

St. Pius X Catholic School
COVID-19 Information
Updated: March 12, 2020



Travel Information:

As of March 10, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) identified five countries as being a high risk for the spread of Coronavirus: China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea. **The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommends that anyone who visits those countries voluntarily self-isolate for 14 days upon their return.** Families who plan to travel to any of those countries are asked to notify us in order to make arrangements for their student's re-entry to school. In addition, families who visit any destination the CDC has identified as high risk for COVID-19 (coronavirus) should [follow its public health recommendations](#).

Trusted Resources:

As Coronavirus cases have been confirmed in nearly 100 countries and 35 states, including Iowa, we encourage you to stay aware, updated, and informed. Social media posts often report partial or inaccurate information, so continue to look for information from reliable and trusted experts such as IDPH, CDC, and Polk County Health Department.

- [World Health Organization: Coronavirus FAQs](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Iowa Department of Public Health](#)
- [Polk County Health Department](#)

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We understand and share your concerns surrounding the recent COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. While COVID-19 is a significant concern, as of today, the school's operations have not been impacted. It is important to note, however, that the situation is fluid and we will

continue to provide updates as we can. Please continue reading the Wednesday Reminder emails and checking the school website for the most up-to-date information.

What is happening at school?

- Increased cleaning and sanitizing practices during the school day and in the evenings.
- Classrooms are supplied with (available stock of) kleenex, Clorox Wipes, and alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Teachers, students, and all staff are allowing more time for frequent hand-washing throughout the day
- Collaboration with the Diocesan Schools Office and other area administrators to make plans in the event that school is closed for an extended period of time
- Work with teachers on how to best continue education for students should school close for an extended period of time

What is happening at church?

- Bishop Joensen continues to collaborate with area priests on best practices
- Distribution of the precious blood is halted at school Mass and the sign of the peace is shared via fist bump, wave, or verbally
- Use of hand sanitizer by all holy communion ministers is (and always has been) mandatory

How can parents help?

- Students who are not feeling well and who show symptoms of any illness including cough, runny nose, or fever should stay home.
- Start considering plans and making arrangements in the event that the Iowa Department of Health closes schools and day care centers
- Continue to communicate with your children about best practices in keeping healthy

What are some ways we can all help with best practices?

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, as much as possible.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with others who are ill.
- You can always go for a fist bump, head nod, or a wave in lieu of a handshake.

Additional Resources:

- [Video from Iowa Department of Health](#)
- Iowa Department of Public Health <https://idph.iowa.gov/>
- Polk County Health Department <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health>

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/>