

March 4, 2020

As you have heard in the news, the 2019 novel coronavirus has continued to spread globally. While a person's chances of getting coronavirus in Dane County are currently low, it's possible there could be community-wide spread of the virus in the future. We wanted to take this opportunity to answer questions and share what we are doing to prepare.

### **Can people who traveled to China come to school?**

- Public Health Madison & Dane County (our local health department) will contact anyone who is returning from China on or after February 3, 2020. They will advise them to stay home in isolation for 14 days. During that time, public health staff are contacting them daily to record their temperature, check for symptoms, and make sure they are staying home.
- If a student or staff member is supposed to be isolated or tested for coronavirus, Public Health Madison & Dane County staff will make those arrangements with them. Just because someone is isolated does not necessarily mean they are sick.
- You can learn more about how our local health department conducts contact investigation and monitoring in [this blog post](#).

### **Can people who traveled to other countries come to school?**

- Currently the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend isolating or monitoring people who have traveled to other countries.
- Healthy students and staff who have traveled to other countries can come to school. Students and staff who are sick should always stay home from school.

### **What is Immaculate Heart of Mary School doing to prepare if coronavirus becomes more widespread?**

- We are reviewing our emergency operations plan and ensuring our staff know how we would handle widespread illness.
- We are monitoring staff and student attendance. Our emergency operations plan identifies when we would consider temporarily closing school.
- We are reminding students about covering their cough, washing their hands often, and staying home when sick. We keep tissues and hand sanitizer in easy-to-access spots.
- Mr. Hegge and the teachers are continuing to frequently clean, disinfect, and sanitize our spaces.

### **What can I do to help keep my family healthy?**

- Keep your child home if they are sick.
- Remind your kids to cough and sneeze into tissues. Keep tissues in convenient places throughout your home.

- Encourage your children to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.
- Have a supply of needed medications, nonperishable food, and other household items so you do not have to go out into crowds.
- Clean and disinfect your home frequently.
- Get your flu shot.
- Use reputable news sources, [such as the CDC](#) and [Public Health Madison & Dane County](#), for accurate coronavirus information.

As a reminder, you cannot tell if someone is at risk for spreading coronavirus by what they look like. Coronavirus doesn't recognize race, nationality, or ethnicity. Take a look at this [fact sheet](#) for information about reducing stigma.

The coronavirus situation changes virtually every day. Follow Public Health Madison & Dane County on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see the latest local updates. For the most up-to-date information, visit the [CDC's coronavirus webpage](#).

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Callie Meiller, Principal