



Memo to: Parents and Guardians

Memo from: Sr. Margaret Mancuso

Date: March 12, 2020

With daily news and updates on the spread of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, I want to reassure you that the health and well-being of our students has always been and remains to be uppermost in our minds. We have been closely monitoring the evolving situation and are following the guidelines coming from the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) and NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH), as well as the Monroe County Department of Public Health and the State Education Department.

Nazareth's staff has always had preventative measures in place, especially during the flu season, but more recently has taken extra steps to prevent the spread of germs and viruses at school.

- There are no confirmed cases associated with Nazareth Elementary.
- There is no need at this time to interrupt or alter classroom instruction. However, as a staff we are planning behind the scenes should there be a need.

Health and Wellness - Students and Adults

- a. Preventive measures for all
 - wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - use alcohol-based hand sanitizers - greater than 60%
 - avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
 - avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - stay home when you are sick
 - cover your cough / sneeze with a tissue; use elbow if necessary; wash hands afterward
 - clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
 - instead of handshaking, try a wave, a smile, a nod
 - use a knuckle to touch light switches, elevator buttons, common surfaces
 - lift the gasoline dispenser with a paper towel
 - use disinfectant wipes at stores - ex. wipe the handle and child seat of grocery carts
 - keep a bottle of hand sanitizer or wipes at home entrances and in car
- b. Know the symptoms and characteristics of the virus
 - cough
 - fever
 - trouble breathing
 - pneumonia
 - CDC believes at this time that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus.

Over

School Environment

The students have been learning about the spread of germs and the importance of handwashing in science and health classes. Handwashing posters are on display for them around the school. Reminders are given often to keep hands away from faces.

Nazareth's maintenance staff has added additional steps to their daily cleaning and disinfecting. This includes wiping down railings, doorknobs, light switches, common surfaces and other general areas. All equipment and rooms are also given extra attention. Teachers are daily wiping tables, desks, computers, iPads, and other common materials in their rooms.

Potential Outbreak - CDC and Health Department Guidelines

If a patient who tests positive for COVID-19 is currently attending or working in a school, state and local Health Officials will help identify those individuals and will follow up with the school on next steps for those who may have had close or proximate contact with that person.

If a student or staff member has been confirmed with COVID-19 while in school, the NYS Department of Health requires an initial 24-hour closure in order to determine the contacts that the individual may have had within the school environment. A school will work closely with the local Department of Health as to any further required closure, or other necessary precautions to take for specific classrooms or specific individuals.

Health/Parent Resources

- [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#)
- [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- [Monroe County Health Department](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [How to talk with your kids about the Coronavirus \(NBC\)](#)
- [Cartoon for Children \(NPR\)](#)
- [World Health Organization 90-second video](#)

Let us all work together in taking every precaution possible to stay healthy and keep those around us healthy. Let us pray for those impacted in any way by this serious, contagious illness around the globe.

As this situation evolves, I will keep you updated should schedules or programs need to change at Nazareth. Watch our website for any additional resources or information too.

If you or a family member begin showing symptoms or have respiratory distress, please contact your healthcare provider.

Thank you!