

**Important Update from Bishop Fenwick
March 12, 2020**

Coronavirus Update #4

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, Faculty, and Staff,

With regard to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), let me begin again by stating our philosophy at Bishop Fenwick and by clarifying our status at this moment.

Philosophy: Everything we do is for the safety of our students. While it goes without saying, we must say it anyway: every decision we make and every step we take is for the good of the young women and men entrusted to our care. The health and wellbeing of our students, and of our faculty, staff, and families, is at the heart of each choice and every response during this difficult time. Our approach is not only sound—it is sacred.

Status: Nothing at Bishop Fenwick has changed with regard to the number of cases or quarantines since our communication yesterday. 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, let me assure you that you will be notified.

Response

This is an incredibly fluid and rapidly changing situation. It requires thoughtful, reasoned, intentional, level-headed, science-based, and data-driven planning. It also requires that we be flexible, responsive, attentive, and proactive (as much as possible) in our planning, recognizing that we are at a critical moment. We are trying to strike this balance.

Cancellation for Tomorrow—Friday, March 13: After careful and prayerful consideration, I have made the decision to cancel classes for tomorrow—Friday, March 13—at Bishop Fenwick. There is no identified case of COVID-19 and there is no specific threat of the Coronavirus in our community. We want to keep it that way.

The President and the Governor, along with legions of health officials and policy experts, have urged all Americans to help decrease the spread of the Coronavirus. They are asking us to limit travel and exposure as well as to avoid face-to-face contact and very large public gatherings. They are asking us to work from home, to be mindful of our own health, and to be extremely careful around those who may have reduced or compromised immune systems (those over 65, for example). We must do our part to protect ourselves, our families and friends, and our community and region.

Locally we have seen a number of school cancellations, including the town of Danvers, and throughout our area many schools and school systems are opting to cancel for varying amounts of time. Out of an abundance of caution, we are cancelling classes tomorrow.

***Freaky Friday* and the Select Chorus Trip**

Regarding the production of *Freaky Friday*, the shows tomorrow night and Saturday night are cancelled. We will explore a number of avenues whereby additional performances at later dates could take place. The cast and crew have worked incredibly hard over these past few months, and we truly want to give them another chance to shine. As you will appreciate, however, we cannot make any firm commitments at this time.

Please know, also, that because Carnegie Hall has cancelled all performances and events through the end of March, our Select Choir Trip to New York is officially cancelled.

In-Service Day on Monday, March 16

We are still planning to have our In-Service Day on Monday, March 16. We will keep you posted on when and if we need to move exclusively to a virtual, online platform for teaching and learning. We have been developing a plan for this scenario, and while we hope we do not have to use it, we must be prepared to adopt a temporary, all-online solution.

We have also asked our cleaning company to conduct another thorough disinfecting of the building, which is scheduled for this weekend, taking every precaution to provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone in our community.

Spring Sports

The MIAA Board of Directors voted this afternoon to delay the start of the Spring Sports Season to Monday, March 30. This is a two-week delay, during which time official practices and tryouts cannot be held. The MIAA will be revisiting next week the question of the start date of the spring season and we will keep you posted on the status of our spring sports.

Resources and Recommendations

We remind everyone of these helpful resources:

- 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/>

We remind everyone of these basic precautions:

- 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).

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 is related to the Coronavirus, please notify us immediately.

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

Take care. Tom.