

March 12, 2020

Dear GTACS community,

Schools play an important role in slowing the spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19 (aka the new Corona virus), and we are doing our part to protect the public health. Here are some precautionary measures we are currently taking to help keep our staff and students healthy.

- Classrooms and common spaces are being treated with a non-bleach, virus-killing “mist,” and frequently used surfaces are also being wiped down with this solution.
- Hand sanitizing stations are being placed at all school entrances; this serves both as a handwashing point and also a visual reminder of the importance of hand washing for all people.
- Health habits are being emphasized via visual and spoken reminders (importance of hand washing, cough/sneeze protocols).
- At Mass, as recommended by the Bishop, there is no shaking of hands during the sign of peace, the Precious Blood is not being offered, and holy water fonts have temporarily been drained.
- We are following precautions developed for childcare programs and K-12 schools offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- The administrative team is developing contingency plans for a variety of scenarios including widespread absences, necessary school closures, and limits on extracurriculars.
- As this situation unfolds, we will adhere to additional measures as deemed necessary by the Diocese of Gaylord, the local health department, or the CDC.

For your part, you can help us prevent the spread of ALL communicable illness in our school community by observing the following practices:

- Keep sick children at home. While at home, separate sick family members from others.
- Encourage frequent and thorough handwashing.
- Remind children to cover their sneeze/cough with a tissue (or if necessary, their sleeve).
- Have hand sanitizer and other hygiene supplies readily available.
- Practice good health habits (get appropriate rest, be active, manage stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious foods). Routinely clean the frequently touched surfaces in your home, vehicle, etc.
- Avoid contact with those who may have been exposed.
- If your spring break plans include travel, avoid unnecessary risk and report any suspected exposure to local health authorities.
- If you or your family members have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, and shortness of breath), contact your healthcare provider.

There has been a flood of information available on this topic. We will be posting this letter and other resources on our website (gtacs.org/safety) for your convenience.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael R. Buell
Superintendent