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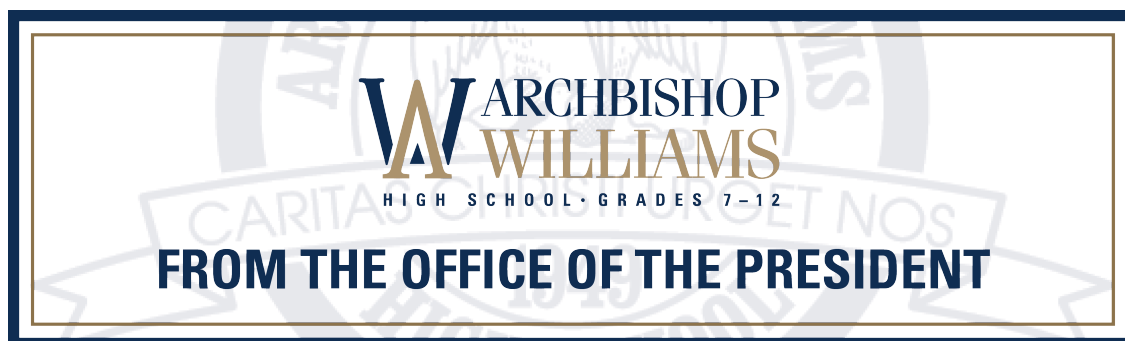
Update on AWHs Response to the Coronavirus

1 message

AWHS Offices of the President and Principal <mvolonnino@awhs.org>
Reply-To: AWHs Offices of the President and Principal <mvolonnino@awhs.org>
To: kwalsh@awhs.org

Fri, Mar 6, 2020 at 9:59 AM

AWHS Offices of the President and Principal



Dear AWHs Families,

With each passing day, there are more reported cases of the novel coronavirus in the United States and the New England area. Since the outbreak of the virus in China, Archbishop Williams has been appropriately concerned about its spread, especially with our international student population. The recent news of a Catholic school in Rhode Island shutting down for a week also hit close to home as we have personal ties with its faculty. We continue to pray for everyone affected by this global outbreak.

Although our risk level remains low, we thought it prudent to update you on the steps that we are taking to protect our students and employees, and to respond in case someone in our community is diagnosed with COVID-19. These actions have been developed under guidance from the Archdiocese of Boston and the [Center for Disease Control](#).

Effective immediately, Archbishop Williams is:

- Encouraging good hygiene by all faculty and staff through frequent hand washing (for at least 20 seconds) and the use of hand sanitizer. We have placed signs throughout our hallways to remind students on how to prevent the spread of germs. We also are encouraging faculty and students to minimize touching their face and making contact with others (handshakes, hi-fives, etc.). There are Purell stations in many of our hallways and sanitizing solution on every teacher's desk.

- Increasing the frequency with which we disinfect our facilities. Our Maintenance Team is wiping down common surfaces that students touch on a daily basis. Furthermore, we have purchased “fogging” machines that rapidly and safely disinfect rooms. We will be using these machines to perform our first deep clean this Monday, March 9, our Bishops holiday.
- Canceling our April Vacation trip to Barcelona and Paris.
- Informing our International Students that they may not travel home over the April break.
- Training the faculty and students in Google Meet. This free video conferencing software will allow for remote instruction should AWHHS have to close for an extended time.

To support our efforts to keep our community safe, we are asking that our families exercise similar precautions, including the following:

- Keeping students home if they are sick or presenting any cold or flu-like symptoms to minimize the spread of any communicable illness. If you have any questions about whether you should send a student to school, please contact our Nursing Office.
- Restricting all non-essential travel, especially over April Vacation, to destinations that have had significant documented cases of the coronavirus. We also ask that you notify us if your student has had contact with anyone who has recently visited a country with a Level 3 travel restriction from the CDC.
- Continuing to practice good hand-washing and disinfecting practices, minimize unnecessary touching, and to cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.

With your assistance we can work together effectively to promote awareness, to encourage vigilance, and to enact these proactive measures while mitigating our students' fears and anxieties. This is not to minimize the devastating impact the novel coronavirus has had on communities throughout the world or its high communicability, but rather to recognize that the populations most at risk are the elderly and those with pre-existing underlying medical issues. The likelihood that our students would contract a life-threatening illness from COVID-19 is, thank God, relatively small.

Thank you for your support and understanding. Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about these or any related matters as we work together to keep our school community safe.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Duggan, Jr. '70, Esq., President

Michael R. Volonnino, Ph.D., Principal



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