents: March 19, 2020
- Monday All-School Gathering: March 23, 2020
- Meet the Spring Coaches: March 24, 2020
- National Honor Society Induction: March 26, 2020
- National Honor Society Retreat: March 27, 2020
- College Rep Panel: March 31, 2020

There are, of course, a full slate of events in April, May, and June.

Again, we are monitoring the situation, consulting with the experts, and exploring all of our options. One of the options is to cancel these larger scale gatherings entirely. We will keep you posted on status of these events in the coming days.

In-Service Day on Monday, March 16: Coordinating Fenwick's Ongoing Response

Please know that this Monday, March 16, we will have a Faculty/Staff Professional Day at Bishop Fenwick. The purpose of this day is to bring together our entire team of administrators, teachers, and staff members to coordinate any possible future response to the COVID-19 situation.

For students, this means:

- **There will be no classes at Bishop Fenwick on Monday, March 16**
- **Spring Sports will begin as scheduled at Bishop Fenwick on Monday, March 16**

On our agenda for Monday will be a number of items related to health and safety, and we will have discussions around how we manage logistics and events for the spring. In the unlikely event that we must move to a virtual online platform for teaching and learning, we will also develop a plan for this scenario.

Currently, we do not anticipate having to adopt an all-online approach. We are not a residential school, as is the case with many Boston-area colleges and universities that have made this decision, and there is still only one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Essex County. Still, it is important for us to plan for every scenario, no matter how remote.

Basic Precautions

Here are resources that are helpful:

- 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/department-of-public-health>
- National Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Here are the tips from the CDC:

- 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).

Conclusion

Thank you for your patience, understanding, support, affirmation, and trust as we work our way through these ever-changing times. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. If you have any concerns about your own health or the health of a family member, particularly if it related to the Coronavirus, please notify us immediately. We will continue to update you on these matters and we will always put the safety of our students first.

Blessings to you and your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers; please keep our Fenwick Family in yours.

Take care. Tom.