



In light of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) being declared an outbreak pandemic by the World Health Organization, we feel compelled to personally write this message emphasizing two central responsibilities we have as a school community and answering questions about Coronavirus and other communicable diseases.

### **CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

**1. We are called to place our trust in Christ above all else. (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

There are ways that we can approach this whole Coronavirus outbreak in truth, yet not without hope. Our hope is not in this world or in our healthy bodies. Those are not wrong to hope for, but our hope is in Christ and Him crucified, reconciling us to God and Him resurrected guaranteeing for us eternal life of health and security with Him.

**2. We have a responsibility to advocate for truth, as we continue to be in community and serve.**

This virus does cause sickness, but we do not need to react in fear. When the fear of the virus gets in the way of loving our neighbor, then we have gone too far. So let us pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17) for our community and act out of love not fear when practicing social distancing and other measures to protect our community.

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**1. What ongoing steps should we take to help prevent the spread of all diseases at school – flu, strep, corona, or otherwise?**

Students should wash their hands regularly and take regular baths. They should avoid sharing snacks and drinks at school. Students should be aware of personal space and bodily fluids at all times. Severe symptoms should be checked by a family physician, and students should not risk infecting other students if an illness is contagious. Heed the instruction given by the family physician and insure all medication has been taken. The proper time should have elapsed before introducing the student back into the classroom. If a family is aware of a contagious disease or illness in their student, they must notify school administration immediately. School administration will continue good health practices by maintaining personal hygiene, cleaning school areas regularly, and encouraging students to follow above practices.

**2. What steps will Providence follow if a communicable disease, such as COVID-19, strep, flu, lice, measles, etc. starts to spread in our geographical area?**

Since the Coronavirus has started to spread in the United States, we will heed very carefully the directions given by the CDC and by state and city officials. We will monitor closely what public schools decide and make a Providence specific plan accordingly. As of now, we encourage our families to limit travel and to be vigilant concerning the public places they visit at this time. Be aware of family members and friends whether they have traveled and what exposure they may have encountered at this time. Following CDC recommendations, social distancing is the course of action we encourage our community to take.

**3. What will Providence do if there is a confirmed case at the school?**

If there is a first confirmed case at our school, we may enact a short or long-term shutdown. All live school functions will cease until families are able to determine the health and well-being of their students. School administration will cooperate fully with local, state, and federal officials to ensure the infected are treated and the uninfected are quarantined from the school.

**4. At what threshold would you suspend a class, or school, and for how long?**

Providence may enact our Long Term and Short Term shutdown policy depending on the severity of the situation. We will take seriously the advice given to us by public health officials and our school associates who are in the medical profession.

**5. Will classes continue remotely if there is a closure of any length?**

In the case of a school closure of more than one week we will use virtual learning technology for all of our core classes, many secondary classes, and many school-wide programs.

**6. What symptoms will you ask parents to look for?**

Please visit the CDC website for a full list of symptoms for many communicable diseases for personal and familial steps to take.

**7. Do you want to modify or more strongly enforce your “no school attendance within 24 hours of having a fever”?**

We want parents to exercise greater caution at this time. We ask that if your child has a fever of 99.5 or higher, a cough, or any other common symptoms, please refrain from attending class. When in doubt, take the student to a medical professional for testing and care.

**8. How will you refer students to be tested if you have concerns?**

We will immediately contact the parents and have them take lead from there.

**9. Do you notify parents of students that are in the same class as the sick student?**

If a student has contracted any communicable disease, we will immediately and considerately take appropriate action to ensure the health of all of our faculty, students, and their families. We will inform our administration and board first. We will then inform public health officials and our school community.

**LEARN MORE**

<https://www.who.int>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>

<https://www.health.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://dph.georgia.gov>